

Canon 101

Chapter 101: Superintendent Zhou's Identity Is Unusual

Zhou Shu sat there, tilting his head and looking at the Zhu brothers. He had an expression that said, 'If you have the ability, then kill me right now'.

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At this moment, Zhu Chuanzhi was only two steps away from him. At this distance, if Zhou Shu had a saber in hand, he could definitely kill Zhu Chuanzhi with one strike.

Even without a saber, he could kill Zhu Chuanzhi with one punch at such a close distance.

As for Zhu Chuanfeng, he was nothing but a weakling.

But Zhou Shu didn't attack because he had yet to see the seven heaven-grade weapons.

He didn't act all day just to kill.

More importantly, he wanted to steal the seven heaven-grade weapons.

He was confident that he could become a Grand Craftsman in the future and forge heaven-grade weapons himself.

But heaven-grade weapons were heaven-grade weapons. The value of seven heaven-grade weapons was absolutely immeasurable.

Even if he sold them for money, it would still be a massive fortune.

In any case, these seven heaven-grade weapons were Zhu Chuanfeng's ill-gotten gains, so Zhou Shu wouldn't feel guilty even if he took them.

"Do you think that you, a mere Forging Apprentice, is worthy of being my pledge of allegiance? I have seen those standard weapons with my own eyes. Do you think I won't be able to forge them?" Zhu Chuanfeng said in a low voice. "Send us out of the city. I swear on my master's reputation that I will let you go."

Zhou Shu sneered. Do you really think I'm a fool? Swear on your master's reputation?

He believed that there were people in this world who respected their masters.

However, he would never believe that Zhu Chuanfeng would respect his master. If he did, why would he not even say his master's name?

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes. Zhu Chuanfeng and Zhu Chuanzhi's salutations were very simple, and there were no traces of the seven heaven-grade weapons. Could they have hidden the heaven-grade weapons beforehand?

Zhou Shu calculated in his heart. If I capture the two of them, will I be able to find out where the weapons are?

Capturing Zhu Chuanfeng alive wasn't difficult, but Zhu Chuanzhi's cultivation wasn't weak. Capturing him alive would likely cause a huge commotion.

Once the commotion attracted the attention of the Divine Constable Bureau and the Fiend Eradication Army, it wouldn't be so easy for him to steal the weapons.

Zhou Shu thought for a moment and decided to wait a little longer. If it really didn't work, he would wait until they left the city.

This time, he was prepared. It wouldn't be so easy for Zhu Chuanzhi to escape like he did previously.

He wondered if they'll be able to get out of the city.

"Grand Craftsman Zhu, I believe you. If you don't keep your promise, I won't let you off!" Zhou Shu shouted.

"Don't worry. I never lie." Zhu Chuanfeng sneered in his heart. Let you go? Dream on! I need someone to forge for me when I go to Great Wei. You're just the right person!

Both parties had their own ulterior motives and boarded the carriage.

The carriage with the insignia of the Mi family slowly drove onto the main road.

Although the entire city was sealed off, Chang'an didn't stop operating. The streets were still crowded, and the shops were still operating as usual.

After all, it was the capital of Great Xia. If it really shut down, the impact would be too far-reaching.

The only difference was that the city gates had been shut. Furthermore, there were more Divine Constable Bureau constables on the streets.

Zhou Shu's carriage had the obvious insignia of the Mi residence on it.

The Mi family was one of the most influential families in Great Xia, and Mi Ziwen was a favorite of the emperor. The Divine Constable Bureau knew all of this.

Therefore, no one stopped the carriage to search it.

It wasn't until they reached the northern gate that the carriage was stopped.

The city gates were sealed. If people wanted to leave the city, they had to have a legitimate reason and obtain permission from the higher-ups.

"The city gates are sealed. No one is allowed to leave the city," the soldier who stopped Zhou Shu said.

"I'll have to trouble you. I'm Zhou Shu, the superintendent of the 0th Workshop of the Forging Division. I'm currently heading to the Forging Division's workshops. I hope you can make an exception." Zhou Shu cupped his hands.

Behind him, Zhu Chuanzhi's palm was already pressed against him. As long as Zhou Shu dared to speak carelessly, he would immediately kill him.

"I'm sorry, but the order we've been given is that no one is to leave the city unless there's a permit from the Divine Constable Bureau." The soldier shook his head.

"Can you see? This is a carriage of the Mi family!" Zhu Chuanzhi couldn't help speaking coldly.

"It doesn't matter which family's carriage it is. That's the order we received," the soldier said. "If you want to leave the city, go to the Divine Constable Bureau and get a pass."

Zhu Chuanfeng and Zhu Chuanzhi were furious. If they went to the Divine Constable Bureau, wouldn't they be walking right into a trap?

Zhu Chuanzhi narrowed his eyes and looked through the gap in the curtains at the city gate not far away. With his cultivation level, opening the city gate would take about ten seconds. Experts would come to help...

After a long while, Zhu Chuanzhi shook his head dejectedly. It was impossible to force his way through the city gate.

... Unless his cultivation could break through to the third rank of the Martial Dao.

However, it wasn't so easy to break through to third-rank Grandmaster.

"Hurry up and think of a way. Otherwise, if we die, you won't be able to live either!" Zhu Chuanzhi whispered in Zhou Shu's ear.

Zhu Chuanfeng shook his head. He's just a mere Forging Apprentice. What can he do?

His mind raced as he tried to think of a way to break out of this situation.

Suddenly, he heard Zhou Shu shout. "Constable Yang! It's me, Zhou Shu!"

Zhu Chuanfeng's heart tightened. Zhu Chuanzhi was already gathering strength.

Zhou Shu turned his head and quickly whispered. "Don't worry. I'll think of something."

The Zhu brothers looked at each other. Zhu Chuanzhi kept his strength hidden while Zhu Chuanfeng hid behind him.

Outside the carriage, Yang Hong looked at Zhou Shu with some surprise. "Superintendent Zhou, are you preparing to leave the city?"

"Yeah, there's still a lot of work waiting for me at the workshop. I have to go," Zhou Shu said.

"Constable Yang, this soldier said that I need a pass from the Divine Constable Bureau to leave the city. Look, no one told me. Why don't you help me get a pass?"

Yang Hong's face darkened. Is it appropriate to say such words in public?

He was just a lowly constable who wasn't even a divine constable. How could he have so much power!

"Superintendent Zhou, the passes to leave the city are all signed by divine constables..." Yang Hong smiled bitterly.

“Constable Yang, you are extremely talented. Isn’t it easy for you to become a divine constable?” Zhou Shu said.

“Don’t you know me, Constable Yang? Why don’t you let me out first, and I’ll go look for Commander Ma to get a pass later? There are urgent matters at the workshop I need to attend to. As you know, the southern border is in the midst of a war. This matter can’t be delayed.”

Yang Hong’s expression was a bit conflicted. He naturally understood Zhou Shu. A workshop superintendent of the Forging Division, the second master of the Mi family, the princess’s lover...

Cross off the last one!

But even though they knew each other, and Yang Hong felt that he could believe Zhou Shu, letting him out of the city...

“Constable Yang, thank you for your trouble.” Zhou Shu said. “I owe you a favor this time. I will definitely repay you generously in the future.”

Zhou Shu was going all out. For the sake of the seven heaven-grade weapons, he owed him a favor.

Yang Hong was at a loss. The second master of the Mi family, no, even if he wasn’t the second master of the Mi family, a favor from a genius forger could only be chanced upon by luck.

However, how could he, Yang Hong, be someone who would abandon his office for personal gain?

I, Yang Hong, am full of righteousness. The greater good will prevail!

I’m doing this for the soldiers fighting at the southern borders! How can I let them lack weapons?

“Superintendent Zhou, what are you saying? How can I not trust you?” Yang Hong’s expression was serious. “Superintendent Zhou, go to the workshop to handle your business first. I will talk to the commander personally.”

“Thank you, Constable Yang.” Zhou Shu smiled and cupped his hands. “When I’m done, I’ll look for you to have some wine.”

“Sure.” Yang Hong unsmilingly said, “Open the gate and let Superintendent Zhou leave the city!”

“Constable Yang—” The soldiers guarding the city hesitated.

“Open the gate! I’ll take responsibility if anything happens!” Yang Hong waved his hand.

In the past, he would naturally not be able to command the soldiers guarding the city gate. But now, the Divine Constable Bureau was in charge of everything. Almost everyone in the city had to cooperate with the Divine Constable Bureau.

Although Yang Hong was just a constable, he now represented the Divine Constable Bureau!

Creak—The city gate slowly opened.

Zhou Shu cupped his hands toward Yang Hong and slowly drove off.

Inside the carriage, the Zhu brothers secretly heaved a sigh of relief. They didn't expect to leave the city so easily!

"Wait!"

They hadn't even finished exhaling when a loud shout suddenly rang out.

The two of them were so shocked that they almost couldn't breathe.

"Constable Yang, we haven't searched the carriage yet!" the soldiers guarding the city shouted.

"How dare you! How can there be a problem with Superintendent Zhou's carriage?" Yang Hong said loudly.

"Constable Yang, do you want to search?"

Zhou Shu's words made the Zhu brothers' hearts jump.

Zhu Chuanzhi almost dashed out of the city gate with his elder brother.

In any case, the city gate had already been opened, so he was very confident that he could charge out.

As for whether he could escape after charging out, that would depend on heaven's will.

"Superintendent Zhou, what are you saying? How can I not trust you?" Yang Hong said.

"So, can I go?" Zhou Shu said.

Go! The Zhu brothers shouted in their hearts.

"Superintendent Zhou, leave quickly. Work is more important." Yang Hong said.

These words sounded like heavenly music to the ears of the Zhu brothers.

Zhu Chuanzhi slightly exerted his strength, urging Zhou Shu forward.

Zhou Shu knew that going too far was as bad as not going far enough. He didn't speak any more nonsense and drove the carriage out of the city gate.

Yang Hong watched as Zhou Shu's carriage left the city gate. He waved his hand and then called for everyone to close the city gate.

Zhu Chuanfeng and Zhu Chuanzhi let out long sighs of relief when they heard the gate close behind them.

They hadn't expected that they would be able to leave the city so smoothly. It seemed that this Zhou Shu had an extraordinary status.

But after they thought about it, he was Mi Ziwen's sworn brother, and Emperor Yuan Feng even made an exception to allow him to attend the military parade. There was definitely something different about him.

"Keep moving forward!" Zhu Chuanfeng growled.

Zhu Chuanzhi impatiently pulled Zhou Shu into the carriage. He personally began to drive the carriage. Zhou Shu's driving skills were just too poor.

At this moment, Yang Hong suddenly stopped in his tracks. That's not right. Shouldn't Superintendent Zhou go through the west city gate if he's going to the Forging Division's workshops?

His heart thumped. Why did he come to the north city gate? Not good! There's a problem!

Chapter 102: So Useless

"What did you say?"

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With a loud bang, a violent aura wreaked havoc.

Ma Fengzhang flicked his sleeves and blocked the aura. Otherwise, the tables and chairs in the room would be completely ruined.

"Your Highness, please calm down!" Ma Fengzhang said.

Yang Hong hid behind Ma Fengzhang and was so frightened that his face turned pale. He was not yet a ranked martial artist, so he couldn't withstand the princess's anger.

Her Highness and Superintendent are indeed having an affair. Otherwise, why would she be so angry? Yang Hong thought, but he was trembling with fear.

He was also a little vexed now. Originally, he had only wanted to do Superintendent Zhou a favor. But who would have thought that instead of doing so, he had committed a grave mistake?

This time, he was in big trouble.

Yang Hong's mouth was full of bitterness. He still didn't know what to do next.

"Your Highness, it's already happened. The most important thing right now is to rescue Superintendent Zhou and capture Zhu Chuanfeng," Ma Fengzhang said in a low voice.

He cursed his unfortunate luck inwardly. Originally, Yin Wuyou had only come to discuss Zhu Chuanfeng with him.

After all, Yin Wuyou was the grand minister of the Forging Division, and Zhu Chuanfeng was nominally a part of the Forging Division. If something happened to him, it would have a profound impact on the Forging Division.

Who knew that when Yin Wuyou was here, Yang Hong had suddenly reported that the superintendent of the 0th Workshop, Zhou Shu, was suspected to be held hostage?

Wasn't this adding fuel to the fire?

"Commander Ma, is this how your Divine Constable Bureau does things?" Yin Wuyou said angrily. "The entire city is locked down. How could you let people escape?"

Ma Fengzhang smiled bitterly in his heart. There was no way to explain this dereliction of duty. Logically speaking, the commander of the Divine Constable Bureau didn't report to the grand minister of the Forging Division, but she was the princess.

"Your Highness, they just left the city and couldn't have gone far. I'll set off now. No matter what, I will rescue Superintendent Zhou!" Ma Fengzhang said without hesitation.

"I'll go with you!" Seeing Ma Fengzhang fly away, Yin Wuyou went after him without hesitation.

Yang Hong was dumbfounded as he watched Yin Wuyou fly like a fairy. Her Highness is also a third-rank Grandmaster?

Only those at and above the third rank of the Martial Dao could fly.

However, isn't it rumored that the princess's Martial Dao cultivation is only at the seventh rank?

Yang Hong looked around guiltily. He felt like he knew something he shouldn't know. Will I be silenced?

No, it was too dangerous. He had to enter the ranks soon.

After entering the ranks, he would be a divine constable. He would at least be more useful. He shouldn't be silenced so easily, right?

Yang Hong was full of a sense of crisis. This sense of crisis made him feel that his Martial Dao cultivation bottleneck had loosened a lot.

Superintendent Zhou, oh Superintendent Zhou, it's not that I don't want to save you. But considering my cultivation level, there's nothing I can do. I'm going to go into seclusion!

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Outside the northern gate, about ten miles away from the capital city, a horse carriage was running frantically away from the city.

Zhu Chuanzhi controlled the carriage. Within the carriage, Zhu Chuanfeng held a saber pressed against Zhou Shu's neck.

This old fellow was really cautious. His Martial Dao cultivation was at the sixth rank, which was not low. But he actually held a Forging Apprentice who had just come into contact with the Martial Dao hostage. It was embarrassing!

"Grand Craftsman Zhu, you are a Grand Craftsman. Why are you using a standard weapon?" Zhou Shu asked.

The saber Zhu Chuanfeng was holding was actually an Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber that Zhou Shu had personally forged!

This was also very interesting. Zhou Shu had no idea where Zhu Chuanfeng had obtained the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber.

Other than the one Yin Wuyou took away back then, no one else should have an Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber.

The Autumn Anatidae Plume Sabers were not publicly supplied yet.

Zhou Shu felt a little cold.

“Do you think that there’s a need to use a ranked weapon to deal with you?” Zhu Chuanfeng sneered.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes in his head. If you knew my true strength, you wouldn’t have said that.

Forget about standard weapons. Even if you have a heaven-grade weapon, I’ll admit defeat if you’re able to kill me!

“I just feel that with your status, you should be equipped with a heaven-grade weapon.” Zhou Shu said.

He couldn’t forget Zhu Chuanfeng’s seven heaven-grade weapons. If it wasn’t for them, who would have the time to act with him?

If he could get his hands on those seven heaven-grade weapons, he wouldn’t have to worry about the budget of the 0th Workshop for the time being.

Zhu Chuanfeng laughed coldly. He had no intention of explaining himself to Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu wanted to test him, but his ears suddenly twitched.

He subconsciously turned his head slightly and looked in the direction of Chang’an.

Zhu Chuanzhi’s voice sounded.

“Big Brother, someone is coming! It’s a third-rank grandmaster!” Zhu Chuanzhi’s voice was full of panic.

A third-rank grandmaster had the ability to fly. It was impossible for a carriage to outrun them!

“Big Brother, you go first. I’ll cover you!” Zhu Chuanzhi roared.

In the distance, two powerful auras were rapidly approaching.

Zhou Shu frowned slightly. How did they arrive so quickly? I haven’t even asked where the seven heaven-grade weapons are.

“No! You can’t beat them!” Zhu Chuanfeng roared. “Go, hurry up and leave! As long as we reach the post house ten miles away, we’ll be safe!”

Post house? Zhou Shu’s heart skipped a beat. Does Old Zhu have some sort of backup plan at the post house?

That shouldn’t be the case. What trump card does he have that can stop two third-rank Grandmasters?

Even though they have heaven-grade weapons, their cultivation is still insufficient.

... Unless their reinforcements are there!

No, there’s no time to waste.

Zhou Shu cursed in his heart. The Zhu brothers were truly useless. He had already brought them out of the city, yet they got caught up so quickly. He didn’t even have time to gather information!

Zhu Chuanfeng looked back. Although he couldn't sense the aura of the third-rank grandmasters behind him, he knew that they were not far away.

"Two—"

Zhu Chuanfeng turned around and was about to say something to Zhu Chuanzhi.

Suddenly, he saw Zhou Shu raise his head, looking somewhat mocking.

"You..."

"Shut up." Zhou Shu said. "You two are so useless. You can't even run away."

"Are you courting death!?" Zhu Chuanfeng was enraged. This brat dared to mock him.

Ding!

Before he could finish speaking, he saw Zhou Shu raise his hand and flick his finger. The Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber trembled violently, and a powerful force spread out. His arm went numb, and the saber fell from his hand.

"You..." Fear appeared in Zhu Chuanfeng's eyes.

Before he could say anything, Zhou Shu had already struck him on the back of the head, knocking him unconscious.

Zhu Chuanzhi heard the commotion inside the carriage. In his haste, he didn't think much of it. While frantically driving the carriage, he lifted the curtain.

"Big Brother, rather than killing him, we might as well keep him hostage..."

Before Zhu Chuanzhi could finish his sentence, an arm reached out from the carriage and grabbed his neck precisely.

Zhu Chuanzhi's pupils contracted as the spiritual essence in his body was about to explode. Suddenly, a mysterious power crashed into his body. The power was not as condensed as spiritual essence, but there was a lot of it, and it instantly dispersed the spiritual essence in his body.

Once his spirit essence dissipated, his body immediately went limp, and he didn't even have the strength to grunt.

He could only watch helplessly as Zhou Shu carried his elder brother in one hand and carried him in the other. He stomped on the ground and shot into the sky.

At this moment, Zhu Chuanzhi finally realized that he had been tricked a second time!

This Zhou Shu was also an expert!

Zhu Chuanzhi couldn't understand why his luck was so bad.

He felt that he was unlucky, and Zhou Shu felt that he himself was also unlucky.

Originally, he had wanted to pretend that he was being held hostage by the Zhu brothers. When he arrived at the place they kept their weapons, he would take action. At that time, he would take seven heaven-grade weapons and leave.

In the end, the Zhu brothers were too useless. They hadn't even run far when they were almost caught.

At this time, if Zhou Shu didn't make a move, the Zhu brothers would be completely annihilated by the Divine Constable Bureau. How could he let that happen? Although he was close to the Divine Constable Bureau, he couldn't just give up the seven heaven-grade weapons to them.

At most, he would just return the Zhu brothers to them.

Zhou Shu carried the Zhu brothers while leaping through a forest.

At this moment, he didn't care if he would leave any traces behind. He could only leave as soon as possible and hope that the third-rank Grandmasters wouldn't catch up so quickly.

Even though he couldn't fly, he had unparalleled divine strength. Using the tree trunks as leverage, he could leap several meters. Then he kicked another tree and leaped another several meters.

Without even touching the ground, he continued to fly.

He was much faster than the carriage.

On the other side, Ma Fengzhang and Yin Wuyou descended from the sky one after another. Ma Fengzhang raised his hand and stopped the wild carriage with a copious force.

"There's no one here!" Yin Wuyou's face turned cold.

Ma Fengzhang wasn't surprised that Yin Wuyou was able to catch up. It was obvious that he already knew Yin Wuyou's true cultivation level.

"Your Highness, the post house is several miles ahead." Ma Fengzhang suddenly said.

"What do you mean?" Yin Wuyou frowned. "I'm worried about Zhou Shu's safety. What post house? Does it matter?"

"The diplomatic envoys of Great Wei are currently at the post house!" Ma Fengzhang did not beat around the bush and directly said, "If Zhu Chuanfeng is really colluding with the Great Wei..."

Yin Wuyou's pupils constricted. She understood that Zhu Chuanfeng colluding with Great Wei was an excuse the Imperial Court came up with, but no one dared to conclude that Zhu Chuanfeng was not related to Great Wei.

Even if he wasn't previously, if the Grand Craftsman wanted to join them, Great Wei wouldn't reject him.

If Zhu Chuanfeng came into contact with Great Wei's diplomatic envoys...

Yin Wuyou realized the severity of the problem.

"Your Highness, the carriage is here. Zhu Chuanfeng definitely hasn't reached the post house yet. I will go to the post house now and stop them from coming in contact," Ma Fengzhang decisively said.. "Your

Highness, follow the carriage's route and continue to track Zhu Chuanfeng. I will immediately send a message to the Fiend Eradication Army to assist!"

Chapter 103: Never Underestimate Them

Zhou Shu carried the Zhu brothers and ran over fifty kilometers in a single breath. Even he didn't know where he was heading.

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It seemed like he had already run deep into a forest, so it would take some time for the pursuers to catch up, right?

Zhou Shu threw the Zhu brothers to the ground.

Even with his current strength, sprinting over fifty kilometers in one breath was somewhat strenuous.

As for carrying two people, let alone two people, even two pigs were nothing to his tenth level cultivation in the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique.

Zhu Chuanfeng was still unconscious, but Zhu Chuanzhi's eyes remained open.

However, he didn't have the strength to speak.

His eyes stared fixedly at Zhou Shu, his expression extremely complex.

There was anger, doubt, and despair.

Zhu Chuanzhi finally gathered some strength and asked through gritted teeth, "Who exactly are you?"

"Didn't I tell you? Forging Division, 0th Workshop, Zhou Shu?" The corners of Zhou Shu's lips curled up slightly.

Out of nowhere, Zhu Chuanzhi roared in anger, "Impossible! The superintendent of the 0th Workshop, Zhou Shu, is a Forging Apprentice. He has only been exposed to the Martial Dao for a few months. It's impossible for him to have such a cultivation level! Who are you!"

Even now, he is still lying to me!

"It's up to you to believe me or not." Zhou Shu shrugged. "A man never hides his name no matter what. I am Zhou Shu.

"Of course, it's normal for you not to understand. After all, geniuses are existences that you cannot understand."

Beside him, Zhu Chuanfeng was startled awake by Zhu Chuanzhi's yell. He abruptly sat up, just in time to see Zhou Shu not far away.

"You..."

The spiritual essence in Zhu Chuanfeng's body erupted as he leaped into the air, preparing to attack Zhou Shu.

Bang!

A saber swung out horizontally and hit Zhu Chuanfeng's right cheek. A crisp sound rang out, and Zhu Chuanfeng was knocked to the ground, stunned.

"Big Brother!" Zhu Chuanzhi shouted.

"Stop wailing. I don't want to kill anyone yet. You two better cooperate."

Zhou Shu carried the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber on his shoulder. When he left the carriage, he hadn't forgotten to bring the saber with him.

Zhu Chuanfeng raised his head and glared angrily at Zhou Shu, his eyes full of doubt.

If the Zhou Shu in front of him was fake, he couldn't see any traces of him changing his appearance.

But how could he be the real one?

Even though his cultivation was not as high as Zhu Chuanzhi's, Zhu Chuanfeng was much calmer than Zhu Chuanzhi. He quickly understood the situation he was in.

He crawled to his feet and stared at Zhou Shu. "Winner takes it all. Since we brothers have fallen into your hands, you can do whatever you want."

One side of his face swelled from being hit by Zhou Shu's Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber, making him look a bit comical. But his serious expression still had a bit of the aura of a Grand Craftsman.

Zhou Shu laughed mockingly. "Zhu Chuanfeng, you don't need to pretend to be a hero in front of me. I know exactly what kind of person you are.

"How do you think your secret was leaked?"

"It's you?" The light in Zhu Chuanfeng's eyes intensified as he spoke with hatred. "Who are you? What grudge do you have with me, Zhu Chuanfeng? Why are you doing this?!"

Previously, when he was slapped in the face by Zhou Shu, he hadn't been this angry. But now, it seemed as though he really wanted to fight Zhou Shu to the death.

He was truly full of hatred. He had gone from being a Grand Craftsman to a stray dog overnight. And it was all thanks to this person in front of him!

"Don't you know who I am?" Zhou Shu laughed coldly. "Even if there's no enmity between us, I can't just stand by and watch, can I? Do you have any enmity with those forgers you killed?"

Zhu Chuanfeng stared intently at Zhou Shu. "After saying so much, do you think you are a gentleman yourself?"

He was quick-tempered, but he also calmed down quickly. He said in a deep voice, "You didn't kill us and deliberately avoided the people from the Divine Constable Bureau. Don't you have other motives?"

"It's all for the sake of benefits. The pot is calling the kettle black. Tell me. What do you want from me?"

Zhu Chuanfeng's eyes were full of wisdom. He said coldly, "I don't ask for much. Let us brothers live. I can give you everything else!"

Zhou Shu looked at Zhu Chuanfeng, feeling a bit of admiration in his heart. As expected of someone who had committed such a major crime, his mental fortitude was truly impressive.

If he was in Zhu Chuanfeng's shoes, Zhou Shu wouldn't dare to say that he would be able to remain as calm as he was.

At a time like this, he was still thinking about an exchange of interests.

But if it were anyone else, they might have been persuaded by Zhu Chuanfeng. After all, the benefits that Zhu Chuanfeng represented were just too great.

In fact, wasn't Zhou Shu also here for the seven heaven-grade weapons?

Zhou Shu felt that this was absurd. He was the one who had subdued the two of them, so why did it feel like Zhu Chuanfeng was the one in control?

As expected, he couldn't underestimate these old fellows. Even though he was a transmigrator, he had only lived for a little more than thirty years in his two lifetimes. Compared to these old fellows, he might not have any advantage.

"Whether or not you can live will depend on what you can offer." Zhou Shu laughed coldly.

He didn't directly mention the seven heaven-grade weapons. Otherwise, he would truly be led by the nose by Zhu Chuanfeng.

The first element of the negotiation was not to let the other party know one's intentions.

Pfft! No, this isn't a negotiation. It's an interrogation. Zhou Shu cursed inwardly.

He was still lacking in experience. Even though he had seen many television dramas and read many novels in his previous life, this was the first time he was experiencing it personally.

"The things that I can take out are definitely more precious than both of our lives," Zhu Chuanfeng said coldly.

"I have a batch of ranked weapons. There are heaven and earth-grade weapons, as well as black and yellow-grade weapons. In addition, I have the money I've accumulated over the years. It won't be a problem for you to become the richest man in the prefecture."

Zhou Shu was speechless. The richest man in the prefecture?

The country of Great Xia only had thirty-four prefectures. How much money did one have to have in order to be the richest man in one prefecture?

He had originally thought that he would be lucky if Zhu Chuanfeng had those heaven-grade weapons in his possession. He never imagined that Zhu Chuanfeng would have more than he had imagined.

Poverty had limited his imagination.

Previously, he had never imagined that a Grand Craftsman would be so ruthless when it came to making money.

In his previous world, it would be equivalent to an academician becoming the richest man in a province. He would definitely have a net worth of tens of billions.

While Zhou Shu was still in shock, Zhu Chuanfeng continued, "In addition, I also know some evidence against important ministers of Great Xia. With this information, you can do anything you want in the Great Xia..."

Zhou Shu was shocked. This isn't a good thing!

Evidence against Great Xia's important ministers? If those important ministers found out, wouldn't they think of ways to silence him?

Although he might not be afraid, he didn't want to cause any trouble.

As for picking out the important officials of Grand Xia and getting rid of them, Zhou Shu didn't have the time to do so. Emperor Yuan Feng was not paying him to do it.

"Stop, I'm not interested," Zhou Shu interrupted Zhu Chuanfeng. He was really afraid that Zhu Chuanfeng would reveal some secret.

He might be curious, but not that curious.

If he really got into trouble for some so-called secrets, he would rather not listen to these secrets.

Anyway, as long as those people didn't provoke him, he didn't have the time to get rid of evil for the country.

"Tell me first. Where are your weapons and wealth hidden?" Zhou Shu said.

"Are you stupid, or do you think I'm stupid?" Zhu Chuanfeng smiled half-heartedly.

"If I gave you the things, would we brothers still live?"

"I've said it before. I can give you all that you want, but you have to ensure the safety of us brothers!"

"Zhu Chuanfeng, do you think you have the right to bargain?" Zhou Shu snorted coldly.

"In that case, you can kill me." Zhu Chuanfeng sneered. "If you kill me, you'll never find those things. To be honest, my life has been worth it. Even if I die now, I won't lose anything!"

Zhu Chuanfeng raised his head, looking fearless.

Zhou Shu's eyes narrowed slightly. This wily old fox is really not easy to deal with.

"Since we don't trust each other, forget it. I'll send you on your way now," Zhou Shu said indifferently. His arm trembled slightly, and the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber transformed into a saber light slashing toward Zhu Chuanzhi's head.

"Wait!" Zhu Chuanfeng shouted.

The saber light stopped one inch away from Zhu Chuanzhi.

Zhu Chuanzhi's face turned pale from the saber intent.

At this moment, he truly realized that this fake Zhou Shou before him possessed unfathomable strength, and this saber intent caused him to be utterly unable to arouse the intention to resist.

“You win!” Zhu Chuanfeng said dejectedly. “I can give you the things, but not here.”

“There’s a post house ten miles away from the capital. I hid it in the post house. As for its exact location, only I can find it.”

Zhu Chuanfeng stared at Zhou Shu. “You take us to the post house, and I’ll open the secret room for you. Then you let us go. As for whether or not we can escape from the Divine Constable Bureau, that has nothing to do with you.

“If you don’t even agree to this condition, then just kill us brothers!” Zhu Chuanfeng closed his eyes, looking like he was ready to die.

Zhu Chuanzhi also raised his head. He wouldn’t disgrace his elder brother. All these years, he had been prepared to die!

However, he didn’t know the true identity of the person who was going to kill him. He wouldn’t die in peace!

Post house? Zhou Shu’s heart jumped. Zhu Chuanfeng said before that as long as they could escape to the post house, they would be saved.

Now that he’s mentioned the post house, it seems like the post house really has his reinforcements.

“Zhu Chuanfeng, you really are unrepentant. Did you think I didn’t hear what you said? Since I know that the items are hidden in the post house, even if I have to dig three feet into the ground, I’ll find them.”

Zhou Shu shook his head. “Do I need to bring you there now?”

“I’d better send the both of you on your way,” Zhou Shu said while raising his Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber again.

Chapter 104: Breakthrough Pill

“Hmph. The secret chamber will directly self-destruct unless you use the correct method to open it,” Zhu Chuanfeng said without even opening his eyes. “If you want to kill us, then kill us. With these things buried with us brothers, it will be worth it even if we die!”

...

Zhou Shu hesitated. Killing the Zhu brothers was easy, but what if what Zhu Chuanfeng said was the truth? Then, wouldn’t it be a waste of effort?

Suddenly, Zhou Shu saw Zhu Chuanfeng’s lips curl into a proud smile.

He really thought that he had grasped his weakness.

In other words, if he really couldn’t bear to part with those weapons and the massive amount of wealth, he might really be led by the nose by Zhu Chuanfeng.

However...

It was true that Zhou Shu came for the seven heaven-grade weapons, but it didn't mean that he couldn't lack these seven heaven-grade weapons!

He, Zhou Shu, was a forger who was a future Grand Craftsman. No matter how good a heaven-grade weapon was, he would be able to forge it himself in the future.

It was naturally good to obtain these seven heaven-grade weapons. But if he couldn't obtain them, he would at most lose a windfall. What effect would it have on him?

If Zhu Chuanfeng thought that he could threaten him with this, then he had truly underestimated Zhou Shu!

With a flick of his wrist, a streak of saber light appeared like a celestial being riding the wind.

Zhu Chuanfeng suddenly opened his eyes, his eyes filled with disbelief.

His throat made choking sounds, but he couldn't form a complete sentence.

Then a red line appeared on his and Zhu Chuanzhi's necks at the same time. Both of them clutched their necks and slowly fell to the ground.

Both of them didn't die in peace.

It was only a matter of time before one who killed got killed. Zhu Chuanfeng had schemed against him time and time again, so Zhou Shu didn't feel bad killing them at all.

Furthermore, the two of them had seen his face. If he didn't kill them, when they fell into the Divine Constable Bureau's hands and got tortured into confessions, his strength would be exposed.

I wonder if what he said about his treasures being hidden in the post house is true. Even if it's true, I can't go there now, Zhou Shu thought.

He was almost certain that Zhu Chuanfeng's reinforcements were at the post house and that these reinforcements could even deal with third-rank Divine Constable Bureau experts.

Zhou Shu didn't want to get into trouble.

As for whether he should go to the post house to investigate in the future, there was no need to be anxious. He could wait.

Zhou Shu glanced at their bodies. He couldn't be bothered to take care of their bodies, so he walked away.

He had just taken a step when his movements suddenly froze.

Only he could see the two barrages of messages floating past his eyes.

[You receive a Breakthrough Pill because the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber you forged effectively completed a kill!]

[You receive a Breakthrough Pill because the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber you forged effectively completed a kill!]

Zhou Shu was slightly taken aback. This wasn't the first time he had received feedback from the Legendary Armament Canon. But the benefits he had received previously were all cultivation techniques. This time, it was actually an item?

Breakthrough Pill?

With a thought from Zhou Shu, two thumb-sized red pills appeared in his palm.

A piece of information regarding the Breakthrough Pill automatically appeared in Zhou Shu's mind.

[Those below the first rank are able to directly break through a level after taking the Breakthrough Pill, defying all conditions. Taking more than one pill will not serve any effect.]

Defying all conditions and directly breaking through one level?

Zhou Shu was a bit surprised, but the last condition disappointed him.

He could only take one pill. It was useless to take more. In other words, he could only increase his cultivation by one level at most?

This was too useless.

Speaking of which, his cultivation system seemed to be different from the Martial Dao system in this world. The Breakthrough Pill was able to break through a level below the first rank. If he consumed one, how would he break through?

Zhou Shu didn't even know what rank he was at. He didn't have any spiritual essence in his body. The Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique cultivated the physical body, the Golden Bell Shield Technique cultivated the physical body and true qi, the spiritual strength cultivated by the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form Technique was also known as divine sense, and the Heavenly Saber Art was purely a saber technique.

This was completely different from the spiritual essence cultivated in this world.

If he consumed a Breakthrough Pill, would it be the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique breaking through or the Golden Bell Shield Technique breaking through? Or would it be the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form breaking through?

Without any hesitation, Zhou Shu picked up a Breakthrough Pill and popped it into his mouth.

The Legendary Armament Canon only said that it was useless to consume too many pills. It didn't say that it was harmful to consume too many pills. Even if it was ineffective to him, it shouldn't be harmful.

Zhou Shu trusted the Legendary Armament Canon very much.

The pill melted in his mouth, and a warm stream flowed down his throat and into his stomach.

Crack!

Zhou Shu seemed to hear the sound of an eggshell shattering. True qi surged out from his dantian and instantly flowed through his entire body. His body seemed to have expanded, then contracted back.

A layer of faint golden light flashed on the surface of his body.

He had broken through to the eighth level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique!

At the eighth level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique, one's cultivation had already reached a level where one's entire body wouldn't be injured by any sharp weapon. The only weaknesses were three inches from one's vital points. No matter how strong or weak the opponent's attack was, it would emit an incomparably fierce rebound force, and those who were hit would either die or be injured.

This Breakthrough Pill was really useful. It allowed him to directly breakthrough one level in his Golden Bell Shield Technique.

Under normal circumstances, if he wanted to break through to the eighth level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique, he would still need the Horse Slaying Sabers to complete dozens or even hundreds of kills.

Good stuff!

Zhou Shu was overjoyed. Without any hesitation, he threw the other Breakthrough Pill into his mouth.

It was soft to the mouth and melted into his throat.

Then... there was no 'then'.

It was exactly the same as eating candy.

Indeed, it was useless to consume more than one pill.

Zhou Shu felt a bit regretful. If he had known this would happen, he wouldn't have eaten it right now. He would have eaten it when the Golden Bell Shield Technique was about to break through to the twelfth level or when the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique was about to break through to the thirteenth level. That would have been the most effective method.

However, he didn't know if he would still be considered below the first rank then.

Zhou Shu's regret disappeared in a flash. It didn't matter. Even if he didn't have the Breakthrough Pill, he would still be able to succeed in cultivating the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and the Golden Bell Shield Technique. Wouldn't he just have to let the Huben Sabers and the Horse Slaying Sabers complete more kills?

Great Xia didn't lack battles, and the Huben Sabers and Horse Slaying Sabers Sabers also didn't lack opportunities to kill enemies.

Previously, I thought that the Legendary Armament Canon's benefits were all about cultivation techniques. But now, it seems like that's not necessarily the case. With the Breakthrough Pill, I believe that there will be other physical items as well. I wonder if there will be a day when it can directly give me a smartphone? Zhou Shu thought.

The Legendary Armament Canon was mysterious and unpredictable. Who knew what it would give?

This gave Zhou Shu the feeling that he was opening a blind box. He didn't know what the next weapon would be, nor did he know what benefits he would receive from the next weapon.

Even though he felt a little helpless, he was also full of anticipation.

Someone's coming! While Zhou Shu was thinking, his ears suddenly twitched. Without thinking, he ran in the opposite direction.

Although the name the Golden Bell Shield Technique was a little tacky, it was an authentic peerless martial art. After mastering it, not only was one invulnerable to swords and spears, one would also be impervious to fire and water. Furthermore, Zhou Shu's moves were as strong as wind and thunder and as light as a feather. He was able to run on the waves without falling.

Even though Zhou Shu's Golden Bell Shield Technique was only at the eighth level and was still far from achieving greater mastery, the might of the Golden Bell Shield Technique was already beginning to show. As he leaped forward, it was as if he had teleported, and he quickly disappeared into the forest.

A few seconds after he left, a figure descended from the sky.

At the same time, a few figures rushed over frantically on the ground. They were only slightly slower than the figures descending from the sky.

Yin Wuyou's figure appeared and arrived in front of the two corpses. "Zhu Chuanfeng!"

Yin Wuyou's face was ashen, and a trace of worry flashed through her eyes. She quickly looked around, but she didn't find a third corpse. She let out a sigh of relief, but her heart was still in her throat.

"Your Highness, someone just left in this direction!" a middle-aged man in luxurious clothes said in a deep voice. His eyes flickered with a strange light, as if he could see things that others couldn't.

When martial artists cultivated to a certain realm, some people would have some magical powers. The Fiend Eradication Army lieutenant in front of her clearly had magical powers.

It was also his tracking ability that allowed them to catch up so quickly.

"Chase!" Yin Wuyou shouted and was about to leap up.

"Your Highness, wait!" Another loud shout stopped Yin Wuyou.

Another lieutenant stood up from the corpses of Zhu Chuanfeng and Zhu Chuanzhi.

After arriving at the scene, the lieutenant immediately checked the bodies of the Zhu brothers.

"Your Highness, they died under the Saber Cave's saber intent," the Fiend Eradication Army lieutenant said in a deep voice. "The person who attacked was that mysterious expert!"

Only ranked martial artists could join the Fiend Eradication Army. Fiend Eradication Army lieutenants had to be at least a seventh-rank martial artist.

They were not the kind of rookie soldiers from the Country Protector Army. It could be said that any soldier in the Fiend Eradication Army was a high and mighty existence.

A Fiend Eradication Army lieutenant sounded as though he was on the same level as the Huben Troops lieutenant Cheng Yong, but they were on two completely different levels. Their positions were completely different.

Fiend Eradication Army lieutenants were qualified to access some secrets, such as the Saber Cave in the capital or the existence of mysterious experts.

“I don’t care who attacked them. We have to find Zhou Shu!” Yin Wuyou said. “If he’s alive, I want to see him. If he’s dead, I want to see his corpse!”

She stomped her feet and leaped into the air. Clouds seemed to be rising beneath her feet as she quickly chased after the Fiend Eradication Army lieutenant.

The few officers looked at each other and saw the helplessness in each other’s eyes.

The bodies of the Zhu brothers were here. Their mission had been completed. As for the life and death of the workshop superintendent, was it important?

Not at all.

He was just a Forging Apprentice. It wasn’t worth it for them to mobilize the Fiend Eradication Army.

But the princess had already gone ahead to go after the mysterious expert. How could they turn a blind eye to her?

Impossible!

If anything happened to the princess, they wouldn’t be able to bear the consequences!

Leaving behind two officers to deal with Zhu Chuanfeng’s and Zhu Chuanzhi’s corpses, the rest of the officers followed in the direction that Yin Wuyou had gone. They executed their movement techniques and chased after her.

They didn’t have the ability to fly, but when they used their movement techniques, they were like raging bulls charging through the mountains.. Their speed was not much slower than Yin Wuyou’s.

Chapter 105: Those Who Hurt Others Behind Their Back Are Not Worthy of Using Sabers

Zhou Shu was jumping as the sound of whistling wind rang out.

...

He shuttled through the forest like a Tarzan. Although his posture was not considered graceful, he was extremely fast.

Furthermore, he felt as if he was flying as he moved forward.

In his previous life, he had seen the movie ‘Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon’, in which there was a scene of a battle in a bamboo forest that left a deep impression on him.

His current actions were similar to the battle in the bamboo forest. He could fly far away with leverage from the tree branches.

This feeling of being as fast as lightning was simply irresistible.

If the Golden Bell Shield Technique broke through to the eleventh level, would his movement technique be as light as a feather? Would he be able to run on the waves without falling? What would this feel like?

Just as Zhou Shu was feeling the wind, he suddenly turned around subconsciously.

What he saw shocked him. He missed his footing and fell from the sky.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Countless branches were broken as Zhou Shu landed heavily on the ground.

He got up with his face covered in dirt, and his clothes were torn.

Fortunately, his Golden Bell Shield Technique had already broken through to the eighth level. Otherwise, he would have suffered some light injuries no matter what.

Zhou Shu looked behind him through the dense forest.

Through the gaps in the leaves, he could already see a figure rapidly approaching.

On the ground, a rumbling sound resounded not far away. It was as if an elephant was running. The ground was trembling slightly, and the birds and beasts were fleeing frantically.

What's the meaning of this? Zhou Shu was somewhat speechless.

Didn't I leave behind Zhu Chuanfeng's and Zhu Chuanzhi's corpses for them?

Why are they still coming after me?

Speaking of which, how can Yin Wuyou fly? Isn't her cultivation level only at the third rank of the Martial Dao.

Has she been concealing her cultivation too?

It wasn't that Zhou Shu hadn't seen Yin Wuyou before. But before this, he had always thought that Yin Wuyou's cultivation was only at the sixth or seventh rank.

From the looks of it, Yin Wuyou must have cultivated a technique to conceal her aura, or perhaps she had some divine artifact to conceal her aura.

She was about the same age as him in this world, yet she was already a third-rank martial artist.

How impressive, Zhou Shu praised in his heart.

As he thought about this, he quickly took off his clothes and put them back on inside out. Then he tore off a piece of his shirt to cover his face.

He couldn't let Yin Wuyou and the others see his face.

If they saw him, he wouldn't be able to explain the deaths of the Zhu brothers. He couldn't possibly tell them he was the one who killed them.

It wasn't a big deal that they were dead, but the problem was that their cultivation levels were at the fourth and sixth ranks.

How could a mere Forging Apprentice kill them?

He had already exposed his cultivation level in front of the Zhu brothers. He couldn't expose himself in front of Yin Wuyou and the others.

Zhou Shu had just finished dressing up when Yin Wuyou descended from the sky. The few and Fiend Eradication Army lieutenants had also appeared in Zhou Shu's field of vision and were rapidly approaching him.

Yin Wuyou descended from the sky, and the tip of her foot lightly stepped on a branch thirty feet away from the ground.

Her gaze fell on the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber in Zhou Shu's hand, and her expression changed slightly.

"Your Excellency, may I ask if Zhu Chuanfeng died under your hands?" Yin Wuyou cupped her hands.

The few officers had already rushed over and stopped several feet away from Zhou Shu. When they heard Yin Wuyou's words, all of them looked vigilant, and they faintly released their auras.

Zhou Shu stood tall and straight, carrying the sheathed Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber on his shoulder. He said somewhat carelessly, "So what if I did? So what I didn't?"

"Could it be that you all want to avenge him?"

Although he didn't make any movements, the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber on his shoulder suddenly let out a clang, and an incomparably sharp saber intent soared into the sky.

It was clearly just a standard saber. But in the eyes of Yin Wuyou and the other Fiend Eradication Army lieutenants, the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber seemed to have turned into a spiritual weapon that was emitting an intense battle intent!

"What a powerful saber intent!"

The Fiend Eradication Army lieutenants couldn't help taking half a step back. With a clang, they unsheathed their weapons and got into ready stances.

A strange light flashed in Yin Wuyou's eyes, but her expression didn't change as she solemnly said, "Zhu Chuanfeng is a criminal of our Great Xia. If he was killed by you, then our Great Xia owes you a favor.

"If Zhu Chuanfeng died at your hands, then I have a question for you. Zhu Chuanfeng held one of us hostage before. Have you seen him?"

Zhou Shu's heart stirred. The person Yin Wuyou is talking about is me?

It seems so. Wasn't it me who Zhu Chuanfeng held hostage?

But how should I answer her question?

Tell her that the person Zhu Chuanfeng held hostage was me?

Wouldn't I be exposing myself?

"I didn't see him," Zhou Shu said.

"Alright, I'm leaving. Stop following me." Zhou Shu turned around and lifted his leg.

"Wait!" Yin Wuyou shouted. "Your Excellency, the one Zhu Chuanfeng held hostage is an official of the Great Xia Imperial Court. Please tell me the truth. Is he dead or alive?!"

A workshop superintendent can also be considered an imperial official?

Alright, a ninth-rank official is also an official.

Zhou Shu turned back to glance at Yin Wuyou. "I'll say it again. I didn't see him, so I don't know."

Zhou Shu only wanted to leave as soon as possible. Yin Wuyou knew him. If he spent too much time with her, she might find out his true identity.

After speaking, Zhou Shu prepared to leave.

He hadn't even taken a single step when the sound of rushing wind rang out. Yin Wuyou somersaulted and landed in front of Zhou Shu.

At some point, an unsheathed sword appeared in her hand, its tip pointing at Zhou Shu.

Almost at the same time, a few quick-witted Fiend Eradication Army lieutenants were already standing at the four corners of the battlefield, completely blocking off Zhou Shu's escape route.

Even though they were unwilling to make a move and felt that there was no need for them to do so, since the princess had made a move, they definitely couldn't sit by idly.

"What is the meaning of this? Did I violate some law of Great Xia?" Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes coldly. "You want to fight me?"

The saber intent he had just restrained exploded once again. The fierce saber intent blew in all directions like a hurricane.

There was a crackling sound in the woods as countless leaves fell.

Yin Wuyou's heart turned cold. Such saber intent—this person's cultivation is probably above mine!

Since such an expert didn't have any obvious hostility toward Great Xia, logically speaking, she shouldn't have used force on him.

No matter what, killing Zhu Chuanfeng had helped the Grand Xia Imperial Court.

Although Zhu Chuanfeng's death was troublesome, it was still better than him escaping Great Xia alive.

But now, no matter what, Yin Wuyou couldn't let him leave just like that!

"I don't want to fight you." Yin Wuyou shook her head seriously. "I just want to ask you to wait!"

“As long as you tell me the whereabouts of the person Zhu Chuanfeng held hostage, I will immediately move aside!”

Yin Wuyou had a determined look on her face. If she couldn't get the information she wanted, she definitely wouldn't give way.

Zhou Shu had a strange feeling in his heart, but he still said coldly on the surface, “Do you really think that you all will be able to stop me?”

“Your cultivation is unfathomable. I might not be your match,” Yin Wuyou said solemnly. “But I think it's still possible to stop you for a while.”

They were not fighting alone. This place wasn't far from the capital. As long as they persisted for a period of time, reinforcements would naturally arrive.

“Little girl, it's good to be confident. But it's not a good thing to be overconfident.” Zhou Shu laughed. “To have such cultivation at such a young age, it seems like you haven't suffered any setbacks.

“Today, I shall teach you the principles of life.

“If you don't suffer a little, you won't grow up.”

Zhou Shu laughed wildly at the sky with an arrogant expression. He took a step forward, and the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber on his shoulder followed an incomparably profound trajectory as it slashed forward.

Yin Wuyou didn't panic. She had been completely focused on waiting. When she saw Zhou Shu's saber slashing at her, she flicked her wrist, and the sword in her hand slanted upward.

The Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber was just a standard weapon, but the sword in her hand was an earth-grade weapon.

Yin Wuyou was confident that as long as their weapons collided, even if her opponent's cultivation was on par with her, her sword would break the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber.

Just as the two weapons were about to collide, Zhou Shu's body suddenly swayed, and the blade of his saber sliced toward Yin Wuyou's finger. Not only did he avoid the blade, but he also counterattacked.

Yin Wuyou raised her brows, took half a step back, and executed her sword technique.

In the blink of an eye, the two of them exchanged several moves. These moves were as fast as lightning, but the two weapons didn't collide at all.

After several moves, Zhou Shu took three steps forward, while Yin Wuyou took three steps back.

The few lieutenants didn't have time to help Yin Wuyou at all. In fact, they knew that even if they did, they wouldn't be able to help Yin Wuyou.

Yin Wuyou was a third-rank Grandmaster, yet she was at a disadvantage. The strongest among them was only a fifth-rank martial artist. How could they help?

“Little girl, how do you feel?” Zhou Shu laughed hoarsely. He used his inner strength to change the muscles of his vocal cords and pretended to sound old.

“If you don’t move away, I am going to get serious. At that time, I’m afraid that you won’t be able to withstand it.”

Yin Wuyou’s expression was solemn. She now knew that she was no match for this person. The other party was just using a standard weapon, but he was able to suppress her to the point where she couldn’t fight back. His cultivation level was definitely far above hers.

However...

Yin Wuyou pursed her lips and said stubbornly, “Your Excellency, please tell me the whereabouts of the person Zhu Chuanfeng kidnapped!”

She held her sword vertically in front of her, her expression resolute.

Zhou Shu’s heart skipped a beat. Is Yin Wuyou going all out just to find out my whereabouts?

Am I worth her doing this for me?

I’m merely the superintendent of a small workshop. Doesn’t she know that she might get hurt if she doesn’t move away?

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes. Suddenly, he charged forward.

Yin Wuyou raised an eyebrow. This person wants to go around me directly?

Yin Wuyou didn’t hesitate when she saw Zhou Shu attempt to go around her. She turned her sword around and stabbed toward Zhou Shu’s exposed back.

Clank!

Two crisp sounds rang out almost at the same time, as if they had become the same sound.

Yin Wuyou only felt a strong force coming toward her, and she stumbled back several steps. Her arm was numb, and she almost couldn’t hold the sword in her hand.

She was shocked, and she didn’t know what was going on.

When she looked up, she saw that the mysterious expert who had suppressed her to the point where she couldn’t fight back was surrounded by a layer of faint golden light, as if a god had descended to the mortal world.

In front of him, a figure shrouded in a black robe had appeared out of nowhere.

This black-robed figure held a pitch-black dagger in his hand. The edge of the dagger was also pitch-black, which looked extremely strange.

Looking at the position of the black-robed figure and thinking back to where she had just stood, Yin Wuyou instantly understood what was going on.

The black-robed figure had wanted to ambush her from behind just now, and the mysterious expert had rushed forward to save her!

He saved me, but I stabbed him! Yin Wuyou was flustered. On the one hand, she was worried about Zhou Shu's safety, and on the other hand, she felt guilty toward this mysterious expert.

In her chaotic state of mind, Yin Wuyou didn't notice that under the faint golden light, there were only a few traces of blood where she stabbed, and the wound had already healed.

"Who are you? Are you from Great Wei?" An ethereal voice sounded from the black-robed figure's mouth.

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes and stared coldly at the other party. "I should be the one asking you this. What kind of man sneaks up on a woman behind her back?"

"The kind of man who has the ability to kill others." The black-robed figure laughed coldly. "Although I don't know who you are, you're not my target. You can leave. I won't kill you."

"You won't kill me?" Zhou Shu threw his head back and laughed. "You are hiding your identity so sneakily. If you want to kill me, you need to have the ability to do so!"

"Are you even qualified to say that I'm hiding my identity?" The black-robed figure mocked.

Zhou Shu: "..."

Alright, he had forgotten that he was also masked.

It doesn't matter. Even if my face is covered, I am still stronger than you!

"Those who hurt others behind their backs are not fit to use sabers!" Zhou Shu said coldly.

He slowly raised the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber in his hand as his saber intent soared into the sky.

"Little girl, leave first. Don't get in my way!"

Zhou Shu took a heavy step forward, and the ground began to tremble violently.

In everyone's eyes, Zhou Shu seemed to have become a blade. Endless qi gathered on his body, and even the stars and moon in the sky seemed to pale in comparison.

"Your Excellency—"

"That Zhou kid is fine. Get going!" Zhou Shu said loudly. Along with his saber, he slashed at the black-robed figure.

Yin Wuyou's expression changed.

"You guys go first—" Before Yin Wuyou could say, 'I'll stay and help'.

Zhou Shu shouted, "We can't fight to our heart's content with irrelevant people here. Let's fight somewhere else!"

The black-robed figure's pupils constricted as if he'd thought of something, and he nodded. "Great minds think alike!"

With a tap of his foot, he rose into the air.

Zhou Shu also leaped onto a large tree.

Just as Yin Wuyou was about to give chase, a saber beam descended from the sky and blocked her path.. When she returned to her original spot, Zhou Shu and the black-robed figure had already disappeared.

Chapter 106: Life Is Like a Play, Everything Depends on Acting Skills

At the peak of a mountain...

...

Zhou Shu pointed his saber at the ground. Several meters away, the black-robed figure stood there, his chest stained with blood.

“Who exactly are you?” the black-robed figure said hoarsely.

“Why don’t you tell me first?” Zhou Shu laughed coldly.

He was seriously suspecting that this black-robed man was Zhu Chuanfeng’s helper.

Otherwise, why would such an expert suddenly appear in the forest near the capital?

Moreover, this fellow wanted to assassinate Yin Wuyou earlier!

If he was someone from Great Xia, why would he assassinate Yin Wuyou?

Zhou Shu wanted to capture or kill this black-robed man, but his cultivation was extremely high.

He had used all of his abilities and had even used a technique that would injure both sides. Only then did he manage to injure the black-robed man.

Even so, he was almost injured.

The eighth level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique was unable to completely block his opponent’s attack. If Zhou Shu hadn’t reacted quickly and used the Visualization of the Five Mountains’ True Form to attack his opponent’s consciousness, causing his attack to deviate slightly, he would have been injured already.

Zhou Shu understood that with his current cultivation, injuring the black-robed man was his limit. Killing him would be very difficult.

It was nigh impossible to capture him alive.

The black-robed man’s entire face was covered in his black robe, revealing only a pair of sinister eyes. He stared at Zhou Shu for a long time before saying coldly, “We will meet again!”

Then the black-robed man disappeared on the spot with a puff of black smoke.

Zhou Shu didn’t see clearly how this fellow disappeared!

You won’t be leaving so easily the next time we meet.

He thought that the high-level martial artists of this world had all sorts of strange abilities. These people couldn't be underestimated.

After confirming that the black-robe person had already disappeared, Zhou Shu quickly disappeared from where he stood with a flash.

Not long after he left, several figures appeared at the mountain peak. Among them were the Divine Constable Bureau's Grand Commander Ma Fengzhang and Yin Wuyou.

Zhu Chuanfeng was already dead, so Ma Fengzhang naturally didn't have to guard against him coming into contact with Great Wei's diplomatic envoys. Thus, he was able to come and assist Yin Wuyou.

"Two experts had indeed fought here," Ma Fengzhang said in a low voice. "It seems that their cultivation levels are not below mine."

They were both third-rank martial artists, but there was a huge gap between Ma Fengzhang's and Yin Wuyou's strength.

Yin Wuyou was only a beginner third-rank martial artist, while Ma Fengzhang was already at the peak of the third rank and only one step away from the second rank of the Martial Dao.

If their cultivation was not weaker than his, didn't this mean that the weakest among them was at the peak of the third rank?

Maybe even second rank?

They didn't suspect that these experts were first-rank martial artists. It wasn't so easy to encounter first-rank martial artists.

"Commander Ma, I stabbed the mysterious expert previously. Would this affect his strength?" Yin Wuyou said worriedly. She was extremely vexed now. Why did she stab him?

Ma Fengzhang knew who the mysterious expert Yin Wuyou was talking about was. This person had helped Great Xia several times, so Ma Fengzhang was very curious about who he was.

"I don't know." Ma Fengzhang shook his head. "But from the looks of it, the victor wasn't decided. They left separately in the end."

"Then, can we find this senior? I wish to apologize to him," Yin Wuyou said.

Ma Fengzhang shook his head without saying anything.

Previously, Yin Wuyou and the others were able to catch up to this person, so this person must have deliberately left traces.

But now, the other party had left no traces at all. How was he to track him?

If such an expert was unwilling to be tracked, then no one would be able to catch up to him.

Ma Fengzhang didn't expect that it wasn't that Zhou Shu deliberately left traces but that he didn't have full control of his own strength yet.

After the battle with the black-robed man, Zhou Shu was much more familiar with his own strength.

Paying a little extra attention, he had already erased all his traces.

“Your Highness, since this person is unwilling to reveal his identity, we shouldn’t push him too hard.”

Ma Fengzhang pondered, “As for the black-robed man who assassinated you, Your Highness, I wonder what his background is?”

Ma Fengzhang carefully observed the traces of the battle. One side used a saber, and the saber intent was obviously the same as the saber intent in the capital’s Saber Cave, except that it was many times stronger.

The other party used a sword, but the sword intent had already dissipated. It was as if the other party had done it intentionally. From the traces of the scene, it was impossible to determine the other party’s identity.

Of course, the other party might also be an expert that he didn’t know about.

After all, there were countless experts in the world. Even he, Ma Fengzhang, couldn’t possibly know all of them.

“Hmph, he took advantage of the situation to try to attack me. If he dares to come again, I will personally capture him!” Yin Wuyou harrumphed. If her attention hadn’t been on the mysterious expert, how could she have been so easily ambushed?

Speaking of which, she also felt a little embarrassed. She was a third-rank Grandmaster and was almost ambushed!

Even if the other party’s cultivation was higher than her, it was still embarrassing.

She couldn’t wait for the other party to assassinate her again. That way, she could win a round.

“This person might be related to Great Wei’s diplomatic envoys. But there’s only one third-rank Grandmaster in the Great Wei’s diplomatic mission team. He doesn’t seem like the person who assassinated you, Your Highness...” Ma Fengzhang continued.

A middle-aged man who came with Ma Fengzhang and Yin Wuyou suddenly said, “Perhaps there are other experts hidden in the Great Wei’s diplomatic mission team.”

He was the deputy general of the Fiend Eradication Army. This time, he was the one leading the team to cooperate with the Divine Constable Bureau.

“That’s possible.” Ma Fengzhang nodded. “Great Wei’s diplomatic mission team came with ill intentions. But so what if there’s a third-rank Grandmaster hiding among them after they enter the city tomorrow?”

“In the imperial capital of Great Xia, the dragons have to be coiled, and the tigers have to lie low!”

Ma Fengzhang’s eyes shone brightly.

He was truly enraged. Assassinating the princess of Great Xia in the imperial capital? How many years had it been since such a thing had happened?!

Luckily, nothing happened to the princess. Otherwise, as the Divine Constable Bureau's commander, even if he died ten thousand times, he wouldn't be able to escape the blame!

"Your Highness, Zhu Chuanfeng has already been killed, but there are still many things that need to be dealt with. I must return to the capital immediately to report. Please return to the capital as well, Your Highness." Ma Fengzhang cupped his hands.

Ma Fengzhang didn't dare to leave Yin Wuyou alone in the wilderness before finding out the black-robed man's identity.

"Let's go." Yin Wuyou waved her hand. She also wanted to return to the Forging Division to see if Zhou Shu had returned.

Although the mysterious expert had said that Zhou Shu was fine, she still needed to see him to feel at ease.

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...

In the 0th Workshop, the moment Zhou Shu returned, he immediately took off his clothes and threw them into the smelting furnace.

Speaking of which, if he didn't become the superintendent of the workshop, he wouldn't even be able to change his clothes.

Pretending to be mysterious is a little troublesome...

I wonder who that fellow is. He is really not weak. To be able to kill him, I will need to reach perfection in the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and improve my Heavenly Saber Art as well. I feel that fellow held back just now.

Although he had injured the black-robed man, it was because the black-robed man hadn't expected him to be protected by the Golden Bell Shield Technique. In terms of true strength, the black-robed man was perhaps a bit stronger than Zhou Shu.

Furthermore, he had some strange abilities. If they really fought to the death, it was hard to say who would win.

At the time, neither Zhou Shu nor the black-robed man wanted to fight for too long, which was why they had ended the battle so quickly.

They both knew that with their strength, if they really wanted to decide a life and death battle, it wasn't something that could be done in a short period of time. At that time, Ma Fengzhang and the others would definitely have arrived.

It's a pity that the Breakthrough Pill can only be eaten once. It's useless to eat more—

Zhou Shu's gaze naturally fell on the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber he had brought back.

The blade had been broken into countless pieces. What Zhou Shu had brought back was only the hilt.

Using standard weapons to fight against experts was still somewhat disadvantageous.

I only gave out one Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber, the one in Yin Wuyou's hands.

Zhou Shu's gaze shifted to the wooden chest beside the furnace.

Inside were all the Autumn Anatidae Plume Sabers that he had forged recently.

The saber in Yin Wuyou's hand was unlikely to fall into Zhu Chuanfeng's hands. Where did Zhu Chuanfeng get this saber from then?

Zhou Shu looked hesitant.

Actually, it was very simple to confirm.

He knew exactly how many Autumn Anatidae Plume Sabers he had forged himself. As long as he counted the number of Autumn Anatidae Plume Sabers in this box, he would know if there were any missing.

There was no problem with the safety of the Forging Division's workshops. If a thief could get in this place so easily, then how could Great Xia's weapons be kept secret?

Therefore, it was almost impossible for outsiders to steal weapons from here.

Even though Zhu Chuanfeng was a Grand Craftsman, he had never been to the 0th Workshop before. Even if he had come, he wouldn't have had the chance to obtain Zhou Shu's weapon.

.... Unless someone had given it to him.

There weren't many people in the 0th Workshop. Each and every one of them had completed the forging task with Zhou Shu before. They could be considered friends who had gone through thick and thin together.

Zhou Shu really didn't want to doubt any of them!

Just as Zhou Shu was staring blankly at the box, Zhang Yibei's report came from outside.
"Superintendent, the Grand Minister is here."

Yin Wuyou is here? Zhou Shu's lips curled up slightly when he thought about what Yin Wuyou had done outside the city.

Although he knew Yin Wuyou might not have been worried about him because of personal feelings, it still felt good to have someone care about him.

He threw the hilt into the box and walked to the front yard.

Yin Wuyou came alone. When she saw Zhou Shu, she was clearly relieved.

"How did you come back?" Yin Wuyou asked bluntly.

"I walked back." Zhou Shu knew what Yin Wuyou meant, but he still feigned ignorance.

"Nonsense!" Yin Wuyou couldn't help saying. She looked around and waved her hand to get the other Forging Apprentices to leave. Then she said, "I'm asking you how you escaped from Zhu Chuanfeng!"

“Oh, that. A masked man saved me and took Zhu Chuanfeng away,” Zhou Shu said.

“In that case, why didn’t we meet you?” Yin Wuyou asked.

Actually, Zhou Shu also knew that there were many loopholes in this matter. But fortunately, he could push all the fault to the mysterious expert.

“I don’t know if the masked man was trying to save me or torture me. He left me in the deep mountains and forests. It wasn’t easy for me to walk back. My clothes were all torn.” Zhou Shu spread his hands. “I wanted to report to the Divine Constable Bureau. But after thinking about it, I decided to come back and change my clothes first...”

Yin Wuyou frowned and stared at Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu calmly met her gaze. Yes, a feast for the eyes...

After a long while, Yin Wuyou nodded. “It’s good that you’re fine. Don’t run around in the next few days. There might be an important mission assigned to you.”

After Yin Wuyou finished speaking, she walked out.

She had just taken two steps when she suddenly turned around. Then a beam of light shot toward Zhou Shu.

Swoosh!

The tip of the saber was only one millimeter away from Zhou Shu’s throat.

Yin Wuyou held the hilt of her sword firmly in the air.

An expression of fear and panic appeared on Zhou Shu’s face.

“G-Grand Minister—” Zhou Shu’s voice was trembling slightly. He had perfectly portrayed a frightened Forging Apprentice.

He gave himself nine points for his acting!

Yin Wuyou narrowed his eyes and looked at Zhou Shu for a while.

Swoosh!

With a flick of her wrist, she returned her sword to its sheath.

“It’s nothing,” Yin Wuyou said lightly and left...

Zhou Shu was just about to say something to her back when his expression suddenly changed slightly. Then without any hesitation, he turned around and rushed into the backyard.

After rushing into his room in the backyard, Zhou Shu directly shut the door and windows.

After doing all of this, a faint golden light appeared on his body.

Not only that, but the muscles all over his body swelled and contracted as he breathed, then they swelled and contracted again and again, as if all the cells in his body were breathing.

[You receive a reward of two years of cultivation because the Huben Saber you forged effectively completed a kill!]

...

[The Spring Embroidered Saber you forged effectively completed a kill. The Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form Technique has improved by 30%!]

...

[The Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber you forged effectively completed a kill. The Heavenly Saber Art has improved by 5%!]

...

[The Horse Slaying Saber you forged effectively completed a kill. The Golden Bell Shield Technique has improved by 10%!]

...

In an instant, countless messages flashed past his eyes.

The Legendary Armament Canon automatically appeared, and the pages flipped. The Huben Saber, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, Horse Slaying Saber, and Spring Embroidered Saber kept flashing.

Several different types of power surged into his body at the same time. Zhou Shu felt as if his body had been reborn, then torn apart.

He could clearly sense that he was constantly becoming stronger. His aura erupted uncontrollably, and a tornado-like cyclone formed around his body.

Crack!

All of the wooden objects in the room were shattered at almost the same time before being pulverized by the tornado.

If Zhou Shu hadn't been controlling it with all his might, this tornado might have even broken through the wall. If that had happened, the commotion would have been even greater.

If Yin Wuyou saw this scene, he would be completely exposed.

Fortunately, he was just a little bit away from being exposed.

However, it was really difficult. He was just that close.. Acting was also a skill.

Chapter 107: The Traitor in the 0th Workshop

Zhou Shu sighed in his heart as he felt his cultivation increase dramatically.

...

The Legendary Armament Canon was good in every way except for one thing. The increase in his cultivation from time to time was without any warning, and it always affected his acting skills.

He clenched his fist, and an explosive sound erupted from his fist.

The Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique eleventh level!

Strength filled his entire body. At this moment, Zhou Shu felt like he could lift a small mountain!

The current him was the strongest after he transmigrated to this world!

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Zhou Shu felt that he could kill a third-rank Grandmaster with just his strength alone!

Of course, the prerequisite was that the third-rank Grandmaster didn't move.

Otherwise, it wouldn't be so easy to kill a third-rank grandmaster.

Did war break out in the south? Why are the benefits coming so fast?

Not only did the Huben Sabers kill countless people, but the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers and the Horse Slaying Sabers also killed many people at the same time.

Even the Spring Embroidered Saber had caused quite a few deaths.

When the army had marched south, Zhou Shu had provided Meng Bai's army with a batch of Huben Sabers, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers, and Horse Slaying Sabers.

As for the Spring Embroidered Saber, he had given one to Sun Gongping.

Not only had the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique broken through to the eleventh level, but his Heavenly Saber Art had also improved greatly. The Golden Bell Shield Technique that he had just broken through once had actually broken through once again to the ninth level!

In comparison, the progress of the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form Technique was almost negligible.

After all, the efficiency of Sun Gongping alone was incomparable to everyone else.

However, Zhou Shu didn't mind. The Spring Embroidered Saber had already been delivered to the Divine Constable Bureau. In the future, there would be many opportunities for him to receive benefits.

It takes almost a thousand years of cultivation to level up to the eleventh level of the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique.

Although his body's aptitude was limited, and his one year of cultivation was probably equivalent to a few days of cultivation for those geniuses, the eleventh level of the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique was definitely not weak.

He thought about how the King of the Golden Wheel had only reached the tenth level and was almost invincible. Zhou Shu's current eleventh level was more than twice as strong as the King of the Golden Wheel.

Furthermore, the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique was only one of his techniques. The ninth level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique was another powerful one.

At the ninth level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique, his true qi was extremely dense, and he could hurt people with flowers and leaves. Even sharp weapons could only cut his skin without damaging his muscles. Only by stabbing 1.5 inches from his vital points would it be possible to kill him.

It could be said that the current Zhou Shu had almost no flaws. Even a third-rank Grandmaster would find it difficult to injure him.

The black-robed man still wants to meet me again. The next time we meet, I'll probably surprise him.

When he fought with the black-robed man yesterday, the black-robed man's strength was slightly higher than his, but it was still limited.

Compared to yesterday, Zhou Shu was now more than twice as strong. If he encountered the black-robed man again, he was confident that he could kill him!

Yin Wuyou was clearly testing me just now. After taking inventory of his gains, Zhou Shu fell into deep thought. If I had acted subconsciously, I might have already been exposed.

Did she discover something? That shouldn't be the case. My acting is so good.

Zhou Shu pondered for a moment and felt that he shouldn't have shown any flaws. Even if Yin Wuyou was suspicious, she definitely couldn't find any evidence.

Anyway, it's not me. I'm just a forger.

In the end, Zhou Shu decided not to think too much about it. Yin Wuyou was probably just testing him and might not really suspect that he was the mysterious expert.

The Division has an important mission for me? I wonder what it is. Zhou Shu recalled Yin Wuyou's words before she left. No matter what, it definitely has something to do with forging. But that's not what is important now.

Zhou Shu's gaze landed on the chest containing the weapons he had forged.

Originally, he had thought that the 0th Workshop was very safe, and there was no need for him to hide the weapons he had forged. Thus, he had stored these weapons in the workshop.

Normally, no one would come to his backyard without his permission.

But in reality, there was no defense here. When he wasn't around, even if someone came in, he wouldn't know.

With regards to the Huben Saber incident previously, the Huben Troops and the Divine Constable Bureau already captured a group of spies. Before Big Brother Mi went out to battle, he even specially executed a group of spies and lured some out. Zhou Shu sighed. Logically speaking, Chang'an should have very few spies left.

Was he already hiding in the Forging Division's workshops before, or did he only recently infiltrate?

Zhou Shu was now certain Zhu Chuanfeng's Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber was taken from here!

For someone to be able to take away the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber secretly, they had to be very familiar with the 0th Workshop. Other than Zhang Yibei and the other Forging Apprentices, Zhou Shu couldn't think of anyone else.

Although he didn't want to doubt his subordinates, the truth was right in front of him. If he continued to deceive himself, he would be foolish, not kind.

If he allowed the spy to continue staying in the 0th Workshop, he could use this opportunity to mislead the enemy. But Zhou Shu didn't have the energy to fight them.

He was just a forger. Why would he care about espionage?

Zhou Shu pondered for a moment before raising his voice. "Zhang Yibei!"

"Here!" Zhang Yibei's voice sounded from the front.

"Gather everyone in the open area!" Zhou Shu ordered coldly.

...

Fifteen minutes later, in the open area of the 0th Workshop, forty-eight Forging Apprentices lined up neatly.

Compared to the Forging Apprentices in other workshops, the Forging Apprentices in the 0th Workshop were clearly different.

All of them were dressed in clean work clothes. Their backs were straight, and they looked energetic. They clearly had some imposing manner.

This wasn't surprising. In the 0th Workshop, they only needed to work eight hours a day. The rest of the time, they could cultivate Martial Dao.

After such a period of time, almost everyone had undergone a complete transformation.

When they saw Zhou Shu walk out from the backyard with his hands behind his back, all the Forging Apprentices revealed looks of admiration.

Their current happy lives were all thanks to Zhou Shu. The superintendent was now their god.

"Superintendent, all forty-eight people are here! Please give your orders!" Although there was no official appointment, Zhang Yibei assumed the duties of a supervisor at the 0th Workshop.

Zhou Shu even specially designed a military-style management plan for him, allowing him to be in charge of managing the group of Forging Apprentices.

Zhou Shu looked at him coldly. No matter who this traitor was, Zhang Yibei wouldn't be able to escape responsibility for his negligence.

... Let alone the fact that he was just a mere Forging Apprentice who had yet to mature.

Since he had taken on this role, he had to take on this responsibility. If he couldn't do it, then he had to get lost!

Zhang Yibei shivered, not knowing what he had done wrong.

He stepped aside, trembling, and began to reflect on what he had done recently.

Recently, he did seem to have lost focus a little. He thought that the happy life at the 0th Workshop was only natural. He didn't work hard enough when it came to cultivation and work.

In particular, he was able to sleep for a full eight hours every day before waking up. This was simply a sin!

The more Zhang Yibei thought about it, the more flustered he became. He felt uneasy. That's right. How could I do this? Being able to sleep for eight hours a day, what kind of person could enjoy this?

Zhou Shu didn't look at Zhang Yibei again. His eyes flashed as he swept his gaze across the 48 Forging Apprentices.

Everyone here was his companion who had gone through Xiao Zongshui's exploitation with him.

Everyone had gone through thick and thin together.

However, it was easy to share trials and tribulations, but it was difficult to enjoy happiness together.

There were already people who couldn't hold themselves back even though they hadn't achieved much.

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes, his expression becoming increasingly cold.

No matter how slow their reactions were, the Forging Apprentices realized that something was wrong with the atmosphere.

But none of them dared to ask.

After a long time, just as the Forging Apprentices found it difficult to breathe, Zhou Shu finally spoke. "Some people might not understand what I'm saying, but others do.

He said coldly, "I don't want to say anything else. I'll give you a chance. After two hours, come to the backyard and look for me.

"You, or you all, have come to me on your own accord. As long as your wives, children, and parents have nothing to do with this matter, I can spare them.

"But if you think that you'll be able to escape, then I'm sorry. According to the laws of Great Xia, your wives, children, and parents won't be able to escape either!"

With that, Zhou Shu waved his hand and turned to walk into the backyard.

The Forging Apprentices looked at each other in confusion. What did the superintendent mean?

"Old Zhang, what does the superintendent mean?" a Forging Apprentice asked Zhang Yibei.

"How would I know?" Zhang Yibei said. He was also confused. The superintendent didn't tell him.

“Why do I feel like one of us has committed a crime?” Sixth Brother Wu said weakly.

“How is that possible? What could we have done when we just stay in the workshop all day?” a Forging Apprentice refuted.

“Not necessarily. It doesn’t mean you won’t commit crimes if you stay in the workshop. Have you forgotten—” Halfway through his words, he was suddenly stunned. After a while, he continued, “Do you think that someone betrayed the superintendent?”

“Who?” The Forging Apprentices got worked up. “The superintendent treats us so well, yet someone has betrayed him? Have they lost their conscience?”

The crowd was so worked up that no one noticed that a few people in the crowd looked a little dazed.

“Enough!” Zhang Yibei shouted impatiently. “No matter what happened, the superintendent just said that some people should know what’s going on.”

His expression turned cold as he said, “All of you better do as the superintendent says. Now, everyone, return to your rooms! Within two hours, those who are not involved are not allowed to come out!”

In the courtyard of the Forging Division’s 0th Workshop, Zhou Shu was sitting with an Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber resting on his knees, his face expressionless.

Two hours was neither long nor short.

Seeing that two hours were almost up, Zhou Shu looked at the entrance to the backyard, and disappointment flashed in his eyes.

It seems like there are still people who hope they’ll be lucky.

Don’t blame me for being ruthless then.

As he was thinking, a figure suddenly appeared in Zhou Shu’s field of vision. Soon after, two more figures appeared.

Zhou Shu’s pupils suddenly contracted!

“You... you!” Zhou Shu was truly somewhat angry.

Although the 0th Workshop had not been established for a long time, he felt that he was quite kind to these Forging Apprentices.

Food and lodging were provided, and there was not much work to be done.

Moreover, he also provided guidance for them to advance. Not everyone was qualified to come into contact with martial arts!

Greed was a scary thing.

He had given them so much, but they were still not satisfied!

There were actually five traitors!

There were only forty-nine people, including himself, yet there were actually five traitors!

10%!

“Why?” Zhou Shu suppressed his anger and said coldly. “Tell me why!

“Is there anything I have done wrong to you?”

Crack!

The armrest of the chair was forcefully broken by Zhou Shu.

“Superintendent!” The five Forging Apprentices knelt on the ground and cried.

“Shut up!” Zhou Shu said angrily. “Who are you crying for? Tell me. How have I let you down!”

“No, Superintendent, you have done us no wrong. We were blinded by greed and let you down!” a Forging Apprentice said with tears all over his face. “Superintendent, please kill me. I am too embarrassed to continue living!”

“Superintendent, please kill us!” The other apprentices also knocked their heads against the floor.

“Do you think I don’t dare to kill you?” Zhou Shu said angrily. “If I hadn’t found out, do you think you could have gotten away with it?”

“What benefits did those people give you that you dared to do this?”

He treated others sincerely, yet these Forging Apprentices treated him like a fool. They deserved to be killed!

“We have let you down, Superintendent. We are bastards. We are no better than animals!”

The five apprentices kept kowtowing. Their foreheads were bruised, and blood flowed down their faces. They looked extremely pitiful.

But Zhou Shu didn’t feel the slightest bit of pity. He had pitied the situation of the Forging Apprentices previously, which was why he had done so much to help them.

However, not only were these people not grateful, but they had even betrayed him!

If they could steal the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber now, would they take Zhou Shu’s head another day?

“Tell me. Who is the other party? What benefits did they give you to betray me so easily?” Zhou Shu said coldly. No matter the reason, stealing the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber was a capital offense.

This wasn’t a matter of offending Zhou Shu. The Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber was a military secret. In any country, stealing military secrets would result in the same outcome.

What Zhou Shu could do was let their families go if they were uninvolved. If it was the Divine Constable Bureau or someone else, they would definitely be implicated.

“Superintendent, will you really spare my family if I tell you?” An apprentice suddenly raised his head and looked at Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes, and a white light flashed before his eyes.

Chapter 108: Decisive Killing

A white light flashed, and before anyone could react, they saw the Forging Apprentice who had just spoken covering his throat with his hands and choking. Then he fell to the ground in disbelief.

...

Blood flowed out from the gap between the apprentice's fingers, and his eyes were wide open. Even in death, he didn't believe that Zhou Shu would kill him just like that.

"There's no room for bargaining," Zhou Shu said coldly.

The Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber had already returned to its sheath. Zhou Shu didn't seem to notice the message flashing in front of him.

He stared at the other four Forging Apprentices and said coldly, "You guys better understand something. I'm not discussing it with you! If I ask, you answer. You don't get to choose.

"I've given you respect, but you threw it away."

He wanted the Forging Apprentices to have human rights, but this didn't mean they could step on his head.

If they really thought that Zhou Shu was weak and a pushover, then they were wrong!

When he treated the apprentices as his own, he would give them enough respect.

But if they became his enemy, Zhou Shu wouldn't show any mercy.

Although it was slightly troublesome to kill a Forging Apprentice, he had already killed him. If he was given another choice, he would still make the same decision.

The other four apprentices were completely dumbfounded.

They had known Zhou Shu for quite some time. From the moment they met him, Zhou Shu had always been a smiling and kind person.

Even after he became the superintendent of the workshop, he had never put on airs in front of them. Most of the time, he even ate and lived with them.

Only now did they truly realize that Zhou Shu was the workshop's superintendent, an existence who could determine their fate.

The four of them collapsed to the ground, and a pool of yellow water appeared beneath one of them.

Zhou Shu only looked at them coldly. He didn't use any martial artist's aura to deal with them. There was no need for him to do so.

Killing one apprentice was enough to make them confess.

Fifteen minutes later, Zhou Shu called Zhang Yibei in.

When he saw the four corpses on the ground, even though Zhang Yibei was mentally prepared, his legs still went weak, and he almost fell to the ground.

He mustered up all his courage and walked to the front of Zhou Shu. His knees buckled, and he fell to his knees. "Superintendent!"

This time, Zhou Shu didn't stop him from kneeling. He now understood that this world wasn't the same as the one in his previous life. Equality simply wasn't suitable for this world.

Some people forgot about respect when they got too close to others. His respect gave others the impression that he was weak and a pushover.

"These five people betrayed the 0th Workshop. I've already killed them on the spot," Zhou Shu said coldly. "If any of their family members live in the 0th Workshop, chase them out."

"Yes!" Zhang Yibei's voice trembled as he spoke. This was the first time he felt the dignity of a true leader from Zhou Shu.

To be honest, although he respected Zhou Shu, deep down, he wasn't afraid of him.

"Zhang Yibei, I left the 0th Workshop to your management. How do you explain this?" Zhou Shu said coldly.

Zhang Yibei's back was drenched in cold sweat. "Superintendent, I really didn't know!"

"If you knew, you would be a corpse now." Zhou Shu snorted coldly. "I told you to manage them. Is this how you manage them?"

"I know my mistake." Zhang Yibei was drenched in sweat, and his body was trembling.

"Hmph." Zhou Shu stood up. "Take care of their corpses. I'm going to the Divine Constable Bureau now. As for how I'm going to punish you, we'll talk about it when I get back! Before I return, if anything happens at the 0th Workshop, I'll hold you responsible!"

With that, he hung the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber on his waist and left.

Zhang Yibei's body went limp, and he fell to the ground. It was as if he had just been fished out of water. A moment later, a fierce look flashed across his eyes.

It hadn't been easy for him, Zhang Yibei, to have this day. He even saw the hope of becoming a Forging Master. If anyone dared to destroy his hope, he would fight them to death!

With this thought in mind, a surge of energy erupted from his body, and he stormed toward the front yard.

...

At the Divine Constable Bureau, Zhou Shu looked at Yang Hong, somewhat surprised.

In just one day, Yang Hong actually entered the ranks!

Yang Hong looked at Zhou Shu with a somewhat complicated expression. Previously, he had let Zhou Shu out of the city as a favor. But who would have thought that he would make such a grave mistake?

Thankfully, nothing had happened to Zhou Shu. Otherwise, Yang Hong probably wouldn't be able to bear the consequences.

"Superintendent Zhou, it's great to see you," Yang Hong said happily. "Superintendent Zhou, you should have given me some hints back then."

Zhou Shu smiled. He had wanted to leave the city at the time, so why would he hint to Yang Hong?

Speaking of which, he had let Yang Hong down in this matter. After all, letting him out of the city was considered Yang Hong's negligence.

However, Yang Hong had already entered the ranks, and Zhu Chuanfeng didn't get away, so he shouldn't receive too severe a punishment.

Otherwise, Zhou Shu would have had to secretly find ways to make up to Yang Hong. He wasn't used to owing others.

"Let's not talk about the past anymore. This time, it's a blessing in disguise." Zhou Shu shook his head. "I haven't congratulated you, Constable Yang. No, I should say Divine Constable Yang."

"No, no." Yang Hong's smile blossomed like a flower. He had been stuck at the threshold of ranked for several years, and he still had to thank Zhou Shu for the pressure he had brought upon him.

"Divine Constable Yang, may I know if Commander Ma is here?" Zhou Shu didn't waste time with small talk and went straight to the point.

"The commander isn't back yet," Yang Hong said. "What's the matter, Superintendent Zhou?"

"I have something to tell him." Zhou Shu nodded. "I wonder where Commander Ma went. When will he return?"

"The commander has entered the palace. It's not certain when he will return," Yang Hong said. "If there's anything you need, you can tell me. I might be able to help you."

The moment he spoke, Yang Hong wished he could slap himself.

Am I looking for trouble? If Zhou Shu really tells me, will I help or not?

Do I have the power to help him?

If I don't help, will I offend him?

He must have gotten carried away after entering the ranks. Why did he think that he could help the second master of the Mi family, the princess's...

"Might as well." Zhou Shu nodded. "Divine Constable Yang, you are already a divine constable. I can tell you about this."

Zhou Shu's words made Yang Hong's heart skip a beat, but it was too late to regret now.

"Please speak, Superintendent Zhou. If, I mean what if, if I can't help you, we'll wait for the commander to return."

He really didn't want to hear Zhou Shu out. He was just being polite earlier. Why did he take it seriously?

Ever since he met Zhou Shu, whenever Zhou Shu was involved, Yang Hong found that things would always go out of control. He really didn't know how things would develop.

The first time was when he had been tricked by Old Thief Zhu. He had just brought Zhou Shu back to investigate, but the princess, the steward of the Mi family, and Eunuch Zhao had come one after another. He had almost been scared to death.

The second time, with the intention of befriending Zhou Shu, he had even broken the rules and allowed Zhou Shu to leave the city. In the end? Zhou Shu had actually been held hostage by Old Thief Zhu!

This was a trap. Yang Hong even felt that if Zhou Shu had died outside the city, he would have been killed by the princess and the Mi family.

This was the third time...

Yang Hong was scared.

"It's like this," Zhou Shu said. "When I was checking the warehouse of the 0th Workshop, I discovered that a few weapons had been lost. After investigating, I discovered that some people had colluded with Zhu Chuanfeng to steal the secrets of the Forging Division. I have uncovered the traitors in the 0th Workshop. According to their confessions, there are more people from the Forging Division who colluded with them.

"Your Divine Constable Bureau is in charge of capturing traitors. Divine Constable Yang, find a few divine constables to follow me. Quickly capture them. I'm worried that if we're slow, they will get the news and escape."

"The divine constables in the Divine Constable Bureau are all out now," Yang Hong said subconsciously.

He wasn't lying. Although Zhu Chuanfeng had died, the matter was still far from over. Not only had Ma Fengzhang not returned to the Divine Constable Bureau, but the divine constables hadn't returned either.

He had forgotten that he was also a divine constable.

"It's the same with you around, Divine Constable Yang," Zhou Shu said impolitely. "If we delay, something might happen. Let's hurry up and leave."

"I—"

Before Yang Hong could say anything, Zhou Shu had already grabbed his arm and pulled him outside.

He was a newly-advanced divine constable, yet he was being pulled away.

"Superintendent Zhou, it's just the two of us. Is it enough?" Yang Hong said weakly.

"Why not? You are a divine constable. You have to be confident," Zhou Shu said. "In Chang'an, who would dare attack a divine constable?"

Why not? Yang Hong shouted in his heart. How many divine constables have died in Chang'an?

It's just that ordinary people like you don't know!

Without our Divine Constable Bureau, how can everyone live a peaceful life?

"Well..." Yang Hong made his last effort. "Superintendent Zhou, who are those people who colluded with the traitors? The commander and the other divine constables are handling Zhu Chuanfeng's case. Who knows. Those people might have already been arrested. We don't need to do anything."

Yang Hong was actually not afraid of handling cases. What he was afraid of was something happening to Zhou Shu.

If Zhou Shu got injured or died while working on the case, who would bear the wrath of the princess and the Mi family?

He was just a mere divine constable. He really couldn't handle a case while protecting this second master's safety.

In Yang Hong's eyes, Zhou Shu was only an apprentice who had just started cultivating the Martial Dao. Even if he hadn't advanced to a ranked martial artist, he could defeat ten such people.

Yet he still dared to go and catch a traitor?

"Let's go and take a look. If they've really been captured by Commander Ma and the others, that would be great. If not, this is your chance to make a contribution," Zhou Shu said without stopping.

Yang Hong only wanted to roll his eyes. He would rather not have this opportunity to gain merit. The risk and benefits were not proportional.

If anything happened to Zhou Shu in the process, he wouldn't be able to get any credit.

Even though Yang Hong was extremely unwilling, Zhou Shu didn't give him an option.

Yang Hong could have turned around and run. But if he ran away, and Zhou Shu went alone, he wouldn't be able to escape responsibility as well.

No matter what he did, he couldn't get away.

Zhou Shu didn't know that Yang Hong had so many thoughts in his mind. He didn't take this matter of catching the traitor seriously at all.

If not for the sake of legitimacy, he wouldn't have come to the Divine Constable Bureau at all.

Pulling Yang Hong along was also to comply with the rules.

Otherwise, he could have done it himself.

With his current cultivation level, could anyone in the capital threaten his safety?

There might be, but definitely not many.

At least that traitor wouldn't be able to!

Therefore, what Yang Hong was worried about wouldn't happen at all.

Both of them had their own thoughts, but their actions didn't reflect these thoughts.

Soon, under Zhou Shu's lead, the two arrived at the northeast of Chang'an.

"Superintendent Zhou, are we at the wrong place?" Yang Hong asked.

This area was the slums of Chang'an. Why would a traitor live in such a place?

Traitors, spies, no matter what they were called, these people were here to inquire about the secrets of the Great Xia Imperial Court and not to observe the internal affairs of Great Xia.

What could they find out from hiding in the slums and coming into contact with the lowest level existences all day?

Under normal circumstances, even if spies wanted to hide, they would rarely hide in such places. Spies were also human and didn't like to be abused. The slums were not somewhere anyone would want to stay in.

Besides, the people in the slums were complicated and under the government's control. It might not be safe to hide here.

"Trust me. It's right," Zhou Shu said. "Divine Constable Yang, even you don't believe that the other party is hiding here. This means that this place is very safe."

Yang Hong was somewhat speechless. Did it matter whether he believed it or not?

He didn't want to say anything more, so he continued to follow Zhou Shu.

The slums were full of yellow-skinned, skinny people dressed in tattered clothes. When these people saw Zhou Shu and Yang Hong, they subconsciously raised their eyes before going back to their own business.

Forget about Zhou Shu. Yang Hong's clothes were still something.

To ordinary people, the people from the Divine Constable Bureau were just like the Embroidered Uniform Guards on Earth in ancient times...

Yang Hong held the handle of a Spring Embroidered Saber. Although he had entered the ranks, he had yet to possess his own ranked weapon. So what he carried with him was still the Divine Constable Bureau's standard weapon—the Spring Embroidered Saber.

The spiritual essence in his body flowed slowly. Yang Hong was on full alert.

If he was alone, he wouldn't be so nervous.

But the person in front of him was a very important person. He couldn't let him get hurt.

"Superintendent Zhou, who exactly is the target? How is his cultivation?" Yang Hong said in a low voice. "The Huben Troops cleaned up traitors once before. Logically speaking, there shouldn't be spies here."

"One could have escaped," Zhou Shu said, "Perhaps because this person is too inconspicuous, so the Huben Troops missed him."

“I reckon that he’s just an ordinary person without any cultivation. I might be able to finish him off without you doing anything.”

As Zhou Shu spoke, the two of them arrived in front of a dilapidated courtyard.

Clang!

Zhou Shu unceremoniously kicked open the broken wooden door and loudly yelled, “The Divine Constable Bureau is handling a case. All unrelated people should retreat!”

Yang Hong was shocked and hurriedly followed.. Just as he crossed the threshold, he saw a black shadow fly out.

Chapter 109: Unexpected Harvest

Yang Hong stepped through the wooden door that Zhou Shu had kicked to pieces, just in time to see a figure fly out.

...

With a bang, countless wooden barrels were knocked to the ground.

A strong smell wafted over, and Yang Hong nearly vomited.

“Zhou...” Yang Hong said subconsciously. Only now did he see that Zhou Shu was standing not far away from him, and the figure that flew out was a man so ordinary-looking that he couldn’t be found in a crowd.

But this man was extremely unique. He was covered in yellow filth, and his entire body emitted a foul stench. Not to mention in a crowd, people would probably be able to recognize him even from ten miles away.

Zhou Shu covered his nose as he cursed in his heart.

F*ck, it’s a miss.

Had I known, I wouldn’t have kicked.

Who knew that this fellow had such a fetish and actually placed so many barrels of human waste in his courtyard...

But then again, after he thought about this person’s disguise, it didn’t seem strange anymore...

From the words of the traitors of the 0th Workshop, Zhou Shu knew that the person who had bribed them was not some high and mighty figure, but the one in front of him, a man who disposed of excrement!

The excrement in the Forging Division’s workshops was all taken care of by this person, so he could enter and leave the workshops freely.

Moreover, he wouldn't be subjected to strict inspections when he went in and out of the workshops. After all, who would want to check buckets of excrement?

This was the only way he could bring the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber out of the Forging Division's workshops without anyone knowing.

Otherwise, with Zhu Chuanfeng's status, it would be easy for him to take a standard weapon from a workshop, but it would be difficult for others not to know.

"Superintendent Zhou, is he the traitor you mentioned?" Yang Hong came back to life. If he had known earlier that the traitor was someone who disposed of excrement, he wouldn't need to worry.

He could fight a hundred such people with one hand!

Boom!

Before Zhou Shu could reply, he heard an explosion. The person who had fallen to the ground had already leaped up. He actually released an aura belonging to a martial artist and pounced toward Yang Hong.

"I—" Yang Hong felt so helpless and angry that he didn't know what to say.

Damn, a ranked martial artist disposes of excrement for others?

That's one thing, but a disguise?

Moreover, you were kicked to the ground by Superintendent Zhou?

Aren't you acting too well?

Then continue acting. Why do you look at me as if I killed your father? Are you coming for me?

Just as this person exploded, Zhou Shu had already left the courtyard with a whoosh.

This person charged at Yang Hong, completely ignoring Zhou Shu. To him, the person wearing the Divine Constable Bureau uniform was the greatest threat.

Yang Hong cursed in his heart. He wasn't afraid of a ranked martial artist. He was also a ranked martial artist. Moreover, he had spent several years to reach this stage and had accumulated a lot of experience during these years. Even though he had just become a ninth-rank martial artist, he wasn't afraid of fighting another ninth-rank martial artist.

But the problem was that this guy was covered in excrement. It wasn't easy to deal with him.

Zhou Shu pinched his nose. When he heard the endless banging sounds in the courtyard, he couldn't bear to look inside.

He wasn't worried about Yang Hong's safety. The traitor's cultivation wasn't high. Yang Hong was a divine constable of the Divine Constable Bureau, and His cultivation wasn't bad. Even if he wasn't a match for him, his life wouldn't be in danger.

At most, if Yang Hong really lost, he would secretly attack.

He only felt some pity for Yang Hong. Regardless of the outcome, Yang Hong couldn't avoid getting shit all over himself.

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This was worse than being seriously injured.

Zhou Shu looked around him. There were many curious gazes, but no one dared to approach.

Hearing that the Divine Constable Bureau was here to handle a case had some effect on keeping some people away.

When he kicked the door open earlier, the other party had been caught off guard and had tried to avoid exposing his cultivation. Zhou Shu hadn't used his cultivation to kick the door open.

Later, when he saw Yang Hong, the traitor felt that the matter was exposed and immediately exploded.

While Zhou Shu pondered, the commotion in the courtyard had subsided.

Zhou Shu was still pinching his nose. He peeked his head out and saw that the battle in the courtyard had ended.

Yang Hong's expression was distorted. He placed one foot on the traitor's chest and was still cursing.

The uniform he wore was already stained with yellow excrement, making people not want to look at it anymore.

Zhou Shu carefully stepped over the threshold and found a place to stand.

"Divine Constable Yang is mighty!" Zhou Shu raised his thumb.

Yang Hong's face darkened. Mighty my ass!

My first battle after entering the ranks is stained with shit. Luckily, my colleagues didn't see me. Otherwise, wouldn't I become the Divine Constable Bureau's laughing stock?

"Superintendent Zhou, can I trouble you to get some water?" Yang Hong didn't even dare to bring him back to the Divine Constable Bureau now!

If he appeared in public like this, he would probably become the most famous person in the capital tomorrow.

Zhou Shu held back his laughter and tiptoed to the water vat in the courtyard.

The water vat didn't have a lid, and some excrement had splashed in. But no matter what, it was better than nothing.

Zhou Shu lifted a wooden bucket and directly splashed water on Yang Hong.

Swish!

As the yellow sewage flowed down, the smell became even stronger.

Yang Hong was on the brink of tears. What the heck is this!

The more he thought about it, the more aggrieved he felt. He lifted his leg and kicked the traitor hard.

The traitor groaned and glared at Yang Hong angrily.

“You still dare to look at me like that?” Yang Hong was furious. “Let me tell you. After falling into the hands of the Divine Constable Bureau, you’re dead!”

That traitor snorted coldly and clenched his teeth without saying a word.

Swish!

Another bucket of water splashed over. Yang Hong quickly shut his mouth. He was afraid that the water would flow into his mouth...

After splashing the entire vat of water, although Yang Hong’s body was still emitting an unpleasant stench, it was finally slightly better than before.

“Superintendent Zhou, we’ve already caught him. There’s no time to lose. I’ll immediately bring him back to the Divine Constable Bureau for interrogation!” Yang Hong looked at Zhou Shu. “Superintendent Zhou, why don’t you return to the Forging Division first?”

Yang Hong really didn’t want to serve this master anymore. Every time he met him, nothing good would happen.

Speaking of this time, it was clearly considered a meritorious service. Why did his first battle become like this?

“Don’t worry about me. Take him back.” Zhou Shu waved his hand. “We have to get him to confess. There might be other people in the Forging Division who have been instigated by him!”

The traitor that Yang Hong was stepping on suddenly gritted his teeth and said, “Dream on!”

Then black blood flowed down from the corner of his mouth. His head tilted to the side, and he was no longer breathing.

“You...” Yang Hong’s expression changed, and he hurriedly squatted down.

He pinched the traitor’s cheek and said in a low voice, “There’s poison in his mouth!”

“He’s dead?”

“Dead!”

The two of them looked at each other and saw the disappointment in each other’s eyes.

It wasn’t easy for them to capture the other party. But due to a moment of carelessness, the other party actually died!

Once this person died, there would be no more clues.

If he had known this would happen, Zhou Shu would have come alone to subdue him.

Who would have thought that Yang Hong, a divine constable of the Divine Constable Bureau, had less experience than a rookie like him?

Zhou Shu complained inwardly, but he said, "The enemy was too cunning!"

"Hmph, does he think we can't do anything if he dies?" Yang Hong was so angry that he wanted to die. He was drenched in excrement, and this was the result?

"Do you really think the Divine Constable Bureau is useless?"

"The Divine Constable Bureau has ways to summon souls?!" Zhou Shu exclaimed.

"What does that mean?" Yang Hong asked curiously.

Zhou Shu gave a simple explanation. This world didn't seem to have heard of the saying of souls before.

"Superintendent Zhou, you are talking about the divine spirit. When a person dies, unless they are a first-rank martial artist, their divine spirit will immediately dissipate. How can they be summoned back?" Yang Hong said. "But his death doesn't mean that all the clues have disappeared. I will dig out all his connections!"

The Divine Constable Bureau was very powerful, and Yang Hong was ruthless. As long as it was related to this traitor, he would investigate everything!

After hearing Yang Hong's explanation, Zhou Shu nodded. "Then, I'll have to trouble you, Divine Constable Yang. I won't be involved any longer."

He wasn't too interested in investigating the case.

Just as Yang Hong was inspecting the traitor's corpse, Zhou Shu's eyes flashed. His divine sense condensed from the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form secretly covered an area of ten feet around him.

Zhou Shu's Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form had just entered basic mastery. Although he had condensed his divine sense, it could only cover a range of three meters.

If he mastered the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form, his consciousness would be able to separate itself from his body. Then he wouldn't need to get close to detect it.

With his divine sense fully released, Zhou Shu felt as if he had become a small radar. Everything within a three-meter radius was reflected in his mind, forming a three-dimensional image.

The residence of the spy was actually very large. But it was mainly because the courtyard was huge, and there were only five rooms.

Zhou Shu carefully chose a foothold to avoid getting his feet dirty.

After Zhou Shu jumped a few steps in the courtyard, his divine sense had already covered the entire courtyard.

Yang Hong felt that his actions were somewhat strange. He raised his head and glanced at Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu's expression didn't change as he looked around curiously.

Seeing this, Yang Hong ignored him.

“Superintendent Zhou, I have to trouble you for a favor,” Yang Hong said. “I have to stay here to guard the scene. Could you help inform the Divine Constable Bureau to send a few constables over?”

“Why don’t I stay here and watch for you while you go back and get people and change your clothes?” Zhou Shu pointed at Yang Hong’s clothes.

“You?” Yang Hong hesitated. What if the traitor has an accomplice...

“Divine Constable Yang, are you worried about me?” Zhou Shu said.

“What if he has an accomplice...” Yang Hong hesitated. If something really happened to Zhou Shu, he wouldn’t be able to bear the consequences.

“Don’t worry.” Zhou Shu laughed as he patted the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber on his waist.

“I’m not bragging, but I’m not afraid of normal thieves. Divine Constable Yang, you might not know this, but when I first entered the capital’s Saber Cave to comprehend saber intent, I gained something.”

There were many people who knew about this matter, so there was no point in hiding it. It was also beneficial to reveal a bit of his cultivation, as long as he kept a trump card.

Yang Hong was still somewhat hesitant.

“Divine Constable Yang, as a man, you should be more decisive. This is the capital. If there’s really any danger, can’t I just run away?” Zhou Shu said impatiently. “To tell you the truth, it’s not that easy to kill me in the capital.”

Yang Hong thought of Zhou Shu’s identity. With his status, he should have some survival means.

When he thought of this, he didn’t hesitate anymore. With his speed, his trip to the Divine Constable Bureau wouldn’t take too long, so there shouldn’t be any problems.

“In that case, I’ll have to trouble you, Superintendent Zhou. If anything happens, don’t force yourself. Your safety is the priority,” Yang Hong instructed.

“Got it. Hurry up and go,” Zhou Shu urged.

Yang Hong executed his movement technique and sprinted away, leaving behind a unique scent that lingered for a long time.

Zhou Shu pinched his nose and shouted, “The Divine Constable Bureau is handling a case! Anyone who dares to approach will be killed without exception!”

He realized that the Divine Constable Bureau’s name was quite useful. With this shout, these idlers who wanted to come closer to watch the show immediately dispersed.

After confirming that there was no one else around, Zhou Shu exerted force under his feet. Like a giant bird, he crossed several meters, crossing the filthy ground, and directly entered the house.

He had to make the best use of his time. After Yang Hong brought people back, they would definitely thoroughly search this place. At that time, it would be difficult to do anything.

Zhou Shu gently lifted up the bed in the room, then carefully pried open the tiles under the bed.

If not for his divine sense, he might not have discovered the secret so quickly.

After prying open the tiles, he dug up the soil, revealing a reddish-brown wooden box.

After he saw the wooden chest, his expression brightened.

I knew it. How could Zhu Chuanfeng possibly transfer the heaven-grade weapons in such a short period of time?

So that old fellow was hiding them here!

Now, it seemed that this traitor had a close relationship with Zhu Chuanfeng. If he didn't trust him enough, why would Zhu Chuanfeng have given such important things to him for safekeeping?

Inside the chest, the seven heaven-grade weapons quietly lay there. Even through their sheaths, Zhou Shu could still feel the sharpness of the weapons.

Good stuff.

Initially, he didn't expect much. He didn't expect that there would be an unexpected surprise here!

Without any hesitation, Zhou Shu took out the seven heaven-grade weapons. As for the other weapons in the box, Zhou Shu didn't touch them.

Even if he wanted to gain some benefits himself, he had to leave some leftovers for the Divine Constable Bureau.

He placed the chest back into the hole and restored it. Zhou Shu looked at the seven heaven-grade weapons in his hands and felt a bit awkward.

Although there were no long weapons among these seven heaven-grade weapons, if he just held them like this, when Yang Hong returned, even if he was blind, he would be able to see them.

Should I leave directly?

That's even worse. I promised Yang Hong to help guard the scene.

He could only hide them nearby.

Zhou Shu thought for a moment and jumped over the wall in a flash.

There was no one in the courtyard next door. Perhaps the owner had gone out to work. Zhou Shu dug a hole in the corner and buried the seven heaven-grade weapons before returning to the courtyard of the traitor.

When the Divine Constable Bureau was done investigating, he would dig out the heaven-grade weapons and take them away.. At that time, he would be able to do whatever he wanted with them.

Chapter 110: Meeting Again So Soon

The people from the Divine Constable Bureau arrived very quickly. Zhou Shu had just hidden the heaven-grade weapons when Yang Hong returned with seven constables.

...

The traitor had already died, so the Divine Constable Bureau didn't send any other divine constables over. But they attached great importance to this matter and sent seven constables over.

Zhou Shu greeted Yang Hong and then took his leave.

It was up to the Divine Constable Bureau to search the place.

When it gets dark, I'll sneak over again and bring these seven heaven-grade weapons back. Perfect!

After leaving, Zhou Shu didn't return to the 0th Workshop. Instead, he stayed in his Chang'an residence.

At night, he found a set of black clothes and dressed up simply before climbing over the wall and leaving the residence.

A moment later, Zhou Shu had already returned to the courtyard of the traitor.

The people from the Divine Constable had already left. The yard looked as if they had dug three feet into the ground and turned over the dirt to cover the filth.

Zhou Shu used his divine sense to sense that the box he had deliberately left behind in the room had disappeared, leaving behind only a deep pit.

Obviously, this little trick couldn't escape the Divine Constable Bureau's investigation.

Fortunately, he had seized the opportunity during the day. Otherwise, the seven heaven-grade weapons would have fallen into the hands of the Divine Constable Bureau.

Now—

Zhou Shu couldn't help smiling when he thought about the heaven-grade weapons he had hidden behind the wall. He had struck it rich this time.

Just as he was about to climb over the wall to retrieve the heaven-grade weapons, his heart suddenly trembled. Without thinking, he pushed his toes off the ground and leaped into the air. The next moment, he landed on the roof beam.

Almost as soon as he landed on the beam, a black shadow silently appeared in the courtyard.

The next moment, he floated into the room.

That's right!

This person floated in directly! His feet didn't touch the ground!

He could fly!

The person was completely covered in a black robe. Even his face was covered, revealing only a pair of eyes. In the dark night, if one didn't look carefully, they wouldn't even be able to discover his existence!

When Zhou Shu saw this person, his pupils suddenly contracted, and his heart couldn't help beating faster.

With his accelerated heartbeat, the black-robed man raised his head. The light in his eyes seemed real as they landed on the beam.

The next moment, Zhou Shu felt his hair stand on end. Without any hesitation, he turned over and fell from the beam.

As he flew through the air, the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber on his back slashed backward. With a crisp ringing sound, a black dagger appeared, and the black-robed figure also took half a step back.

The pupils of his eyes constricted slightly as he said in a low voice, "Who are you?"

Zhou Shu was somewhat speechless. *Does this guy only know one sentence?*

He seems to have said the same thing the last time we met.

That's right. The black-robed man in front of him was the black-robed man that Zhou Shu had met outside the city yesterday. Zhou Shu also suspected him to be the mysterious expert that Zhu Chuanfeng had been waiting for!

Zhou Shu didn't expect to meet him again so soon.

He grinned, but unfortunately, a black cloth covered his face.

What is this called?

Fate brought us together~

Bah!

You had a chance to go to heaven, but you chose to barge into hell instead.

Zhou Shu flicked his wrist and readied the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber.

"I should be the one asking you this. Who are you?" Zhou Shu lowered his voice.

At this moment, the two of them had a tacit understanding. Neither of them wanted to cause too much of a commotion and attract attention.

Just by looking at their attire, others could tell that they were shady people...

"If you don't want to talk about it, you don't have to." The black-robed man laughed coldly.

His body flashed, and like a ghost, he suddenly appeared in front of Zhou Shu. His black dagger stabbed out dozens of times, and in an instant, it was as if more than ten people were attacking Zhou Shu at the same time.

Zhou Shu wasn't afraid. He spread out his divine sense. To him, the lightning-fast attacks were like a tortoise crawling. His mind reflected every movement clearly.

The Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber flickered as he executed the Heavenly Saber Art.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! The saber and the dagger clashed countless times.

Crack!

The Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber in Zhou Shu's hand was only a standard weapon, and the dagger in the black-robed man's hand was clearly a ranked weapon.

After a few collisions, the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber in Zhou Shu's hand was only left with the hilt.

A hint of mockery flashed through the black-robed man's eyes. Although his opponent's cultivation level wasn't weak, his strength was greatly reduced without a suitable weapon.

He laughed coldly and was about to take Zhou Shu down.

But he didn't notice that a trace of mockery had flashed through Zhou Shu's face.

This black-robed man actually didn't seem to recognize him. Thinking about it, it made sense. Yesterday, when they exchanged blows, the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber in his hand had been broken. He hadn't even had time to use the Heavenly Saber Art.

Afterward, he had fought him with his Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and Golden Bell Shield Technique.

It was not surprising that he couldn't recognize him. After all, he wasn't showing his face.

Seeing the black dagger stabbing toward him, Zhou Shu didn't dodge and directly charged forward.

The black-robed man frowned slightly as a strange feeling flashed through his heart. But before he could think about it, the dagger had already pierced through Zhou Shu's skin.

The black-robed man sneered. *Since you want to die, then I will fulfill your wish!*

Clang!

With a muffled sound, the blade seemed to have struck something hard, and the forward momentum suddenly stopped.

An intense backlash came, causing the black-robed man's arm to go numb.

Just as he was wondering what was going on, he saw Zhou Shu reach out and grab his wrist.

"Impenitence is talking about people like you!"

Zhou Shu laughed loudly. It was as if all the muscles in his body had become one, and energy began to flow from his feet. His arm shook, and a massive force entered the black-robed man's body.

The black-robed man's entire body jolted, and he felt as if all of his limbs and bones had been broken, causing him to be unable to control his body.

Before he could react, he felt as though he was riding on clouds and mist. Then with a bang, he crashed heavily onto the ground.

The eleventh level of the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique!

Zhou Shu's divine strength was enough to shock the world.

Even a third-rank Grandmaster couldn't compare to him in terms of strength!

The black-robed man had made two mistakes.

First, he hadn't expected Zhou Shu to have reached the point of being impervious to blades.

Even he could only hurt his skin.

Second, he hadn't expected Zhou Shu to be so strong, and he was caught by the wrist by Zhou Shu.

If he could have reacted in time, he might have had a chance to escape.

But he had been too slow to react, and Zhou Shu's divine strength had shattered all the joints in his body.

Even a third-rank Grandmaster had to rely on their physical body. With his joints broken, there was nothing he could do even though he had rich spiritual essence.

The black-robed man lay in a human-shaped crater on the ground.

His eyes widened in disbelief.

He couldn't understand how a third-rank Grandmaster like him could end up in such a state.

They had only exchanged a few moves, and he had already lost so thoroughly?

Zhou Shu hadn't expected things to go so smoothly, but it was only natural.

Yesterday, he was already able to fight this man to a standstill. Earlier today, his cultivation base had improved tremendously. If he still couldn't take him down, that would really be nonsense.

"Now, let me see exactly who you are." Zhou Shu pinched his throat and reached out to remove the black-robed man's mask.

Suddenly, there was the sound of gushing wind behind him.

Zhou Shu suddenly turned around, with his body emitting a faint golden light. He raised his head and punched with his fist.

Boom!

The sound of energy colliding rang out as a ghostly figure flashed past Zhou Shu.

Oh no! Zhou Shu took a step back, wanting to kill the black-robed man by stomping on him!

But his foot landed on the ground. The black-robed man had actually left the spot!

The joints in his four limbs had been dislocated, so it was impossible for him to move on his own.

Obviously, someone had rescued him!

Zhou Shu's eyes flickered as his saber intent burst forth. Even without a saber in his hand, it was as if his entire body had turned into a peerless sharp blade.

If someone was watching from the sidelines, they would definitely be able to sense that if Zhou Shu attacked now, it would definitely be a thunderous attack.

Zhou Shu's eyes shone as he looked around.

At the same time, his divine sense spread out like water. No one within a three-meter radius could hide from his perception!

The surroundings were silent. Only the distant sounds of fighting, teeth grinding, quarreling, and indescribable voices could be heard.

Zhou Shu knew that he had left!

The person who came from behind had immediately fled after failing to hit him. He had even taken the black-robed man away!

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes and snorted coldly. *Since you've come, there's no need to leave!*

Without any hesitation, Zhou Shu leaped forward and arrived on the other side of the wall.

He stomped heavily as the ground beneath his feet split open as if there was an earthquake. The seven heaven-grade weapons he had buried rose into the air.

Zhou Shu extended his hand and grabbed the seven heaven-grade weapons. The next moment, he tied the seven heaven-grade weapons behind his back and soared into the sky.

At this moment, a cry of surprise came from the house. "Earthquake!"

On the roofs of houses, Zhou Shu leaped about as if he was flying. Soon, he discovered two almost identical figures.

After his cultivation broke through yesterday, his Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form had also improved. Although the improvement was not as great as his other cultivation techniques, his divine sense had also increased.

It was also because of this that Zhou Shu was able to keenly sense the almost imperceptible traces left behind by the other party.

If he had not obtained Zhu Chuanfeng's heaven-grade weapons, Zhou Shu might have allowed the black-robed man to be rescued.

But his cultivation had just improved greatly, and he had also obtained seven heaven-grade weapons. How could Zhou Shu let him leave right under his nose?

Whether or not he was a citizen of Great Xia aside, at least he was living well in Great Xia now. These people were Great Xia's enemies. It was fine if Zhou Shu wasn't strong enough to fight them. However, not only was he strong enough, but they had run into him.

Under these circumstances, Zhou Shu felt that if he let them go, he would be letting down the people paying him his salary.

The two shadows were so fast that they didn't even attract the attention of the soldiers on the city wall when they climbed over it.

Zhou Shu followed behind them and smoothly climbed over the city wall.

They were fleeing in the direction Zhu Chuanfeng had taken him to yesterday!

As expected, Zhu Chuanfeng was planning to meet them yesterday! Could these people have another lair outside the city?

Zhou Shu was somewhat suspicious.

If there really is another lair, aren't Great Xia's scouts too lousy?

Don't you all know that someone else's stronghold is so close to the capital?

Zhou Shu was thinking, but he didn't slow down at all. So what if they had another lair?

As long as the other party was not a first-rank martial artist, Zhou Shu wasn't afraid!

First-rank martial artist?

It was not that easy to encounter a first-rank martial artist!

As soon as they left the city, the second black-robed man had clearly let go of all his restraints, and his speed was even faster than before.

It was the same for Zhou Shu.

When he was in the city, his hands were tied because he was afraid of attracting the attention of the night guards.

Now, with every step he took, a clear footprint appeared on the ground, and he crossed several meters. Although he wasn't flying, his speed wasn't any slower.

The second black-robed man turned to look at Zhou Shu, his eyes glimmering.

Just as he was hesitating about whether or not to turn around and fight, he suddenly saw Zhou Shu pull out a saber from his back.

Then a huge saber beam that seemed to fill the world slashed down at him.

The second black-robed man was shocked, and he no longer dared to think about turning back to fight. He continued to flee frantically.

Zhou Shu was also given a fright. Using a heaven-grade weapon to execute the Heavenly Saber Art has such an effect?

He felt that his saber intent could explode to 120%!

When he used the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber previously, it was already considered good if he could unleash half of his saber intent. Any more, and the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber wouldn't be able to withstand it.

Zhou Shu was overjoyed. A heaven-grade weapon actually had such an effect.

It was just a casual slash just now. If he used his full strength, he could even fight against a first-rank martial artist.

“Little thief, where are you going?!” Zhou Shu shouted in a fake voice. “Die!”

He became one with his saber and slashed forward.

Boom!

A slash dozens of meters long appeared on the ground, and the second black-robed man ran even faster.

If he ran any slower, he would have been slashed.

With two running and one chasing, they were soon dozens of miles away from the capital. Suddenly, a building appeared in front of them.

The second black-robed man appeared excited, and he moved even faster.

Zhou Shu frowned. He remembered that Zhu Chuanfeng had mentioned this post house.

Isn't this the post house closest to Chang'an?

Could this be their lair?

Hmph! It's definitely a den of thieves ahead. I'll catch up and annihilate all of them!

Zhou Shu snorted coldly as he circulated his true qi. His saber intent instantly reached its peak.

He raised the heaven-grade saber in his hand, shouted loudly, and charged forward.

He was still one hundred meters away from the two black-robed men.

Under normal circumstances, a distance of thirty meters was already beyond Zhou Shu's attack range.

But when Zhou Shu swung his saber, he became one with the blade. He crossed a hundred meters, and the saber light transformed into a thirty-meter saber beam that slashed toward the black-robed men.

At this moment, it was as though there was only that single saber beam between heaven and earth.

The second black-robed man's expression changed drastically.

“Imperial Preceptor, save me!” he shouted.