

Canon 131

Chapter 131: Standard Armament Manual, Number One

“The Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber is Lord Zhou’s work. Let Lord Zhou introduce it to everyone,” Shi Songtao said gracefully.

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“Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, five-foot-long blade, single-edged, thick spine...” Zhou Shu didn’t decline and introduced his saber.

In fact, Zhou Shu had already seen the sabers that he had developed. The Huben Saber, the Spring Embroidered Saber, and even the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber were all ranked after the top ten.

Shi Songtao didn’t explain any of the weapons that weren’t in the top ten, and Zhou Shu naturally didn’t either.

In reality, Zhou Shu was also somewhat surprised. From the looks of it, only half of the six long sabers he had forged previously ranked in the top ten.

This gave him a deeper understanding of the standard weapons of this world.

One had to know that the Spring Embroidered Saber and Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber were excellent saber weapons that had undergone many tests on Earth.

In this world, not only were they unable to rank in the top ten of the Standard Armament Manual, but they were also unable to rank in the top twenty.

The standard weapons of this world were not weak.

The Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber was once the most powerful and lethal weapon of an era. But here, it only ranked seventh.

It was unknown what rank its advanced version, the Horse Slaying Saber, would be.

The announcement of the Standard Armament Manual continued.

Sixth, fifth...

Shi Songtao naturally took over the commentator’s role and explained the weapons on the rankings to everyone.

He was knowledgeable and eloquent. Even Zhou Shu had to admit that he had indeed learned a lot.

In the end, this was the difference between a professional Forging Master and an unorthodox Forging Apprentice.

Although Zhou Shu had already realized his shortcomings and had been trying very hard to learn about forging, there was still quite a gap between him and a Forging Master who had been learning from a young age.

“4th, Horse Slaying Saber.”

Another name appeared on the screen.

Everyone looked surprised.

The Horse Slaying Saber only ranked fourth?

Everyone present was of considerable status in Great Xia. Even if they hadn't personally come into contact with the Horse Slaying Saber, they still knew about it.

This kind of killing weapon only ranked fourth in the Standard Armament Manual?

Zhou Shu was also shocked. Although he hadn't said anything, he had felt that other than the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, the destructive power of the Horse Slaying Saber had already reached the limit of standard weapons.

Before he forged the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, he had even felt that the Horse Slaying Saber could rank first in the Standard Armament Manual.

He didn't expect that it wouldn't even be in the top three, let alone first place!

This was truly unexpected.

Zhou Shu absentmindedly introduced the Horse Slaying Saber. Actually, everyone understood the Horse Slaying Saber, so it didn't matter if he introduced it or not.

Naturally, no one cared if Zhou Shu's introduction was good or bad.

Everyone was staring at the screen. They wanted to see what the top three weapons in the Standard Armament Manual were!

“3rd, Jing Tao Sword.”

When everyone saw the words that appeared in the light, their hearts trembled slightly, and they involuntarily looked at Shi Songtao.

Shi Songtao was a famous Forging Master, and his famous work was the yellow-grade weapon, the Songtao Sword.

The Jing Tao Sword and the Song Tao Sword were only one word apart.

The stunned expression on Shi Songtao's face disappeared in a flash. He said calmly, “This Jing Tao Sword was created by me for fun. I didn't expect it to be in the Standard Armament Manual.”

His expression was calm and composed.

“A sword forged just for fun is better than someone's Horse Slaying Saber. This is the difference between people!” Xiao Bufan let out a hollow laugh.

Shi Songtao glared at Xiao Bufan, then looked apologetic at the crowd.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes inwardly. It was no wonder Shi Songtao was so kind as to give him the Heavenly Mirror. It turned out that he just wanted to steal the limelight.

You messed up, didn't you? Your weapon only ranked third.

Shi Songtao pretended to be calm and collected, but Zhou Shu still caught a hint of surprise and disappointment.

Obviously, he had thought he could get first place.

What rubbish about forging a weapon for fun? He must have specially developed a standard weapon just to get first place in the Standard Armament Manual.

One had to know that Emperor Yuan Feng had a decree. No matter who helped Great Xia obtain first place in the Standard Armament Manual, they would be directly conferred the title of marquis!

Although he, Shi Songtao, was a famous genius Forging Master and his official position wasn't low, he didn't have a noble title.

Shi Songtao wasn't the only one. The majority of Forging Masters were the same. Therefore, this time, many Forging Masters had developed standard weapons, just like Shi Songtao.

"2nd, Great Wei Mountain Splitter Spear."

The Standard Armament Manual didn't stop because of Shi Songtao. After this line appeared, the entire audience instantly fell silent.

Even Shi Songtao had no interest in explaining.

"The name of the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber hasn't appeared yet, right?" someone whispered.

"I think so. Only first place is left. The Great Xia Dragon Sparrow has won!"

Everyone's hearts started pounding.

In the palace, many people had the same thought.

In the many years that the Heavenly Mountain Villa had compiled the armament manuals, they had never overlooked anything.

The Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber was a standard weapon. It had to rank in the Standard Armament Manual.

But since it hadn't appeared yet, there was only one possibility...

Emperor Yuan Feng had a victorious smile on his face as he looked at the deputy envoy of Great Wei, Shen Yue.

Due to his identity, Xiao Shunzhi didn't appear in the imperial palace. Everything regarding the Great Wei diplomatic mission was handled by Deputy Envoy Shen Yue.

Unexpectedly, Shen Yue's expression was extremely calm. He wasn't angry at Great Wei's loss. It was as though nothing had happened.

"Looks like our Great Wei's Mountain Splitter Spear has lost," Shen Yue said very calmly.

Emperor Yuan Feng frowned. He faintly felt that something was wrong, but he couldn't say what exactly was wrong.

At this moment, the number one of the Standard Armament Manual was finally announced.

"1st, Great Xia Dragon Sparrow!"

Deafening cheers rang out. Whether it was within the imperial palace of Great Xia or inside the baron's mansion, the officials of Great Xia all cheered.

There were even some older officials who were in tears.

The Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber ranked first in the Standard Armament Manual!

After a hundred years, the You Prefecture and the Bing Prefecture could finally return to Great Xia!

Yin Wuyou's beautiful eyes flickered as she looked at Zhou Shu. The tenderness in her eyes seemed to be able to melt steel.

When Shi Songtao saw this scene, a hint of gloominess flashed across his eyes. But he still had a warm smile on his face like a spring breeze as he said, "The Great Xia Dragon Sparrow ranks first in the Standard Armament Manual. This is really the great fortune of Great Xia. This is the great fortune of His Majesty!"

"Lord Zhou, you are amazing!" He gave her a thumbs-up, looking like he was genuinely wishing him well.

"Thank you." Compared to everyone's excitement, Zhou Shu was much calmer.

The Legendary Armament Canon wouldn't lie. The Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber was the pinnacle of standard weapons. Who would doubt it now?

"Lord Zhou, I have a few words of advice. Although I may offend you, I must get it off of my chest," Shi Songtao said.

"Although my junior brother doesn't know how to speak, there's one thing he's right about. No matter how strong a Forging Apprentice is, he's only a Forging Apprentice. If he doesn't become a Forging Master, everything of his is ultimately just an illusion.

"I hope that you can advance to Forging Master as soon as possible. I will wait for you."

With that, Shi Songtao cupped his hands and left the table.

From the beginning to the end, he didn't lose his elegance.

"One is the Great Xia's number one genius Forging Master, while the other is the Great Xia's number one Forging Apprentice. Is this a challenge?" someone suddenly said.

"A Forging Master is completely different from a Forging Apprentice. What's there to fight about? Master Shi means that he hopes that Lord Zhou will become a Forging Master soon..."

This discussion was quickly suppressed by another voice.

“Ignore him. You will become a Forging Master sooner or later,” Yin Wuyou whispered, unable to conceal the joy in her voice.

Since the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber won first place in the Standard Armament Manual, it meant that Great Xia won the bet against Great Wei!

The two prefectures were finally going to return to the embrace of Great Xia!

...

Within the Great Xia Imperial Palace, Emperor Yuan Feng was also smiling.

“Deputy Envoy Shen, you have already seen the Standard Armament Manual. Do you have anything else to say?” Emperor Yuan Feng looked at Shen Yue.

Shen Yue’s expression was calm as he bowed and cupped his hands. “Great Xia’s standard weapon is unparalleled. I am convinced.

“Since we were willing to bet, we must accept our loss. From today onward, Great Wei’s army will retreat from the two prefectures. From now on, the You and Bing prefectures will belong to Great Xia.”

Shen Yue was so straightforward that the officials of Great Xia couldn’t believe it.

I didn’t expect the Mountain Splitting Spear of Great Wei to be so powerful. Even the backup I prepared couldn’t compare to it. Luckily, I have the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber... Emperor Yuan Feng thought. The joy of taking back the You and Bing prefectures faded a bit. It’s that boy surnamed Zhou again. With the great merit of recovering lost land, do I really have to confer him the title of marquis?

Why do I feel so unhappy?

...

At a post house in the suburbs of the capital, Great Wei’s Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi put down the Heavenly Mirror in his hand.

He had also seen the Standard Armament Manual, and just like Shen Yue, he didn’t feel vexed over their failure.

It was as if he wasn’t the one who had just lost two prefectures.

He looked to the north, a barely perceptible sneer on his lips.

...

In the baron’s mansion, after everyone congratulated Zhou Shu, they left one after another amid the joyous atmosphere.

In the end, only Yin Wuyou and Sun Gongping were left.

“Hey, Old Zhou, I didn’t expect that you would really get first place in the Standard Armament Manual.” Sun Gongping looked proud.

“Not only does he have two weapons in the top ten of the Standard Armament Manual, but he also has six in the top hundred!” Yin Wuyou said proudly.

Zhou Shu looked at them strangely. *Why do I feel that they're happier than me?*

With the Legendary Armament Canon, there are actually others in the top ten. Is this considered a win?

Two ignorant fellows!

They don't understand the realm of this expert!

“Don't you guys think that the level of Great Wei is too low?” Zhou Shu said. Although he was very confident, he still felt that he had won too easily.

If the standard weapons of Great Wei were only at this standard, would they dare to challenge Great Xia?

Were they tired of living?

“Are you saying that this level is considered lousy?” Sun Gongping said in disbelief. “Look at the Great Wei Mountain Splitter Spear!

“Even Shi Songtao's Jing Tao Sword lost to the Great Wei Mountain Splitter Spear! If not for your Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber...”

Sun Gongping said, “Let me tell you. Don't underestimate Shi Songtao. This guy is hypocritical and fierce. If the weapon wasn't good enough, he wouldn't have named it the Song Tao Sword!”

Yin Wuyou nodded. “Shi Songtao is very conceited. Any weapon forged by him, as long as the name carries the word 'Tao', was meticulously crafted by him.”

Shi Songtao thought that he was acting naturally, but he didn't know that others had already seen through him...

“Is that so?” Zhou Shu muttered.

He had a nagging feeling that something was not quite right. If not for the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, the Great Wei Mountain Splitter Spear would have been number one in the Standard Armament Manual.

If Shen Yue hadn't come to provoke him, he might not have even started to forge the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber...

Zhou Shu seemed to have thought of something.

“Do you guys think that Great Wei intentionally lost the You and Bing prefectures to us?” Zhou Shu frowned.

“Are you joking?!” Sun Gongping laughed. “Do you think it's playing house? That's the land of two prefectures! Great Wei would be a fool to deliberately lose the You and Bing prefectures to Great Xia.

“Old Zhou, did ranking first make you lose your mind? You only ranked first in the Standard Armament Manual. It won’t be too late to lose your mind when your weapon ranks first on the Ranked Armament Manual.”

“Is there a problem?” Yin Wuyou had been observing Zhou Shu the entire time. She could tell that Zhou Shu wasn’t joking, so she also pondered.

“I don’t know.” Zhou Shu shook his head. It was useless to guess.

It was impossible for Great Xia to give up on the two prefectures that they had obtained.

“Grand Minister, I remember you saying that if I can advance in the Forging Division, then my 0th Workshop will have its own name. Does it still count?”

Zhou Shu no longer thought about the matter. In any case, there were many smart people in the Imperial Court. If there really was a problem, they would be able to discover it.

He had better manage his own territory and focus on forging.

“Of course.” Yin Wuyou puffed up her chest. “You’ve made a great contribution this time, so I’ll help you fight for it. When the time comes, I’ll help you find a Grand Craftsman to be your teacher. Soon, you’ll become a Forging Master.”

This was the difference. Sun Gongping wanted to introduce a Forging Master to Zhou Shu as a teacher, while Yin Wuyou was going to introduce a Grand Craftsman to him. They were on completely different levels.

However, the two of them had the same thoughts. Zhou Shu was a Forging Apprentice and did not have a Forging Master legacy. Although he had outstanding talent in forging standard weapons, ranked weapons were completely different from standard weapons. It was almost impossible for him to break through on his own.

Becoming a disciple was the only way for Zhou Shu to continue advancing.

“Find a teacher?” Zhou Shu shook his head. “There’s no need.”

“It’s fine as long as you keep your word, Grand Minister. The 0th Workshop sounds too unpleasant. I’ve decided that the 0th Workshop will be renamed Zhonghua Pavilion from now on.”

“Zhonghua Pavilion? What does that mean?” Yin Wuyou was puzzled. “I’m talking about how you can give the 0th Workshop a name after you become a Forging Master. You’re not a Forging Master yet.”

“Who says I’m not?” Zhou Shu smiled.. “The person standing in front of you is Forging Master Zhou Shu. From now on, please call me Master Zhou!”

Chapter 132: I Am Really a Forging Master

“It’s over. Old Zhou has gone mad.” Sun Gongping slapped his forehead. “Your Highness, why don’t you find an imperial physician for him?”

...

Zhou Shu and Yin Wuyou rolled their eyes at the same time.

Yin Wuyou looked at Zhou Shu and said gently, "Zhou Shu, I know you're anxious to become a Forging Master, but this kind of thing is the same as Martial Dao cultivation. You can't rush it.

"Don't worry. I'll go to the palace to look for my father later. You've made such a great contribution. I'll definitely find a Grand Craftsman for your teacher!"

Before Yin Wuyou could finish speaking, she suddenly saw a faint glow appear on Zhou Shu's body.

The vital qi of heaven and earth surged into Zhou Shu's body.

Yin Wuyou: "..."

What is the meaning of this?

She had just said that forging was the same as cultivating the Martial Dao and that he couldn't rush it. Then Zhou Shu's cultivation broke through?

"Wait for me!" Zhou Shu shouted loudly as he ran into the nearest room and slammed the door shut.

Yin Wuyou and Sun Gongping looked at each other and saw the shock in each other's eyes.

"He broke through?" Sun Gongping said with uncertainty.

"I think... so," Yin Wuyou said.

They couldn't see what was happening through the doors and windows, but from the surging heaven and earth vital qi, Zhou Shu's cultivation was indeed breaking through.

Sun Gongping stared at Zhou Shu's room and asked, "Your Highness, I'm a little confused. When did Old Zhou break through to become a ninth-rank martial artist?"

"Ten days. No, I think it was eleven days. Anyway, it was more than ten days ago." Yin Wuyou felt like scratching her head.

Leveling up from ninth-rank to eighth-rank in less than ten days?

"Faster than me?" Sun Gongping mumbled to himself. The reason why his cultivation had improved so quickly was due to his accumulation. Over ten years before he entered the ranks, he had consumed countless heavenly treasures, so he was able to improve so quickly at once.

Under normal circumstances, he wouldn't have been able to cultivate to the seventh rank so quickly.

But Zhou Shu was different. He was originally only a Forging Apprentice. Where did he get heavenly treasures?

"Your Highness, do you think Old Zhou is also a Martial Dao genius?"

Yin Wuyou wanted to roll her eyes at him. *Are you blind? Isn't this obvious?*

In the room, Zhou Shu had a helpless expression on his face. He really didn't want to pretend to be some Martial Dao genius.

This was an accident, an accident!

The Legendary Armament Canon suddenly gave him a wave of benefits. This wasn't something he could control.

This wave of benefits was extremely ferocious, actually allowing both his Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and Golden Bell Shield Technique to break through!

He reached the twelfth level of the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and the eleventh level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique!

Both the techniques were only one level away from complete mastery!

The breakthrough in his cultivation had allowed Zhou Shu's body to undergo a complete transformation. At the same time, his spiritual essence cultivation had also increased by a level.

He was now an eighth-rank martial artist.

The Legendary Armament Canon was good at everything, but this feedback was uncontrollable.

It made it so that he might suddenly make a breakthrough on any occasion. In the eyes of others, they would think that he was deliberately showing off his cultivation.

After confirming that this wave of benefits had ended, Zhou Shu tidied his clothes before opening the door and walking out.

The moment he stepped out, he saw two pairs of eyes staring straight at him.

"Old Zhou, you really broke through?" Sun Gongping stared at Zhou Shu.

"I've made some insignificant progress." Zhou Shu made a gesture with his pinky and his thumb.

Sun Gongping rolled his eyes. *Is an eighth-rank martial artist that great? I am a seventh-rank martial artist!*

"Grand Minister, let's continue. Where were we?" Zhou Shu ignored him and turned to Yin Wuyou.

Yin Wuyou: "..."

She had just mentioned that forging was the same as cultivating the Martial Dao. There was no rush...

What else do you want me to say now?

Advise you not to rush?'

"Grand Minister, although you're not a man, you still have to keep your word." When Zhou Shu saw that Yin Wuyou didn't say anything, he thought she was going back on her word. He said anxiously, "We agreed that after I become a Forging Master, the 0th Workshop will have its own name. You can't go back on your word!"

"You have to be responsible for me!"

Yin Wuyou's face turned red from Zhou Shu's words. She stomped her foot fiercely. "We'll talk about it after you really become a Forging Master!"

Then she walked out.

"It's just becoming a Forging Master. I can advance as I wish. Grand Minister, don't go back on your words."

Yin Wuyou walked far away and heard Zhou Shu shouting from behind.

She gritted her teeth and said fiercely, "Do you have to say it this way? What do you mean I have to be responsible for you!"

She seemed to think of something, and her face turned red like a ripe apple.

"Humph, I'm not taking responsibility for you. I'm doing it because of you!"

She didn't return to the princess's residence, which only a wall separated. Instead, she headed toward the imperial palace.

Now that the Standard Armament Manual was settled, she still had to ask her father for benefits.

...

The princess left, but Sun Gongping didn't. He looked at Zhou Shu and said eagerly, "Old Zhou, shall we have a spar?"

For some reason, he really wanted to beat Zhou Shu up. He had a faint feeling that if he didn't beat him up now, he might not be able to beat him up in the future...

Zhou Shu glanced at him. *Spar? Better not. You're too weak. I'm afraid I'll accidentally kill you.*

"What's with that look?" Sun Gongping was furious. "I'm a seventh-rank martial artist. Do you think you're so great just because you're an eighth-rank martial artist?"

"I didn't say that. I'm a Forging Master, not a martial artist. Why would I fight with you?" Zhou Shu shrugged.

"Are you still sleeping?" Sun Gongping said. "I admit that you do have some talent in the Martial Dao. In terms of standard weapons, you are also quite talented. However, it's different when it comes to ranked weapons. Without a legacy, it's impossible for you to become a Forging Master. It's fine if you say this in front of me, but don't say it out loud.

"People will laugh at you."

"Is that so?" Zhou Shu said indifferently. "Originally, I was wondering if I should give you the first ranked weapon I forged. Since you don't believe me, then forget it."

"Are you serious?" Sun Gongping stared at Zhou Shu.

"We've known each other for so long. Have I ever done anything to disappoint you?" Zhou Shu asked.

"I don't think so..."

“Isn’t that so? It’s just a ranked weapon, not a divine artifact. What’s so difficult about it?” Zhou Shu said.

“Since you don’t believe me, I’ll give my first ranked weapon to someone else. Steward, send the guest out!”

“Don’t!” Sun Gongping’s eyes rolled as he grabbed Zhou Shu’s arm. “Old Zhou, Big Brother Zhou, Grandpa Zhou, I believe you! If anyone doesn’t believe you, I’ll beat them up! What kind of relationship do we have? I’m just short of a ranked weapon. Give it to me! I don’t mind having it!”

Zhou Shu really wanted to kick him out. *You don’t mind having it?*

Is it your turn to despise a weapon forged by me?

The weapons produced by the Zhonghua Pavilion are definitely top-notch!

Zhou Shu had already tacitly changed the name of the 0th Workshop to Zhonghua Pavilion.

The top thirty-six workshops of the Forging Division all had their own names. This was also the authority of Forging Masters!

“You want it?”

“Yes!”

“Alright, you can pay for the materials. I’ll give you a discount for the forging fee.”

According to the rules of the Forging Division, Forging Masters could already take on jobs to forge for others. Furthermore, the Forging Division would not extract any benefits from it.

But for Forging Masters of the Forging Division, the country gave them their salary. They also had to take on some forging tasks.

Of course, these tasks were nothing to Forging Masters.

In short, after becoming a Forging Master, not only would one be well-paid, there were very few restrictions.

“I don’t have money!” Sun Gongping said confidently.

“I spent all my money on that Heaven Refining Stone. I’ve already given it to you.

“I don’t have a single cent on me right now!”

“What kind of ranked weapon can you get without money?” Zhou Shu was speechless.

“Don’t I have a brother who’s a Forging Master?” Sun Gongping said proudly as he put his arm around Zhou Shu’s shoulders, “Don’t worry, Old Zhou. I will remember your kindness for the rest of my life. When I receive my reward, I will compensate you double!”

Zhou Shu was helpless against his thick skin and rolled his eyes. “Who are you calling brother? Call me uncle!”

Sun Gongping widened his eyes. “Old Zhou, you’ve changed! I treat you as a brother, but you want to be my uncle!”

“My sworn brother is Mi Ziwen. What do you think you should call me?” Zhou Shu asked.

...

Zhou Shu couldn’t help but laugh when he thought about how Sun Gongping had fled.

How disrespectful!

Now you know who the boss is, right?

After laughing, Zhou Shu began to seriously consider forging a ranked weapon.

He wasn’t joking with Sun Gongping. Now, he could really forge a ranked weapon!

After he had filled up the number of Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Sabers, the next weapon had appeared in the Legendary Armament Canon.

And this weapon was a ranked weapon!

After waiting for so long, a ranked weapon had finally appeared. Therefore, he couldn’t wait to forge it!

To Zhou Shu, as long as there were weapons on the Legendary Armament Canon, forging techniques were not a problem.

But unlike standard weapons, there were also problems with forging materials and forging conditions when it came to forging ranked weapons.

The forging furnace in the workshop was not enough for forging ranked weapons.

Furthermore, forging ranked weapons required more than just iron. Other than iron, Heaven Refining Stones were also necessary. Different ranked weapons also required different forging materials.

The higher the grade of the forged weapon, the more materials needed and the higher the value.

This was also one of the reasons why ranked weapons were so expensive.

Zhou Shu had the Heaven Refining Stone in his possession to forge a ranked weapon. The one that Sun Gongping had given him should be enough to forge a yellow-grade weapon.

However, Zhou Shu didn’t have any other conditions.

He wasn’t a Forging Master yet, so the Forging Division wouldn’t give him a furnace specifically for Forging Masters. He had to think of a way for himself.

He might be able to solve this problem by finding Yin Wuyou, but Yin Wuyou didn’t believe that he could forge a ranked weapon. If he went to look for her, he would have to waste his breath.

He might as well buy a forging furnace that was specially used by Forging Masters. In any case, he would have to put one in the baron’s mansion in the future. He would also have to put one in the mansion Mi Ziwen had gifted him.

The other problem was the forging materials.

By the same logic, he was not yet a Forging Master recognized by the Forging Division, so it was impossible for him to obtain the corresponding materials from the Forging Division.

He was counting on Sun Gongping to provide him with materials. He had already said that he didn't have any money. All his money had been used to buy the Heaven Refining Stone, and he had even given it to Zhou Shu.

Under these circumstances, what could Zhou Shu do to him?

He had no choice but to do it himself.

But with Sun Gongping's status, Zhou Shu wasn't worried about losing money.

Sun Gongping had no money, but his father was Marquis Weiyuan. How could he not have money?

Even if his father had no money, his uncle was Mi Ziwen!

It just so happens that I've made some money recently, Zhou Shu thought. This kid Sun Gongping is really lucky.

"Steward!" As Zhou Shu thought about this, he called the steward over.

The moment he shouted, two replies came almost simultaneously.

He smacked his own head. The steward of the princess's residence was still helping clean up.

"Come over here, both of you," Zhou Shu said.

The steward sent by the Mi residence and the steward from the princess's residence came in front of Zhou Shu.

"Lord, what are your orders?" The steward of the princess's residence spoke first.

"I want to buy some forging materials and a forging furnace. Do either of you know where to buy them?" Zhou Shu asked.

The Mi residence steward smiled. "Lord, you asked the right person."

"Steward Mi, tell me." Zhou Shu looked at the steward whom the Mi residence assigned to him. The steward's surname was also Mi.

Steward Mi smiled slightly and cupped his hands toward Zhou Shu. "Second Master, the largest supplier of forging materials in Great Xia is our Mi family.

"Second Master, if you need materials for forging, why would you need to buy them from outside? We have enough materials of our own. We can have as many as we want."

When he was sent here, Mi Zhifu had told him to serve this second master as the second master of the Mi family.

Zhou Shu was slightly stunned. He had forgotten this point.

The Mi family controlled Great Xia's Heaven Refining Stone mine. It was only natural for them to have businesses with other materials.

"The Mi family, I mean, does our family have a store in the capital?" Zhou Shu asked. Since the Mi family was the largest supplier of forging materials, there was no need for him to give advantages to outsiders. After all, he would give them money.

"Yes," Steward Mi replied. "Second Master, my son is a manager in one of our stores. If you need anything, please let me know. I will get my son to send it to the residence. There is no need for you to specially make a trip there."

Zhou Shu laughed. It felt really damn good to be part of the powerful nobility. He didn't even need to step out of the main gate to enjoy VIP service. He had truly sunk low.

"Sure, can you ask him to come over? It's best if he can bring a product register. I want a lot of things this time," Zhou Shu said. Since he didn't need to go out, he couldn't be bothered to wait for the steward's son to make a second trip.

"Second Master, please wait a moment. I'll get someone to call my son over. Do you have any other instructions?"

"Get a few craftsmen to come over. I want to make a forging room in the backyard..."

Chapter 133: Ranked, Great Destroyer!

In the imperial palace of Great Xia, Emperor Yuan Feng rubbed his glabella in frustration.

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His daughter had already disappeared into the distance, but his heart was still twitching.

Thinking of how she sided with Zhou Shu, Emperor Yuan Feng wanted to smash his desk.

Where did my sweet little girl go?

Does she not know that the palace is her home? She's giving things in her home to someone else!

Zhou Shu, Zhou Shu, stop talking about Zhou Shu.

Originally, he had been overjoyed that Great Xia had produced a genius. Zhou Shu had clearly brought so many benefits to Great Xia, but every time Emperor Yuan Feng thought of him, he felt a headache coming on.

Or perhaps we're born enemies?

Emperor Yuan Feng shook his head and turned his attention to the government affairs.

...

Yin Wuyou excitedly left the palace and went directly to the baron's mansion.

She didn't get to see Zhou Shu. Instead, she was stopped by Steward Mi.

“Your Highness, Second Master has said that he is going into seclusion to forge a ranked weapon. Before he comes out, no one can disturb him,” Steward Mi said politely.

“Forge a ranked weapon? Is he serious?” Yin Wuyou asked with a frown. *Is he messing around?*

Without a Forging Master legacy, how is it possible for him to forge a ranked weapon?

“No, I want to see him!” Yin Wuyou wanted to walk in.

Steward Mi hurriedly stopped her and said loudly, “Your Highness, please reconsider! Second Master said that forging is a very dangerous thing. If anyone disturbs him, he might be seriously injured!”

Yin Wuyou stopped in her tracks. She didn’t know whether these words were true or not, but she would rather believe them than not. What if he really got seriously injured?

At this thought, she said disappointedly, “Alright then. When he comes out, you must inform me immediately!”

...

In the backyard of the baron’s mansion, in a modified room, a furnace as tall as a person stood there.

Forging furnaces used by Forging Masters and forging furnaces used by Forging Apprentices were two completely different concepts.

Forging furnaces used by Forging Apprentices were similar to furnaces used by ordinary people forging iron.

As for the forging furnaces used by Forging Masters, they looked like the alchemy furnaces that Zhou Shu had seen on television in his previous life, the kind that had refined Sun Wukong.

The furnace in front of Zhou Shu cost him a thousand taels of gold!

It was considered one of the best forging furnaces that the Mi family had produced. The Mi family wouldn’t give it away for free.

As for the other forging materials, the Mi family gave them to Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu looked at the furnace. The flames within the furnace exuded a scorching aura.

These flames were not ordinary flames either. Instead, they were flames that Forging Masters called True Fire.

Zhou Shu didn’t know the origin of this True Fire. He only knew that all True Fires in the world came from the first True Fire.

The characteristics of this True Fire were extremely interesting. If it didn’t burn anything, it would continue to burn within the furnace, never extinguishing.

But when it was burning something, it would require the support of a martial artist’s spiritual essence. Otherwise, it would gradually be consumed until it was extinguished.

True Fire was extremely valuable. The value of the fire seed in Zhou Shu's furnace was equal to that of the furnace itself.

Once it was used poorly and extinguished, he would have to buy one again.

Zhou Shu tentatively inserted some spiritual essence into the forging furnace. After the True Fire was replenished with spiritual essence, the flame suddenly expanded.

Zhou Shu recalled how to operate the furnace and familiarized himself with how to control the True Fire through the furnace.

The more he tried, the more he found it interesting.

This was more like forging, full of immortal energy.

But even if it was forging a ranked weapon, there would still be the process of swinging the hammer.

The truly immortal-like process was just the final step to fix the stars. This was the real fantasy method.

After familiarizing himself with the furnace, Zhou Shu recollected himself.

With a thought, the Legendary Armament Canon appeared in front of him.

The pages quickly flipped and stopped at a page.

The content of this page was basically the same as before.

At the top was the name of the weapon.

Below was a vivid picture of a weapon.

It was different from the standard weapons from before.

This time, there was no number after the name of the weapon. Instead, there was a line of words beneath the painting.

[Upgrade (0/100)]

Zhou Shu's gaze shifted upward and landed on the name of the weapon. His eyes brightened.

[Great Destroyer Sword (Yellow Grade)]

"Can pierce through a brass kettle, is absolutely iron, sharp as rice, hence the name Great Destroyer," Zhou Shu muttered to himself. He had heard of the famous name of the Great Destroyer Sword in his previous life.

In the past, the weapons that appeared in the Legendary Armament Canon were all sabers. But the first ranked weapon was actually a sword. Zhou Shu was somewhat surprised.

The Great Destroyer Sword is extremely blunt and heavy. One cannot wield it unless one possesses innate divine and boundless strength. Once it is brandished, its might is boundless and can easily split mountains and crack rocks. It is known as the supreme being of the world!

I don't know if Sun Gongping will be able to use it or not. If he can't use it, it's quite suitable for me to use it myself.

Although this Great Destroyer Sword is only yellow grade, it seems like it can be upgraded in the future.

Zhou Shu looked at the number on the Legendary Armament Canon. This number was different from the ones for standard weapons. He didn't know if it also meant that he needed to forge a hundred Great Destroyer Swords to meet the requirements for upgrading.

Weapon upgrades were only a legend in this world. In theory, it was possible, but no one had ever been able to do it.

The grade of a weapon was determined by the star paths within it. The star paths were similar to the meridians of a human body. Once a weapon was forged, the star paths would be determined.

This was similar to how a person's meridians would be determined the moment they were born. How could it be so easy to change meridians?

I'm not in a rush to upgrade it. Even if it's a yellow-grade weapon, the Great Destroyer Sword must be one of the strongest among them!

Zhou Shu firmly believed in this point. The supreme existences of the world mentioned in the Legendary Armament Canon were definitely not fooling around.

However, forging a ranked weapon is much more difficult than forging a standard weapon.

Zhou Shu sighed as he recalled the forging process of the Great Destroyer Sword.

It turned out that he was still a little curious as to why those Forging Masters would spend months or even years forging a ranked weapon.

Only now did he realize that it wasn't because the Forging Masters were lacking in skill but because forging ranked weapons was truly difficult.

From the shape of the forging tool to fixing the stars, every step was very difficult. No mistakes could be made. Any mistake would lead to the failure of the forging.

This was especially true for the final fixing of stars. Every star position required a huge amount of energy from the Forging Masters. Sometimes, they might not even be able to complete fixing a single star in a day.

And even just yellow-grade weapons usually contained dozens or even hundreds of actions. From this, it was apparent just how difficult it was to forge ranked weapons.

Furthermore, the so-called star position was not something that could be achieved by simply using the Heavenly Refining Rock to tap on the inside of the weapon.

Star positions had to be formed according to certain rules. This was also the basis of the power of ranked weapons.

Good star paths would allow a martial artist's spiritual essence to flow freely within the weapon and unleash its special power.

On the other hand, if the star paths were not smooth, the might of the weapon would be greatly reduced.

The design of the star paths and how close they were to the meridians of the human body was an extremely important challenge for Forging Masters.

Even though Zhou Shu had obtained the complete forging formula from the Legendary Armament Canon, it was still a challenge for his weapon forging technique.

Many times, even if a Forging Master had a forging formula, they might not be able to truly forge the weapon.

I'll first forge the weapon's core. I can do it step by step, Zhou Shu thought.

Ranked weapons didn't need to be forged in one go. Otherwise, wouldn't it mean that no one would be able to successfully forge those weapons that required several years to forge? The Forging Masters would starve to death halfway through...

The forging process of ranked weapons could be carried out in stages. For example, the body of the weapon could be forged first, and then the star paths could be slowly outlined.

It was like painting. First, draw the framework, then slowly perfect it.

Zhou Shu got to work immediately. He rolled up his sleeves and threw the materials he had brought from the Mi family into the furnace according to the ratio.

Then he activated his spiritual essence to refine the materials.

For most Forging Masters, they would usually hire martial artists to help them activate the True Fire. First, it was to pay full attention to the process of forging. Second, it was also because most Forging Masters didn't have enough spiritual essence.

Zhou Shu was facing the same problem. His spiritual essence cultivation was only at the eighth rank.

The Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and Golden Bell Shield Technique were ineffective for activating the True Fire.

Therefore, activating the True Fire while forging was somewhat difficult for him.

Fortunately, he cultivated the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form, so his divine sense was strong, and he was able to multitask with some difficulty.

The sun rose, and the day passed quickly.

Zhou Shu was in seclusion, unaware of day and night. But a few major events had occurred outside.

First, Great Wei handed over the letter of state and gave the two prefectures to Great Xia.

Second, there was the great victory on the southern border of Great Xia. Meng Bai's army would soon return to the capital.

On this day, Emperor Yuan Feng led a group of ministers to escort the newly established You Prefecture Army and the Bing Prefecture Army.

Emperor Yuan Feng was in high spirits.

Recapturing lost land was a joyous event for any emperor.

Over the past few days, Emperor Yuan Feng had been in a good mood, especially since his daughter had not come looking for him to ask for this and that.

“My dear ministers, you are going to the You and Bing prefectures to completely control the two prefectures. If there is any trouble, I will allow you to act first and report later!” Emperor Yuan Feng declared while looking at the You Prefecture Army and Bing Prefecture Army.

The armies lined up neatly without making a single sound.

When Emperor Yuan Feng saw the Autumn Anatidae Plume Sabers worn by the soldiers, his heart suddenly skipped a beat.

“Army, when you march north so bravely, the Autumn Anatidae Plume Sabers hang on your waists. As the wind blew, the lizard-skinned drums stirred the mountains and rivers, lightning flashed over your banners held as high as the sun and moon. In the heavens indeed there is a kirin, but in the world of men, how could even an ant escape? On the day when the imperial edict comes, I’ll take off my battle garb with you.”

Emperor Yuan Feng stirred his spiritual essence, and his voice echoed from afar, clearly entering the ears of every soldier.

“Hooray! Victory! Hooray! Victory!” The armies cheered in unison, their shouts shaking the heavens.

Emperor Yuan Feng smiled and nodded.

Yin Wuyou, who was following behind Emperor Yuan Feng, rolled her eyes. *Father is truly shameless!*

You even used his poem. This time, you can’t turn me down anymore. How can the emperor kick someone to the curb once they’ve outlived their uselessness?

Emperor Yuan Feng didn’t know why, but he felt a chill run down his back, as if he had been targeted by some monster.

Is there an assassin?

He looked around in confusion. When he saw Yin Changhao standing lazily nearby, he was relieved.

With a first-rank martial artist present, what kind of assassin could there be?

What he didn’t know was that Yin Changhao was also having strange thoughts. *Why do I feel uneasy? But it’s not dangerous. Is someone plotting against me?*

When the You Prefecture Army and the Bing Prefecture Army had been dispatched, Zhou Shu’s forging had already reached a certain level.

He was holding a broadsword in his hand, carefully examining it.

The body of the Great Destroyer Sword was three to four times as wide as an ordinary sword, and its edge was a bit blunt. The entire sword weighed almost 50 kilograms, and an ordinary person might not be able to wield it.

But to Zhou Shu, this wasn't a problem. The Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique was at the twelfth level, and he was only a step away from mastering it completely. His divine strength far exceeded 500 kilograms.

The Great Destroyer Sword was too light for him.

It's time for the most crucial star fixing process.

Zhou Shu rubbed the blade of the sword. The Heaven Refining Stone that Sun Gongping had given him appeared in his palm.

Fixing stars required Heaven Refining Stones, and Heaven Refining Stones could only be melted with True Fire.

Zhou Shu flicked his finger and threw the Heaven Refining Stone into the furnace's True Fire.

His spiritual essence churned as he controlled the Heaven Refining Stone.

During the process of forging the weapon, the weakness of his weak spiritual essence cultivation was exposed. Often, not long after activating the True Fire, he had to stop and recover his spiritual essence before he could continue.

This was also why most Forging Masters needed assistants. Zhou Shu didn't want others to see him forging, so he had no choice but to work hard.

The Heaven Refining Stone gradually melted into a water droplet-like liquid within the True Fire.

Zhou Shu threw the Great Destroyer Sword into the forging furnace and used his spiritual essence to separate a drop of the Heaven Refining Stone's liquid, which he then dripped onto the Great Destroyer Sword.

Just as the liquid from the Heaven Refining Stone was about to touch the sword, Zhou Shu's heart suddenly shook.

He activated the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form, and his divine sense instantly covered it.

Buzz—

Zhou Shu felt his vision change. The Great Destroyer Sword appeared clearly in his mind, as if it had become the size of heaven and earth. The structure of its veins and arteries was clearly displayed in his mind.

Star fixing was to fuse the Heaven Refining Stone into the weapon, forming star positions. How to accurately place the Heaven Refining Stone in the correct position was a test of the Forging Master's experience and level.

It was the same for Zhou Shu. He had the secret forging formula of the Great Destroyer Sword, and he also knew where the positions of the stars should be. But how to pinpoint the correct positions was extremely challenging.

After all, the positions of the stars were within the sword body, and Forging Masters were unable to see the interior of the sword body. They could only rely on their senses and skills to control the Heaven Refining Stone to penetrate it.

But now, Zhou Shu's good fortune came. He directly used his divine sense to examine the sword body, and the internal structure of the sword appeared within his consciousness.

He had eliminated the most difficult point for Forging Masters!

Chapter 134: Sword Completed, Assassin

In his consciousness, Zhou Shu felt as if he was in the starry sky, and in front of him was the silhouette of a human emitting a faint glow.

...

There were bright lines on the body of the human silhouette. On the lines, there were bright spots. It was as if the human body's meridians had been conjured.

Zhou Shu was holding a brush in his hand, and on the tip of the brush was the liquid formed from the Heaven Refining Stone.

He used the Heaven Refining Stone to light up a bright spot in the body of the human silhouette, and the outline of the human silhouette instantly became slightly brighter.

All of this was in Zhou Shu's mind.

If someone was watching from the side, they would only see the Heaven Refining Stone wrapped in Zhou Shu's spiritual essence and forming drops of liquid. Then under the might of the True Fire, they would fuse into the Great Destroyer Sword.

With each drop, the Great Destroyer Sword trembled slightly as if it was undergoing some sort of transformation.

One drop, two drops...

In Zhou Shu's mind, he casually waved his brush in the air, and each move did not take much time.

But in the outside world, it took at least two hours for each drop of Heaven Refining Stone liquid to fuse with the Great Destroyer Sword.

After an unknown period of time, Zhou Shu felt that he had exhausted the spiritual essence in his body and had no choice but to withdraw from the carefree feeling of splashing the liquid.

As soon as he left this state, Zhou Shu felt a strong sense of exhaustion wash over him.

Since he started cultivating, it had been a long time since he felt this way.

He was so tired that he didn't even want to move his fingers, and his head was hurting even more.

Unknowingly, not only was the spiritual essence in his body completely depleted, but even his consciousness was almost depleted.

The fatigue brought about by his exhausted spirit was something that even his powerful physical body couldn't resist.

Zhou Shu forced himself to sit up. He didn't even bother checking on the situation with the Great Destroyer Sword before beginning to cultivate the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form.

The Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form was the strongest among the few techniques he currently cultivated, but it was also the weakest.

The main reason was that there were too few kills with the Spring Embroidered Saber.

The constables of the Divine Constable Bureau had fewer chances to kill than the soldiers in the army.

As he activated the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form, his consciousness slowly recovered, and the fatigue in his body gradually disappeared.

After an unknown period of time, Zhou Shu opened his eyes again. He looked at the Great Destroyer Sword and smiled bitterly.

With the assistance of my divine sense, I can see the internal structure of the sword. It's not difficult to locate the star positions, but it's already so exhausting. I really don't know how other Forging Masters forge ranked weapons.

Other Forging Masters didn't have divine sense to help them, and they only relied on their feelings to fix the stars.

This was understandable. That was why the success rate of forging ranked weapons was so low.

Continue! I don't believe that I can't handle you!

After his spiritual essence and divine sense recovered, Zhou Shu finished the food that Steward Mi had left at the door, rolled up his sleeves, and began forging again.

He repeated the process countless times. On this day, Zhou Shu once again retreated from his consciousness.

Unlike before, he wasn't so weak that he couldn't move.

This time, his divine sense and spiritual essence were not exhausted. He had completed positioning the stars in the Great Destroyer Sword!

It wasn't easy. Zhou Shu sighed.

These past few days had worn him out. He now regretted agreeing to Sun Gongping.

He was reluctant to give away the weapon he had spent so much effort to forge.

As a man, I have to keep my word. At most, I'll forge another one.

Let's see the might of the Great Destroyer Sword first!

Zhou Shu activated the remaining spiritual essence in his body and poured it into the Great Destroyer Sword.

Zhou Shu's gaze was like a torch as he stared at the Great Destroyer Sword. As his spiritual essence entered it, a line seemed to light up within it. His spiritual essence followed the line, constantly lighting up the stars along the path.

The body of the Great Destroyer Sword emitted a buzzing sound as a powerful aura exploded from it.

Good sword!

Zhou Shu roared and raised his sword.

The spiritual essence flowing within the Great Destroyer Sword instantly erupted. It was as if the spiritual essence in a person's body had flowed through a specific meridian before erupting.

An extremely sharp sword qi slashed out.

Swish!

There was a soft sound.

Zhou Shu was dumbfounded as the furnace worth 1,000 taels of gold split into two in front of him...

Even the True Fire seed inside fell out. After a few flutters, it extinguished...

"F*ck!" Zhou Shu couldn't help cursing.

His shock was not only because the might of the Great Destroyer Sword was beyond imagination, but also because 2,000 taels of gold was gone!

*F*ck, this is a huge loss!*

He didn't expect the power of the Great Destroyer Sword to be so great that it could even split the furnace in half with a single slash!

His spiritual essence cultivation was only at the eighth rank, and he didn't know any sword techniques, yet he already had such power.

As expected, this was the correct usage of a weapon!

When he fought with Xiao Shunzhi before, he had really used a heaven-grade weapon as a standard weapon. What a waste!

There are one hundred and four star positions in the Great Destroyer Sword that form three star paths. This should be considered quite good among yellow-grade weapons, Zhou Shu thought.

Theoretically, yellow-grade weapons had star positions between 1 to 180.

However, it didn't mean that the higher the number of star positions, the higher the grade of the weapon.

The stars that didn't form the star paths were useless. They belonged to invalid star positions.

Only the stars positioned on the complete star paths would affect the grade of the weapon.

Otherwise, one could just close their eyes and tap the stars into the weapon.

The star paths corresponded to the meridians of the human body. The position of stars on each star path was similar to the number of acupuncture points on the meridians of the human body.

In other words, the star positions for ranked weapons were not continuous. More often than not, there would be dozens more star positions if there was one more star path.

Although the Great Destroyer Sword only had 104 stars, if it had an additional star path, it would have more than 180 stars. That would make it a black-grade weapon.

Thus, even though the Great Destroyer Sword only had 104 stars, there might not be many weapons stronger than it among yellow-grade weapons.

With this Great Destroyer Sword, they can no longer question whether I am a Forging Master or not. The corners of Zhou Shu's lips curled up. But I have to buy another forging furnace and True Fire again. Two thousand taels of gold!

His heart ached a little. *No, I have to get Sun Gongping to pay! But then again, a yellow-grade weapon isn't worth two thousand taels of gold, right?*

The more Zhou Shu thought about it, the more his heart ached. He had suffered a huge loss.

"Steward, get someone to boil some water for my bath!"

After being in seclusion for so many days, he only wanted to take a warm bath and ask Sun Gongping for money!

I have to get as much money back as possible.

Zhou Shu called out a few times, but he didn't hear Steward Mi's reply. He walked out, somewhat puzzled.

Just as he reached the entrance of the courtyard, a young servant ran over hurriedly.

"Greetings, Second Master!" The servant fell to his knees.

Zhou Shu glanced at the servant and asked casually, "Who are you? Where's Steward Mi?"

Steward Mi came from the Mi family. He would usually respond whenever he called him.

Could he be slacking recently because I was in seclusion?

"Second Master, I am a worker of the Mi family's trading company. Supervisor Mi arranged for me to listen to Second Master's instructions here. He said that if Second Master needs any forging materials, I should have them delivered to you immediately."

"Oh." Zhou Shu nodded. He knew that the Supervisor Mi mentioned by this servant was Steward Mi's son. He was a worker in the Mi family's trading company.

“What about Steward Mi?” Zhou Shu asked.

“It’s like this, Second Master. The residence at the east street entrance has been flooded, so Steward Mi went over to deal with it,” the servant said.

The residence at the east street entrance was the one that Mi Ziwen had given Zhou Shu.

Steward Mi was originally arranged by Mi Zhifu to take care of the residence. However, Zhou Shu’s baron’s mansion temporarily lacked caretakers, so Zhou Shu had transferred Steward Mi over for the time being.

Hearing the servant say this, Zhou Shu nodded. He didn’t ask any more questions. He lifted his feet and walked forward, preparing to find someone to help him boil the bathwater.

The servant was a worker of the trading company. He couldn’t possibly ask him to boil bathwater for him.

“You can go back. I have nothing else to do here for the time being,” Zhou Shu said casually while walking.

He had just taken two steps when he suddenly sensed danger behind him.

Without any hesitation, he circulated his true qi, and the surface of his body turned a faint golden color.

Clank!

The sound of metal clashing rang out.

Golden Bell Shield!

Zhou Shu suddenly turned around. Without any hesitation, he slashed out with the Great Destroyer Sword.

He didn’t know any sword techniques, but at this moment, he didn’t need to know any!

His spiritual essence poured into the Great Destroyer Sword, and sword qi erupted. At the same time, his body exploded with power. He used the giant sword that was like a door to smash at his opponent.

Puu—

Boom!

The two loud bangs occurred almost simultaneously.

A fist-sized hole appeared on the far wall.

This was caused by the Great Destroyer Sword’s sword qi.

A few steps behind Zhou Shu, there was a large crater in the ground, and within the crater was a mass of flesh and blood.

The servant had disappeared.

Zhou Shu’s stomach churned, and he almost vomited.

Too bloody!

He had forgotten about the power of the Great Destroyer Sword. If he had known that this assassin wouldn't be able to withstand it, he would have been gentler!

Zhou Shu thought this, but he didn't regret it at all.

He would do it again without holding back.

Who knew the cultivation level of the assassin who ambushed him from behind?

If he had held back, it would have simply been irresponsible to his own life!

The worker of the Mi family's trading company is an assassin?

Frowning, Zhou Shu shifted his gaze away from the blurry mass of flesh.

No, he might not be a worker of the Mi family's trading company!

From the strength he used to attack me just now, his cultivation should be at least at the ninth rank.

Who wants to assassinate me?

Zhou Shu had publicly announced that his cultivation level was at the ninth rank. Yin Wuyou and Sun Gongping might not have told anyone that he had broken through to the eighth rank.

Under normal circumstances, a ninth-rank assassin was enough to assassinate him.

It seemed like the person who wanted to assassinate him had some understanding of him.

It was just that they didn't know his hidden strength.

"Who is it?!" Zhou Shu shouted as his eyes suddenly flickered.

With a single step, Zhou Shu crossed several feet, raised his sword, and slashed at the shadows.

A shadow floated out from the corner.

At this moment, Zhou Shu's Great Destroyer Sword was already in front of him.

The black shadow's reaction was also extremely fast. Two short swords crossed in front of him, blocking Zhou Shu's attack.

Zhou Shu's spiritual essence was exhausted, and he was unable to activate the Great Destroyer Sword's sword qi. But his true qi was still present, and so was the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique. Otherwise, an ordinary person wouldn't be able to withstand this attack.

A tremendous force, along with the two short swords, smashed heavily onto the black-robed man's chest.

Boom!

With a loud bang, the black shadow was sent flying far away, directly smashing a hole in the wall and landing several feet away.

He jumped up and spat out a mouthful of blood. A look of shock flashed across his eyes. The next moment, he turned around and fled in the opposite direction of Zhou Shu.

The news is wrong!

The target's cultivation far exceeds the intelligence report!

"You want to leave? Not so easy!" Zhou Shu snorted coldly.

As he visualized the Five Mountains' True Form, his consciousness transformed into five mountains that crashed into the black shadow's head.

The black shadow's movements faltered, and then he fell to the ground while hugging his head, crying out in pain.

Unless one's cultivation level was higher than Zhou Shu's, it was extremely difficult to resist the divine sense attack of the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form!

Zhou Shu took a step and crossed several feet. He extended his arm, and the Great Destroyer Sword was already on his opponent's neck.

This time, he was not in a hurry to kill.

"Who are you? Why are you trying to assassinate me?" Zhou Shu said coldly.

The man in black looked at Zhou Shu with a mocking expression.

Then black blood suddenly flowed out from the corner of his mouth.

Zhou Shu frowned. He squatted down and pried open the man's mouth.

He had already swallowed the poison in his mouth and died from bleeding from his seven orifices.

Zhou Shu didn't expect such a vulgar scene to happen in front of him. This man in black was a death warrior!

He killed himself because he couldn't kill me?

I've been in seclusion forging recently. I don't think I've offended anyone.

Zhou Shu frowned. He hadn't offended anyone previously.

Is Great Wei taking revenge on me because of the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber?

Just as this thought flashed through his mind, a line of words suddenly floated in front of Zhou Shu.

[The Great Destroyer Sword you forged effectively completed a kill. You are rewarded with the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords!]

In this instant, countless figures seemed to appear in Zhou Shu's eyes. There were even sword glows swirling within them.

[The Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords, a sword technique comprehended from observing strange beasts. There are a total of eighteen moves, and they have the strength to split heaven and earth. Enemies will be killed within five steps!]

For a moment, Zhou Shu was immersed in his sword technique and forgot about the assassin.

He didn't notice that in the darkness in the distance, there was another figure quietly approaching him.

There were more than two assassins in the baron's mansion!

Chapter 135: You Can't Keep Your Secret Anymore

Zhou Shu opened his eyes. He felt as if a sharp blade was pressing against the main artery on his neck. The cold air from the sharp blade caused his skin to tremble slightly.

...

Zhou Shu's intuition as a Forging Master allowed him to immediately determine that what lay across his neck was a ranked weapon.

"Don't move, or I'll kill you!" A hoarse and low voice sounded in Zhou Shu's ears.

The other party was extremely cautious. His entire body was hidden behind Zhou Shu's back. One hand held a sharp blade against Zhou Shu's neck, while the other pressed against Zhou Shu's back, keeping his spiritual essence within.

"You better not take any chances. You're just a ninth-rank martial artist. You can't escape from my hands!"

Ranked martial artists still had mortal bodies. If their neck arteries were severed, they would still die.

The human body would only undergo a qualitative change when one's cultivation reached the third rank or above.

Zhou Shu didn't move. His eyes shifted as he realized that this person probably hadn't seen him kill the other two assassins.

Otherwise, he should have known that his cultivation was not only at the ninth rank of the Martial Dao.

He was a little puzzled. *How many assassins have come to my mansion?*

Where are the servants?

Were they killed? Or were they captured?

Could they have taken over the mansion?

A few thoughts flashed through his mind, but he wasn't too worried.

So what if the blade was placed on his neck?

Even if he stood still and allowed the other party to kill him, the other party might not be able to kill him!

At the eleventh level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique, the only vulnerable part of his body was half an inch from his vital point. His muscles were as hard as steel when they were hard, and when they were soft, they were soft like cotton. He was invulnerable to swords and spears, impervious to fire and water. When he attacked, his strength was like wind and thunder, and his movement technique was as light as a feather. He could run on the waves without falling.

Unless the other party stabbed half an inch within his vital point, he wouldn't be able to harm Zhou Shu at all.

Cut open my neck?

Naive!

Disdain flashed across Zhou Shu's eyes, but he said, "I won't move. Don't hurt me. Take whatever you want. If you want money, I have money!"

The man who had always had the dream of becoming Best Actor was now about to show off his acting skills.

"I want your secret forging formulas!" A hoarse and low voice came from behind. "Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, Horse Slaying Saber, I want them all!"

"You all came for the secret forging formulas?" Zhou Shu asked.

"Hmph, did I ask you to ask questions?" The other party snorted and kicked Zhou Shu's knee.

Zhou Shu hurriedly retracted his true qi, afraid that he would directly kill the other party. He pretended to stagger a step as he said, "I'm just asking. If you're not willing to say it, then don't say it. Isn't it just forging formulas? I'll give them to you. I'll give you whatever you want. Don't hurt me!"

At the same time, he glanced in the direction of the princess's residence.

His mansion didn't have any guards, but the princess's mansion was different.

How could the grand residence of Great Xia's princess not have any defense?

The place separated by a wall had been occupied by assassins, but there was no movement at the princess's residence?

But then again, there were only a few servants in his baron's mansion. They weren't weak, but that was about it.

If the assassins really subdued them, it wouldn't cause too much of a commotion.

It could only be said that these assassins were really too bold. They actually dared to attack right next to the princess's residence!

Zhou Shu was very curious about their identities.

They dared to take such a risk just for the secret forging formula of the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber?

Even if I give it to them, can they take it away?

Do they really think that they can come and go as they pleased in the capital of Great Xia?

“Sir, you must first hand me a pen and paper. Only then will I be able to write down the secret forging formulas,” Zhou Shu said in a trembling voice, playing the role of a frightened baron perfectly.

The assassin behind him didn’t notice that Zhou Shu was drawing the Great Destroyer Sword closer to his body.

Perhaps it wasn’t that the assassin hadn’t noticed the Great Destroyer Sword in Zhou Shu’s hand, but he never would have imagined that the giant sword in Zhou Shu’s hand was actually a ranked weapon.

Even Yin Wuyou and Sun Gongping, who were very familiar with Zhou Shu, didn’t believe that Zhou Shu could forge a ranked weapon, let alone outsiders.

According to the assassin’s information, Zhou Shu was a Forging Apprentice who was good at forging standard sabers. He suddenly had a sword in his hand. Perhaps he wanted to understand the standard longsword?

The assassin didn’t think too much about it. He didn’t even think about asking Zhou Shu to put down his weapon.

He was just a ninth-rank martial artist, so what if he had a sword?

Furthermore, his vital points were all within his control.

The assassin pushed Zhou Shu to his study.

During this process, Zhou Shu understood more about the situation.

This assassin didn’t even need Zhou Shu to lead the way. He directly pushed Zhou Shu into the study.

What did this mean?

This meant that the other party knew the baron’s mansion like the back of his hand!

The other party had come prepared!

Along the way, Zhou Shu didn’t see any servants of the baron’s mansion. Instead, he saw three assassins dressed in night clothes!

Other than the two he had killed, there were at least four other assassins here!

His own mansion had become a nest of thieves?

Zhou Shu couldn’t understand how the other party had done this!

His mansion was only a street away from the imperial palace and a wall from the princess’s mansion.

How insane must these assassins be to directly occupy a baron’s mansion?

This was no longer a simple assassination.

What are the people from the Divine Constable Bureau doing?! They actually let assassins occupy a baron's mansion in the capital!

Zhou Shu sat down at the desk and pretended to grind the ink while cursing Ma Fengzhang in his heart.

At this moment, Ma Fengzhang, who was accompanying Emperor Yuan in the military camp in the outskirts of the capital, sneezed several times.

If he knew what Zhou Shu was thinking, he would definitely point at Zhou Shu's nose and lecture him. The Divine Constable Bureau wasn't the capital's imperial guards. How could they be blamed for this?

Zhou Shu didn't know that in order to escort the You Prefecture Army and the Bing Prefecture Army, Emperor Yuan Feng had arrived at the military camp in the outskirts of the capital. Because of time, he didn't even return to the city tonight. Instead, he stayed in the military camp.

But even if Zhou Shu knew, he would still complain.

Just because the emperor was not in the palace, assassins could occupy a baron's mansion?

Were Chang'an's defenses so lousy?

Zhou Shu tried to turn his head to look at the assassin holding him, but he felt a chill at the back of his waist. The sharp blade almost pierced his skin.

He stopped turning his head and pursed his lips.

This fellow is so afraid that I will see him? Is he afraid that I'll recognize him?

Is he someone I've met before?

This assassin's voice was definitely not his original voice, and Zhou Shu couldn't see his figure. In order to avoid being exposed, Zhou Shu didn't even use his divine sense to observe him.

Therefore, he had no idea where to start.

But it didn't matter. As long as his acting skills were good, he would be able to find out their identities very quickly!

Zhou Shu confidently raised his brush and began to write down the secret forging formulas of the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, and Horse Slaying Saber.

So what if he wrote it down for them?

They had to be alive to take it!

The city defenses of Chang'an are lousy, but with me around, justice has long arms.

Not to mention a few assassins, even if a first-rank Martial Dao expert comes, I will make him suffer.

With this thought in mind, Zhou Shu didn't deliberately delay. Instead, he quickly wrote down the secret forging formulas.

"Sir, here you go!" Zhou Shu didn't turn around. He raised his hand and handed the pieces of paper back.

"I've already given you the forging formulas. You have to keep your promise and not hurt me. If you want money, I have it too. I have a lot of gold. I'll give it all to you!" Zhou Shu said.

He heard a snort from behind him, followed by the sound of pages flipping.

The assassin was clearly looking at the forging formulas he had written.

Zhou Shu's heart stirred, as if he had thought of something. *The other party is looking at the forging formulas. Is he a Forging Master? Or is he a Forging Apprentice?*

A person who didn't know anything about forging wouldn't understand the authenticity of the forging formulas.

"At least you know your place!"

Zhou Shu was still thinking when he heard a cold snort from behind him.

"Well, Sir, what else do you want? As long as I have it, I'll give it to you!"

Zhou Shu suddenly said, "If you think that I don't have enough things here, next door is the princess's residence. Her Highness is loaded—"

"Loaded?" The voice behind him was slightly puzzled.

"It means very rich," Zhou Shu explained.

"Sir, you might not know, but within the princess's mansion, not only are there mountains of gold and silver, but there are also many precious weapon forging formulas. I don't know if there are any heaven-grade weapons, but there are at least dozens of earth-grade weapons!"

"Dozens of earth-grade weapons?"

Zhou Shu could feel the assassin behind him frown.

If Yin Wuyou heard Zhou Shu's words, she would definitely roll his eyes at him. Dozens of earth-grade weapons? Do you have dozens of earth-grade weapons to give me?

Not to mention the princess's mansion, even the imperial family's inner treasury might not have dozens of earth-grade weapons.

"Why would the princess's mansion have so many earth-grade weapons?" the assassin asked in a low voice.

"The princess is also the grand minister of the Forging Division. She's rich, very rich!" Zhou Shu encouraged him.

If these assassins took the secret forging formulas and left, how would he have the chance to lure all the assassins out?

As for whether these assassins would harm Yin Wuyou, he wasn't worried at all.

The princess was a third-rank martial artist. How could she be so easily injured?

Besides, there was still him.

The assassin behind him didn't say anything. Zhou Shu thought that the assassin didn't dare to touch the princess's residence. He sighed inwardly. If he couldn't lure everyone out, then he could only torture them and force them to confess. He didn't know if this fellow behind him would be able to withstand the beating.

Just as Zhou Shu was about to make a move, the assassin suddenly said coldly, "You even betray your own people. You're not a good person either!"

"As expected of jackals of the same tribe as Mi Ziwen. No wonder you two became sworn brothers! All of you deserve to die!"

As the assassin spoke, Zhou Shu felt the cold air hit his back.

He hurriedly shouted, "Wait a minute! Sir, you're being unreasonable! You clearly agreed that you would let me go if I gave you the secret forging formulas!"

"When did I promise you?" The assassin snorted. "I'm already being kind enough to let you die so easily!"

A cold light flashed.

Clank!

The assassin's expression froze.

Zhou Shu sighed. *Why are these people so uncooperative?*

I've already put so much effort into acting. Can't they follow the script?

If they can occupy a baron's mansion for a few forging formulas, why can't they attack the princess's residence for more formulas?

How can they be robbers if they are so timid?

He angrily turned his head away, and the assassin behind him also came to his senses. With a swing of his short sword, he slashed at Zhou Shu's neck.

Clank!

Another crisp sound.

Zhou Shu didn't dodge, allowing the dagger to slash at his neck.

The golden light around his neck disappeared in a flash, and the dagger was blown away, not even leaving a white mark.

Zhou Shu reached out and grabbed the assassin's neck.

The assassin was startled. Just as he was about to resist, an enormous force suddenly smashed his body against the wall.

Boom!

With a bang, the building almost collapsed. A trace of blood flowed down from the assassin's black mask.

The assassin's eyes were full of disbelief. *Why is Zhou Shu so strong?*

The huge force that came from the palm made him unable to move at all, and the spiritual essence in his body had already been scattered by a strange force. At this moment, it was moving around in his body, and he was completely unable to control it.

Although he didn't want to believe it, he realized sadly that he seemed to have completely lost the ability to resist after just one move.

Zhou Shu looked at the assassin with a faint smile. "Your cultivation isn't bad."

The assassin's eyes were brimming with shame and anger. *Are you being sarcastic?*

I'm unable to withstand even a single move from you, yet you say my cultivation isn't bad?

"Let me guess. You know how to forge and have decent cultivation. And you hate me to the bone."

Zhou Shu continued, "I can only think of one person.

"Shen Yue, Deputy Envoy Shen, am I right?"

"I'm just a little curious. Even if my Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber defeated Great Wei, it's not a personal grudge. Do you have to hate me so much?"

As Zhou Shu spoke, he reached out and pulled off the assassin's mask, revealing a furious face.

It was the deputy envoy of the Great Wei, Shen Yue!

Shen Yue's eyes were spitting fire as he glared at Zhou Shu. "The winner is king, and the loser is vilified. I, Shen Yue, am not as skilled as you. Do as you please!"

"Yo, you're starting to act like a hero now?" Zhou Shu sneered. "You even dared to rob me. Do you think you're some kind of hero?"

"Shen Yue, I'm very curious. Who gave you the guts to think that you could rob a baron in Chang'an?"

"Zhou Shu, I knew it. How could an ordinary Forging Apprentice forge so many weapons consecutively? And they are all excellent works! You are indeed hiding something! With your cultivation level, for you to lower yourself to be a mere Forging Apprentice, you are plotting something big, aren't you?"

Shen Yue said coldly, "You can kill me, but once I die, your secret will be exposed!"

Chapter 136: Can The Heavenly Supreme Great Destroyer Kill a Supreme First-Rank Martial Artist

"Are you threatening me?" Zhou Shu looked at Shen Yue. "Have you not understood the situation?"

...

"You're the one who doesn't understand the situation." Shen Yue sneered and looked into his arms.

Zhou Shu's eyes moved, and he reached into Shen Yue's arms.

Then he felt a conch-shaped stone.

"This is a sound transmission stone," Shen Yue said coldly. "The sound transmission stone is a pair with one transmitting and one receiving. It can transmit sounds from thousands of miles away. Our words have already been transmitted through this stone.

"I can tell you that receiving one is in the hands of Great Wei's imperial preceptor." A look of satisfaction flashed across Shen Yue's eyes. *So what if you've hidden well? I still have something on you!*

"Once I die, your secret will be spread throughout the streets and alleys of Chang'an tomorrow. By then, everyone will know that you, Zhou Shu, are an expert above the third rank of the Martial Dao!

"A grandmaster deliberately disguised himself as a Forging Apprentice and even showed his ninth-rank cultivation to others. Do you think that Emperor Yuan Feng will still trust you? Will the ministers of Great Xia still trust you?

"You didn't develop the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber and the Horse Slaying Saber, right? Do you think they will appreciate your efforts to curry favor with Great Xia?"

Shen Yue no longer had the fear from before, nor did he look like he was going to defy death. Instead, he looked at Zhou Shu with a smug expression.

He had only behaved like that earlier to buy time to activate the sound transmission stone.

Now, he believed that Zhou Shu wouldn't dare to kill him!

Zhou Shu's expression was calm. He didn't seem angry that he was being exposed.

"What you said makes sense." Zhou Shu nodded.

This was one of the reasons he had never revealed his cultivation.

The reason was that he was unable to explain the origin of his cultivation. There was a limit to being a genius.

Yin Wuyou was a genius. She had started cultivating the Martial Dao when she was three years old, and with the resources provided by the Imperial Court at all costs, it still took her more than ten years to reach the third rank.

Lu Wenshuang, who was known as the number one Martial Dao genius of Great Xia, had received the best training since birth. This was how she had become a grandmaster in her teens.

Their Martial Dao paths could be said to be paved with countless resources. This was only possible if they had talent that was hard to come by even in ten thousand years.

What did Zhou Shu have?

He came from three generations of the lowest-level Forging Apprentices. The savings of several generations didn't even add up to a hundred taels of silver.

Such a person had a cultivation base above the third rank of the Martial Dao before he was even twenty years ago?

How did he obtain his cultivation base?

Anyone would be suspicious.

With such a high cultivation level, yet he was willing to be a Forging Apprentice, it was simply not normal.

In addition to what had happened with Zhu Chuanfeng, Emperor Yuan Feng would probably suspect if Zhou Shu really developed those sabers, including the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, himself, or if he had stolen them from someone else.

Otherwise, why would he conceal his cultivation?

Who would believe that in just a few short months, Zhou Shu had gone from being an ordinary Forging Apprentice to possessing exceptional cultivation?

It was fine if people didn't believe it. But if they did, it would be even more troublesome.

Who wouldn't be tempted by something that could allow an ordinary person to possess peerless cultivation in a few short months?

This was why Shen Yue was so confident. He was confident that Zhou Shu didn't want to expose his cultivation level.

This was Zhou Shu's weakness. He had no choice but to submit!

Shen Yue had even thought of using this secret to threaten Zhou Shu to be a spy of Great Wei. He would make him kill Mi Ziwen and even control him to assassinate Emperor Yuan Feng!

"I really don't want my secret exposed," Zhou Shu said. "I think we can work together. For example, you can call Xiao Shunzhi over, and we can rob the princess's residence together?"

Shen Yue narrowed his eyes and stared at Zhou Shu, wanting to see if he was serious.

Zhou Shu was calm.

Shen Yue snorted. "How can it be so easy to rob the princess's residence?"

"Zhou Shu, if you don't want your secret to be exposed, you'd better let go of me first."

"Shen Yue, you seem to have gotten something wrong." Zhou Shu shook his head. "My secret has been exposed. At most, I'll leave Great Xia. With my strength, I can go anywhere. But you're different. If my secret is exposed, you'll die."

Shen Yue froze. He had forgotten about this.

"Hmph, you can leave, but your plan in Great Xia will be ruined!"

Shen Yue refused to believe that Zhou Shu was doing this for fun!

He definitely had a huge scheme, which was why he was hiding in Great Xia.

“There’s no need for us to test each other.” Zhou Shu shook his head., “Since we have each other’s weakness in our hands, let’s make it simple. Let’s cooperate if we can. If we can’t, then we’ll split up!”

Shen Yue’s brows furrowed tightly. *If we can’t, then we’ll split up?*

He can just leave. I’ll be dead for sure.

“How do you want to cooperate?” Shen Yue asked. Unknowingly, the initiative had returned to Zhou Shu’s hands.

“Do you think you’re qualified to talk about cooperation with me?” Zhou Shu sneered. “Bring me to see Xiao Shunzhi. I want to talk to him.”

A cold light flashed in the depths of Zhou Shu’s eyes. *First-rank martial artist?*

He wanted to see if the heavenly supreme Great Destroyer Sword could kill a supreme first-rank martial artist!

Shen Yue didn’t know what Zhou Shu was thinking. He frowned and thought for a moment before saying, “The diplomatic mission of my Great Wei has already left Great Xia and is on the way back. The imperial preceptor is almost a thousand miles away from Chang’an.

“The Great Wei diplomatic mission has left, and you stayed behind to play dirty?” Zhou Shu looked at Shen Yue.

Shen Yue sneered. There was no need for him to hide anything now. “Mi Ziwen killed my elder brother. If I don’t kill him, how can I leave? Initially, I wanted to kill you first for interest...”

But he didn’t expect that he would fail miserably!

“Mi Ziwen killed your brother?” Zhou Shu’s heart skipped a beat. “Your father is the minister of war of Great Wei?”

Shen Yue didn’t say anything. But judging from his arrogant look, it was obviously true.

“You’re from a prestigious family,” Zhou Shu said casually. “Mi Ziwen killed your elder brother. Isn’t that helping you? He won’t be able to fight with you for the inheritance in the future.”

Shen Yue’s face darkened. “I’m the legitimate eldest son!”

Although his elder brother was older, he was a concubine’s son. Otherwise, he wouldn’t be sent to Great Xia as a spy.

The son of a concubine didn’t have much status.

But even though he was the son of a concubine, he was still his elder brother. He couldn’t let him die just like that!

Zhou Shu didn’t care much about these things. He looked at Shen Yue and said, “It’s just a thousand miles. I can make it.

“Call your men. We’re going after Xiao Shunzhi now,” Zhou Shu said. “Don’t tell me you can’t catch up. If that’s the case, we can just split up.”

Shen Yue's expression turned ugly. *Why aren't things going according to my plan?*

Why does Zhou Shu seem so fearless?

After thinking for a moment, Shen Yue sadly realized that facing an expert suspected of being a grandmaster, it seemed he had no choice at all.

Even if he was willing to risk his life to fight Zhou Shu, there was no chance of him winning!

He never would have thought that after spending so much effort and paying such a huge price to hide from the defenses of Great Xia, he would actually fail in front of a single person!

After Shen Yue gathered his people, Zhou Shu discovered that there weren't many of them. Apart from the two he killed, there were only five people left in total.

This was normal. After all, they didn't have many people in Chang'an.

Moreover, in their plan, besides Zhou Shu, a supposed ninth-rank martial artist, there were no other martial artists in the baron's mansion.

The seven of them had cultivation levels ranging from the fourth rank to the eighth rank. They could control the baron's mansion without anyone noticing.

After all, this newly promoted baron's mansion was the one with the weakest defense in Chang'an.

Since his identity had already been exposed in front of Zhou Shu, Shen Yue didn't continue to hide it.

He directly used their retreat route and left Chang'an. Following the planned route, he quickly chased after Xiao Shunzhi.

Along the way, Zhou Shu gained quite a bit of knowledge.

There were actually many hiding spots for Great Wei's spies in Chang'an, which had previously been swept by the Divine Constable Bureau and the Huben Troops.

How should he put it?

It could only be said that no prairie fire can burn the grass utterly. The spring wind blows it back to life again.

Zhou Shu had also asked Shen Yue what happened to the servants in his residence.

Shen Yue didn't kill all of them. Most of them were locked up in the woodshed, and only a few were killed.

Zhou Shu didn't show any reaction on the surface. But in his heart, he already had the intention of killing Shen Yue and his group.

Do these people think that Great Xia is easy to bully?

I don't know if Great Xia is easy to bully. But I, Zhou Shu, am not an easy target!

Shen Yue had stayed behind in Chang'an for revenge because he had made thorough preparations.

He had specially arranged for some thoroughbred horses outside the city.

These were the best warhorses in Great Wei, and they could travel thousands of miles in a day.

Zhou Shu was not too surprised by the speed of the fast horses. There were even martial artists here. It was not strange that the horses were faster than the ones in his previous life.

It was said that there were still demonic beasts in this world. The Demon Executing Army specialized in dealing with demonic beasts, but Zhou Shu had never seen them before.

With Shen Yao's arrangements of traveling on horses, Zhou Shu was able to recharge his energy.

Warhorses could travel thousands of miles in a day, but this was only theoretically the fastest speed.

Shen Yue's identity couldn't be exposed, so he naturally could not take the main road. They crossed mountains and ridges, and it took them five days to spot the Great Wei diplomatic mission.

At this moment, the Great Wei diplomatic mission had already reached the border between Great Xia and Great Wei.

In these five days, the capital was already in chaos.

On the second day after Zhou Shu and Shen Yue left Chang'an, in the imperial study of the Great Xia imperial palace, Emperor Yuan Feng's expression was extremely ugly.

"Tell me. How many times has it been?"

Emperor Yuan Feng was like a volcano on the verge of eruption. Originally, taking back the You and Bing prefectures was a cause for celebration for the entire country. However, he didn't expect that after he sent off the You Prefecture Army and the Bing Prefecture Army, he would receive a blow to the head.

In front of him, Ma Fengzhang, the commander of the Divine Constable Bureau, as well as the generals of the Country Protector Army, all lowered their heads in shame.

"Over and over again, spies from other countries come and go as they please in Chang'an. It's as if no one is here. Tell me. What are you doing?!"

"If you can't do it, then tell me. I'll get someone else to do it!"

Emperor Yuan Feng slammed the table. With a loud crash, the table shattered into pieces.

"I know my mistake!" Ma Fengzhang and the rest jumped in fright.

"Your Majesty, I will take my men right now and save Baron Zhou!" a general from the Country Protector Army said.

"Save him? Where were you when he was abducted?" Emperor Yuan Feng said angrily. "You are in charge of Chang'an's city gates. Is this how you guard them? Will there be a day when my head is chopped off and taken away by the enemy, and they can just walk out of the city openly?"

The general was so frightened that he didn't know what to say.

“Let me ask you. A baron was kidnapped in his own residence. Who did it? How did they do it? Have you investigated clearly?” Emperor Yuan Feng said angrily, breathing heavily.

“Your Majesty, I failed my duty.” Ma Fengzhang sighed in his heart. Needless to say, this was his fault again.

In the previous incident with Zhu Chuanfeng, Zhou Shu had been taken out of the capital, and the Divine Constable Bureau’s reputation was already damaged.

Who knew that it would happen again!

Why was Zhou Shu so popular with the robbers?

As Ma Fengzhang thought about it, he said, “After receiving the news, I immediately sent people to investigate. The servants of the baron’s residence didn’t see the attacker’s face, but I found two corpses at the scene. One of them was unrecognizable, and the other was poisoned to death. There’s no doubt that it was a death warrior.”

“Nonsense!” Emperor Yuan said angrily.

Ma Fengzhang knew that Emperor Yuan Feng was in a fit of anger, so he didn’t dare to speak any nonsense. “I’ve found out the identity of that death warrior. He is...”

“Who is he?” Emperor Yuan Feng asked impatiently.

“He is from the great general’s residence.” Ma Fengzhang said softly.

“From the great general’s residence?” Emperor Yuanfeng was stunned. Then he said solemnly, “That’s impossible!”

Ma Fengzhang pursed his lips. He didn’t want to believe it, but it was the truth. “Absolutely. If I didn’t have absolute confidence, I wouldn’t dare to speak nonsense.”

Great General Meng Bai was the undisputed God of War of Great Xia. He had outstanding military achievements, and it could even be said that without him, Great Xia would not be where it was today.

Most importantly, Great General Meng and Emperor Yuan Feng had grown up together. He was loyal and devoted to Emperor Yuan Feng, and it was impossible for him to betray him.

“The great general will never betray me!” Emperor Yuan Feng said coldly. “His residence must have been infiltrated by a spy!”

Is that possible...?

Ma Fengzhang didn’t know.

What kind of person was the great general?

There was a spy hiding in the residence of the Great Xia’s God of War?

Just thinking about it was inconceivable. If he didn’t even discover the spy, how could he be the Great Xia’s God of War?

But it was unlikely that the general knew.

The great general was still on the battlefield on the southern border. Why would he deal with Zhou Shu?

With the status of a great general, if he really wanted to deal with Zhou Shu, would he leave behind such evidence?

“Ma Fengzhang, investigate this matter personally!” Emperor Yuan Feng said coldly. “I don’t care what methods you use, but you must find out who kidnapped Zhou Shu! And I want you to save Zhou Shu at all costs!”

“Yes, Your Majesty,” Ma Fengzhang said helplessly. “Your Majesty, Her Highness and Marquis Weiyuan’s young marquis have left the capital to track Zhou Shu’s whereabouts. Should I—”

Emperor Yuan Feng’s face darkened. “You don’t need to worry about them. Go investigate your case and save Zhou Shu!”

“Yes!” Ma Fengzhang lowered his head and didn’t dare to stay any longer.. After taking his leave, he immediately left the palace and began his investigation.

Chapter 137: Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords, Might of the Great Destroyer

Great Xia was located on the south of the land. To the south of it was a continuous mountain range, to the north was Great Wei, to the east was the Endless Sea, and to the west was another country.

...

Between Great Xia and Great Wei, there were many prefectures bordering each other, among which were the You and Bing prefectures located between the two countries.

The place where Zhou Shu and Shen Yue had caught up to the Great Wei’s diplomatic mission was about a hundred miles southeast of the You and Bing prefectures. After crossing two mountains to the north, they would reach Great Wei.

The Great Wei imperial preceptor, Xiao Shunzhi, seemed to have long known of their arrival. When he saw Zhou Shu, he didn’t appear surprised.

“Great Xia is indeed full of hidden dragons and crouching tigers. There is a Saber Dao expert with a decent cultivation level, and there is actually such a young grandmaster.”

Xiao Shunzhi looked at Zhou Shu. “Brother Zhou, why don’t you come to our Great Wei? We will definitely not be stingy with high official ranks, a generous salary, and beautiful wives and concubines.”

He actually went straight to the point and tried to recruit Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu sneered in his heart. *You probably don’t know that the saber expert you’re talking about is also me, right?*

“Can you make the decision?” Zhou Shu said. “Are you sure you can give me what I want?”

“I have some status in Great Wei,” Xiao Shunzhi said.

What a joke. He was the imperial preceptor of Great Wei. He was below one person and above everyone else. Putting everything else aside, he could guarantee Zhou Shu a third-rank official position.

Furthermore, Zhou Shu was definitely worthy of Great Wei giving these things to him.

Regardless of whether he had developed the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, and Horse Slaying Saber, at least he had the forging formulas.

Furthermore, Zhou Shu had the cultivation of a grandmaster. Such a young grandmaster didn't exist in all of Great Wei.

Xiao Shunzhi sighed emotionally in his heart. Although the power of Great Xia was not as strong as it was at its peak, its foundation was still there.

"Is that so? Then, if I say I want your head, can you also give it to me?" Zhou Shu said with a faint smile.

Xiao Shunzhi's expression didn't change as he laughed. "There are many people who want my head. If you think that way, come to Great Wei. If you can kill me one day, the position of imperial preceptor will be yours."

Xiao Shunzhi stood there as deep as the abyss, undoubtedly revealing the bearing of a Martial Dao venerable.

"Is that so? Then I'll give it a try!"

Zhou Shu grabbed the hilt of the Great Destroyer Sword on his back as his aura exploded.

Boom!

With Zhou Shu as the center, a storm-like aura spread out.

The ground beneath his feet suddenly sank a few inches as spider web-like cracks spread out.

Puu puu!

Several mouthfuls of blood spurted out from Shen Yue and his men's mouths.

They were unable to withstand the aura. They retreated, trying to avoid it.

Xiao Shunzhi's expression changed, and he shouted coldly, "How dare you!"

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Zhou Shu shouted, "This is Great Xia. If you want to threaten me, think again!"

The Great Destroyer Sword had already been pulled out from his back. Three beams of starlight seemed to be flowing on the body of the sword.

A monstrous sword aura erupted from the sword.

"Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords!"

Before Zhou Shu could finish his sentence, boundless sword light enveloped the entire space.

Xiao Shunzhi's expression changed drastically. *This is bad.*

The aura belonging to a first-rank martial artist erupted. His body suddenly rushed forward, and he seemed to have turned into a golden man. He struck out with his palm from several feet away, and a giant golden palm appeared in the air.

The spiritual qi of heaven and earth churned as the giant palm slammed toward Zhou Shu.

A distance of several feet was no obstacle to a first-rank martial artist. The range of their attacks was more than ten feet.

But to Zhou Shu, it was the same.

From several feet away, Xiao Shunzhi's attack landed on his body. Although it almost didn't require time, it was just 'almost'. It wasn't that it completely didn't require time.

Even this negligible amount of time was enough for an expert to make a move!

The Great Destroyer Sword in Zhou Shu's hand was as light as a feather as he completely unleashed the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique. Within five steps, no one in this world could dodge his sword technique!

Puu! Puu! Puu!

A few light sounds rang out as blood spurted into the air.

"How dare you!" Xiao Shunzhi's furious voice soared into the sky. He didn't think that the other party would actually be so straightforward and attack him immediately. Wasn't he here to discuss cooperation?

This slight difference in cognition caused Xiao Shunzhi's reaction to be a little slower, and the consequence of this was that his student, the deputy envoy of Great Wei, the famous genius of Great Wei, Shen Yue, had died!

[The Great Destroyer Sword you forged effectively completed a kill. The Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique has improved by 30%]

[The Great Destroyer Sword you forged effectively completed a kill. The Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique has improved by 10%]

...

[The Great Destroyer Sword you forged effectively completed a kill. The Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique has improved by 100%]

Five messages flashed past Zhou Shu's eyes.

Shen Yue, who was a fourth-grade martial artist, and his four subordinates, who were sixth or seventh-rank martial artists, couldn't even block a single sword strike and died at the same time!

The deaths of a few Martial Dao experts brought rich benefits to Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu had created weapons that could kill. The stronger the person killed, the more benefits the Legendary Armament Canon would give. Zhou Shu had known this a long time ago. But there was no

fixed standard for how much this was. Perhaps the Legendary Armament Canon itself had a standard, but he had yet to grasp it.

He didn't think too much about it. It was a good thing that the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique had improved. His confidence had increased a little.

Boom!

In the blink of an eye, Zhou Shu had killed Shen Yue and four other assassins who had broken into his manor. Xiao Shunzhi's huge palm attack had already reached him.

He had no time to dodge!

Xiao Shunzhi attacked in anger. He didn't hold back at all in this attack. The golden palm was even more ferocious than the one Zhou Shu had encountered when they fought previously.

Buzz—

In an instant, a layer of faint golden light suddenly rose from Zhou Shu's body. The golden light seemed to turn his skin golden.

Golden Bell Shield Technique, eleventh level!

Boom!

A sound like the morning bell and evening drum echoed through the wilderness.

Under Xiao Shunzhi's astonished gaze, the golden palm left a three-meter-deep crater on the ground before dissipating in the air.

At the bottom of the deep pit, a figure stood upright. The clothes on his body were tattered, revealing the pale golden skin beneath his clothes. He was completely unharmed!

Zhou Shu spat out a mouthful of blood.

"A first-rank martial artist indeed lives up to his reputation," Zhou Shu said. The eleventh level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique was still unable to completely protect him from an attack of a first-rank martial artist.

With only the eleventh level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique, he would be severely injured even if he didn't die after taking such a blow.

But Zhou Shu had not only cultivated the Golden Bell Shield Technique. The Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique was also beneficial to protecting him, just like the Golden Bell Shield Technique. Without a powerful physique, how could he bring about the power of a dragon and an elephant?

Cultivating the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique would similarly strengthen the defense of the body.

Only by overlapping the two cultivation methods could Zhou Shu only suffer a light injury from Xiao Shunzhi's attack.

Xiao Shunzhi's pupils contracted as he stared straight at Zhou Shu. *He is a grandmaster?*

Although he had made a move in a hurry, and he hadn't used all his strength with the palm strike, it was definitely not something a grandmaster could escape unscathed.

This person's cultivation was definitely not weaker than his!

Shen Yue had made a mistake!

"What's your relationship with that saber expert?" Xiao Shunzhi stared at Zhou Shu.

The scene today was very similar to that day.

That day, the saber expert had killed one of his subordinates in front of him.

Today, Zhou Shu had gone even further and killed his student in front of him.

How many years had it been since Xiao Shunzhi felt such humiliation?

Zhou Shu's protective technique seems to be somewhat similar to the saber expert from the other day. Are they both experts secretly trained by Great Xia?

Many thoughts flashed through Xiao Shunzhi's mind, but the aura on his body kept rising.

Regardless of whether they were experts secretly nurtured by Great Xia, he wouldn't hold back this time!

Since Zhou Shu had killed his student, he would have to pay with his life!

Xiao Shunzhi was truly enraged. The dignity of a first-rank martial artist could not be offended!

Zhou Shu's lips curled up slightly. "Make a guess.

"Xiao Shunzhi, you attacked just now. Now, it's my turn!"

Zhou Shu gently stepped forward, causing the ground to rumble as he shot into the air.

The sword body of the Great Destroyer Sword glowed brightly as spiritual essence circulated within its three star paths.

At this moment, the Great Destroyer Sword seemed to have increased several times in weight. Zhou Shu casually swung it, carrying with it a tremendous amount of force, causing the air to emit a ripping sound.

At the same time, boundless sword qi erupted. Together with Zhou Shu's Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords, everything within a hundred feet became a sea of sword qi.

Xiao Shunzhi's expression was solemn. *This person's sword intent is actually so astonishing!*

What sword technique is he using? Why have I never seen it before?

While thinking, Xiao Shunzhi did not hesitate. He formed hand seals with both hands, and golden light shone brightly around his body. Two huge golden palms appeared in the air, and they assumed different positions to resist the sword qi filling the sky.

Zhou Shu had unleashed his full power, unleashing the twelfth level of the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique, the eleventh level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique, and his eighth-rank cultivation in the Martial Dao with the Emperor Xuan Jade Book all without reservation.

The current him was more than twice as strong as the first time he fought with Xiao Shunzhi!

Even though he was not stronger than a first-rank Martial Dao cultivator, he was not weaker either.

Combined with the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords and the heavenly supreme Great Destroyer Sword, his attacks made even Xiao Shunzhi feel waves of shock.

It was true that the Great Destroyer Sword was a yellow-grade weapon, but the strength of a weapon was not limited to the grade of the weapon itself, but more importantly, who was using it!

The first time Zhou Shu had fought with Xiao Shunzhi, he had used a heaven-grade weapon. But at the time, he hadn't known how to use a heaven-grade weapon, so he hadn't been able to display its power.

Back then, a heaven-grade weapon was only slightly stronger than a standard weapon in his hands.

But now, Zhou Shu had already become a Forging Master and had a deep understanding of weapons.

This Great Destroyer Sword was personally forged by him. No one in the world could understand the Great Destroyer Sword better than him!

In this kind of situation, Zhou Shu fully displayed the power of the Great Destroyer Sword. Even Xiao Shunzhi didn't dare to face him head-on.

Xiao Shunzhi's pupils constricted. With a cold snort, he reached out his hand and grabbed a large saber which fell into his hand from somewhere.

The shape of the blade was strange, and the handle was almost as long as the blade itself. The entire saber was as tall as a person.

Xiao Shunzhi grasped the hilt of his saber with both hands and slashed out. A saber beam several feet long brushed past Zhou Shu's body and landed on the ground.

A crack dozens of feet long appeared on the ground.

As the imperial preceptor of Great Wei, how could Xiao Shunzhi not have a superior weapon?

The saber in his hand was a genuine heaven-grade weapon!

Boom!

Sword qi and saber beam collided. Zhou Shu and Xiao Shunzhi both took a step back.

Zhou Shu glanced at the Great Destroyer Sword in his hand and sighed inwardly.

It was still a little lacking. The Great Destroyer Sword was currently only at the yellow grade. If it could be upgraded to become a heaven-grade weapon, he was completely confident that he could destroy Xiao Shunzhi's saber with one strike!

But the requirements for upgrading the Great Destroyer Sword in the Legendary Armament Canon had yet to be met. He didn't know how to upgrade it.

As this thought flashed through his mind, Zhou Shu's eyes narrowed slightly.

It was still difficult for the Great Destroyer Sword to kill a supreme first-grade martial artist.

The Great Destroyer Sword was not the complete version yet. As a yellow-grade weapon, it was still a little lacking to kill a first-rank martial artist.

"If that's all you have, then today next year will be your death anniversary!" Xiao Shunzhi said coldly.

The long saber in Xiao Shunzhi's hand began to glow. In the light, a total of 20 star paths appeared.

Zhou Shu's expression did not change. He held the Great Destroyer Sword horizontally, and his entire body seemed to have become an unsheathed sword, its sharpness soaring to the heavens.

"You said that too early." Zhou Shu said coldly, "Take another strike from me!"

The spiritual essence in Zhou Shu's body surged into the Great Destroyer Sword. He became one with the sword and once again unleashed the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique.

Xiao Shunzhi snorted coldly. Although the other party's sword technique was strong, it was still not enough to kill him!

The saber transformed into a saber beam that filled the sky as it collided with Zhou Shu.

Rumbling sounds resounded as the dazzling beam of light continued to fly into the distance. Wherever it passed, everything became a state of chaos.

In the camp of the Great Wei diplomatic mission, the soldiers were all looking in the direction the beam of light had disappeared suspiciously.

They still didn't know what was happening. They didn't even know who the person fighting against the imperial preceptor was.

Before this, Xiao Shunzhi hadn't allowed anyone to follow him in order to prevent too many people from seeing Zhou Shu's face because this secret was too valuable.

He had not expected Zhou Shu to be prepared to kill him.

"Xiao Shunzhi, first-rank martial artist, is this all you have?" Zhou Shu laughed loudly. "If that's all, then I want your head!"

This was what Xiao Shunzhi had said earlier. Now that Zhou Shu used his words against him, Xiao Shunzhi was so angry that smoke was about to come out of his hair.

"Shameless boasting!" Xiao Shunzhi sneered. He drew a strange pattern with his saber and slashed at Zhou Shu's chest.

Zhou Shu's eyes narrowed slightly as a hint of ruthlessness flashed across his face. He didn't dodge but instead charged forward. At the same time, the Great Destroyer Sword in his hand slashed forward.

Boom!

Swish!

Two loud sounds rang out at the same time.

Two streaks of blood shot out at the same time. Zhou Shu and Xiao Shunzhi were both sent flying backward.

Zhou Shu flew hundreds of feet away and stumbled to the ground. He used the Great Destroyer Sword to prop himself up and spat out a mouthful of blood.

His chest was already a mess of flesh and blood, and the flesh exposed to the air was extremely terrifying.

He raised his head and saw Xiao Shunzhi transform into a ray of light and disappear from his line of sight. On the ground, there was a severed arm and the long saber as tall as a person.

Zhou Shu's ears twitched. *Someone's approaching!*

He didn't have time to put away Xiao Shunzhi's saber.. He disappeared in a flash.

Chapter 138: Ranked Armament Manual, The Great Destroyer's Ranking

Just as Zhou Shu disappeared, two figures descended from the sky.

...

One figure stumbled and fell to the ground, and the other figure landed gracefully on the ground.

"Your Highness, we seem to be late." Sun Gongping rubbed his butt and stood up. He looked around and found no one else in the surroundings.

Yin Wuyou frowned and stared at the bloodstains on the ground without saying anything.

Sun Gongping had just been thrown down several meters by Yin Wuyou. But his skin was thick, so he wasn't injured.

He walked over to the severed arm on the ground and kicked the long saber with the tip of his foot.

"Your Highness, we're not at the wrong place. The battle fluctuations should have come from here. I don't know whose arm it is, but it was cut off," Sun Gongping said.

"This saber..." When Yin Wuyou saw the saber, her pupils constricted, and she said solemnly, "It looks a little like the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber that belongs to Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi!"

"Seriously?" Sun Gongping said. "Xiao Shunzhi is a first-rank martial artist. Who has the ability to cut off his arm?"

Sun Gongping picked up the saber and injected a wisp of spiritual essence into it.

"It seems... it really is a heaven-grade weapon!"

A look of shock appeared on his face. A first-rank martial artist had his arm chopped off?

He had even abandoned his weapon and ran away?

This sort of thing was simply unheard of.

In his memory, a first-rank martial artist had never been killed by anyone before.

A look of astonishment appeared on Yin Wuyou's face.

"Who was the one fighting with Xiao Shunzhi? And where is Zhou Shu?" Yin Wuyou whispered.

"Your Highness, are you sure Old Zhou was abducted by the Great Wei diplomatic mission? Do you think His Majesty sent someone to save him and also injured Xiao Shunzhi?" Sun Gongping said.

"No." Yin Wuyou shook her head. The strongest person in Great Xia who could make a move was her imperial uncle Yin Changhao. But even her imperial uncle could at most fight Xiao Shunzhi to a draw. It was impossible for him to cut off Xiao Shunzhi's arm.

"Then, who is it?" Sun Gongping wondered. "Do you think it's that mysterious expert from the capital?"

Yin Wuyou continued to shake her head. "There's no point in us guessing. Looking at the bloodstains, Xiao Shunzhi should have gone in this direction. Let's chase after him and take a look!"

"Alright, let's thrash him!" Sun Gongping shouted. "Damn Great Wei's diplomatic mission, do you really think Great Xia is easy to bully?"

The two of them chased in the direction Xiao Shunzhi had escaped in. This was also the direction of the You and Bing prefectures, which had just been returned to Great Xia.

...

Zhou Shu's body flickered with golden light. The muscles on his chest contracted, and blood no longer seeped out. The wound seemed to be healing.

He let out a long sigh of relief, feeling a lingering fear in his heart.

The eleventh level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique still couldn't withstand an attack of a first-rank martial artist.

If he hadn't cut off Xiao Shunzhi's arm with his last attack, Xiao Shunzhi's saber really might have cut him open.

But the Golden Bell Shield's defense was truly sick enough to be able to forcefully block Xiao Shunzhi's attack for a moment. In this short moment, the outcome had already been decided. That was, Xiao Shunzhi's arm was cut off, and he was severely injured.

If not for the Golden Bell Shield Technique, Zhou Shu would probably be a corpse by now.

Of course, if he didn't have the Golden Bell Shield Technique, Zhou Shu wouldn't have gone all out to resist Xiao Shunzhi's attack.

I must not be overconfident in the Golden Bell Shield in the future. I was almost cut into two, Zhou Shu thought.

If he could reach perfection in the Golden Bell Shield Technique and attain an invincible body, he might be able to withstand the attacks of first-rank martial artists. But this was not certain. After all, it was hard to say what trump cards first-rank martial artists had.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to kill Xiao Shunzhi. Zhou Shu sighed.

My cultivation level will probably be exposed.

What a pity. After leaving the Forging Division, where can I find so many opportunities for my forged weapons to complete kills?

With his current cultivation, he could go anywhere in the world.

But without the channels of the Forging Division, the weapons he forged wouldn't be able to be sent into the army in batches. Then, the benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon wouldn't come so easily.

When he thought of the Legendary Armament Canon, Zhou Shu's heart stirred slightly.

The pages flipped quickly and stopped at the page of the Great Destroyer Sword.

[Upgrade (7/100)]

Zhou Shu raised his eyebrows. *The number's changed!*

So the condition for the upgrade is to complete kills!

For standard weapons, completing kills would only bring back benefits. The number on the Legendary Armament Canon was the number of the forged weapons.

As for this ranked weapon, it was no longer the number of forged weapons, but instead, it was the number of kills completed.

Killing a hundred people would fulfill the conditions for the upgrade?

How will the next weapon appear?

Zhou Shu was puzzled.

Will the next weapon appear when the upgrade condition is met?

This upgrade requirement was 100 kills. It was a problem.

In the past, after Zhou Shu forged one hundred copies of a weapon, the next weapon would appear. This was easy to control. He just needed to forge more weapons.

But he couldn't control the number of kills the ranked weapon completed.

Not to mention that he would give most of his ranked weapons to others after forging them, even if he kept them, it was impossible for him to kill people all day long.

Was the one who killed five million people deemed a hero?

As expected, it's not that easy to upgrade a ranked weapon. It seems like there won't be a second ranked weapon in the Legendary Armament Canon for a long time. No wonder it was so generous as to give me the Great Destroyer Sword right away.

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

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

...

[The Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber you forged effectively completed a kill. You are rewarded with the forging formula for standard weapon Eight-Sided Han Sword!]

[The Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber you forged effectively completed a kill. You are rewarded with the forging formula for the standard weapon Bamboo Bronze Whip!]

...

Suddenly, a barrage of messages flashed past Zhou Shu's eyes.

The battles of the You Prefecture Army and the Bing Prefecture Army have started so quickly?

Zhou Shu was slightly stunned. If he remembered correctly, when he was in seclusion forging the Great Destroyer Sword, the You Prefecture Army and Bing Prefecture Army had just been established.

They should be taking over the You Prefecture and Bing Prefecture right now, and they're already killing enemies?

Thinking about it, it was quite normal. After all, Great Wei had been in control of the You and Bing prefectures for many years. Even if they withdrew their troops on the surface, they might have done something behind the scenes.

The You Prefecture Army and the Bing Prefecture Army had been established for the purpose of killing.

This Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber's reward is quite interesting.

With a thought, Zhou Shu flipped through the Legendary Armament Canon. A few pages of new content appeared in front of him.

The reward for successfully killing with the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber was actually the forging formulas for other standard weapons.

Initially, he thought that after a ranked weapon appeared on the Legendary Armament Canon, only ranked weapons would appear in the future.

He didn't expect there to be standard weapons.

Eight-Sided Han Sword, Bamboo Bronze Whip, Eight-Foot Long Spear...

Is it going to cover all eighteen types of weapons?

He didn't know if there was a limit to the Legendary Armament Canon's rewards and a limit to the types of standard weapons. There would be a time when he reached perfection in the cultivation techniques.

He wondered if the Legendary Armament Canon would give any other rewards at that time.

Zhou Shu pondered. Up until now, his Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique was on the verge of reaching perfection, and so was the Golden Bell Shield.

The Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form was far from it.

The Heavenly Saber Art and the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords techniques could be improved continuously.

The rewards for the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber had just begun.

Currently, there was still quite a bit of leeway for each of the Legendary Armament Canon's rewards. Therefore, Zhou Shu didn't know what would happen when all the rewards were given out.

The Legendary Armament Canon won't kill me, right?

No, I'm the owner of the Legendary Armament Canon!

I've obtained a few more forging formulas for standard weapons. Even if I become a Forging Master in the future, I can't stop forging standard weapons.

It's a pity that without Great Xia's Forging Division, I will have no way of sending the standard weapons out to the armies.

Damn you, Xiao Shunzhi! My Zhonghua Pavilion has just been established. I haven't even made a name for myself, and my plans already fell through! Don't let me see you again, or I'll definitely cut you into pieces!

Zhou Shu gritted his teeth.

Earlier, he should have ignored his injuries and chased after him.

As long as he killed Xiao Shunzhi, no one would know the secret of his cultivation base, and he wouldn't have to worry about Emperor Yuan Feng and the others becoming suspicious. He would be able to properly stay in Great Xia's Forging Division.

Unfortunately, it was useless to regret now.

Xiao Shunzhi had lost an arm, so he probably ran as far as he could. It was already impossible to catch up to him now.

If I can't return to Great Xia, where should I go?

Ever since he came to this world, he had been in Great Xia's Forging Division.

Although he had received some unfair treatment in the Forging Division at the beginning, he later became the superintendent of the 0th Workshop. Later on, he got along quite well with the grand minister, Yin Wuyou.

The feeling the Great Xia emperor gave him wasn't bad either.

In addition, he had made a few friends in Great Xia—Sun Gongping, Mi Ziwen, and even Yang Hong.

Zhou Shu felt somewhat uncomfortable about suddenly giving up all of this.

It wasn't easy for me to have some foundation in Great Xia. Am I really going to give up just like that?

With his current cultivation, if he really returned to Great Xia, Great Xia might not do anything to him. It was just that they might be wary of him in the future.

This wasn't what Zhou Shu wanted.

What was the point of staying here then?

It was very important to work comfortably.

It's all Shen Yue and Xiao Shunzhi's fault!

Zhou Shu clenched his jaw. *If not for them, things wouldn't have developed to this stage!*

After I recover from my injuries, I'll go to Great Wei first! Shen Yue is dead, but Xiao Shunzhi is still alive! Since they've made things difficult for me, I won't let them have a good time either! They'll all die!

...

Several days passed by in the blink of an eye. Under the support of his powerful physique, the shocking wound on Zhou Shu's chest healed at an incredible rate.

Even the saber qi that invaded his body had been obliterated by the true qi within his body.

Although the true qi that Zhou Shu cultivated in his body was different from the spiritual essence that martial artists in this world cultivated, it was essentially a type of energy. True qi could also obliterate saber qi and saber intent.

The light on Zhou Shu's body gradually faded, and he stopped circulating his cultivation technique.

After several days of continuous recuperation, he had more or less recovered.

The rest would have to take time to heal.

It's time for revenge!

Zhou Shu let out a cold snort and was just about to stand up.

Suddenly, a weak tremor came from his arms.

With a thought, he reached into his clothes and took out a palm-sized mirror.

He held the mirror in his palm and injected a stream of spiritual essence into it.

The surface of the mirror flashed, and a golden light shot into the sky, forming a light screen. On the light screen, words jumped, and after a while, it calmed down.

Zhou Shu's gaze landed on the screen. His expression froze, filled with shock.

[Yellow-grade Armament Manual (Updated Daily)]

[1st, Great Destroyer Sword (Battle accomplishment: Nameless expert wielded this sword and cut off the right arm of Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi)]

The Ranked Armament Manual made an announcement!

The Heavenly Mirror in Zhou Shu's hand had been given to him by Shi Songtao, and he had kept it with him ever since.

At the time, Shi Songtao had said that the Heavenly Mountain Villa's armament manuals would change to be updated in real time.

From the looks of it, it had indeed changed. But it was not updated in real time. Instead, it was updated daily.

Although it was not a real-time update, he was still shocked by the efficiency of Heavenly Mountain Villa's information gathering.

The amount of information required for daily updates was also enormous.

The Great Destroyer Sword actually ranks first on the Yellow-grade Armament Manual!

Zhou Shu didn't look at the Heaven-grade and Earth-grade Armament Manuals. He had only forged yellow-grade weapons before, so there was no point in paying attention to the Heaven-grade and Earth-grade Armament Manuals.

Although he knew that the Great Destroyer Sword was very powerful, he didn't expect it to be ranked first in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

Unlike the Standard Armament Manual, this manual also included the battle results of the weapons.

The ranking of ranked weapons was determined by the accomplishments of the weapons. By listing them out like this, it also proved the fairness of the Heavenly Mountain Villa.

This was very interesting. The Great Destroyer Sword had severed the arm of a first-rank martial artist. This result was indeed not something that an ordinary yellow-grade weapon could achieve.

Perhaps for a long time, other yellow-grade weapons wouldn't be able to achieve such results.

Does this count as creating a record?

Zhou Shu was also a little proud. To use a yellow-grade weapon to cut off a first-rank martial artist's arm, who else could do this?

Since this Heavenly Mountain Villa knows that the Great Destroyer Sword cut off Xiao Shunzhi's arm, they should know my identity!

Zhou Shu looked at the words on the screen. *Why did they state my name as a nameless expert?*

Since the armament manual lists me as a nameless expert, doesn't that mean that my actual cultivation hasn't been exposed? In that case, does that mean I don't need to leave Great Xia?

A ray of hope rose in Zhou Shu's heart.

If possible, he didn't want to leave Great Xia's Forging Division. Not only did Great Xia's Forging Division have channels he needed, but it also bore some feelings and friendships that he couldn't bear to part with.

If he could stay, why would he want to leave?

Toward the Great Xia, toward the Forging Division, he had given his all!

Chapter 139: The Princess Is Missing

In the imperial palace of Great Xia, Emperor Yuan Feng looked at the armament manual presented to him. The weapon ranked first on the Yellow-grade Armament Manual was circled in red.

...

The imperial palace of Great Xia also had a Heavenly Rock. Once any armament manual was updated, someone would immediately copy it and give it to Emperor Yuan Feng.

Emperor Yuan Feng was slightly taken aback as he looked at the words circled in red.

"Great Wei's imperial preceptor's arm was severed? When did this happen? Where did it happen?" He asked.

Not long ago, he had even met with Great Wei's imperial preceptor. At the time, he was still unharmed.

He didn't care if Great Wei's imperial preceptor was well or not. What he cared about now was where Great Wei's imperial preceptor was injured.

If he was injured in Great Xia, there would probably be a dispute.

After all, Great Wei's imperial preceptor had come to Great Xia as the official ambassador of the Great Wei diplomatic mission. It was also Great Xia's responsibility if something had happened to him in Great Xia.

"We don't know." The officials looked at each other and shook their heads.

If not for the information in the armament manual, they wouldn't have even known that Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi had lost an arm.

"There's no news from Great Wei for now. This matter should have nothing to do with Great Xia," A minister said.

If it was related to Great Xia, Great Wei would have sent a letter to negotiate with Great Xia.

But there was no response from Great Wei, which meant that Great Xia wasn't responsible for this.

In fact, these ministers were also puzzled. They were all important ministers of Great Xia and knew the situation of Great Xia like the back of their hands. In their understanding, there shouldn't be anyone in Great Xia who could sever the arm of Great Wei's imperial preceptor.

Emperor Yuan Feng frowned. He put the armament manual aside for the time being and said, "Let's not talk about this for now. Have you investigated the situation of the You and Bing prefectures?"

Emperor Yuan Feng's expression was extremely gloomy. Originally, subduing the two prefectures was a joyous occasion. But he didn't expect that after the Great Wei surrendered, successive events had caused him to sink into depression.

First, Zhou Shu, a county baron, the superintendent of the Forging Division's 0th Workshop, was abducted in his residence. Then Great General Meng's residence was suspected of having a traitor. Then his daughter and Marquis Weiyuan's son went missing!

Now, even the You Prefecture Army and Bing Prefecture Army had disappeared!

As these things happened, Emperor Yuan Feng was not in the mood to pay attention to the changes in the armament manual.

"Your Majesty." The minister of war took the initiative to step forward and said in a deep voice, "The Ministry of War dispatched a few groups of people there. The Demon Executing Army and Fiend Eradication Army were personally led by their lieutenants. But there's no news of them at all!

"Right now, the only thing we can confirm is that our people suddenly went missing after entering the You and Bing prefectures. Her Highness and the young marquis have also entered You prefecture..." The minister of war frowned in confusion.

"In other words, we know nothing about the current situation in the You and Bing prefectures?" Emperor Yuan Feng said coldly. "Is it Great Wei?"

"Not likely," the minister of war said. "According to the scouts of Great Xia, all the Great Wei troops in the You and Bing prefectures have already retreated back to Great Wei. Furthermore, they retreated before the Great Wei diplomatic mission left."

"You didn't know about such a big matter beforehand?" Emperor Yuan was stunned.

"I originally thought that it was a normal mobilization of Great Wei's army. Originally, every few years, they would also—" the minister of war said.

Thump!

An inkstone smashed into the floor in front of him, shattering into pieces.

The minister of war was shocked.

"Your Majesty—"

"Useless!" Emperor Yuan Feng said angrily. "You thought? I've reminded you before that Great Wei has wild ambitions. Do any of you take it seriously?"

"Great, now we've jumped into the obvious trap!"

Even though he didn't know what exactly was going on, right now, it was clear that there was something wrong with the You and Bing prefectures!

There was a huge problem!

The problem was so big that even Great Wei gave them up!

"I'll send people to check again..." the minister of war said fearfully.

"And let more people fall into the trap?" Emperor Yuan Feng was enraged. The ten thousand soldiers of the You Prefecture Army and the Bing Prefecture Army had gone missing. How many more people could Great Xia afford to lose?

Emperor Yuan Feng snorted and asked Ma Fengzhang, "Ma Fengzhang! Is there news from the Divine Constable Bureau!"

Ma Fengzhang really wanted to ask, *Your Majesty, are you referring to the two prefectures or the kidnapping of the county baron?*

But Emperor Yuan Feng was in a fit of anger, and he didn't dare to ask.

It had to be said that Emperor Yuan Feng was a benevolent emperor. He had ascended the throne for decades, and the number of times he had lost his temper could be counted on one hand.

But the more it was like this, when he was angry, the more shocked everyone was.

"Your Majesty, I followed the clues and investigated. Of the two bodies left in the baron's mansion, one died from poison, and the other died from a heavy blow. The strength of the attacker was unfathomable, so I suspect that there should have been a third party present."

"I don't want to hear your guesses!" Emperor Yuan Feng said coldly. "Tell me the results of your investigation! Who abducted Zhou Shu? Can you save him?! Is the great general's residence involved in this?!"

Ma Fengzhang felt bitter. "I don't know."

"You don't know? This is the answer you're giving me?" Emperor Yuan was furious. "After investigating for so many days, this is what you can tell me?"

"This is my Divine Constable Bureau's commander?"

Ma Fengzhang knelt on one knee in silence.

Regardless of the reason, this was indeed his Divine Constable Bureau's incompetence.

"Ma Fengzhang! I'll give you three more days. If you still can't find anything, then you don't have to be the commander of the Divine Constable Bureau anymore. Go and investigate the affairs of the You and Bing prefectures. If you can't come back, then just forget it!" Emperor Yuan Feng said angrily.

"Yes, Your Majesty." What could Ma Fengzhang say? He could only agree.

"What are you all waiting for? Do you think this has nothing to do with you? Get lost and investigate!" Emperor Yuan Feng looked at the silent ministers and was even angrier.

...

In the mountain range between Great Xia and Great Wei, a figure was shuttling through the forest.

This person was Zhou Shu, whose injuries had mostly recovered.

After he finished recuperating, he wanted to go to Great Wei for revenge.

However, he realized that he knew nothing about Great Wei...

He didn't even know where Great Wei's capital was...

In the end, he could only follow the path he came from and return to the place where he caught up with the Great Wei diplomatic mission.

The tents of the Great Wei diplomatic mission were long gone.

He wondered if Xiao Shunzhi had returned to the capital of Great Wei.

Zhou Shu started pondering. Suddenly, his ears twitched. He appeared on top of a large tree with a flash.

Just as he hid, a few figures appeared in the distance.

These figures were wearing the uniform of the Divine Constable Bureau. There were even Spring Embroidered Sabers hanging from their waists.

The Divine Constable Bureau's divine constables were all ranked martial artists. Initially, ranked martial artists naturally had to be equipped with ranked weapons. But not every ranked martial artist could have access to a ranked weapon.

Or rather, most eighth and ninth-rank martial artists could not afford to buy ranked weapons.

For the Divine Constable Bureau's divine constables, even if many people had ranked weapons, they would still like to have an extra Spring Embroidered Saber. They treated the Spring Embroidered Saber as the symbol of the Divine Constable Bureau.

"We've been searching here for days. We've almost dug three feet into the ground, but we still haven't found anything. What's there to investigate?"

Zhou Shu heard a divine constable say.

"There's no other way. The trail ends here," another divine constable replied. "I heard that our colleagues in the capital have a headache. Did the diplomatic mission of Great Wei kidnap Lord Zhou?"

"Didn't the Great Wei diplomatic mission deny it?"

Another divine constable shook his head. "If Lord Zhou was with them, they wouldn't have been able to pass the checkpoint."

"That's true."

The few divine constables chatted as they looked around, as though they were looking for clues.

Zhou Shu, hiding among the leaves, felt his heart skip a beat. Among the divine constables, he saw a familiar face.

Yang Hong!

Does this mean that my secret isn't exposed?

With this thought in mind, Zhou Shu began to stir.

Previously, in the capital, he didn't feel anything. This time, after leaving the capital, he realized that he had already treated Great Xia as his home unknowingly.

After leaving Great Xia, he didn't even know where to go.

If his secret wasn't exposed, he still wanted to go back to Great Xia and return to the Forging Division to be a superintendent.

After hesitating for a moment, Zhou Shu gritted his teeth and decided to take a gamble.

Anyway, even if he was exposed, no one could stop him if he wanted to leave.

Thinking of this, Zhou Shu jumped down from the tree.

"Divine Constable Yang!"

Yang Hong was searching for clues with his colleagues when he suddenly heard a familiar voice.

Who's calling me in the middle of nowhere?

Suddenly, his body stiffened, and he turned around.

"L-Lord Zhou!" Yang Hong shouted.

"Divine Constable Yang, long time no see. How have you been!" Zhou Shu stared at Yang Hong.

Yang Hong's expression was a little shocked and a little surprised, but not frightened.

It seems I made the right bet.

Yang Hong rushed in front of Zhou Shu and grabbed Zhou Shu's arm. After confirming that it wasn't a dream, he said, "Lord Zhou! Why are you here? I finally found you! Do you know that the capital is in chaos because of your disappearance?"

"Is there such a need? I'm just a mere baron." Zhou Shu smiled.

"You are no ordinary baron!"

Zhou Shu's heart tightened as he heard Yang Hong continue.

"You are also the number one Forging Apprentice of Great Xia! You are the one who helped Great Xia to recover the two prefectures!"

Yang Hong said seriously, "If it wasn't because you went missing, you should be a marquis of Great Xia!"

Back then, Emperor Yuan Feng had given the decree that whoever could help Great Xia win back the two prefectures would be conferred the title of marquis.

“But that hasn’t happened yet.” Zhou Shu breathed a sigh of relief. *It seems like Yang Hong really doesn’t know my true strength.*

If he doesn’t know, Chang’an probably doesn’t know either.

“Right, why are you here?” Zhou Shu asked.

“I should be the one asking you that.” But Yang Hong still replied, “After you were kidnapped, His Majesty was furious and ordered the Divine Constable Bureau to save you at all costs.

“Look, almost all of our Divine Constable Bureau’s divine constables have been mobilized. Unfortunately, the other party’s methods are shrewd and ruthless, and practically no traces were left behind.”

“Then, how did you get here?” Zhou Shu asked curiously.

He had willingly followed Shen Yue then. Shen Yue had already prepared a backup plan, and with Zhou Shu’s cooperation, he naturally wouldn’t leave any traces.

“Divine Constable Sun, who is the Young Marquis Weiyuan, suspected that you were abducted by the Great Wei diplomatic mission, so he and Her Highness chased after you first. We followed closely behind.

“We chased them all the way to the Great Wei diplomatic mission, but we didn’t find you after searching them, so we could only let them go,” Yang Hong said regretfully. “Lord, did they kidnap you? How did you escape?”

“Someone saved me,” Zhou Shu said confusedly. “You searched the Great Wei diplomatic mission? Then, did you see the official and deputy envoys?”

He was rather curious. Earlier, he had cut off one of Xiao Shunzhi’s arms, so Xiao Shunzhi shouldn’t have had the courage to return to the diplomatic mission.

And Shen Yue had already died in his hands.

A diplomatic mission without the official and deputy envoys around, did Yang Hong and the rest not notice anything unusual?

“Of course we did.” Yang Hong didn’t understand what he meant. “They were very cooperative. At first, I didn’t expect them to be so cooperative. Shen Yue looked very arrogant, but he actually let us search the diplomatic mission.”

Zhou Shu’s pupils contracted.

Yang Hong met Shen Yue?

How is this possible!?

I killed Shen Yue personally. He died under the Great Destroyer Sword!

Even the Legendary Armament Canon gave me benefits for it. How could Yang Hong have seen him?

Zhou Shu stared at Yang Hong. Yang Hong didn't seem to be lying, and the divine constables behind him also appeared calm.

"Lord, who saved you? Did you see Her Highness and the young marquis?" Yang Hong continued.

"No, they're nearby too?" Zhou Shu shook his head. He was very puzzled now. *What's wrong? Who is the person Yang Hong and his group saw?*

Or could it be that the person I killed wasn't Shen Yue?

"We don't know either," Yang Hong said, "We haven't heard from Her Highness for a few days."

Zhou Shu was stunned. He temporarily recollected his thoughts and asked, "No news for days? What do you mean?"

"Initially, when Her Highness and the young marquis chased after the Great Wei diplomatic mission, we agreed that they would leave a mark along the way. We followed the mark to this place. Today is already the seventh day. There has been no news from Her Highness and the young marquis ever since," Yang Hong explained.

"News came from the Ministry of State Affairs. The You Prefecture Army and Bing Prefecture Army have also gone missing. They didn't receive any news from Her Highness and the young marquis after they entered You Prefecture either."

"What do you mean?" Zhou Shu didn't understand. He frowned. "What do you mean you have received any messages from them after they entered You Prefecture? Have they gone missing?"

"I don't know." Yang Hong shook his head. "We have colleagues following them. It seems like as long as anyone enters the borders of the You and Bing prefectures, they will go missing.. Even sound transmission stones will lose their effectiveness."

Chapter 140: Emperor Yuan Feng Was Touched

Zhou Shu frowned. Yang Hong and the others didn't dare disturb him.

...

Yang Hong made a hand gesture to one of his colleagues, who nodded and quickly left to deliver the news.

Lord Zhou had been found, so the commander didn't need to be so anxious anymore.

Zhou Shu was digesting the information he had learned from Yang Hong.

Yang Hong was a divine constable of the Divine Constable Bureau. If there was any commotion in the capital, he would definitely receive the news.

But according to him, there was only one rumor about Zhou Shu in the capital—someone had abducted him.

Yang Hong had seen 'Shen Yue'. That 'Shen Yue' didn't tell him anything about Zhou Shu.

At present, Zhou Shu didn't need to worry about his hidden strength being exposed in Chang'an.

There was no need to worry about this matter, but the other matter Yang Hong spoke of made Zhou Shu's heart rise.

Not long ago, the You Prefecture Army and Bing Prefecture Army had set out to take over both prefectures, but they actually lost contact with the Imperial Court!

Although this world didn't have phones and mobile phones like Zhou Shu's previous world, they also had a special method of transmitting information, including the sound transmission stone that could transmit sound from a distance.

Although an ordinary sound transmission stone's distance couldn't reach a thousand miles like the one in Shen Yue's hands, there were many sound transmission points along the way, so news could still be transmitted quickly.

This was especially true for the military. News spread extremely quickly.

But after the You Prefecture Army and Bing Prefecture Army entered the You and Bing prefectures, there was no further news from them!

The Imperial Court naturally placed great importance on this matter and had sent out several batches of scouts.

However, the result was the same. Once they entered the You and Bing prefectures, the scouts would go missing.

Right now, the two prefectures were like man-eating monsters hiding in the fog. Anyone who entered would be devoured cleanly.

Yin Wuyou and Sun Gongping had chased after the traces of Great Wei's diplomatic mission and arrived nearby. Then something happened, and the two of them entered You Prefecture a few dozen miles away. Afterward, they had completely lost contact.

After Yang Hong and the other divine constables followed the markings left behind by Yin Wuyou and Sun Gongping to the vicinity, they had also tried to find the two of them. But after they sent a few people into You Prefecture, they never returned.

This time, they didn't dare to act rashly. After reporting to the capital, they had received orders to stay on the spot and investigate.

Unexpectedly, after investigating for a few days, they had actually found Zhou Shu.

"Lord Zhou, who exactly saved you?" Yang Hong couldn't help asking curiously.

Almost all of the Divine Constable Bureau had been mobilized, but they still couldn't find Zhou Shu's whereabouts. Who was so powerful that they could save Zhou Shu?

"It's a senior by the name of Nameless." Zhou Shu's heart stirred. "Back then, I had no idea who abducted me. When I woke up, I was already saved by Senior Nameless."

“Nameless?” Yang Hong was confused.

“The Heavenly Sword is Nameless, crippled but not abolished,” Zhou Shu said. “The senior left behind these words before leaving.

“Then I walked out of the mountains and met you guys.”

Zhou Shu knew that Yang Hong would definitely report the news of meeting him. He was also telling a story to Emperor Yuan Feng and the others through Yang Hong.

As for whether they believed this story or not, it was hard to say.

“The Heavenly Sword is Nameless, crippled but not abolished?” Yang Hong had a feeling that it was awesome despite not understanding it.

Zhou Shu didn’t continue this topic and instead asked, “Divine Constable Yang, what exactly is the situation in the two prefectures? There’s no information from the Imperial Court at all?”

“Not as far as I know.” Yang Hong shook his head. “None of the scouts that entered both prefectures have sent any news.

“I wonder how Her Highness and the young marquis are doing.” Yang Hong sighed.

Zhou Shu frowned deeply. A moment later, he seemed to have made a decision.

“Divine Constable Yang, Her Highness and Divine Constable Sun came to save me. Now that they’ve gone missing, I have to look for them,” Zhou Shu said.

“Lord, just on your own?” Yang Hong was shocked. “Lord, I don’t mean anything else. Although you are a ranked martial artist now, the scouts previously included a sixth-rank martial artist, but they disappeared as well.

“I heard that the Imperial Court is preparing to send fourth and fifth-rank experts to investigate...”

Zhou Shu shook his head. Yin Wuyou’s actual cultivation was already at the third rank of the Martial Dao. Even she was trapped inside. What could fourth or fifth-rank martial artists do?

Although Zhou Shu didn’t know what was going on in the You and Bing prefectures, he was certain that this situation wasn’t something that third-rank martial artists could solve.

Emperor Yuan Feng should know Yin Wuyou’s cultivation level, but Zhou Shu wondered if he sent a second-rank or even first-rank expert to investigate.

It shouldn’t be that easy. Before the situation was clear, Great Xia wouldn’t let a first-rank or second-rank martial artist take the risk.

If even they disappeared, Great Xia’s loss would be enormous.

Any first-rank or second-rank martial artist was a national treasure. Losing one would be unbearable.

Emperor Yuan Feng could wait, but Zhou Shu could not.

If something happened to Yin Wuyou and Sun Gongping, he would never be at ease for the rest of his life.

If he didn't care and returned to Chang'an, what was the point of him going back?

"Divine Constable Yang, I've made up my mind. You don't have to say anymore," Zhou Shu said in a low voice. "If I can return, then there's no need to say anything. If I can't return, then help me do something!"

...

Yang Hong held a few pieces of paper in his hand. The veins on the back of his hand were exposed as if these pieces of paper weighed a ton.

He gritted his teeth as he watched Zhou Shu disappear into You Prefecture step by step. Then like a dream, he disappeared into thin air, just like many scouts had done so before.

Lord! If you don't come back, I, Yang Hong, swear that even if You Prefecture is the gates of hell, I will still take the risk! Yang Hong roared in his heart. *Even if I can't avenge you, I have to let the enemy know that I, Yang Hong, am loyal!*

"Brothers!" Yang Hong's eyes turned red as he turned to look at the other divine constables.

"Thank you for escorting me back to the capital! We can die, but these have to return to Chang'an unharmed!"

The divine constables had personally seen Zhou Shu hand these pieces of paper over to Yang Hong. They knew the seriousness of the matter.

"Don't worry, Brother Yang. As long as we're still breathing, no one can stop you!"

The Spring Embroidered Sabers were unsheathed, and the aura of the divine constables soared.

...

In Chang'an, a figure dashed into the Grand Xia's imperial palace like a bolt of lightning.

Several powerful auras soared into the sky.

"The Divine Constable Bureau's Ma Fengzhang has something to report to His Majesty!" the figure shouted.

These tyrannical auras hesitated for a moment before finally restraining themselves.

Ma Fengzhang heaved a sigh of relief. He ran all the way to the imperial study.

At this time, Emperor Yuan Feng had already been notified.

"Ma Fengzhang, you barged into the palace like this. Did you find anything?" Emperor Yuan Feng had been in a very bad mood recently, so he wasn't too polite.

"Your Majesty, Lord Zhou Shu has been found!" Ma Fengzhang said.

Emperor Yuan Feng was stunned for a moment before he quickly asked, "Found him? Where is he? Dead or alive? Who kidnapped him?"

Ma Fengzhang: "..."

How do you expect me to answer so many questions?

Ma Fengzhang pondered for a moment before saying, "When we found Lord Zhou, he was alive."

"What do you mean? If he's alive, he's alive. What do you mean he was alive when you found him? Could he be dead now?" Emperor Yuan Feng frowned.

"I don't know—" Ma Fengzhang said with difficulty.

"Ma Fengzhang!" Emperor Yuan Feng was enraged. "I used to think you were a mature and prudent person, but now you can't even speak?"

"Your Majesty." Ma Fengzhang smiled bitterly. "When the Divine Constable Bureau's divine constables found Lord Zhou, he had been saved by an expert called Nameless. At the time, he was completely unharmed."

"Nameless? Nameless expert?" Emperor Yuan Feng frowned. He immediately thought of the label behind the number one weapon in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual, the Great Destroyer Sword.

Nameless expert wielded the Great Destroyer Sword and cut off the right arm of Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi.

"Zhou Shu was abducted by Xiao Shunzhi? That nameless expert severed one of Xiao Shunzhi's arms to save him?" Emperor Yuan Feng asked with a deep voice.

Ma Fengzhang had the same speculation in his heart, but he still said, "I can't say for sure what the truth is. Perhaps even Lord Zhou himself can't say for sure. Whether Nameless is the same person as the nameless expert, there is no direct evidence to prove it.

"However, Lord Zhou said that Nameless left behind a sentence. The Heavenly Sword is Nameless, crippled but not abolished..."

He and Emperor Yuan Feng looked at each other and saw the meaning in each other's eyes. There was a high chance that this was the truth.

Because of Zhou Shu's talent in forging, when Xiao Shunzhi left Great Xia, he had secretly kidnapped him. As for that Nameless, or perhaps he should be called the nameless expert, he had saved Zhou Shu.

During the process, he had even cut off an arm of the other party.

Ma Fengzhang and Emperor Yuan Feng were a little shocked in their hearts. They were very clear about Xiao Shunzhi's strength. To be able to cut off Xiao Shunzhi's arm with a yellow-grade weapon, just how powerful was this Nameless?

Heavenly Sword is Nameless, Heavenly Sword, Heavenly Sword... Emperor Yuan Feng said, "Continue. Where is Zhou Shu now?"

“He went to You Prefecture...” Ma Fengzhang said carefully, afraid that Emperor Yuan Feng would get angry again.

“You...” Emperor Yuan Feng’s dragon robe fluttered without any wind. He raised his hand, and a violent aura erupted from his body. He wanted nothing more than to slap Ma Fengzhang to death!

He had already been found, but they still allowed him to go to You Prefecture?

Don’t they know what was going on in You Prefecture?

The point of no return!

Do they think that Great Xia’s losses were still not enough?

Ma Fengzhang braced himself. If the emperor wanted his subjects dead, he would have no choice but to die. Emperor Yuan Feng was a first-rank martial artist. Even if he was a false first-rank martial artist, how could a third-rank martial artist like him resist?

Of course, Emperor Yuan Feng didn’t really want to slap Ma Fengzhang to death. He was just angry.

“Why would he go to You Prefecture? Are your people all idiots?” Emperor Yuan said angrily.

“Your Majesty, you can’t blame them for this,” Ma Fengzhang said with a bitter smile. The divine constables that met Zhou Shu were only ninth-rank martial artists. In terms of official rank, they were only seventh-rank officials. As for Zhou Shu, he was a fifth-rank baron. How could they control Zhou Shu?

“Lord Zhou heard that Her Highness went to You Prefecture, so he wanted to go there no matter what...”

Emperor Yuanfeng was stunned. *At least he has some conscience...*

But an extremely uncomfortable feeling welled up in his heart. *This isn’t right. How can I say that he has a conscience? Damn this brat, I want to strangle him to death!*

Emperor Yuan Feng came back to his senses. As if he had understood something, his eyes suddenly turned fierce.

Ma Fengzhang shuddered. He did not know why the emperor suddenly had such a strong murderous aura.

Did I say something wrong?

I don’t think so.

“You rushed into the palace just to tell me this?” Emperor Yuan Feng said coldly.

Ma Fengzhang sighed. *His Majesty has been really moody recently. Isn’t it a joyous occasion to find Lord Zhou? Didn’t you say to report to you once we have news?*

Are you blaming me now?

“No, I have something else to report!” Ma Fengzhang said.

He carefully took out a few pieces of paper from inside his clothes.

Then he offered them with both hands to Emperor Yuan Feng.

Emperor Yuan Feng raised his brow. "What is this?"

"Your Majesty, before Lord Zhou went to Youzhou, he left these items behind," Ma Fengzhang said solemnly. "What he said back then was that if he could return, there was no need to say anything. If he couldn't return, then hand these things over to His Majesty!"

"Give them to me!" Emperor Yuan Feng narrowed his eyes and reached out his hand. The papers in Ma Fengzhang's hand flew toward Emperor Yuan Feng.

"Be careful, Your Majesty!" Ma Fengzhang couldn't help crying out in alarm, his expression extremely nervous, fearing that Emperor Yuan Feng would damage these pieces of paper.

Emperor Yuan Feng glared at Ma Fengzhang unhappily before looking down.

With just a glance, he stood up.

The next moment, he placed the pieces of paper on the desk in front of him and carefully smoothed them out.

He looked as if he was treating them as peerless treasures.

He looked up at Ma Fengzhang.

Ma Fengzhang seemed to understand Emperor Yuan Feng and nodded solemnly.

"After I received them, I didn't show them to anyone and immediately came to the palace. Those divine constables who brought back the secret formulas were already exhausted. I left them in the Divine Constable Bureau and ensured that they wouldn't be able to come into contact with any outsiders!" Ma Fengzhang said in a low voice.

Emperor Yuan Feng's expression was incomparably solemn. "Is this all true?"

"Your Majesty." Ma Fengzhang said with a bitter smile. "I don't think Lord Zhou would make such a joke. He has never disappointed anyone in the path of forging."

Emperor Yuan Feng nodded. *Although I don't like this brat, his ability to forge is truly amazing.*

"According to what Lord Zhou said, the power of this Eight-Sided Han Sword is not inferior to the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber. Great Xia is fortunate!" Ma Fengzhang cupped his hands and bowed deeply to Emperor Yuan Feng.

Emperor Yuan Feng remained silent, his expression complex.

Zhou, I have wronged you.

If you come back alive, I—

At most, I won't interfere with your and Wuyou's matters. But don't even think about getting me to betroth Wuyou to you!