

## Canon 161

### Chapter 161 Has He Ever Made Any Mistakes in the Path of the Forging Dao?

Eight-Sided Han Swords costing five hundred taels was actually not the most expensive standard weapon Zhou Shu had ever sold.

Back then, he had sold the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber to Cheng Wanli for one thousand taels.

But that was an exception. It didn't mean that it was common.

...

Generally, there weren't many standard weapons that cost more than a hundred taels of silver.

Five hundred taels was a sky-high price.

Zhou Shu hesitated for a moment before saying, "Big Brother, you don't have to do this just to take care of me..."

He didn't care about money. What he cared about were the Forging Division's channels.

If he lost these channels of distributing his weapons for a little money, the loss would be immense.

Zhou Shu naturally wouldn't take the risk to do something like that.

If he wanted to earn money, he could easily earn thousands of taels of gold from a ranked weapon!

With the Legendary Armament Canon, Zhou Shu wasn't worried that there would be weapons that he couldn't forge!

"You think I'm playing favorites?" Mi Ziwen shook his head with a smile. "You're wrong.

"You may be my second brother, but I wouldn't joke about the military expenses of the Imperial Court. The Eight-Sided Han Sword is worth this price."

Zhou Shu didn't know much about the situation of the Country Protector Army, but since Mi Ziwen had already said so, Zhou Shu would be a fool if he still refused.

Although he didn't care about money, he wouldn't mind if he could earn more.

Previously, he had already used up most of the forging materials given to him by the Mi family. He would have to buy some forging materials. If he relied on the materials provided by the Forging Division, his progress would be greatly delayed.

But then again, Mi Ziwen had offered to contribute a lot of money to fund the construction of the Huaxia Pavilion, so he owed him a big favor. He hadn't even returned the favor from before.

"Big Brother, may I ask a question?" Zhou Shu asked, "What is your current cultivation level?"

Actually, Zhou Shu could tell Mi Ziwen's cultivation level. But on the surface, his cultivation level was only at the seventh rank of the Martial Dao, so he naturally couldn't show that he could see through Mi Ziwen's cultivation level.

"It's no secret." Mi Ziwen smiled. Besides his brother, only his teacher was present. There was no need to keep it a secret.

"I'm now a fourth-rank martial artist, a step away from the third rank. If nothing goes wrong, I should be able to break through to the third rank within half a year."

Mi Ziwen was full of confidence. Although his Martial Dao talent couldn't compare to that of the monstrous Lu Wenshuang from Qingzhou, he was still very outstanding.

A Martial Dao grandmaster who was not even thirty years old would be able to make a name for themselves anywhere.

In history, there were only a few Martial Dao grandmasters who were younger than him.

Generally speaking, a third-rank grandmaster in his forties or fifties was considered very young. Most martial artists would never be able to become a grandmaster. "So that's how it is," Zhou Shu said. "Then, when will you be able to break through to the first rank, Big Brother?"

Mi Ziwen looked embarrassed and almost choked on his tea.

Is that a question? Or are you mocking me? But judging from Zhou Shu's serious expression, he didn't seem to be mocking him.

He smiled bitterly. "I may not be able to reach the first rank in my lifetime."

In order to become a first-rank martial artist, talent and opportunities were indispensable. Even a monster like Lu Wenshuang couldn't guarantee that she would be able to become a first-rank martial artist.

Let alone him, Mi Ziwen.

He was not confident that he could even reach the second rank of the Martial Dao, let alone the first rank.

Zhou Shu was deep in thought.

Mi Ziwen could break through to the third rank by himself, so it would be a waste to give him the Breakthrough Pill now.

When he broke through to the third rank, he would be able to reach the second rank immediately.

But it would still be a waste.

Mi Ziwen himself did not have the confidence to break through to the first rank, so logically speaking, waiting for him to break through to the second rank before taking the Breakthrough Pill was the most suitable.

But he himself might not be able to break through to the second rank of the Martial Dao. Even if he could, he didn't know how many years of bitter cultivation he would need.

It was a difficult choice.

Zhou Shu thought about it and still did not tell Mi Zi about the Breakthrough Pill.

He was about to break through to the third rank. If he told him about the Breakthrough Pill now, it would only mess up his mental state.

It was better to wait until he had truly broken through to the third rank before telling him. At that time, he would let him choose when to take the Breakthrough Pill.

This way, he should be able to repay the favor.

“Second Brother, when we came, the steward said that you were in seclusion forging. Did you prepare some divine weapons for tomorrow’s military parade?” Mi Ziwen smiled and changed the topic. “How about letting us take a look first?”

“The weapon you used to advance to become a Forging Master, the Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword, ranks eleventh in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. This time, it should rank in the top ten, right?”

“Top ten?” Zhou Shu said noncommittally. “I haven’t finished fixing the stars for the weapon for the military parade, so I can’t tell. However, I have just forged a ranked weapon. Big Brother and Great General, would you like to help me evaluate it?”

Zhou Shu got up, returned to the forging room, and took the newly forged Flaming Sunset Saber to the front hall.

“This is?” Meng Bai saw the long saber in Zhou Shu’s hand and was slightly surprised. “Flaming Sunset Saber?”

“Great General, you know about this saber?” Zhou Shu smiled. “It is indeed the Flaming Sunset Saber.”

“It really is the Flaming Sunset Saber.” Meng Bai revealed an emotional expression. He reached out his hand, wanting to take the Flaming Sunset Saber. But his arm sank, and the Flaming Sunset Saber fell.

Meng Bai’s face flashed with astonishment, and then a deep sorrow flashed in his eyes.

He sighed.

Zhou Shu reached out and caught the Flaming Sunset Saber. He looked at Meng Bai with some sympathy.

Is General Meng unable to raise the saber?

“Since ancient times, famous generals, just like beauties, did not allow the world to see their white hair,” Zhou Shu couldn’t help whispering

Meng Bai was stunned, the expression on his face indescribably complex.

“Since ancient times, famous generals, just like beauties, did not allow the world to see their white hair,” Meng Bai repeated and then sighed.

Seeing that the atmosphere was a little gloomy, Mi Ziwen hurriedly took the Flaming Sunset Saber and said, “What is it about this Flaming Sunset Saber?”

Meng Bai knew this saber, but Mi Ziwen did not.

After all, the Flaming Sunset Saber hadn’t appeared for many years.

“The Flaming Sunset Saber was General Tong Wen’s saber,” Meng Bai said.

“Ever since General Tong died in battle and the Flaming Sunset Saber was destroyed, although Great Xia has its secret forging formula, no Forging Master has been able to forge this saber for many years.

“I didn’t expect to see this saber again in my life.”

Meng Bai sighed with indescribable emotions.

Tong Wen was once a famous general of Great Xia. When Meng Bai was young, Tong Wen was in the limelight, and Meng Bai was lucky enough to see Tong Wen wielding the Flaming Sunset Saber.

Later on, when his reputation rose, Tong Wen had already died, and the Flaming Sunset Saber had also disappeared in the long river of history.

Now that he was in his twilight years, he was able to see the Flaming Sunset Saber again. This was truly the cycle of life. “General Tong Wen?” Mi Ziwen nodded. He knew that Tong Wen was indeed a famous general, but he couldn’t compare to Meng Bai.

Even Mi Ziwen was stronger than Tong Wen back then.

He was not such an impressive figure.

Thinking about it, it made sense. If he was really a big shot, his saber wouldn’t just be a yellow-grade weapon, even though the might of the Flaming Sunset Saber was extraordinary.

“This saber is quite powerful. Back then, it once ranked in the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual,” Meng Bai said.

The fact that Zhou Shu was able to forge the Flaming Sunset Saber meant that his weapon forging skills had already reached a high level.

The Flaming Sunset Saber was not easy to forge. Otherwise, its forging formula wouldn’t have been stored away for so many years.

“Second Brother, does this saber have a master?” Mi Ziwen brandished the Flaming Sunset Saber twice and smiled with appreciation.

He himself did not lack ranked weapons, but he had many generals under him. Some of them didn’t have a suitable weapon.

If he could buy the Flaming Sunset Saber, it would be pretty good. “I’m sorry, Big Brother. This Flaming Sunset Saber already belongs to someone,” Zhou Shu apologized.

He planned to sell this saber to Yin Chengshan. He had taken Yin Chengshan’s Black Iron Gold Crystal back then, and he had to return the favor.

Furthermore, the Flaming Sunset Saber would be quite useful in Yin Chengshan’s hands. There were many opportunities for the Demon Executing Army to kill enemies, and he would receive a lot of feedback from them.

Zhou Shu wouldn’t let go of such a good worker.

“Big Brother, if you need a ranked weapon, you can just go to the Forging Division to make an order. With your status, the Forging Masters will definitely fight to fulfill the order,” Zhou Shu said with a smile.

The Mi family was extremely wealthy, and Mi Ziwen was generous. How could he be lacking in ranked weapons?

“Since it already has an owner, forget it.” Mi Ziwen shook his head.

The three of them chatted for a while longer. Zhou Shu also heard quite a few interesting stories about the southern barbarians from Meng Bai and Mi Ziwen.

As night gradually fell, Meng Bai’s face was already revealing fatigue. His condition was a bit inferior to ordinary elders, and he was unable to stay up too late anymore.

When Mi Ziwen noticed this, there was a wave of sadness in his heart. He stood up and took his leave, supporting Meng Bai as they left the marquis’s mansion.

As he watched Meng Bai and Mi Ziwen get onto a carriage, Zhou Shu rubbed his chin with a thoughtful expression on his face.

Meng Bai lost all of his cultivation because he was injured.

Theoretically, his cultivation was still at the second rank of the Martial Dao.

The Breakthrough Pill could ignore all external conditions and raise the cultivation of martial artists below the first rank by one rank. Then if Meng Bai ate the Breakthrough Pill, what effect would it have?

If he directly broke through to the first rank, would his cultivation recover and his injuries heal?

It seemed to be a possibility.

But he didn’t seem to have such a deep friendship with Meng Bai. The Breakthrough Pill wasn’t something that he wanted to let too many people know about. Otherwise, he would never have a peaceful day in the future.

I’ll think about it again in the future. Zhou Shu shook his head. Meng Bai is Big Brother’s teacher. If he can fully recover, it will count as saving my own people, right? I’ll think about whether I should let Mi Ziwen be a good person.

Zhou Shu still had several Breakthrough Pills in his possession, and in the future, as long as the Autumn Anatidae Plume Sabers completed more kills, he would be able to continue receiving more Breakthrough Pills. Therefore, the Breakthrough Pills were not that precious to him.

While Zhou Shu was thinking, the steward came up to him and said, “Marquis, Eunuch Zhao is here again.”

Again? Why use the word again?

“Santa Claus is here again?” Zhou Shu said casually. “Santa Claus?” The steward didn’t understand.

Of course, Zhou Shu wouldn’t explain it to him. But what did Eunuch Zhao come with again this time?

He was a bit embarrassed by the frequent visits and rewards.

Instead of just receiving benefits, should I do something to express my gratitude? Zhou Shu walked out and said, "Eunuch Zhao, pardon me for not being able to welcome you."

He had yet to put away the Flaming Sunset Saber that Mi Ziwen and Meng Bai had evaluated earlier, so he simply held it in his hand.

"You're too kind, Marquis." Eunuch Zhao smiled. His gaze naturally fell on the weapon in Zhou Shu's hand.

The Flaming Sunset Saber was a large saber with a long handle. It was almost as tall as a person. It was difficult for him not to notice such a large saber.

"Eunuch Zhao, you've worked hard. It's already so late," Zhou Shu said. "I wonder if you have any instructions from His Majesty this time?"

He was also a little puzzled. He hadn't even gone out recently and hadn't made any contributions.

Is it because I forged the Flaming Sunset Saber?

They're quite well-informed. I just forged it, and they already prepared a reward? But that isn't right either. Isn't forging weapons the duty of the Forging Division's Forging Masters?

There is a reward for it?

Are the benefits of the Forging Division so good? I have never heard of it before.

"It's nothing," he said. "I have things to do, so I'll take my leave, Marquis." Eunuch Zhao suddenly cupped his hands and left before Zhou Shu could respond.

He disappeared so quickly that Zhou Shu couldn't stop him in time.

Zhou Shu: "..."

What is the meaning of this?

As the head eunuch, how can you arrive in high spirits and depart after enjoying yourself to your heart's content?

You came here just to have a look?

If there's anything you want to talk about, why don't you leave after you've finished?

Eunuch Zhao was like a frightened rabbit as he quickly disappeared from Zhou Shu's sight.

Within the imperial palace, Emperor Yuan Feng listened to Eunuch Zhao's report and remained silent for a long time.

After some time, he finally spoke. "Ignore him. Have you prepared for the military parade tomorrow?"

"It's already prepared." Eunuch Zhao said in a low voice, "Your Majesty, if Marquis Zhou's Three Swords of Yin Tianzi is unable to obtain the first position, what should we do..."

The name 'Yin Tianzi' was too sensitive. If the sword forged by Marquis Zhou was good enough, it would be fine. But if it wasn't, wouldn't it be a disgrace to Great Xia's emperor[1]?

According to Eunuch Zhao's intentions, he should have hinted to Zhou Shu in advance that he shouldn't have randomly named his sword the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi. The sword he forged had to be worthy of this name.

"Have you ever seen that kid make any mistakes in the path of the Forging Dao?"

Emperor Yuan Feng grunted unhappily. Even though he disliked this kid, he had to admit that he was indeed a genius that appeared once every 10,000 years in the path of the Forging Dao!

Emperor Yuan Feng had never doubted his forging skills. The reason he was unhappy with Zhou Shu was purely because of a personal grudge...

[1] The emperor is also referred to as Tianzi.

### **Chapter 162 Forging Technique Legacy**

Emperor Yuan Feng was very confident in Zhou Shu's forging ability. Zhou Shu was also very confident in his forging ability.

The Flaming Sunset Saber, which made many Forging Masters feel helpless, was directly thrown aside by him. He was prepared to go to Yin Chengshan to retrieve his Great Destroyer Sword after the military parade.

He didn't know how many demonic beasts the Great Destroyer Sword could kill at that time. If Yin Chengshan worked hard, perhaps the Great Destroyer Sword could be upgraded.

...

However, this was unlikely.

Yin Chengshan's strength was not very strong. In such a short period of time, it was simply impossible to use the Great Destroyer Sword to kill nearly a hundred demonic beasts.

Speaking of which, after using the Flaming Sunset Saber to exchange for the Great Destroyer Sword, should I start a new business?

Renting out the Great Destroyer Sword?

It seems like a good idea. This world doesn't have a sharing economy. In the Demon Executing Army, there are many warriors who can't afford to buy ranked weapons. But even if they can't afford them, they can rent them.

By renting out the Great Destroyer Sword, not only will I be able to earn some money, but I will also be able to make others work for me. Why not?

In any case, the Great Destroyer Sword doesn't have many chances to complete kills in my hands.

Moreover, when he revealed the Great Destroyer Sword, Zhou Shu had told Emperor Yuan Feng that this was a gift from the mysterious expert. Under these circumstances, giving the Great Destroyer Sword to someone else wasn't very appropriate.

Not many people would dare to accept it anyway.

After all, not many people dared to offend an expert who could sever Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi's arm.

Lending it to others would not be a problem.

Didn't Yin Chengshan accept it?

Not just the Great Destroyer Sword, I can do this for other weapons as well. Zhou Shu rubbed his chin as he seriously considered this question.

A ranked weapon could be regarded as a luxury item, and not just anyone could afford a ranked weapon.

This was especially true for people who had just entered the ranks but had yet to accumulate their wealth. They often had to use a standard weapon for many years before they could save up enough money for a ranked weapon. With Zhou Shu's current status, he wasn't worried that he wouldn't be able to receive orders for ranked weapons.

But the number of ranked weapons he would be able to forge in the future wouldn't be too low. After all, the benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon required Zhou Shu's personally forged weapons to complete kills. Even if it was for these rewards, Zhou Shu wouldn't stop forging weapons.

His forging speed was much faster than that of an ordinary Forging Master, and he would always have some ranked weapons in his possession. Of course, the more workers there are, the better. I can rent the ranked weapons to the new soldiers of the Demon Executing and Fiend Eradication armies. That way, they won't have to wait until they have enough money before buying ranked weapons. I can also get the benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon ahead of time.

Two birds with one stone.

The more Zhou Shu thought about it, the more pleased he became. There are many other ways to play this game. Instead of renting them out, I can get others to pay in installments to buy them...

Thinking about this, Zhou Shu no longer felt sleepy. He got up and began to seriously plan in the study.

As the sun came up, a new day arrived.

On this day, the streets of Chang'an were abnormally lively. When the sun had just risen, carriages were already swaggering through the city.

Xuanwu Street, which was directly opposite the palace, had long been cordoned off.

The Great Xia military parade, which was held once every five years, was finally about to begin!

The parade began first, followed by the military performance.

The so-called military parade was actually Emperor Yuan Feng and Great Xia's officials inspecting Great Xia's weapons together.

For this part, the Forging Division was naturally the most important participant.



According to the Forging Division's existing weapons record, all the weapons that Great Xia's Forging Division could forge were lined up on Xuanwu Street.

All the workshop superintendents behind the first 36 workshops stood in front of their standard weapons. If Emperor Yuan Feng asked, they would be responsible for answering

If Zhou Shu had been present, he would have exclaimed that this military parade was similar to a car exhibition in his previous life.

Each workshop had a stand that displayed the standard weapons of their respective workshops. The workshop superintendents were like car models. No, they should be called weapon models...

In fact, the oth Workshop also participated in the event. It was still called the oth Workshop.

And what they displayed were the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, the Horse Slaying Saber, the Spring Embroidered Saber, the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber, the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, and the Eight-Sided Han Sword!

The person standing at the side as a soldier model wasn't the oth Workshop's superintendent, Zhou Shu, but Zhang Yibei.

From the beginning to the end, Zhou Shu didn't care about this matter at all. He left it all to Zhang Yibei.

This might be the last time the oth Workshop would appear. After the military parade, the oth Workshop would no longer exist and would be replaced by the Huaxia Pavilion.

Zhang Yibei stood nervously in front of the weapons. There were the most people representing the oth Workshop. Emperor Yuan Feng even took a longer time at the oth Workshop.

This really frightened Zhang Yibei.

He was just a mere Forging Apprentice, and the person he met the most was the superintendent of the workshop.

Ever since he followed Zhou Shu, not only could he often see the Forging Division's grand minister, but he could even see the emperor.

When he thought about how even the emperor had spoken to him, Zhang Yibei felt his heart race. He felt that his life was worth it.

When his son grew up, he had to tell him that his father had spoken to the emperor!

The inspection of standard weapons was actually just a formality. The true power of a weapon could only be displayed during the military performance.

It only took Emperor Yuan Feng and the officials one morning to inspect the standard weapons. In the afternoon, they arrived at the ranked weapons inspection venue.

In a space that was similar to a stadium, on a high platform, there were rows of forging furnaces specially used by Forging Masters. Inside the furnaces, the True Fire seeds continued to burn like small candle flames.

When Zhou Shu walked in, his first reaction was that Great Xia was really rich!

Just these forging furnaces and True Fire seeds alone would cost an immense sum.

I wonder if I can take this furnace and True Fire seed away after this, Zhou Shu thought.

“Marquis Zhou, long time no see.”

Suddenly, Zhou Shu felt his vision darken as a figure appeared in front of him.

He looked up and saw a handsome young man cupping his hands and smiling.

The young man was handsome and had a standard smile on his face. His every move was flawless, and he exuded the aura of a rich young master.

“So, it’s Brother Shi,” Zhou Shu replied politely.

It was Shi Songtao. Speaking of which, Zhou Shu didn’t have any ill feelings toward Shi Songtao other than the mutual competitiveness they had for each other.

After all, the two of them had no enmity between them. Back then, Shi Songtao had even given him a Heavenly Mirror.

“What works did you bring this time, Marquis?” Shi Songtao’s gaze fell upon the large wooden box on Zhou Shu’s back with great curiosity. “Brother Shi, you will know soon.” Zhou Shu had no intention of explaining, so he smiled.

“Are you interested in another bet, Marquis?” Shi Songtao said that he wanted to gamble, but there was no provocation in his tone, as if he was catching up with an old friend.

Zhou Shu looked curiously at Shi Songtao with a strange expression. “Marquis, please don’t misunderstand. I don’t have any other intentions. I just feel that the military parade is a bit boring.” Shi Songtao shrugged.

“In the Standard Armament Manual, your Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber is ranked at the top. I admit that I’m inferior.

“In the Yellow-grade Armament Manual, my Songtao Sword has taken advantage of the time and ranks slightly higher than your Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword. “That’s why I’m a bit curious. Whose weapon will rank higher this time?”

What you don’t know is that the Great Destroyer Sword is also a weapon I forged, Zhou Shu muttered in his heart.

“You should already have the ability to forge a black-grade weapon, right?” Zhou Shu said. “There’s no way to compare between the Black-grade Armament Manual and the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.”

“Marquis, you have misunderstood. The weapon I brought this time is also a yellow-grade weapon.

“It’s not that I’m boasting, but the weapon I brought this time was forged after many years of hard work. It might not even be inferior to the number one sword in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual, the Great Destroyer Sword,” Shi Songtao said confidently. “The main reason why the Great Destroyer Sword

could cut off Great Wei's imperial preceptor's arm is that the person who used it is strong enough. It's not that the Great Destroyer Sword can't be surpassed."

Zhou Shu nodded. Shi Songtao was right. Although the Great Destroyer Sword was powerful, it didn't mean that it was the strongest among the yellow-grade weapons.

Using the same Great Destroyer Sword, Zhou Shu could use it to kill Xiao Shunzhi, but Yin Chengshan required effort even using it to kill a sixth-rank demonic beast.

However, the records for the rankings in the armament manuals were also a factor. It wouldn't be easy for Shi Songtao to surpass the Great Destroyer Sword.

That was unless his weapon was much stronger than the Great Destroyer Sword.

But was that even possible?

If it was really much stronger than the Great Destroyer Sword, then it would at least be a black-grade weapon. "Brother Shi, you want to make a bet with me on whose weapon can get first place in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual?" Zhou Shu asked with a faint smile.

"No, no." Shi Songtao shook his head. "I'm afraid that no weapon will be able to snatch the number one place in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual from the Great Destroyer Sword within a short period of time.

"I'm already satisfied to be second in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual."

Forging Masters continued to enter the venue. From afar, there was already a commotion. Emperor Yuan Feng and the other officials were already nearby. Zhou Shu and Shi Songtao stood side by side under the high platform, surrounded by the Forging Masters who had come to participate in the parade.

Seeing the two of them chatting like old friends, the other Forging Masters didn't come over to disturb them. Instead, they closed their eyes and rested, preparing to perform well on stage later.

Although most of the Forging Masters only had one star position left to fix in their weapons, this star position was also very important. If there was even the slightest mistake, all their previous efforts would be wasted.

"It's just a small bet. I also feel that it's a little boring to just have a military parade." Zhou Shu smiled. "What does Brother Shi want to wager with me?"

"It's merely to add to the fun. If the stakes are too high, the original intention will be lost." Shi Songtao smiled. "How about this? I happen to have some Heaven Refining Stone with me. It's not much, just three hundred grams. I'll use it as a wager. What do you think, Marquis?"

Three hundred grams of Heaven Refining Stone?

Three hundred grams of Heaven Refining Stone, according to the price of the black market, was ten thousand taels of gold.

But to the two of them, it wasn't a big bet.

After all, with their status, it would only take them one to two years to accumulate 300 grams of Heaven Refining Stone.

Zhou Shu sized up Shi Songtao, the corners of his mouth slightly raised.

This Shi Songtao was quite interesting. He clearly wants to suppress me every time and show off, but he is not annoying.

Perhaps it's because he's here to give me benefits.

"I'll accept your bet," Zhou Shu said with a smile.

Shi Songtao was actually not a bad person. Although he wanted to suppress him and show off, he was not deliberately targeting him.

Whether it was last time or this time, he maintained his composure. Even if he challenged Zhou Shu, he wanted to use his true ability to defeat him.

He's straightforward, but he has his own principles. He's not a bad person.

But Shi Songtao, it's just your luck that you met me.

Zhou Shu sympathized with Shi Songtao for three seconds.

Of course, sympathy was sympathy. He wouldn't let go of 300 grams of Heaven Refining Stone.

The more Heaven Refining Stones, the better.

The bet between the two had nothing to do with the overall situation, nor did it cause any waves.

Shi Songtao was still standing next to Zhou Shu, speaking to Zhou Shu with his signature smile.

"That's Huang Suozhi from the Heavenly Water Pavilion. He's been a Forging Master for ten years, and his North Star Fixing Technique is unrivaled."

"That's Zhang Keshang from the Wind Tower. He's good at using the thirty-six notes to locate star positions."

"And Chen Ziyun over there, he comes from the Flying Mysterious Pavilion, and his forging skills are not inferior to mine. It's said that his Nine Elements Star-Fixing Technique is able to pinpoint the position to fix the stars of a weapon forged by any material. He has never failed."

Shi Songtao was experienced and knowledgeable. Zhou Shu didn't know whether it was because he wanted to show off or for some other reason, but he gave Zhou Shu a general introduction of all the Forging Masters he saw.

Zhou Shu, on the other hand, gained quite a bit of knowledge. He knew that to a Forging Master, the most important thing was the star positioning technique. The star positioning technique was something that couldn't be comprehended without a legacy. This was also a secret among the various forces. The superiority of a Forging Master's forging ability lay in the star positioning technique.

After all, the internal structures and meridians of weapons forged from different materials were vastly different. The difference between them could be as great as a thousand miles.

To accurately fix the position of the stars and star paths was like feng shui masters looking for treasured lands. One had to follow the meridians of the weapon.

Without superb techniques and a thorough understanding of weapons, it was impossible to pinpoint the location of the stars accurately.

“Marquis, if I may be so bold as to ask what your legacy is?” Shi Songtao looked at Zhou Shu with a curious expression.

So, this is his intention. I was wondering why he was so kind as to introduce so many people to me. It turns out that he wants to find out more about me.

Shi Songtao is really treating me as an imaginary competitor. Zhou Shu smiled, “Me? I don’t have any legacy.

“If I must say that I do, then my legacy should come from Emperor Xuan.”

Great Xia Xia’s founding emperor was Emperor Xuan. He was a powerful martial artist and also a forger.

Zhou Shu had learned Emperor Xuan’s Emperor Xuan Jade Book, but it was mainly the Martial Dao. Yin Wuyou didn’t give him the legacy for forging... “Emperor Xuan’s legacy?” The smile on Shi Songtao’s face became a bit stiff. Emperor Xuan’s legacy, isn’t it something only the imperial family can learn?

### **Chapter 163 A Weapon That Only Those With a Pure Mind Can See**

Forging legacies had always been passed down from father to son, master to disciple, and it wouldn’t be passed down to outsiders.

Emperor Xuan was very famous. Countless Forgers had begged the imperial family, but none of them had been able to learn Emperor Xuan’s legacy. How had Zhou Shu managed to learn it?

...

A hint of jealousy flashed across Shi Songtao’s eyes.

He really couldn’t understand why Zhou Shu could learn the legacy of Emperor Xuan.

He was merely a Forging Apprentice previously.

Why do His Majesty and Her Highness treat him so differently?

Shi Songtao subconsciously raised his head to look at the high platform, just in time to see the princess looking in his direction. Shi Songtao felt a little warm in his heart. Is Her Highness encouraging me? In an instant, Shi Songtao’s spirits rose again. So what if it’s the legacy of Emperor Xuan? Emperor Xuan was good at the Martial Dao back then. His forging skills were just so-so!

My Shi Family’s forging techniques might not be inferior to Emperor Xuan’s forging techniques!

Shi Songtao turned to look at Zhou Shu and said, “No wonder your forging techniques are so impressive, Marquis. So it’s because you’ve obtained His Majesty’s favor and learned the legacy of Emperor Xuan.” Zhou Shu looked at Shi Songtao strangely. What do my forging techniques have to do with Emperor Xuan?

The emperor favors me because I am good, not the other way around.

When he said that his forging technique legacy came from Emperor Xuan, he was just spouting nonsense. Although Yin Wuyou wanted to give him Emperor Xuan's forging technique legacy, it hadn't happened yet.

Speaking of which, Zhou Shu had indeed learned forging techniques in this world. They were the forging techniques Liang Hongxiu had given him. However, the Liang family's forging techniques that Liang Hongxiu had kept were only basic theories. The most important star positioning technique had already been lost.

Thus, he couldn't be said to be the successor of the Liang family's forging techniques.

Actually, Zhou Shu's forging techniques came from the Legendary Armament Canon.

The Legendary Armament Canon used the forging formulas of various weapons to allow him to master everything required for forging techniques. They were nearly perfect forging techniques.

As for the star fixing, Zhou Shu had no need for those useless techniques. He could see it with his eyes!

It was like looking at feng shui. Shi Songtao and the others had to use the geographical trajectory of the mountains and rivers to determine feng shui. As for Zhou Shu, he could see the luck of the land, and he could tell if a place had good feng shui with a single glance.

There was no need to say who was better or worse.

"Brother Shi, it's about to begin," Zhou Shu said.

On the high platform, Emperor Yuan Feng and his officials were already in position.

Emperor Yuan Feng made a speech, then raised his hand and said loudly, "Now, let's invite our Great Xia's forging elites onto the stage!"

"Understood!" the group of Forging Masters replied.

"Please, Marquis." Shi Songtao gracefully made an inviting gesture and then leaped up. He somersaulted in the air and landed on the high platform, his movements light and beautiful.

There were many others like him.

To be able to become Forging Masters, even those with the weakest Martial Dao cultivation had already entered the ranks. They didn't let go of any opportunity to perform. Even when they went on stage, they all used their best lightness techniques.

Just the act of going on stage made Zhou Shu feel like he was watching a show.

In fact, it only took a moment for everyone to ascend the stage.

As Zhou Shu watched in amazement, he was the only one left below the stage.

Emperor Yuan Feng and the other officials all turned to look at Zhou Shu. Sitting next to Emperor Yuan Feng, Yin Wuyou closed her eyes, unable to bear the sight.

Did he forget why he's here? Why does he look like he's watching a show?

Zhou Shu felt numerous gazes land on him. He also reacted. He was so engrossed in watching these people display their techniques that he forgot that he had to go on stage.

Zhou Shu awkwardly smiled and raised his foot.

The platform was as tall as a person. It was neither very tall nor very low.

Actually, there were steps on one side, but none of the Forging Masters used the steps.

Zhou Shu glanced at it. If he wanted to take the stairs, he would have to go around the other side. Everyone was waiting for him, so it would be a waste of time to go around.

Thus, he directly raised his foot and stepped onto the high platform.

As he walked, clouds seemed to appear beneath his feet. With every step he took, a cloud would drag his feet.

As such, he walked up the platform step by step and walked to his furnace. He cupped his hands toward Emperor Yuan Feng and the others.

The crowd suddenly fell silent.

Just now, the group of Forging Masters was jumping up and down like monkeys. Compared to Zhou Shu's otherworldly movement technique, it was like heaven and earth.

Emperor Yuan Feng looked at Eunuch Zhao and asked with his eyes. "What movement technique is this?".

Eunuch Zhao replied with his eyes, "I don't know either."

Yin Wuyou blinked her big bright eyes, and a strange look flashed across her eyes. Does he have to be so dashing?

Zhou Shu really didn't want to stand out. He just didn't want to waste everyone's time. Also, he only knew the Riding on Cloud and Wind Technique. If he wanted to go on stage, he couldn't possibly jump up, right?

This was the effect of the Riding on Cloud and Wind Technique. What could he do?

Cough cough-Emperor Yuan Feng was the first to react. He cleared his throat and said, "Since everyone is in position, let's begin."

There were more than a hundred Forging Masters who had the qualifications to participate in the military parade. Naturally, Emperor Yuan Feng and the others couldn't inspect them one by one.

Therefore, all the Forging Masters worked on their weapons at the same time. After which, Emperor Yuan Feng and the others would evaluate the weapons they forged.

All the Forging Masters bowed to Emperor Yuan Feng before taking out their weapons and beginning the final step of fixing the stars.

As mentioned earlier, in order to save time, the Forging Masters would prepare the weapons they wanted to display beforehand.

Otherwise, it would be too late to forge weapons on the spot. They couldn't possibly let Emperor Yuan Feng and the others wait at the side for over ten days or even several months.

Usually, they would leave behind one star position unfixed. When they arrived at the venue, they would fix the last star position in front of everyone. The weapon would then be successfully forged, and its power would be revealed. The other Forging Masters were regulating their breathing and focusing their attention, preparing for the final finishing touches. Although there was only one star position left, this step was extremely important. If they fixed the star correctly, the weapon would be successfully forged.

If they made a mistake, then all their efforts would be wasted!

Once a star was fixed, they wouldn't be able to reverse it. The weapon would either be forged successfully or fail. There was no room for regret.

U

Therefore, no Forging Masters dared to be distracted.

Except for Zhou Shu...

It was not that Zhou Shu was distracted; he never even concentrated.

He took off the wooden box on his back and placed it in front of him. Then he looked around as though he was watching a show.

It was as if he had nothing to do with the military parade.

"Did he finish forging the weapon in advance?" Emperor Yuan Feng's brows furrowed slightly.

But after thinking about it, he realized that this wasn't quite right. The reason why the Forging Masters had left the last star position unfixed was not only to save time and display their forging techniques but also to prove that the weapon had been personally forged by them.

Otherwise, if everyone brought a forged weapon, who would know who forged it?

This was the rule of the military parade, so Zhou Shu shouldn't be so brazen as to violate it.

Or was he confident enough not to be anxious?

Zhou Shu watched the actions of the Forging Masters with interest.

He had never seen this world's Forging Masters forge weapons with his own eyes before. Today, his horizons were broadened.

These Forging Masters really had a variety of ways to fix stars.

Some of the Forging Masters used a small hammer to strike the weapon itself. Then they placed their ears on the weapon and used the sound produced by the weapon to determine the final star position.



Some of the Forging Masters had their eyes tightly shut as they ran their hands over their weapons as if they were fondling their loved ones.

There were also Forging Masters measuring the size of their weapon with a ruler while calculating on paper...

Zhou Shu also saw Shi Songtao. Shi Songtao's movements were much more elegant than most of the other Forging Masters.

A long sword was placed in front of him. He flicked his fingers and injected streams of spiritual essence into the sword.

As each strand of spiritual essence fell, the sword seemed to turn into a musical instrument. The clanging sounds were like a musical tune that was exceptionally pleasant to the ear.

Many people also revealed expressions of admiration as they saw Shi Songtao's forging.

As expected of Great Xia's famed forging genius, his technique was truly extraordinary.

Some people subconsciously looked at Zhou Shu.

This forging genius, whose limelight was not inferior to Shi Songtao, was now like Granny Liu who had entered the Grand View Garden. He was looking around and didn't carry out his forging at all.

Was he giving up?

Everyone had their doubts.

"Zhou Shu!"

Just as Zhou Shu was thinking about it, he suddenly heard a familiar voice.

Her voice was crisp and pleasant, with a hint of coquettishness.

He looked up blankly and saw Yin Wuyou's gaze.

"What are you doing!" Yin Wuyou's voice continued to ring in his ear.

Zhou Shu looked around. No one else seemed to have heard Yin Wuyou's voice.

Secret voice transmission?

Amazing, my princess.

Zhou Shu gave Yin Wuyou an appreciative look.

Yin Wuyou was speechless. What kind of look is that?

I'm reminding you not to be distracted! Why are you looking at me like that?

Why does it feel like I've completed my homework, and my father is looking at me with admiration?

"Everyone else is almost done. Why aren't you starting yet!" Yin Wuyou said angrily.

Zhou Shu nodded. I will have to learn how to send voice transmissions later. This is impressive. With my current strength, it shouldn't be difficult to learn it, right?

Zhou Shu's thoughts were all over the place, but his hand had already landed on the wooden box in front of him.

Pada

Zhou Shu casually opened the wooden box.

Almost subconsciously, Emperor Yuan Feng, Yin Wuyou, Eunuch Zhao, Great General Meng Bai, and others all looked at the wooden box in front of Zhou Shu.

They were all very curious as to what weapon Zhou Shu had forged this time.

The next moment, everyone's expressions froze.

Even Emperor Yuan Feng was unable to conceal his astonishment.

Because there was nothing in the wooden box!

He was holding an empty wooden box to participate in the military parade?

Emperor Yuan Feng rubbed his eyes to make sure he wasn't seeing things.

Everyone was rubbing their eyes.

Emperor Yuan Feng's expression changed. What is Zhou Shu's intention?

"Zhou Shu, did you forget to bring your weapon?" Yin Wuyou's anxious voice sounded in Zhou Shu's ears.

Zhou Shu looked up and gave Yin Wuyou a reassuring look.

Yin Wuyou understood the meaning behind his gaze, but the anxiety in her heart didn't lessen one bit.

Don't worry?

How can I be at ease?

This is in front of the court officials!

If something goes wrong, how will you be able to survive in the future?

*or*

The other Forging Masters were completely focused on completing their work. Emperor Yuan Feng and the others didn't speak, afraid that they would disturb the progress of the Forging Masters.

Their attention was completely on Zhou Shu.

He brought an empty wooden box to participate in the military parade?

Or was this wooden box his weapon?

Everyone wanted to see what Zhou Shu was up to!

Under everyone's gaze, Zhou Shu began to move.

He reached into the large wooden box and picked up something.

But in everyone's eyes, he was just putting on an act. There was nothing in his hands.

The next moment, Zhou Shu took out a Heaven Refining Stone the size of a grain of rice and threw it into the True Fire.

Everyone stared with their eyes wide open. Was he putting on a full act?

There was clearly nothing, yet he wanted to waste the Heaven Refining Stone?

Zhou Shu seemed completely unaware of everyone's doubts.

His movements were casual, and a drop of Heaven Refining Stone flew out from the True Fire. Under Zhou Shu's control, it landed in the

air.

In everyone's eyes, Zhou Shu was completely messing around!

There was nothing in his hands. Was he fixing stars in the air?

Also, didn't he need to locate the stars?

Did he take everyone here as fools?

Anger flashed in the eyes of some of the officials. So the You Marquis is someone who gained reputation by deception!

To let such a scoundrel rank high in the Imperial Court is simply the humiliation of Great Xia!

After this military parade, we must impeach him!

Just as some officials had such thoughts, the Heaven Refining Stone had already been transferred into the air.

Suddenly, like a drop of water meeting a sponge, it disappeared into the air.

It felt as if it had truly fused with a weapon.

Could he really fix stars in the air?

Everyone's eyes widened.

The next moment, it was as if everyone saw star paths emitting light appear out of thin air in front of them. The light circulated, and the star paths disappeared in a flash.

There was still nothing in front of them.

"This is?"

Everyone's pupils constricted. At this moment, everyone knew that Zhou Shu wasn't messing around. He really did have a sword in his hand, but they just couldn't see it!

Marquis Zhou forged an invisible sword?

Or was it because they had problems themselves that they couldn't see the sword in Marquis Zhou's hand?

These big shots who could cause an earthquake in Great Xia with just a stomp of their feet all fell into self-doubt.

According to the legends, only pure-minded people could see divine weapons. Could it be that the weapon forged by Marquis Zhou had such an effect?

Is it because our minds are impure that we can't see the weapon in Marquis Zhou's hand?

I can't let anyone know about this! I can see it!

More than one minister thought this to himself.

Chapter 164 Marquis's Forging Technique is Indeed Superb

Zhou Shu lowered his hand, then seemed to place a weapon on the wooden box.

Everyone heard the sound of metal clanking, and a thought flashed across their minds.

...

Indeed, he has a weapon in his hand.

We just can't see it.

This is not Marquis Zhou's problem but our own.

Only those with a pure mind can see the weapon that Marquis Zhou forged.

The ministers looked at each other and then turned away.

"Marquis Zhou is indeed worthy of being Great Xia's most talented Forging Master. This sword is truly magnificent."

It was the minister of war who spoke. He was a thickset man with a full beard. At this moment, he was speaking in a manner that made the faces of many ministers twitch.

"Lord Zhang's words make sense." The minister of revenue stroked his beard. "This sword has an exquisite design. In my view, it will definitely rank in the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual."

If Old Zhang can see it, how can I not?

"Yeah, look at this sword. The body of the sword is three feet and three inches long. Even when placed in a box, it is full of oppressive sword qi. It's a good sword," another official said.

"Marquis Zhou, impressive!"

All of the officials chimed in one after another, and when they didn't have anything else to say about the sword, they started to praise Zhou Shu.

Emperor Yuan Feng was stunned.

Is there something wrong with my eyes?

What are they talking about? Why can't I see Zhou Shu's sword?

He looked at Great General Meng Bai in confusion. Other than him and Yin Wuyou, only Meng Bai didn't speak

Emperor Yuan Feng needed to find someone in the same boat. I'm not the only one who can't see it, right?

Meng Bai's brows twitched, and his face was doubtful.

Emperor Yuan Feng heaved a sigh of relief. Luckily, I'm not the only one. The great general doesn't see it either.

He then turned to Yin Wuyou.

Yin Wuyou didn't respond to his gaze at all. Instead, she stared at Zhou Shu in a daze. He didn't know what she was thinking. Emperor Yuan Feng was displeased and turned his head away. His eyes widened as he looked at the wooden box in Zhou Shu's hands. I'm the emperor. Even if I can't see, I can't panic!

He pricked up his ears and listened to the discussion of the officials.

He had to note down their discussion so that he could evaluate the weapon later. At this moment, they saw Zhou Shu grab something from the wooden box.

Just like before, a drop of Heaven Refining Stone flew out from the furnace and landed in the air.

Another few star paths flashed and disappeared. "So, Marquis Zhou forged a saber and a sword this time. Good sword, even better saber!" The minister of war clapped his hands.

"Look at this saber. It looks somewhat similar to the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber, but it's even more formidable and domineering. One look, and you can tell that it's murderous. It's definitely a killing weapon!"

"Lord Zhang's words make sense."

The ministers discussed it again.

The minister of war wiped the cold sweat off his forehead. Am I right?

Thankfully, I manage to fool my way through.

If they know that I can't see the weapons forged by the You Marquis, what would they say about me?

Big Beard Zhang was ignorant and impure

This old man surnamed Zhang didn't even have a few tricks up his sleeves, yet he acted so elegant. Vulgar...

The discussions of the ministers also fell into the ears of the Forging Masters on the platform.

Some of the Forging Masters were distracted for a moment and almost fixed the star wrongly.

At this moment, Shi Songtao had just finished his weapon. He put it down with great satisfaction. When he heard the discussions of the ministers, he subconsciously looked in Zhou Shu's direction.

His heart skipped a beat. Am I seeing things? Why can't I see the saber and sword that everyone is talking about?

In Shi Songtao's eyes, it was as if Zhou Shu was acting. His hands were gripping the air as he gestured.

From the looks of it, he was indeed fixing the star on a weapon. But the problem was that he had neither a saber nor a sword in his hands.

Shi Songtao rubbed his eyes hard. He even lost control of his expression and fell into deep self-doubt.

At this moment, Shi Songtao was not alone.

Many of the Forging Masters who had completed their work were like Shi Songtao. They wondered if after days of being too excited to sleep because of the military parade, they had some problems with their eyes. In the end, almost everyone who had completed their forging turned their gazes to Zhou Shu.

Ding Dang!

Zhou Shu placed his hand on the wooden box, letting out a metallic clink.

It sounded like the morning bell, stunning everyone.

Indeed, Marquis Zhou has a weapon in his hand, but we can't see it.

It's not Marquis Zhou who has gone crazy. It's us who have a problem!

Zhou Shu reached into the wooden box again and seemingly picked up another weapon.

The ministers glanced at the minister of war, Big Beard Zhang.

Cold sweat appeared on the minister of war's forehead. Under his armor, his back was already drenched in sweat. Damn it. Why are all of you looking at me? Didn't I, Old Zhang, prove that I can see? Why are you still looking at me? Do you all despise me just because I am uncultured?

If you have the ability, let's go on stage and spar. I, Old Zhang, am not afraid of you guys!

His heart was in a mess, but he was extremely calm on the surface.

I, Old Zhang, have seen the world. I'm not even afraid of thousands of soldiers and horses. Why would I be afraid of pathetic people like you? Marquis Zhou is good at forging sabers and has also forged a divine sword like the Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword. He's already forged a saber and a sword, so what else can he forge?

Minister Zhang racked his brains. He had never used his brain cells like this in his entire life. "This—" Minister Zhang looked as if he had seen through everything and slowly said, "Bow, good!"

He was at a loss for words.

“Lord Zhang is right.”

Upon hearing this, Minister Zhang secretly heaved a sigh of relief. I’m right again! Marquis Zhou’s third weapon is indeed a bow!

“This bow...” Minister Zhang was uneducated and lacked adjectives, but there was no lack of scholars among the ministers.

The ministers expressed their appreciation.

“Frost as hard as the Qilin antler’s glue, the moon is round in the windy night. The clouds dissipate as the emperor’s carriage passes, the sounding of chords could be heard as the geese descend from the sky.”

Speaking with enthusiasm, the minister of rites even wrote a poem in high spirits.

Emperor Yuan Feng did not say anything. He only nodded slightly.

His face was as calm as water, as steady as an old dog.

I can’t see, but if I don’t speak, you won’t know.

Shi Songtao scratched his head vigorously. His hair was messy, but he couldn’t care less.

What’s going on?

Doesn’t everyone just display a single weapon during the military parade?

Why did that Zhou fellow bring three?

Saber, sword, bow?

That’s not important. If it’s three, then so be it. Why can’t I see it?

From their discussions, I can imagine how outstanding these three weapons were, but why can’t I see them?

Why?

Why!

Shi Songtao’s eyes were brimming with tears. He didn’t care about the outcome of the bet with Zhou Shu.

He just wanted to know what was wrong with his eyes.

If I can’t even see the weapon, can I still forge weapons in the future?

Can I still become the best Forging Master in the history of Great Xia?

Will I be able to become a Grand Craftsman before the age of thirty and bring up a marriage proposal to His Majesty?

I can’t, not anymore.

If I can't even see his weapon, I will be blind in the future. What else is there to talk about?

God dammit!

"It's done! Zhou Shu fused the last drop of the Heavenly Refining Stone into his weapon, and the corners of his mouth raised slightly.

Although the possibility of a problem wasn't high, it was still a relief to have successfully fixed the last star position.

I am indeed a genius. Zhou Shu was delighted.

He was just about to put the sword back into the box when he suddenly heard a discussion.

Previously, he had used his divine sense to pinpoint the location of the stars and didn't notice the commotion outside. Now that he heard the discussions of the ministers, he was also curious.

Bow? Did someone make a bow? That's rare. I've never seen a ranked bow, Zhou Shu thought.

"Congratulations, Marquis."

While Zhou Shu was thinking, he suddenly heard a loud voice.

He looked at the source of the voice and happened to see a rough, bearded face.

"Lord, you are?"

"I am Zhang Fuzhi, the minister of war," the bearded man said. "Your forging skills are truly admirable, Marquis. One saber, one sword, one bow, they are all at the peak of perfection."

Zhou Shu: "..."

He was confused. He could understand every word Zhang Fuzhi said, but why didn't he understand when the words were connected?

Saber, sword, bow? What is the meaning of this?

Are you talking about me?

I can understand the saber and sword, but what does this bow mean?

I've never forged a bow before.

"In the past, I thought that Forging Masters were powerful enough. It was only when you appeared that I understood what a genius was, Marquis," Zhang Fuzhi's loud voice continued. "I, Old Zhang, rarely admire people. The great general is the first, and you are the second!"

All the ministers rolled their eyes. Big Beard Zhang is really shameless. "Lord Zhang, you flatter me." Zhou Shu was confused.

What does he mean?

I subdued the minister of war with just a few tricks?

In that case, I'm excited.



I haven't even used one-tenth of my real skills yet. Lord Zhang, how about we have a chat??

Are the experts under the command of the Ministry of War lacking in ranked weapons?

If you can't afford to buy, you can rent...

"Marquis Zhou, what is the name of this sword, saber, and bow that you've crafted? Are they a set of weapons?" another minister asked.

Zhou Shu was puzzled.

Before he could speak, another person said, "Definitely. According to the rules of the military parade, every Forging Master can only display one weapon. However, they are not restricted from displaying a set of weapons. A saber, sword, and bow can indeed form a set of weapons."

"If it's a set, it naturally doesn't violate the rules," a minister chimed in. "I'm very curious. If it's a set, then is the weapon forged by the marquis yellow-grade or black-grade? Or is it earth-grade? "If it's an earth-grade weapon, then the marquis should be considered a High-level Forging Master. If that's the case, then the marquis should be the youngest High-level Forging Master in Great Xia. He's even younger than when Shi Songtao became a High-level Forging Master!" Shi Songtao's face darkened as he rolled his eyes at the minister. Why did you drag me in?

My path is already cut off. If you provoke me again, I will bring you along with me!

The minister noticed Shi Songtao's gaze and smiled apologetically. Damn, I forgot that Shi Songtao is there...

As the officials spoke one after another, Zhou Shu became more and more confused.

Who are they talking about?

It feels like it has nothing to do with me.

Set of weapons?

This is a good idea. However, there's no set in the Legendary Armament Canon.

He wanted to interrupt and ask, Who are you talking about?

Other than me, there are other Forging Masters who are also marquises?

But as the officials spoke one after another, Zhou Shu was unable to find an opportunity to interrupt.

After a long time, Emperor Yuan Feng coughed lightly, raised his hands, and gestured for everyone to be silent. "Everyone, quiet down."

His voice was not loud, but everyone could hear him clearly.

This was the strength of a first-rank martial artist. As a false first rank, there was almost no chance for him to fight. One of the greatest benefits of being a first-rank martial artist was that he didn't need to shout in such a situation...

“Since all the Forging Masters are done, let’s begin our evaluation,” Emperor Yuan Feng said. He glanced guiltily at Zhou Shu. “Bring up your weapons.”

All the Forging Masters presented their weapons.

Zhou Shu also picked up the wooden box in front of him, wanting to bring it to the stage.

Suddenly, Emperor Yuan Feng said, “You Marquis, why don’t you introduce the weapon you’ve forged?”

“It has been so many years, but this is the first time someone has forged a weapon set in the military parade.”

Emperor Yuan Feng slowly said, “Introduce yourself first so that everyone can have an impression.”

“Sure.” Zhou Shu didn’t suspect anything else and agreed with a smile.

He took two steps forward and placed the wooden box on the table.

Pointing his finger, he said, “The weapon I forged this time might be considered as a weapon set, but there’s still a slight difference.”

Armament sets should be made up of different weapons. Strictly speaking, what he forged this time was not considered a set.

It was even a little far-fetched to think of it as a set.

Zhou Shu was just too lazy to take them apart, so he put them together.

In a sense, this should be considered three weapons.

“The weapon I forged this time is called the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi. Actually, it’s made up of three swords. Speaking of which, it’s slightly different from the rules of the military parade. But it’s alright, Your Majesty. I don’t want the reward for this parade.”

As soon as Zhou Shu finished speaking, the entire crowd instantly fell silent.

Three Swords of Yin Tianzi?

Three swords?

Everyone’s gaze landed on Zhang Fuzhi, the minister of war.

Zhang Fuzhi panicked. What are you all looking at me for?

I was just making a wild guess. Didn’t you all see it?

I was wrong, but none of you corrected me.

No, all of you agreed with me just now!

Alright, I, Old Zhang, understand now. It turns out that all of you are out and out scoundrels who you couldn’t see either!

Zhang Fuzhi straightened his back with a sense of righteousness. Why? Everyone can’t see it, so why are you blaming me? My mind is impure, but how good can you guys be?

## Chapter 165 Night Practice, Shadow, and Light Bearing

Zhang Fuzhi raised his head and puffed out his chest. He sat even straighter than elementary school students in class. His expression was calm, as if what he had said earlier was not what he had said.

As long as I'm not embarrassed, it's the others who will feel embarrassed.

...

All the officials looked up calmly after glaring at Zhang Fuzhi.

The situation was a little strange. Everyone tried their best to look calm.

It was as if they weren't the ones who'd been having a heated discussion.

The most important thing in the Imperial Court was their face...

"We and our ministers will decide the victor of the parade, not you. Whether you can win or not is still unknown. It's too early to say that you don't want the reward." Emperor Yuan Feng secretly wiped away his cold sweat. I'm still smart and let this Zhou brat introduce his weapons himself.

Had I listened to the comments of these ministers, I would have lost all my face. He put on a very dignified look and calmly waved his hand. "Continue."

"Alright." Zhou Shu shrugged.

"My Three Swords of Yin Tianzi are Light Bearing, Shadow, and Night Practice.

"This is Night Practice."

Zhou Shu took out something from the wooden box.

"Marquis Zhou, could it be that my eyes are blurred from old age? You don't seem to have a sword in your hand? Or can I not see it?"

The person who spoke was Great General Meng. He was half crippled and didn't care about his reputation.

"You're right that you can't see it." Zhou Shu smiled. "Everyone, please take a look."

He raised his hand and pointed at the ground with his other hand.

Everyone's gaze followed his finger and saw a faint shadow on the ground in front of Zhou Shu. It was the shape of a sword.

Shock was written all over everyone's faces. This was the first time they had witnessed such a miraculous scene.

A weapon could do this?

Shi Songtao's mouth was also wide open. He had never heard of any weapon that could leave a shadow even though it couldn't be seen with the eyes!

“The Night Practice Sword, during the day, one will see the shadow but not the light. At night, one will see the light but not its shape,” Zhou Shu said loudly. “It’s daytime right now, so I can’t show everyone the situation at night. I can tell everyone that if it’s nighttime, the Night Practice will look like a ball of moonlight.” “What a wonderful idea,” Meng Bai said emotionally.

Zhang Fuzhi and the other officials were so shocked that they couldn’t speak.

The first sword of the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi was already so amazing. What about the other two swords?

Emperor Yuan Feng gripped the armrest of his throne tightly.

Such a magical sword is part of the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi, and it’s named after me!

Hmm, barely worthy of me.

If he offers the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi to me later, I will pretend to decline first, then reluctantly accept them.

Even though it’s only a yellow-grade weapon, it’s still a token of goodwill from him. If I reject it, he will be bitterly disappointed.

However, I’m not the kind of person who likes to take advantage of others. I won’t let my subjects suffer a loss if I accept something from them.

Emperor Yuan Feng began to seriously consider what he should reward him.

I’ve just conferred him the title of marquis, so I can’t promote him further. How about I reward him with some gold? It seems a little tacky.

While Emperor Yuan Feng was struggling, Zhou Shu had already put down the Night Practice Sword and taken out the next sword.

In everyone’s eyes, Zhou Shu had nothing in his hands.

They couldn’t see if Zhou Shu had a sword in his hand at all. It was just Zhou Shu’s words!

“This second sword is called the Shadow Sword! At dawn when the sky is neither dark nor bright, a faint shadow of the sword appears in the north. The shadow of the sword only lasts for a moment, no one knows what it looks like.”

As Zhou Shu spoke, he raised his hand.

At this moment, the sky was already close to dusk. The people standing on Zhou Shu’s side raised their heads and looked north, just in time to see a faintly discernible sword shadow.

They couldn’t help crying out in alarm.

The people from other directions didn’t see anything and felt puzzled.

“We can only see it from the north?” A minister had already left his seat and ran to Zhou Shun’s side to look north.

His expression changed slightly.

He really saw a sword!

Emperor Yuan Feng was eager to give it a try, but he was the emperor. How could he be like these people who had never seen the world?

What have I not seen before?

Isn't it just a sword?

When Zhou Shu presents it to me, I will have time to play with it carefully.

"Everyone, let's continue."

Zhou Shu placed the Shadow Sword back, then moved to another sword.

This time, no one doubted whether Zhou Shu had a sword in his hand.

He really had a sword in his hand!

"This third one is called Light Bearing. It cannot be seen by sight, and one cannot tell if it is used."

"Marquis Zhou, if you can't see it, and you don't even feel that you have a sword in your hand when you use it, how do you know if it exists?" Zhang Fuzhi asked Zhou Shu what he meant and then frowned.

"As the saying goes, the usage depends on one's heart." Zhou Shu smiled.

"One cannot tell if it is used just means that the blade is extremely sharp. Before one can feel it, the blade has already sliced through the item. It doesn't mean that the user can't sense the sword's existence.

"The sharpness of the sword can't be proved by just your words," a discordant voice suddenly said. "We can't even see your Three Swords of Yin Tianzi. How can you prove how powerful they are?"

"That makes sense." Zhou Shu nodded and looked up at the stage. "Grand Minister, may I trouble you?" Zhou Shu said.

Yin Wuyou was startled, but she still nodded. "Say it."

"Grand Minister, come here."

Yin Wuyou didn't hesitate and walked toward Zhou Shu.

"What do you want me to do?" Yin Wuyou asked doubtfully.

"Please test the sword, Grand Minister." Zhou Shu smiled and extended his hand.

Yin Wuyou was slightly puzzled. She looked at Zhou Shu's hand. Even though they were so close, she couldn't see the sword in Zhou Shu's hand.

She tentatively reached out her hand and pressed it against Zhou Shu's.

From afar, it looked like they were holding hands.

Emperor Yuan Feng's eyelids twitched. Alright, Zhou Shu, your reward is gone!

I don't care for the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi anymore!

When Shi Songtao saw this scene, his face instantly turned incomparably pale.

In this world, although there was no such thing as The Great Defense for Men and Women, it was improper for men and women to touch each other. Her Highness held his hand in public...

Shi Songtao seemed to hear the sound of his heart breaking

Yin Wuyou's little face blushed. She didn't know why she reached out her hand.

When her hand touched Zhou Shu's palm, she felt her entire body heat up.

But the next moment, the cold touch on her palm brought her back to her senses.

She raised her head in shock, her bright eyes staring straight at Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu nodded slightly, an encouraging expression appearing on his face.

Yin Wuyou nodded vigorously, then her arm trembled.

Swoosh!

With a light sound, countless dazzling sword lights appeared in the sky.

Yin Wuyou was like a banished immortal, her figure becoming somewhat ethereal within the sword light.

Crack!

With a light sound, Yin Wuyou's arm dropped down. Not far away, several forging furnaces slid down at a visible speed.

Everyone's gaze froze.

Yin Wuyou didn't release an overly intense aura just now, but this sword strike actually directly cut apart several forging furnaces.

One had to know that these forging furnaces were made of copper and iron, so their hardness was not inferior to ordinary standard weapons.

"Good sword!" Yin Wuyou praised. "The power of this sword isn't inferior to the Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword you forged before."

With the princess's verification, no one dared to doubt the power of the sword.

"Marquis, are your Three Swords of Yin Tianzi still yellow-grade weapons?" Zhang Fuzhi asked.

"Yes." Zhou Shu nodded. But they might become black or even earth or heaven-grade in the future.

"This Light Bearing Sword has such power. What about the other two swords? How big is the difference between them and this Light Bearing Sword?" Zhang Fuzhi asked the question on everyone's mind.

The Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword ranked eleventh in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

The power of this Light Bearing Sword was not inferior to the Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword, which meant that it could already rank in the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

If the other two swords had similar power... Then that would be three swords ranked in the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. If they were ranked according to the name "Three Swords of Yin Tianzi", would they rank in the top five? Or even the top three?

"Some differences, but not much," Zhou Shu said. "Actually, Your Highness flattered me too much. The Light Bearing Sword and the Seven Star Dragon Abyss both have their own strengths, but I can't say that it is definitely stronger than the Seven Star Dragon Abyss. Its strength depends on the bearer of the sword. "The Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword that I forged is not bad either," Zhou Shu said arrogantly.

The swords that he, Zhou Shu, produced were not ordinary! Everyone sucked in a breath of cold air. They didn't hear what Zhou Shu said next. They only heard Zhou Shu say that the other two swords were not much weaker than the Light Bearing Sword.

Would they really see three swords enter the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual at the same time?

Some people were already looking at the Forging Masters who owned Heavenly Mirrors.

All the Forging Masters were a bit embarrassed. Why did it feel like the military parade had become an evaluation especially for the You Marquis?

But then again, the weapons he forged were not only powerful but also full of gimmicks.

An invisible sword was so eye-catching.

In comparison, there was nothing impressive about the weapons they forged...

"Lords, the Yellow-grade Armament Manual is only updated once a day," a Forging Master said softly.

The Three Swords of Yin Tianzi had just been forged, so it was impossible for it to be ranked immediately. It would take at least one day...

Everyone felt a little regretful. They really wanted to see what rank the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi would rank in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

"The Three Swords of Yin Tianzi are indeed marvelous ideas. Good swords." Emperor Yuan Feng nodded slightly. He looked at Zhou Shu, his eyes indicating that he understood.

Hurry up and offer it to me. I am ready.

"Thank you for your praise, Your Majesty." Zhou Shu cupped his hands and then turned to Yin Wuyou.

"Grand Minister, I previously agreed to help you forge a weapon. Logically speaking, with your status and cultivation level, you should at least be equipped with an earth-grade weapon. Unfortunately, I don't have that ability yet.

"The grade is not high enough, so I used numbers to make up for it."

Zhou Shu smiled. "I'll give the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi to you, Grand Minister.

"The weapons displayed in the parade belong to the Forging Master. Did I remember wrongly?"

"No!" Yin Wuyou felt as if she had eaten honey. She nodded vigorously. "These swords belong to you. You have the right to do what you want!

"Since you've said so, then I will not refuse.

"I will reluctantly accept the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi.

"Although they are a little weak, they are interesting..."

If you think they're weak, then give them to us!

We don't mind!

Many people screamed in their hearts.

Emperor Yuan Feng's eyes grew wider as he listened to Zhou Shu and Yin Wuyou sing the same tune.

My Three Swords of Yin Tianzi!

This damn brat actually didn't give the swords to me?

Emperor Yuan Feng's eyes were about to spit fire.

How dare you use my Three Swords of Yin Tianzi to trick my daughter. Do you really think I don't have a temper? Just because a tiger doesn't show its might, do you think I'm a sick cat?

QUIS

"This is a military parade, not a place for you to fool around. Stand down!" Emperor Yuan Feng said coldly.

"The Three Swords of Yin Tianzi are not one. In the history of my Grand Xia, there is no rule that allows three swords to participate in the military parade at the same time. In this military parade, the You Marquis's weapons will not be evaluated!"

Emperor Yuan Feng flung his sleeves.

"Father-" Yin Wuyou exclaimed.

"I have made up my mind. No one is allowed to say anything!" Emperor Yuan Feng's face was as cold as ice.

Yin Wuyou still wanted to say something, but the ministers were already desperately winking at her.

Zhou Shu tugged at her sleeve.

So be it. He had no intention of getting anything in the military parade anyway.

He had only come because he wanted to give the emperor some face. After all, the emperor had already issued the decree. If he didn't come, it would be too disrespectful.



As for the rest, Zhou Shu didn't care at all.

Yin Wuyou glanced at Zhou Shu. When she saw his nonchalant expression, her heart ached.

In order for me not to have a conflict with my father, he would rather suffer.

Yin Wuyou, oh Yin Wuyou. As the princess of Great Xia, not only did you fail to provide him with any help, but you even made him feel wronged.

If you can't even seek justice for him, what can you do as a princess! What face do you have to accept the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi!

Thump!

Yin Wuyou placed the Light Bearing Sword back into the wooden box and closed it.

She grabbed the wooden box with one hand and pulled Zhou Shu's arm with the other as she walked out of the arena.

Before she left, she turned around and glared at Emperor Yuan Feng. This matter today is not over!

Emperor Yuan Feng was about to explode in anger. How dare you glare at me? You damn girl, you stole my Three Swords of Yin Tianzi, and you dare to glare at me? Rebellion, this is really rebellion!

No, everyone with the surname Zhou is a bastard. How dare he use the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi to drive a wedge between me and my daughter. My daughter used to be so obedient, but ever since this brat with the surname Zhou appeared, everything has changed!

No, if this goes on, my little daughter will really be gone. I can't let this brat hang around Wuyou anymore. I have to kick him out for a period of time.

That's it!

A thought flashed through Emperor Yuan Feng's mind, and his lips involuntarily curled up.

Eunuch Zhao and the others felt their hair stand on end. Is His Majesty plotting something?

### **Chapter 166 Emperor Yuan Feng's Revenge, A Promotion**

Yin Wuyou pulled Zhou Shu far away from the military parade ground before releasing her hand with a flushed face.

Zhou Shu was a little depressed. In order to avoid being discovered by Yin Wuyou, he couldn't resist forcefully.

...

Why did she pull him away? He wanted to see what weapons the Forging Masters had forged.

Ever since he came to this world, he hadn't had the chance to interact with other Forging Masters.

This was such a good opportunity.

But now, you pulled me out just like that. If I go back, wouldn't it seem too deliberate?

Yin Wuyou turned to Zhou Shu and said with determination, "Zhou Shu, don't worry. What is yours is yours. No one can take it away!"

Without waiting for Zhou Shu to speak, she carried the wooden box containing the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi and fled.

Zhou Shu was confused. What should I do?

Speaking of which, Grand Minister, why did you bring me out?

Couldn't you say this at the military parade ground?

What should I do now?

Return to the residence or return to the venue?

The grand minister doesn't have any shortcomings. It was just that she occasionally does incomprehensible things.

Zhou Shu shook his head. He had just come out, so it was not appropriate for him to return to the venue.

Since that was the case, he might as well go home and sleep.

He regretfully walked towards the You Marquis's mansion. He hadn't walked far when he suddenly saw a familiar figure.

"Divine Constable Yang!" Zhou Shu shouted loudly and waved his hand.

Yang Hong, who was patrolling the streets, heard someone call out to him and subconsciously turned around. When he saw Zhou Shu, his face revealed a pleasantly surprised expression.

"Greetings, Marquis!" Yang Hong turned around and bowed.

"You're too polite, Divine Constable Yang. We're old friends. There's no need for such formalities." Zhou Shu smiled.

This was the first time he had seen Yang Hong since their last meeting in You Prefecture.

But he heard that after Yang Hong and the rest returned to the capital, they were placed under house arrest for a period of time. Looking at him now, he probably didn't suffer any abuse. "Divine Constable Yang, you are already a divine constable. Do you still need to patrol the streets?" Zhou Shu asked curiously.

"You don't know, Marquis." Yang Hong smiled and explained, "Patrolling the streets is also the daily work of the Divine Constable Bureau. The defense of the capital city used to only rely on the Country Protector Army. Only a small portion of the palace guards are ranked martial artists.

"However, the capital has been in trouble one after another. His Majesty has decided to reorganize the guards for the sake of the capital's security, so we have to patrol the streets now."

Zhou Shu nodded. He wasn't too interested in these things. But then again, there really weren't many guards in Chang'an.

“Divine Constable Yang, do you still need a ranked weapon?” Zhou Shu’s gaze fell on the saber hanging on Yang Hong’s waist. It was a Spring Embroidered Saber.

“Marquis...” Yang Hong was stunned. “I haven’t saved enough money...”

He felt a little embarrassed.

Thinking back to the time when he first met Zhou Shu, he was just a mere Forging Apprentice. In the blink of an eye, not only did his cultivation base surpass his, but even his status far surpassed his own.

He was truly incomparable to him. Although he was lucky enough to enter the ranks, he could not even afford a ranked weapon...

But the last time he had returned from You Prefecture, he had made some contributions. When the Imperial Court rewarded him, he should be able to buy a ranked weapon.

Yang Hong and the others were different from Zhou Shu. Zhou Shu’s status was special, and whatever rewards he received were directly given by Emperor Yuan Feng.

If Yang Hong and the rest performed meritorious deeds, they would be rewarded following a whole set of procedures. It was normal for them to receive their reward only after a few months.

“Forget about the money. Just tell me if you need one,” Zhou Shu interrupted him.

“Of course I need a ranked weapon,” Yang Hong said. “If I told you that there’s a ranked weapon worth one thousand taels of gold, but you only need to pay one hundred taels of gold and then pay another hundred taels every year until you have paid the full one thousand taels, would you be willing to accept it?” Zhou Shu asked. “There’s such a good thing?” Yang Hong said in surprise. “Of course.” If he had a ranked weapon, he would definitely have more opportunities to contribute. Earning money would be a piece of cake.

“Marquis, where can I get such a good deal?” Yang Hong asked.

“Right here, before your eyes,” Zhou Shu said with a smile.

“Marquis, are you joking with me?” Yang Hong smiled bitterly.

“Of course not. How about this? When you are off work, come find me at the marquis’s mansion, and we can talk about this.”

Zhou Shu was worried that he wouldn’t have enough workers. He naturally wouldn’t let go of anyone who could be of help to him.

Yang Hong scratched his head as he watched Zhou Shu’s back. He didn’t quite understand what Zhou Shu meant.

Since he couldn’t figure it out, then he wouldn’t think about it anymore. He would find out once he went to the marquis’ mansion later.

After parting with Yang Hong, Zhou Shu directly returned to his mansion.

Since he couldn't observe the weapons forged by other Forging Masters, he could only return home to study the Legendary Armament Canon.

He was discovering more and more things that he had yet to understand about the usage of the Legendary Armament Canon. He was still unsure when the Legendary Armament Canon would add a new weapon.

After completing certain forging tasks, new weapons would be added to the Legendary Armament Canon. The Legendary Armament Canon would record the other weapons that he forged. The forging formulas for other weapons that he came into contact with would also be recorded by the Legendary Armament Canon.

In short, there was more than one way to add new weapons to the Legendary Armament Canon.

But Zhou Shu didn't know if there was any other way.

To him, the easiest way to add new weapons to the Legendary Armament Canon was to come into contact with the secret forging formulas of this world.

But he didn't really like it. He didn't really like the weapons of this world...

He might as well design weapons based on his memories from his previous life...

Zhou Shu was studying the Legendary Armament Canon in the residence. He was engrossed in his research when Mi Ziwen suddenly came.

"Big Brother, aren't you attending the military parade? Why are you here?" Zhou Shu asked curiously. "You didn't run out like me, right?"

With Mi Ziwen's status, he had the right to follow Emperor Yuan Feng. He definitely couldn't be as carefree as Zhou Shu...

"No." Mi Ziwen's expression was a little serious as he said in a low voice, "I'm here on a decree." "A decree?" Zhou Shu felt a little strange. Didn't the emperor kick me out of the competition?

Wasn't Eunuch Zhao the one who issued the decree in the past?

Why is Big Brother here this time?

"It's actually His Majesty's oral edict," Mi Ziwen said. "The official appointment letter will come in a few days."

"Appointment? What do you mean? I'm going to be promoted again?" Zhou Shu asked curiously.

"That's one way to see it." Mi Ziwen nodded. "His Majesty has decided to appoint you as the official ambassador of Great Xia. In a few days, you will lead the Great Xia diplomatic mission to Great Qin!"

"Great Qin?" Zhou Shu raised his eyebrows. Not long ago, he had heard the name of this country from the Demon Executing Army's Yin Chengshan.

He didn't expect it to be related to him so quickly. Come to think of it, shouldn't it be proper officials for the diplomatic mission?

He was not a diplomat!

“Big Brother, are you joking?” Zhou Shu said. “Lead the diplomatic mission to the Great Qin? I don’t even know where Great Qin is, so wouldn’t it be nonsense for me to lead the diplomatic mission to Great Qin?”

He really thought so. Zhou Shu had never felt that he was as omnipotent as the protagonist in the transmigration novels he had read in his previous life.

He knew that there were many things he didn’t understand.

He knew nothing about diplomacy.

Besides knowing that there were more demonic beasts in Great Qin, he knew nothing about Great Qin. Most importantly, he didn’t want to know about it.

He just wanted to forge weapons quietly. No matter if it was Great Qin or Great Wei, it was best if they didn’t provoke him.

“I’m not joking. His Majesty’s attitude is very firm.”

Mi Ziwen said in a low voice, “Even the Grand Chancellor’s doubts were dismissed by His Majesty.

“It’s been decided that you will be the envoy. There will not be any changes.” Zhou Shu frowned. What’s wrong with Emperor Yuan Feng? Isn’t he afraid that I won’t be able to properly lead the diplomatic mission to Great Qin? “It really can’t be changed?” Zhou Shu frowned.

“His Majesty’s words are to be taken seriously.” Mi Ziwen shook his head.

Zhou Shu was a little unhappy. He wondered if he should sneak into the palace at night and teach Emperor Yuan Feng a lesson.

But he immediately rejected this thought.

It was unknown how many first-rank experts were hidden in the palace. He wasn’t even confident about defeating Emperor Yuan Feng and Eunuch Zhao, both of whom were first-rank martial artists.

Emperor Yuan Feng treated him quite well, so there was no need for him to fight to the death. If he really entered the palace, there was a high chance that he would be given the cold shoulder.

“Actually, this is a good thing.” Mi Ziwen looked at Zhou Shu’s frowning face and ever-changing expression.

“Although you are now the You Marquis, you do not have an official position. Although it is only a temporary position, when you return, His Majesty will definitely place you in an important position.”

“Big Brother, do you think I need it?” Zhou Shu said. “My dream is to be a marquis who has a good life. I’ll forge weapons in my free time...”

I, the You Marquis, am doing well. Why do I need an official position?

From beginning to end, he had no intention of working in bureaucracy. He planned to be a technical talent, a Forging Master, a Grand Craftsman, and even a Divine Craftsman. Wasn't that better than being a minor official?

"Even if you don't look at it from this angle, it's a good thing that you're going to Great Qin." Mi Ziwen shook his head and smiled bitterly. He didn't know whether his second brother was unambitious or indifferent to fame and fortune.

But then again, at his age, he was already the You Marquis. Even if he didn't do anything else in his life, it was enough...

"Do you know why we're sending the diplomatic mission to Great Qin?"

"Big Brother, if you don't tell me, how would I know?" Zhou Shu said unhappily. He never cared about national matters.

"This time, we're sending a diplomatic mission to Great Qin for the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament," Mi Ziwen said seriously.

"Next year will be the year of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. The last martial arts tournament was held in Great Qin, and the location for this martial arts tournament has yet to be decided.

"This time, the various countries will send their diplomatic missions to Great Qin to determine the location of the martial arts tournament!" "What does that have to do with me?" Zhou Shu had been a political idiot for two lifetimes. He couldn't be bothered to spend more time on this.

He just wanted to forge. If anyone dared to look for trouble, he could just kill them with one strike. If one strike wasn't enough, he would add another strike!

Mi Ziwen sighed helplessly. No wonder Teacher has always been unwilling to acknowledge Second Brother. It seems like he knows Second Brother's character well and doesn't want to involve him in bureaucracy.

With Second Brother's personality, it is indeed unsuitable for him to go into bureaucracy to scheme against others.

Thinking about it, it is really a joke of fate. With Second Brother's personality, he actually became a marquis at such a young age. This is simply unimaginable.

Perhaps this is a true genius, incomprehensible!

Mi Ziwen shook his head and explained, "Second Brother, if the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament can be held in Great Xia, we will have the upper hand as the host. At that time, we will naturally achieve good results.

"If we do well in the martial arts tournament, in the next ten years, Great Xia will be able to receive more resources. This will be of great benefit to the development of Great Xia!"

What Mi Ziwen said was much more reliable than what Zhou Shu had heard before. Previously, he had heard about the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament from storytellers. There were more stories than the truth. Most of it was simply fabricated by the storytellers.

Mi Ziwen was different. He came from an aristocratic family and was an important official of the Imperial Court, so he naturally had more insider news.

"I see," Zhou Shu said in a low voice. "Big Brother, are you saying that the Imperial Court sent out a diplomatic mission to try and get the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament to be held in Great Xia next year?"

"Who has the final say on where the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament will be held?"

According to Zhou Shu's understanding, this Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament was like the Olympics. Could it be that there was an organization similar to the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games in this world?

Was it so easy for the venue of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament to reach an agreement?

Furthermore, Mi Ziwen had mentioned the allocation of resources. This was something that he had never heard the storytellers mention before. What kind of resources would be allocated?

Who was responsible for the distribution? He didn't think that the ten countries would come to a gentleman's agreement. The Great Wei that he had come into contact with was not an honest country.

If one's performance in the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament wasn't good, would they receive fewer resources? Didn't they know how to snatch?

Between countries, who would talk about virtue?

"The venue of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament is naturally decided by the ten nations," Mi Ziwen said. "I know what you're worried about, but don't worry. No country will violate the agreement between the ten nations.

"When the time comes, you just have to follow the rules. Whoever hosts the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament next year will not have any influence on you."

Mi Ziwen did not elaborate. Zhou Shu didn't know if he didn't want to tell him or if he didn't know.

The possibility of the former was not high, but how could Mi Ziwen not know the inside story?

Zhou Shu didn't believe that the ten nations were all so particular about rules. Even on Earth in his previous life, countries couldn't be so particular about rules.

... Unless there was some force that forced them to obey the rules!

But was there any power that could threaten the ten nations?

"Big Brother, is there really no way to reject this diplomatic mission?" Zhou Shu said with his head lowered.

“Second Brother, why do you keep thinking of refusing it?” Mi Ziwen replied with a question, smiling bitterly. “It will be very beneficial to you if you go to Great Qin. Just treat it as an exchange of forging techniques. Great Qin’s forging techniques are also quite good...”

### **Chapter 167 With Enough Benefits, I Can Do Anything**

Even after Mi Ziwen had left, Zhou Shu hadn’t agreed to become the official envoy of the Great Xia diplomatic mission.

But whether he agreed or not didn’t seem to matter.

...

Unless he wanted to fall out with Emperor Yuan Feng, he had to obey the imperial decree.

To Zhou Shu, what was important was not whether or not he wanted to fall out with Emperor Yuan Feng or whether he wanted to become the official envoy of this diplomatic mission.

What he was considering was whether it would be good for him to be the official envoy.

I won’t do anything without benefits!

Even when facing Emperor Yuan Feng, Zhou Shu had the confidence to say this.

He had worked so hard to forge weapons and tried so hard to find workers to help him improve his strength. Wasn’t it so he could have the ability to make decisions?

Wasn’t it so that he could say no when faced with certain situations?

Great Qin! Earlier, Yin Chengshan said that the demonic beasts of Great Qin were rampant and that there would definitely be many chances to kill them. I never expected that the opportunity to distribute my weapons there would arrive so quickly. He tapped his fingers on the table.

Distributing weapons to the experts of Great Qin was undoubtedly funding the enemy. But Great Qin and Great Xia weren’t close, so there was no need to worry about Great Qin invading Great Xia.

Furthermore, a few ranked weapons were not enough to affect the general situation of a country...

It’s not bad to go to Great Qin to find a few workers to earn benefits for me, but this diplomatic mission isn’t a good job. Wasn’t that fellow Xiao Shunzhi the official envoy of a diplomatic mission before? In the end, he lost his head.

Although if there was a war between two countries, there was a rule that envoys would not be harmed. But one could only hope that the other party would abide by the rules. If the other party really fought, all the rules would be useless.

But then again, Xiao Shunzhi’s death was an accident, not a deliberate move by Great Xia.

The strange thing was that even though he was dead, there was no news from Great Wei...

Even though Great Qin is slightly stronger than Great Xia, unless they send out eight or so first-rank martial artists to kill me, I don’t have to worry about my safety. Zhou Shu was calculating what benefits



and disadvantages he would receive if he led the diplomatic mission to Great Qin. Only then would he be able to decide whether he should accept this mission or not.

With his strength, he wasn't too worried about danger.

After all, this diplomatic mission was for the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. Other than Great Xia, countries like Great Wei would also send diplomatic missions to Great Qin.

Unless Great Qin was crazy, they wouldn't attack the diplomatic missions.

Even if Great Qin was crazy, Zhou Shu reckoned that it was impossible for them to gather eight first-rank martial artists to deal with him.

Without at least eight first-rank martial artists, even if Zhou Shu couldn't defeat them, escaping wouldn't be a problem.

With the twelfth level of the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and the eleventh level of the Golden Bell Shield Technique, he was confident that he could escape unscathed even if Great Qin mobilized its army.

I'm invulnerable. What can you do?

Zhou Shu was not a good-for-nothing like Xiao Shunzhi!

If there's no danger, then a trip to Grand Qin isn't bad.

Zhou Shu rubbed his chin. If Great Qin really is like what Yin Chengshan said, where demonic beasts run rampant and their Demon Executing Army fights every day, they are the right people to be my workers.

Within the imperial palace of Great Xia, Yin Wuyou glared angrily at Emperor Yuan Feng.

"Fatuous ruler! You're a fatuous ruler!" Yin Wuyou shouted. Emperor Yuan Feng's expression darkened. He increasingly felt that his decision was correct!

It was just that he had a good temper. If it was any other emperor, if anyone pointed at them and called them a fatuous ruler, even if that person was their own daughter, they would be demoted to a commoner, driven out of the palace, and left to fend for themselves.

It had to be said that Emperor Yuan Feng was not cut out to be an emperor. His personality was too soft. After succeeding the throne for so many years, besides dealing with a rebellion, he had never even killed a single official. This was very rare among emperors.

"Are you done?" Emperor Yuan Feng snorted coldly. "If you've had enough, then get out!"

"Don't you know how important Zhou Shu is to Great Xia? Why did you send him to Great Qin? If anything happens to him, do you know how great the losses of Great Xia will be?" Yin Wuyou was practically shouting.

"Are you teaching me how to do things?" Emperor Yuan Feng said coldly. "I've spoiled you too much! Great Xia won't collapse no matter what! Even without me, it will still be the same! What more without Zhou Shu!"

“Father!” After her red face faded, Yin Wuyou began to plead with him again. “I’ve said the wrong thing. Father, you’re a wise ruler, a benevolent one. You should know that Zhou Shu is a Forging Master. Forging weapons is what he’s best at. Father, think about it. How much has the strength of our Great Xia’s army increased with the Horse Slaying Saber and Great Xia Dragon Sparrow Saber?”

“He should be forging weapons in the Forging Division, not going out on a diplomatic mission. Isn’t that using the wrong person for the wrong job?”

Emperor Yuan Feng glanced at Yin Wuyou expressionlessly.

“I’ve already said that you should just do your job as the grand minister of the Forging Division. As for the other matters, you don’t need to concern yourself with them.” Emperor Yuan Feng’s voice was a bit cold.

There was something that Emperor Yuan Feng didn’t say. Do you think that with the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi, you are Tianzi?

He knew how lethal these words were, so he didn’t say anything.

Actually, he wasn’t worried that his daughter would overstep her boundaries.

As Yin Wuyou’s father, he was well aware of her character. She wasn’t an ambitious child to begin with, let alone that there was no precedent of a woman succeeding the throne in Great Xia.

This girl doesn’t look like she’s ambitious at all.

She even dared to call her father a fatuous ruler because of a man!

I’m so angry. That Zhou brat must leave Great Xia for some time! Otherwise, my little daughter will become worse!

“If you must do this, then I will also go with the diplomatic mission!” Yin Wuyou said. “I can’t let Great Xia’s talent take the risk. I want to protect him personally!”

“No need.” Emperor Yuan Feng sneered in his heart. I knew you would think this way.

“I have already made arrangements. I have already instructed Lu Wenshuang to enter the capital. She will be the deputy envoy of this diplomatic mission.

“In addition, the great general will personally select a guard team for the diplomatic mission.”

It was true that Emperor Yuan Feng had a soft personality, but he was no fool.

Although he was fighting with Zhou Shu, he would never really put Zhou Shu in danger.

Even Yin Wuyou knew the importance of Zhou Shu, so how could Emperor Yuan Feng not know?

Leaving aside the fact that this trip to Great Qin wasn’t very risky, in order to ensure his safety, Emperor Yuan Feng was even prepared to provide the diplomatic mission with more guards than usual. “Lu Wenshuang? Why her?” Yin Wuyou blurted out with a frown.

Qingzhou’s Lu Wenshuang was known as the number one Martial Dao genius of Great Xia. Although Yin Wuyou was a bit unconvinced, she still had to acknowledge her strength.

Her strength was not inferior to hers.

Although Yin Wuyou was already a second-rank martial artist, if they really fought, she might not be much stronger than Lu Wenshuang, a third-rank martial artist.

Yin Wuyou knew her own limits. She didn't have much combat experience, and Lu Wenshuang had joined the Demon Executing Army several years ago and had illustrious battle accomplishments.

"Why can't it be her?" Emperor Yuan Feng said. "One is the Great Xia's number one forging genius, while the other is the number one Martial Dao genius of Great Xia. If the two of them join forces, the chances of them returning from this diplomatic mission victoriously will be even greater."

"Lu Wenshuang is not the number one Martial Dao genius of Great Xia! I am!" Yin Wuyou said indignantly. If not for the fact that Emperor Yuan Feng was afraid of Yin Wuyou attracting too much attention, she would be the youngest grandmaster in Great Xia! Besides, she was already a second-rank martial artist!

Lu Wenshuang had yet to break through to the second rank!

"Nonsense! When have you heard of a princess going to another country as part of a diplomatic mission?" Emperor Yuan Feng slapped the table. "I have already decided on this matter. I will not change my mind. You may leave!"

Just as Yin Wuyou was causing a ruckus in the imperial palace, Great General Meng Bai once again visited the You Marquis's mansion. "Great General, if you have any orders, you can just send someone to inform me. Why do you need to personally make a trip?" Zhou Shu looked at the old Meng Bai and sighed with emotion.

Even the God of War can't beat time.

No matter how much power you have, can you live forever?

"It's fine. It was along the way. There are some things I need to explain to you." Meng Bai smiled gracefully.

"You should already know that you will be leading the diplomatic mission to Great Qin as the envoy, right?" Meng Bai went straight to the point. "I came here to discuss with you about the guards of the diplomatic mission."

"Why do you have to do something so trivial, Great General?" Zhou Shu asked curiously. Doesn't Meng Bai want to retire and return to civilian life?

Even if he doesn't retire, as the commander-in-chief of the three armies of Great Xia, he doesn't need to worry about a mere diplomatic mission.

"This isn't a small matter." Meng Bai shook his head. "Marquis, you are the pillar of the country, and it isn't child's play to send a diplomatic mission to Great Qin. We can't allow any accidents to occur."

Emperor Yuan Feng attached great importance to Zhou Shu's safety. What he didn't tell Yin Wuyou was that this time, not only did he send Lu Wenshuang to protect Zhou Shu, but the Great Xia diplomatic mission also had a first-rank martial artist following them.

Most importantly, Meng Bai, Great General Meng, would also accompany the diplomatic mission to Great Qin!

Logically speaking, Great General Meng was the most suitable person to serve as the diplomatic envoy.

But Great General Meng was not in good condition, so he couldn't work too hard. Furthermore, in name, he had been dispatched with the diplomatic mission to seek medical treatment in Great Qin.

When Zhou Shu heard that Meng Bai was also going on the diplomatic mission, he couldn't help blurting out, "Isn't His Majesty going too far? Great General, you're already like this, yet he still wants you to go on the diplomatic mission?"

As soon as he said this, Zhou Shu knew that something was wrong. He couldn't say such things carelessly...

Meng Bai didn't really mind. He shook his head. "It wasn't His Majesty's idea. It was my own idea.

"Have you forgotten that I am an advisor of the Huaxia Pavilion?"

"The Huaxia Pavilion's master is going to Great Qin. As an advisor, wouldn't it be normal for me to accompany you?" "Great General, stop joking." Zhou Shu smiled bitterly.

What advisor? Wasn't it just a casual chat? Could I really treat Meng Bai as my subordinate?

"Back to business." Meng Bai put away his smile and said seriously, "I will accompany the diplomatic mission. You don't need to worry about this point, Marquis Zhou. My duty is to ensure the diplomatic mission's safety. Everything else within the diplomatic mission will be decided by you, the official envoy. I will not interfere."

"But Great General, your body's condition..." With Meng Bai's current state, could he withstand hardships?

The journey from Great Xia to Great Qin was quite far.

"It's okay." Meng Bai shook his head. "I won't die anytime soon. Nominally, I'm going to Great Qin to seek treatment." "As long as you're okay. Great General, with you accompanying us, I don't have to worry about the safety of the diplomatic mission," Zhou Shu said.

He never expected that Meng Bai would actually travel with him!

Although Meng Bai looked as though a gust of wind could blow him away at any time, he was the God of War of Great Xia. Anyone who looked down on him would pay an unimaginable price.

With Meng Bai around, Zhou Shu no longer needed to worry about the safety of the diplomatic mission.

"Other than me, there are two other deputy envoys in this diplomatic mission. You should be quite familiar with one of them. It's Shi Songtao. The other one is Lu Wenshuang from Qingzhou."

"Shi Songtao? Lu Wenshuang?" Zhou Shu was a little surprised. The standards of this diplomatic mission are very high.

Needless to say, Zhou Shu had long heard of Shi Songtao's and Lu Wenshuang's names.

Back then, on the assassination list, these two were at the top...

He didn't expect them to be his assistants.

"As for the accompanying guards, there will be a team from the Country Protector Army and the Demon Executing Army," Meng Bai said.

"Marquis Zhou, if you have any followers, they can be part of the mission."

"Followers? I don't have any." Zhou Shu shook his head, but he suddenly thought of something. "Great General, can I recommend a few people?"

"Please speak."

"Won't there be people transferred from the Demon Executing Army to become the guards of the diplomatic mission? Can you transfer Yin Chengshan and his team in as well?" Zhou Shu said.

"Yin Chengshan?" Meng Bai had never heard of this name before. A Demon Executing Army lieutenant usually wouldn't come into contact with someone at Meng Bai's level.

But Meng Bai didn't refuse. He nodded and said, "I'll inform the Demon Executing Army later."

Meng Bai was once the commander-in-chief of the three armies of Great Xia. In name, he had also been the highest-ranking commander of the Demon Executing Army. Although he had already resigned, transferring some people over was still a piece of cake. "What other requests do you have? Just tell me," Meng Bai continued. "His Majesty has said that the Imperial Court will do their best to satisfy your requests."

Emperor Yuan Feng had asked Zhou Shu to go to Great Qin, but he didn't want Zhou Shu to bear any grudges, so he was going all out.

"I see." Zhou Shu rubbed his chin. "Great General, although it isn't too risky to travel to Great Qin, there are still risks involved. I want to forge some weapons to protect myself, but I don't have enough materials to forge any..."

"That's easy. If you need any forging materials, just make a list. If the Forging Division can't supply them, I'll think of a way." Meng Bai said indifferently. This was a small matter.

"Do I have to pay for them?" Zhou Shu asked.

Meng Bai laughed. "This is to prepare for the diplomatic mission. It's official business. Didn't I say so just now? The Imperial Court will take care of it."

"Really?" Zhou Shu's eyes lit up. This was a good thing. Since Emperor Yuan Feng is so generous, I will be the official envoy for once. It's no big deal.

The Imperial Court will be paying for me to get workers to earn benefits for me. Why would I reject such a good deal?

Chapter 168 I'll Take Care of the Yellow-Grade Armament Manual

“Marquis, you’re going to Great Qin?” Yang Hong, who had come to the marquis’s mansion as promised, exclaimed in surprise.

When he met Zhou Shu in the day, Zhou Shu had asked him to come to the marquis’s mansion to talk about a weapon.

...

Once he got off duty, he rushed over without eating

He didn’t expect to hear this news.

“That’s why we’ll have to wait until I get back to discuss the weapon,” Zhou Shu said apologetically. “I have to prepare for the diplomatic mission, so I can’t help you forge one.”

“You’re too kind, Marquis. I’m in no hurry,” Yang Hong hurriedly said. He had never expected Zhou Shu to help him forge a weapon. Without any expectations, he naturally couldn’t be disappointed.

“Marquis, are you traveling to Great Qin because of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament?” Yang Hong asked. The moment the words left his mouth, he regretted it. Why am I asking? “Divine Constable Yang, do you know about it? Zhou Shu smiled. “That’s right. Actually, I don’t know what exactly I’m going there for. Divine Constable Yang, are you interested in coming along?”

“Okay-” Yang Hong blurted out. The next moment, he wished he could give himself two tight slaps.

Yang Hong, oh Yang Hong, did you already forget what happened? Don’t you know that every time you get involved with this master, it becomes a big matter?

You’re just a puny ninth-rank martial artist. What are you trying to do?

“In that case, I’ll ask Great General Meng to transfer you to join the guards.” Zhou Shu laughed.

Meng Bai and Mi Ziwen had both said that the risk of this mission wasn’t high, and it was easy to gain merits. It was considered a lucrative job.

Yang Hong could be considered one of his people. If there was a good opportunity, he should naturally give it to his own people.

“If you’re going with me, you’ll have to equip yourself with a ranked weapon...”

Yang Hong was about to find an excuse to refuse when he suddenly heard Zhou Shu mutter softly.

What?

Going on the diplomatic mission comes with a ranked weapon?

There’s such a good thing?

He swallowed his rejection.

Yang Hong gulped and asked, “Is there really no problem, Marquis?”

“We originally wanted to recruit some divine constables from the Divine Constable Bureau to join the guards. There’s no problem,” Zhou Shu said with a smile. He didn’t know that Yang Hong was asking about the ranked weapon.

But since Zhou Shu said so, Yang Hong didn’t ask too much. “Divine Constable Yang, just wait for the transfer order.”

Yang Hong was both happy and worried as he left. He was happy because he might be able to obtain a ranked weapon in advance, one that didn’t cost much.

What he was worried about was that this marquis had the physique to attract trouble. When had he not encountered any accidents when he was involved? It was fine in the capital. If anything happened, the Divine Constable Bureau wasn’t without power. No matter what, they could take care of matters.

This time, they were going to Great Qin. If something happened, how would they deal with it?

Zhou Shu didn’t know how complicated Yang Hong’s feelings were. Another worker.

Then he entered the forging room. Since he was leaving for Great Qin, he had to make some preparations. In any case, Great General Meng had said that in order for the diplomatic mission to go smoothly, the Imperial Court would reimburse him for all the materials he used to forge.

Zhou Shu would naturally not let such a good opportunity go.

He had already used up most of his forging materials. Now that he had Meng Bai’s promise, he naturally had to do everything he could!

Zhou Shu was busy in the forging room. Outside, Great Xia’s military parade was still ongoing

The parade and the military performance were all major events in Great Xia, and everyone paid a lot of attention to them.

Zhou Shu was probably the only one who didn’t care.

In the blink of an eye, several days passed. The military parade had already ended, and the military performance was also coming to an end.

During this period of time, Yin Chengshan, who had performed spectacularly during the military performance, had specially come to the marquis’s mansion to express his gratitude. But he didn’t see Zhou Shu.

Not only Yin Chengshan, but there were also many people who came to pay a visit to the marquis’s mansion. The steward rejected all of them using the excuse that the marquis was forging

Most people only politely left a message before taking their leave.

Only one person remained.

“Master Shi, I really don’t know when the marquis will come out of seclusion. Why don’t I immediately send someone to inform you after he comes out?” The steward looked at Shi Songtao helplessly.

This master had been waiting here for two days.

He sat in the living room and refused to leave, and he refused to sleep in the guest room arranged for him.

He didn't refuse to eat and drink.

It wasn't that the marquis's residence was unwilling to part with the money for the tea, but it was just that this master had been sitting here all this time. It didn't feel right.

"I'm fine. I'll wait here." Shi Songtao frowned.

You're fine, but we're not, the steward cursed silently. It would be rude to leave the guest here alone.

The steward was helpless. He could only apologize and run to Zhou Shu's forging room, hoping to find an opportunity to report to Zhou Shu.

"Steward! Steward!"

The steward had just arrived outside the forging room when he heard Zhou Shu shouting inside.

"Yes!" the steward replied excitedly. "Take this list to the Forging Division and get them to send the materials on the list to me as soon as possible. If the Forging Division doesn't have them, get them to look for Great General Meng."

The door creaked open, and a piece of paper filled with words flew out.

"Yes, Marquis. I'll send someone." The steward picked up the paper and hurriedly said, "Marquis, Master Shi Songtao came to look for you. He has been waiting for two days, but he's refused to leave..."

"Shi Songtao?" Zhou Shu's voice sounded. "What is he trying to do? Is he here to find trouble?"

The steward thought for a moment and said, "I don't know why he's here, but he's not looking for trouble. He's just sitting there, refusing to leave. He wants to wait until you come out of seclusion, Marquis."

"Forget it. I'll go see him," Zhou Shu said after a moment.

The door of the forging room opened, and the steward seemed to see a mess in the forging room. There were several weapons lying around, but before he could take a closer look, the door closed again.

Zhou Shu looked at his clothes. They were a little dirty and messy. After thinking about it, he didn't return to his room to change.

Anyway, Shi Songtao isn't a beauty, so why do I have to care about my image?

After meeting him, I will have to come back to forge. It's a hassle to keep changing clothes!

"Brother Shi, why are you looking for me?". Zhou Shu quickly walked to the front hall. Before he arrived, his voice had already arrived.

Shi Songtao's expression was somewhat weak. Hearing Zhou Shu's voice, he stood up.

"Marquis, I admit defeat. Here is the Heaven Refining Stone I've promised." Shi Songtao took out a small piece of Heavenly Refining Stone and handed it to Zhou Shu.



“Just because of this? Couldn’t you just leave it here? Why did you wait here for so long?” Zhou Shu laughed.

Recently, he had been working hard in the forging room and didn’t pay attention to the changes in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. He didn’t even know that he had defeated Shi Songtao.

If Shi Songtao hadn’t come to find him, he would have forgotten about the bet.

Wasn’t it just three hundred grams of Heaven Refining Stone?

Zhou Shu really didn’t think much of it.

“By the way, Brother Shi, what’s my ranking in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual?” Zhou Shu asked curiously.

He hadn’t looked at the Heavenly Mirror for the past few days, so he was really unclear about this.

Shi Songtao’s expression darkened. I’ve already admitted defeat. Do you still want to humiliate me?

“Light Bearing, Shadow, and Night Practice are ranked second, fourth and seventh respectively!” Shi Songtao said hoarsely. His newly forged sword did not even make it into the top ten! Even his Songtao Sword was squeezed out of the top five, almost falling out of the top ten!

“They’re considered three separate swords?” Zhou Shu mumbled, but this was normal.

The name ‘Three Swords of Yin Tianzi’ had originally been used to trick Emperor Yuan Feng, who was eavesdropping that night.

The three swords actually didn’t have much of a connection to each other.

Seeing that Zhou Shu didn’t seem satisfied, Shi Songtao’s heart sank.

Are you not satisfied with the rankings?

You took up three spots in the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. You’re still not satisfied?

The Yellow-grade Armament Manual is almost all yours!

Shi Songtao felt a little better when he thought about how the first position in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual seemed to be unshakable.

Fortunately, first place isn’t his.

“Brother Shi, I’ll accept the Heaven Refining Stone. I still need to continue forging, so I won’t be entertaining you any longer...” Zhou Shu stood up to see him off.

He really didn’t have time to chat with Shi Songtao. Mi Ziwen and the rest had said that the diplomatic mission of Great Xia would depart in a few days. He still had to prepare more weapons for his workers. Right now, he didn’t even have enough time. He couldn’t waste a single second.

“Please wait, Marquis,” Shi Songtao said with a black face. When had he, Shi Songtao, ever been despised like this?

He had been treated like a VIP wherever he went in the past.

Unlike now, after waiting for two days, Zhou Shu looked like he was unwilling to talk to him.

“Speak your mind. I’m really busy,” Zhou Shu said.

Shi Songtao took a few deep breaths. He had to maintain his demeanor! “Marquis, I’ve come for the matter of Great Qin.

“I wonder what your thoughts are on this trip to Great Qin? Do you have confidence in letting Great Xia host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament?”

“I have no thoughts nor confidence,” Zhou Shu said straightforwardly.

He was going to Great Qin for a holiday, and he was also going to look for a few workers.

As for other things, he knew nothing about them.

Professional matters were left to the professionals. As for diplomacy, Great General Meng had said that there were professionals in the diplomatic mission.

He was very clear about his own status. In the Great Xia diplomatic mission, he was a mascot...

“Marquis!” Shi Songtao said seriously. “This matter is of great importance. Please don’t joke around, Marquis!”

“I’m not joking. By the way, you’re a deputy envoy of the diplomatic mission. What do you think?” Zhou Shu remembered something.

Shi Songtao took a few deep breaths again. “Marquis, I want to ask you what weapon you’re planning to forge this time.” “What do you mean?” Zhou Shu asked curiously.

“Marquis, do you really not know anything about this diplomatic mission?” Shi Songtao was a little confused. He even felt that he was speaking to the wrong person. Is this person really the envoy of the diplomatic mission? He hadn’t been able to sleep well for the past few days because of the diplomatic mission, yet this person was so ignorant?

“Do I need to know?” Zhou Shu asked.

Shi Songtao: “...” He was completely speechless.

“Marquis, do you know how the hosting country for the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament is decided?” Shi Songtao said patiently.

This diplomatic mission was extremely important to him. If he could make great contributions, as a vice envoy, he could also advance further. “Isn’t it about who’s stronger?” Zhou Shu said. Isn’t this like the Olympics of my previous world?

“Yes, it depends on who’s stronger. But how is it decided? Great Qin is the strongest among the ten nations. Does it mean the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament will always be held in Great Qin? If that’s the case, then what meaning would there be for us to make an appearance?” Shi Songtao said.

“Oh.” Zhou Shu understood. He didn’t care about politics, but it didn’t mean he was a fool. “You’re saying that the venue of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament is decided through the use of forging?”

“It’s just like us making a bet. Whoever wins will host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament?”

“The method used is different every time. This time, it is indeed decided through forging.”

Shi Songtao was already powerless to complain. With such a capable person as the envoy, what else could he do?

“According to tradition, the content of each competition is decided by the host of the last Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. This time, Great Qin has decided that the competition is related to forging weapons.”

Shi Songtao did his best to explain to Zhou Shu. This mission needed everyone’s cooperation to complete. He didn’t want Zhou Shu’s actions to affect this mission.

“Comparing whose weapon is stronger?” Zhou Shu asked. “In that case, we have to send a Grand Craftsman. A heaven-grade weapon is definitely stronger than a yellow-grade weapon.”

Furthermore, wasn’t it very easy to compare weapons?

They just had to compare which nation had the most number of weapons on the armament manuals.

Was there a need to go on a diplomatic mission?

But then again, if they really competed like this, Zhou Shu could take on all the other nine nations at once based on the Yellow-grade Armament Manual!

He alone occupied four of the top ten in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. Was there a need to compete?

“Of course not.” Shi Songtao shook his head. “Great Qin has set up some checkpoints regarding forging for all the nations to solve.”

“Is that so? Then, why are you asking me what weapon I’m going to forge?” Zhou Shu said unhappily. “Why are you so worried since we don’t know anything now?”

“No, no matter how Great Qin sets up the problems, we will definitely have to forge weapons in the end. As the saying goes, ‘If we don’t make preparations beforehand, everything will be ruined’. If we don’t make preparations beforehand, how can we return victorious?” Shi Songtao said anxiously.

“Say, Brother Shi, you’re thinking too much. There’s also a saying, ‘We’ll deal with soldiers as they come’. Do you understand?” Zhou Shu patted Shi Songtao’s shoulder. “It won’t be too late for you to worry after you find out what checkpoints Great Qin has set up.

“I don’t have time to think about these things now.

“I plan on letting my weapons take up all the top ten spots in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual first. I won’t send you out. Bye.”

While speaking, Zhou Shu was already leaving, his back facing Shi Songtao as he waved his hand.

Shi Songtao was a little confused. Why aren’t you taking this seriously? You are the official envoy of Great Xia, right?

If we succeed, your contribution will be the greatest. Why should I worry! Also, what do you mean by letting your weapons take up all the top ten spots in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual?

Could it be that you've forged more amazing yellow-grade weapons? Are you really that productive?

### **Chapter 169 Ask the Sword**

Ranked weapons were completely different from standard weapons.

Under normal circumstances, a Forging Master to be able to forge one or two ranked weapons in a year was already considered a high yield.

...

Shi Songtao didn't believe Zhou Shu's nonsense about getting his weapons to take up the top ten spots of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual!

He had been a Forging Master for many years, but he had only forged a few yellow-grade weapons.

Although this had something to do with his desire for perfection and only forging top-quality yellow-grade weapons, it was mainly because forging a decent yellow-grade weapon was not that easy. Zhou Shu had just forged the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi, so Shi Songtao didn't believe that he would be able to forge top-quality yellow-grade weapons that could rank in the top few spots of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual in a short period of time.

He lamented for a long time. Now that he had met such an irresponsible official envoy, he was very worried. Would he be able to make a contribution on this diplomatic mission?

No, I can't rely on this unreliable official envoy. Everything depends on me!

I, Shi Songtao, am the Great Xia's number one forging genius. If the official envoy isn't reliable, as the deputy envoy, I have to be responsible for carrying the burden!

The steward looked at Shi Songtao's back in puzzlement. Master Shi is really interesting. One moment, he's dejected; the next moment, he is full of fighting spirit.

Is this a genius? It's really incomprehensible. My marquis is also a genius. Why does he feel so normal?

The steward shook his head and went about his work.

In a courtyard in Qingzhou...

The courtyard was very large, but the layout of the courtyard was very simple. It was almost empty.

At this moment, there were many people standing in the courtyard.

In front of the crowd was a slender woman in green.

The woman in green was as beautiful as a painting, but she was expressionless, as if nothing in this world could stir her emotions.

Her bright eyes swept across the people in front of her without any emotion.

These people were all young women. These women were of all shapes and sizes. Some were beautiful, some were ordinary looking, and some were ugly.

Their expressions were very solemn. They looked at the woman in green with eyes full of admiration.

“I’ve already taught you the basics. Now, it’s up to your own cultivation,” the woman in green said slowly. Her voice was very pleasant to the ear, like a stream of spring water flowing down from a snowy mountain. “I will be away for a period of time, at least a few months, at most a year. Next, you can cultivate freely. All the supplies will be provided as usual.

“When I return, those who are ranked will enter the Demon Executing Army. Those who are not will have to leave.” With that, the woman in green turned and left the courtyard. In the courtyard, a beautiful woman with a red scarf tied around her wrist tightly gripped the hilt of her sword. I must succeed! Liang Hongxiu.

Another few days passed. Zhou Shu was still locking himself in the forging room. No matter who came to visit, he refused to see them.

No one knew what weapons he was forging.

Shi Songtao hadn’t been idle these days. He locked himself in his study and spent all his time reading the books on forging. Occasionally, when he was free, he would take a look at the Heavenly Mirror.

Although he cursed silently, he kept thinking about what Zhou Shu’s words meant.

Seeing that the top ten weapons in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual remained unchanged, he rolled his eyes at Zhou Shu in his heart. He was indeed boasting. How could top-quality yellow-grade weapons be so easy to forge?

The envoys of the Great Xia diplomatic mission had already been officially announced. The official envoy was Zhou Shu, and two deputy envoys were Lu Wenshuang and Shi Songtao, as well as the bodyguards and generals of the entourage.

In addition, there were also some other Forging Masters and officials from the Ministry of Rites.

Meng Bai’s name didn’t appear on the diplomatic mission’s personnel list.

In name, he was going to Great Qin to seek medical treatment and only traveling with the diplomatic mission.

Yin Chengshan and his team were also recruited into the guards. They didn’t reject going on this mission.

Although the Demon Executing Army was relatively free, they were still soldiers and naturally had to obey orders.

Apart from Yin Chengshan, Yang Hong and a few other divine constables were recruited as scouts.

Meng Bai was responsible for forming the team, so Zhou Shu naturally didn’t need to worry about it.

Speaking of which, Zhou Shu, the official envoy of the diplomatic mission, the nominal leader, had never shown his face since the day the appointment was issued.

There was another person who had yet to show herself-deputy envoy Lu Wenshuang.

Shi Songtao felt a headache coming on.

These two colleagues didn't seem to be easy to get along with

Fortunately, other than these two troublemakers, the other members of the diplomatic mission were easy to deal with.

Shi Songtao had already met with the other Forging Masters and officials of the Ministry of Rites several times. They had discussed the matters of the diplomatic mission together.

Shi Songtao had already made up his mind. No matter what the others thought, he would definitely complete this task!

While Shi Songtao was busy dealing with the diplomatic mission, another unexpected guest arrived at the You Marquis's mansion.

The steward was stunned by the beauty of the lady before him. He bowed slightly and said, "Miss, I'm sorry, but the marquis is currently in seclusion forging. It's not convenient for him to meet guests."

Although this lady is beautiful, she is too cold. Her Highness is still the best. She's also very beautiful, but she doesn't have such a distant feeling.

"Not convenient for him to meet guests?" Lu Wenshuang's expression didn't change. She took a step forward, and her entire aura suddenly changed. An extremely fierce aura soared into the sky. In the steward's eyes, this beautiful lady seemed to have become a sword in an instant.

"Assassin!" the steward shouted subconsciously. The next instant, his voice came to an abrupt halt, and the words he was about to utter were forced back by a burst of sword qi.

This sword qi was at its peak and forced the steward's voice back, but it didn't hurt him at all.

Swoosh

A few whooshing sounds came. The experts ordered to protect Zhou Shu all appeared. "Which bastard came looking for trouble?" Almost at the same time, an exasperated voice sounded from the backyard.

Perhaps it was an illusion, but a smile seemed to flash across the lips of the ice-cold woman in green.

"Marquis, be careful!" The experts responsible for Zhou Shu's safety stood in front of him with grave expressions. "She's an expert!"

Lu Wenshuang looked at Zhou Shu, who had stormed into the front hall, and said expressionlessly, "Are you Zhou Shu? I am Lu Wenshuang."

Her tone was indifferent, and her words were concise to the extreme.

I am Lu Wenshuang. She spoke with confidence. It was as if everyone should know who she was.

This was indeed the truth. Everyone present, including Zhou Shu, knew who she was when they heard this.

The expert ordered to protect Zhou Shu heaved a sigh of relief. Qingzhou's Lu Wenshuang, she's one of us.

Zhou Shu sized up Lu Wenshuang from head to toe. His anger from being disturbed had completely vanished. No matter when, beautiful women would always be given preferential treatment. Lu Wenshuang was very beautiful. In terms of looks, she was not inferior to Yin Wuyou. But she was slightly flat-chested...

This was the legendary number one Martial Dao genius of Great Xia. She had become a grandmaster in her teens.

Her sword intent was indeed astonishing.

While Zhou Shu was sizing up Lu Wenshuang, Lu Wenshuang was also sizing up Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu's current attire was truly unsightly. He was wearing a set of short clothes made for forging. It had been many days since he washed up, and he appeared somewhat dusty and dirty.

But there wasn't the slightest bit of embarrassment on his face. His carefree attitude made Lu Wenshuang nod slightly in her heart.

"So, it's Miss Lu," Zhou Shu said. "May I know why you are here? If it's about the diplomatic mission, we can talk about it when everyone is

here."

"I don't care about the diplomatic mission." Lu Wenshuang said coldly. It was another person who refused to work...

"I'm here to see if you're qualified to be the official envoy." "I'm not qualified. If you're willing, you can be the official envoy," Zhou Shu said happily.

Lu Wenshuang frowned. "As a man, you should take responsibility. If you do this, how can you accomplish anything?"

"It's none of your business! What does this have to do with accomplishing anything?" Zhou Shu rolled his eyes in his heart. "You don't have to worry. I'll talk to His Majesty. It's not a problem to let you be the official envoy. We can definitely make it work."

He didn't care about being the official envoy at all.

"I am not interested in whether or not you are the official envoy. But since you are the official envoy and I am a deputy envoy, I will have to listen to your orders. Naturally, you will have to prove that you are superior," Lu Wenshuang said coldly. "I came to ask you for your sword. Where is your sword?"

"Attack!"

Lu Wenshuang took another step forward. Her body exuded a sharpness, and her sword intent sliced the surrounding air, emitting a soft hissing sound.

Her right hand was already gripping the sword hilt revealed on her right shoulder.

“Ask for my sword? You want to fight?” Zhou Shu’s expression froze.

Is there a mistake?

You, Lu Wenshuang, are a third-rank Martial Dao grandmaster. On the surface, my Martial Dao cultivation is only seventh rank! Is there a need to fight?

A third-rank martial artist had the ability to cut a seventh-rank martial artist into pieces with a single strike.

“I heard that you have a sword technique called the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords,” Lu Wenshuang said. “Let me see what kind of sword technique dares to be called the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords! Don’t worry. I’ll suppress my spiritual essence to the level of an eighth-rank martial artist!”

Suppressing spiritual essence is enough?

How can a third-rank martial artist’s understanding of the Martial Dao compare to a seventh-rank martial artist’s? Is this a joke?

“Miss Lu, I think you’re mistaken. I’m a Forging Master. I’m only cultivating the Martial Dao for fun. I’m definitely not your match,” Zhou Shu said casually.

He glanced at Lu Wenshuang. If I didn’t care about anything else, do you believe that I could pin you on my knee and spank you?

He was not interested in fighting or killing...

Lu Wenshuang was indeed very powerful among the younger generation. She was a second-rank martial artist who was not even 20 years old. In the entire land, there were not many people stronger than her at this age.

But in Zhou Shu’s eyes, she was still too weak.

To Zhou Shu, not hiding his cultivation and attacking was like an adult bullying a child. It was meaningless.

If he concealed his cultivation and made a move, wouldn’t he be asking for trouble with his seventh-rank cultivation of the Martial Dao?

Before Zhou Shu could finish speaking, there was a soft swoosh as a white light pierced toward his chest.

The white light was very fast and very decisive.

Zhou Shu could sense that if he didn’t dodge, this white light could really pierce through his heart!

Is she serious? Zhou Shu’s expression changed slightly. Lu Wenshuang doesn’t care about ethics. I haven’t even agreed to it, and she’s already attacked!

And she’s serious right from the start!

If I don’t fight back, is she really going to kill me?



Zhou Shu had the Golden Bell Shield to protect him. He wasn't afraid of Lu Wenshuang killing him, but he didn't want to expose his Golden Bell Shield Technique in public.

He took a step forward, and cloud qi seemed to ripple from the tip of his foot.

He was already floating backward.

Lu Wenshuang thrust her sword. Her sword qi was contained, and the tip of her sword stopped only an inch away from Zhou Shu's chest.

"Marquis!" someone suddenly shouted. "Receive my sword!"

The sound of rushing wind rang out as Zhou Shu reached out his hand without even turning his head.

A familiar feeling came from his hand. It was the Great Destroyer Sword!

While he was busy, Zhou Shu had the mood to turn around and take a look.

No one knew when Yin Chengshan had arrived.

He smiled at Yin Chengshan.

Lu Wenshuang frowned. He still dares to be distracted when competing with me. He's really courting death! With a cold harrumph, Lu Wenshuang thrust the sword in her hand forward, as if it was going to pierce Zhou Shu's heart.

"Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords!"

With the Great Destroyer Sword in hand, Zhou Shu let out a loud shout, and a sword light suddenly appeared.

Clank!

Like the sound of metal colliding, everyone's vision was full of dazzling sword shadows.

Even Zhou Shu and Lu Wenshuang were nowhere to be seen.

Everyone took two steps back involuntarily.

The experts ordered to protect Zhou Shu all nervously gripped their weapons.

They were hesitating whether they should attack. It's true that Miss Lu is one of us, but she attacked Marquis Zhou. Should we help?

While they were still hesitating, the sword light had already retracted.

Zhou Shu and Lu Wenshuang were five steps apart.

The sword in Lu Wenshuang's hand had already returned to its sheath, while Zhou Shu's Great Destroyer Sword was resting on the ground with both of his hands on the hilt.

The two of them looked at each other as if they had never moved. Who lost?

Who won?

Everyone looked at each other. Someone with sharp eyes saw that there was a small cut on Zhou Shu's clothes.

Marquis Zhou lost?

Everyone was puzzled, but no one asked. "You have the Great Destroyer Sword?" Lu Wenshuang suddenly said. "The Great Destroyer Sword is not compatible with your Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique."

Zhou Shu nodded. The Great Destroyer Sword was a heavy sword, and it could only be used with enough strength. It was more suitable for sword techniques used in large-scale battles.

As for the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique, although it had the reputation of being astounding, it was actually a sword technique that emphasized technique. It was more suitable for an agile and ethereal assassin.

Using the Great Destroyer Sword to unleash the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique was actually a bit strange.

Zhou Shu naturally understood this principle. Lu Wenshuang was an expert in the use of swords, so she naturally could tell.

"Good sword, good swordplay." Lu Wenshuang continued, "The person using the sword, average."

After saying this, she turned around and left, leaving behind only a back view and the faint fragrance of a young girl in the air.

### **Chapter 170 The Person Using The Sword, Extraordinary**

There were clearly several people in the You Marquis's mansion, but they were so quiet that the sound of a single strand of hair falling to the ground was audible.

"The person using the sword, average."

...

This sentence seemed to echo in the air.

The experts ordered to protect Zhou Shu all had strange expressions on their faces. They cupped their hands and quickly disappeared.

Zhou Shu could even hear their suppressed laughter.

F\*ck, I was despised by a little girl?

What does she mean by 'good sword and good swordsmanship; the person using the sword, average'?

This is clearly saying that I'm not good enough for the Great Destroyer Sword and the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique?

Just now, I lost by a move because I didn't show my true ability!

If I really wanted to make a move, you wouldn't be able to withstand even one move!

Zhou Shu felt a little depressed. He didn't care whether he won or lost, but being looked down upon by a little girl made him a little unhappy.

When he fought with Lu Wenshuang earlier, he didn't even use the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique. He had only used the strength of a seventh-rank martial artist. Even using the Great Destroyer Sword was a bit strenuous with such strength, so using the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique was naturally greatly affected.

Although Lu Wenshuang had also suppressed her cultivation to the eighth rank of the Martial Dao, her cultivation in the Sword Dao was almost flawless. It was not strange at all that Zhou Shu had lost!

But he couldn't explain it!

Unless he was willing to expose his strength and beat Lu Wenshuang!

But that would cause more trouble. Forget it. As a man, I won't argue with a little girl like you, Zhou Shu thought gloomily. After throwing that bit of unhappiness out of his mind, Zhou Shu looked at Yin Chengshan.

Seeing Zhou Shu look over, Yin Chengshan hurriedly cupped his hands. "Greetings, Marquis."

"General Yin, why are you here?" Zhou Shu smiled. "Oh right, aren't you part of the Great Xia diplomatic mission this time?"

He had been in seclusion forging. It had been a while since he had seen Yin Chengshan. He was still curious about Yin Chengshan and the others' performance during Great Xia's military parade.

"Yes." Yin Chengshan nodded. "Originally, I wanted to come over a long time ago, Marquis, but you've been in seclusion all along..." "What a coincidence," Zhou Shu said as he raised the Great Destroyer Sword. "You came at the right time. I'll take back this Great Destroyer Sword first."

A hint of disappointment flashed across Yin Chengshan's eyes. He knew that Zhou Shu had lent him the Great Destroyer Sword. It was already a blessing for him to be able to use it for a period of time. He shouldn't have hoped for more.

Zhou Shu continued with a smile, "General Yin, you are a saber user. It's not suitable for you to use a sword. It just so happens that I have recently forged a saber. Try and see if it is suitable for you."

Yin Chengshan was stunned, and then an expression of disbelief appeared on his face. "Marquis--"

"Don't say anything corny to me. I can't stand it!" Zhou Shu hurriedly interrupted him.

Then he asked the steward to retrieve the saber.

"The last time I took your Black Iron Gold Crystal, I said I would help you forge a weapon. Now is a good time. I feel that this saber is quite suitable for you."

Yin Chengshan's expression was touched, and he seemed to want to say something.

Zhou Shu continued, "You don't have to be touched. I'm not a good person. I'll give you the weapon, but you have to pay!" "I should," Yin Chengshan hurriedly said. "Even if I sell everything I have, I definitely won't let you suffer a loss."

“You don’t have to go so far as to sell everything you have. You can pay however much money you have. We’ll talk about the rest when you have more money.” Zhou Shu waved his hand.

Yin Chengshan’s eyes turned red. He was a seven-foot-tall man, yet he was so touched that he was about to cry.

The marquis is worried about my face. He doesn’t have to worry about selling ranked weapons. Who else would accept payment in installments like him?

The marquis is taking care of me!

“Look at the saber. Look at the saber first!”

Zhou Shu couldn’t stand such a mushy scene. He wasn’t doing a good deed.

After taking my weapon, you have to be a good worker.

All things considered, I still profited.

Fortunately, the steward had already brought the Flaming Sunset Saber over. Zhou Shu took it and casually threw it to Yin Chengshan.

“This saber is called the Flaming Sunset Saber. It was forged according to a previous forging formula. I heard that a general surnamed Tong once used it, but it was destroyed later on.

“Try the saber. If there’s anything you don’t understand, hurry up and ask.”

Yin Chengshan reached out and caught the golden-red saber that was almost as tall as a person. Although he hadn’t tried it yet, just by looking at the shape of the saber, he could tell that it had extraordinary power.

At first glance, he had already fallen in love with this saber.

“Wonderful saber!”

Yin Chengshan held the saber with both hands and brandished it.

Then he sent out a stream of spiritual essence.

“There are two star paths in the Flaming Sunset Saber. They are...” Zhou Shu said loudly.

The reason why a ranked weapon was a ranked weapon was because of the star paths within it. Under normal circumstances, when a martial artist obtained a ranked weapon, they would have to figure out the changes in the star paths themselves. It was just like how a martial artist had to first cultivate their breathing and sense the meridians in their body.

This process was the process of melding with the weapon.

The length of time depended on one’s aptitude and level.

After all, ranked weapons didn’t have an instruction manual, and martial artists could not see their internal structures. They could only use their spiritual essence to explore them. Although it was slightly easier than Forging Masters positioning stars, it still gave many martial artists a headache. Now that

Zhou Shu was explaining it to him, Yin Chengshan didn't need to figure out the internal star paths of the Flaming Sunset Saber himself.

His spiritual essence circulated within the star paths of the Flaming Sunset Saber.

A moment later, he felt that he had become one with the Flaming Sunset Saber. The Flaming Sunset Saber seemed to have become an extension of his arm.

Swoosh

Yin Chengshan brandished the Flaming Sunset Saber. The saber light filled the sky and rained down.

"Wonderful saber!" Yin Chengshan praised loudly once again. If not for the fact that this was the You Marquis's mansion, he wouldn't have been able to hold back his laughter.

"What's good about it?" Zhou Shu curled his lips in disdain. "It didn't even make it into the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. What's so good about that?"

Yin Chengshan smiled awkwardly. It's not good if it doesn't make it into the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual? The weapons I used in the past were probably ranked in the thousands on the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

Aren't those weapons rubbish to you then, Marquis? This Flaming Sunset Saber is already good enough for me!

He held the Flaming Sunset Saber in his arms like it was a treasure.

"Marquis, how much is this Flaming Sunset Saber?"

Previously, when he came to ask Zhou Shu for a saber, he had prepared a piece of Black Iron Gold Crystal and a thousand taels of gold.

This was almost everything he had.

Originally, he only wanted to ask for an ordinary ranked weapon.

Although Yin Chengshan didn't know the exact ranking of this Flaming Sunset Saber in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual, he guessed that it would definitely enter the top 100!

The top 100 weapons in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual were all extremely valuable.

A piece of Black Iron Gold Crystal and a thousand taels of gold were definitely not enough.

Yin Chengshan was a little worried. I don't have enough money. What should I do?

I can't give up on this Flaming Sunset Saber, so I can only shamelessly accept the marquis's kindness of allowing me to pay in installments.

"You can decide how much to give me," Zhou Shu said nonchalantly.

He had never been proficient in the pricing of ranked weapons. In any case, it was fine as long as he didn't incur losses. He had never expected to earn money through forging weapons.

To him, increasing his strength was the greatest profit. He just earned some money along the way. "I'll decide how much to give you?" Yin Chengshan was stunned and almost knelt down in front of Zhou Shu. The marquis treats me with great kindness!

"Marquis, on this trip to Great Qin, my life is yours. As long as I don't die, no one can dream of harming a single hair on your head!" Yin Chengshan gave Zhou Shu a military salute and punched his left shoulder with his right fist.

"This is a thousand taels of gold. I will pay the rest to you as soon as possible!"

After Yin Chengshan finished speaking, he carried his Flaming Sunset Saber and left without looking back. Throughout the entire process, Zhou Shu didn't find a chance to interrupt. What is the meaning of this? Why would he want to die? Zhou Shu looked at the steward and wondered.

The steward was speechless. I take back my words. So all geniuses are abnormal. My marquis is also abnormal...

He actually doesn't know how many martial artists are willing to risk their lives for a superior ranked weapon!

Outside the mansion, Lu Wenshuang was walking on the main road.

Suddenly, she stopped in her tracks.

A strand of hair fell from her left ear.

Lu Wenshuang reached out and pinched the hair between her slender fingers. The end of her hair was smooth, as if it had been cut by a sharp blade.

Her pupils suddenly contracted, and there seemed to be countless figures jumping within.

If anyone could see the scene in her eyes, they would definitely be able to tell that these figures were the result of her battle with Zhou Shu.

Every single move was replayed in her mind without a single mistake.

So that's how it is. The Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique is truly shocking.

I was wrong. The person using the sword is good too.

If he uses a more suitable sword, he will be able to perish with me within five moves unless my cultivation exceeds the seventh rank!

Thinking of this possibility, not only was Lu Wenshuang not depressed, but her eyes even shone with anticipation.

He is worthy of being the official envoy. He has the right to mobilize me.

Zhou Shu, when you become a grandmaster, I look forward to a real battle with you!

Lu Wenshuang turned around and glanced in the direction of the You Marquis's mansion.

Achoo

In the You Marquis's mansion, Zhou Shu sneezed.

He didn't know what Lu Wenshuang was thinking. If he knew, he would definitely tell Lu Wenshuang, Sister, don't think too much. I'm being magnanimous. If you're more sensible, I'll teach you how to be a better person.

After Yin Chengshan left, Zhou Shu did not immediately return to the forging room but asked the steward, "Steward, did anything important happen in the mansion in the last few days?"

"There have been many people who came to pay a visit to you, Marquis. I've recorded their names. You can take a look," the steward said. "Then Eunuch Zhao from the palace came to deliver an appointment letter and asked me not to disturb you."

Zhou Shu nodded. "Right, did Eunuch Zhao say when the Great Xia diplomatic mission will depart?"

"It's the day after tomorrow," the steward said. "I was thinking that if you still didn't come out tomorrow, I would inform you."

"So fast?" Zhou Shu was somewhat stunned. "It's not fast," the steward said. "You have been in seclusion for a month, Marquis."

"Has it been that long?"

Zhou Shu had been immersed in the process of forging his weapons, so he had really neglected the passage of time. There was no sun or moon in the forging room. He had no idea how much time had passed. It's a pity I didn't have enough time. I worked so hard, but I could only forge a few weapons, Zhou Shu thought regretfully. Looks like I can only think of a way when we reach Great Qin.

For standard weapons, he could forge hundreds of them in a month.

Unfortunately, the forging process of ranked weapons was more than a hundred times more complicated than standard weapons. Even Zhou Shu's forging speed was not that fast.

This was under the premise that he didn't have to worry about the supply of materials.

One month was still too short. If he was given half a year to prepare, perhaps he would be more satisfied.

But this was obviously impossible. In another half a year, the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament would probably be carried out. At that time, it would be too late to go to Great

Qin.

"Steward, do we need to prepare anything? How's the weather over in Great Qin?" Zhou Shu asked casually while thinking about weapons.

"All the miscellaneous items have been prepared. Someone from the princess's residence helped to prepare them," the steward said.

Zhou Shu raised his head and asked, "The princess's residence? Has the grand minister been here recently?"

"I have not seen Her Highness for a few days." The steward bowed.

"After I leave, help me thank her." Zhou Shu pondered. "Although the princess's residence doesn't lack anything, when the time comes, you should also send some fruits and snacks over there. It can be considered a small token of goodwill from us."

He had to return the favor. Since the princess's residence had helped him prepare his luggage, he had to show some gratitude.

"I understand." The steward nodded.

"Is there anything else?" Zhou Shu continued asking

"Sir Shi Songtao came again," the steward said. "He said he hoped that you could make a trip to familiarize yourself with the diplomatic mission team before setting off."

"Where have the people of the diplomatic mission gathered?" Zhou Shu asked. They were about to set off, so he really should meet with the diplomatic mission. After all, he was the leader.

The steward gave him an address, which Shi Songtao had left behind.

Zhou Shu nodded. In any case, they would leave the next day. It wouldn't be too late to meet with the diplomatic mission tomorrow.

"The great general's residence has also sent someone over to invite you to go over before setting off," the steward continued. "The great general said that there are some things that he needs to explain to you."

"Get someone to prepare a carriage. I'll go to the great general's residence to take a look later," Zhou Shu said.

Great General Meng was the anchor for this diplomatic mission, so he had to meet him first.

"Yes." The steward agreed and instructed a servant to prepare the carriage.

"Master left some banknotes for you to use on the way..." The steward took out a small wooden box and handed it to Zhou Shu. Inside the wooden box was a thick stack of banknotes. The denomination was 1,000 taels of silver. From the thickness, there were at least 20 bills!

It was at least twenty thousand taels of silver!

Zhou Shu: "..."