

Canon 171

Chapter 171 Do You Mind Changing Your Weapon? (1)

Zhou Shu was already used to Mi Ziwén's wealth.

He put away the banknotes and went back to his room to wash up. Then he changed his clothes and got into the carriage to leave.

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Soon after, he arrived at the great general's residence.

Meng Bai had already stepped down from his position as great general, but everyone was still used to calling him great general.

When Zhou Shu saw Meng Bai, Meng Bai was sitting on a rocking chair under the shade of a tree like an ordinary old man.

"Greetings, Great General." Zhou Shu arrived in front of Meng Bai and cupped his hands.

Meng Bai opened his eyes and said with a smile, "Welcome. I won't stand on ceremony with you. Feel free to sit."

He didn't stand up. It was not because he was rude to Zhou Shu but because his physical condition was truly deteriorating day by day.

"What are your orders, Great General?" Zhou Shu said respectfully.

Meng Bai was a legendary figure, and he was old enough to be Zhou Shu's grandfather. It was not wrong to be respectful.

"I don't have any orders." Meng Bai shook his head. "You Marquis, you are the official envoy of the diplomatic mission, so I naturally have to explain these things to you."

For this trip to Great Qin, it was unknown what Emperor Yuan Feng was thinking, but he actually had Meng Bai follow the diplomatic mission.

Could it be that he didn't know that Meng Bai's current condition couldn't withstand hardship?

Even though Mi Ziwén and Meng Bai had both said that it was Meng Bai who wanted to follow the diplomatic mission this time, Zhou Shu still didn't understand why Meng Bai did this.

He had heard of emperors casting people aside once they were no longer needed, but Meng Bai was already in such poor condition. By right, Emperor Yuan Feng didn't have to deal with him anymore.

He sent an old official with outstanding achievements to follow the diplomatic mission. Was he not afraid that if Meng Bai died on the road, his name would be forever tarnished?

Zhou Shu was puzzled, but he didn't ask Meng Bai.

From Meng Bai's appearance, it really didn't seem like he was forced by Emperor Yuan Feng.

“There are a total of two thousand guards in the diplomatic mission this time. The ones selected are elites from the Country Protector Army and the Demon Executing Army. There are also some people from the Divine Constable Bureau. The commander of the guards is General Chen Ji. He has followed me for many years and has always been reliable. He has never made any mistakes,” Meng Bai said to Zhou Shu.

Although he would move along with the diplomatic mission, considering his status and physical condition, it was impossible for him to be the commander of the guards.

After hearing Meng Bai’s explanation, Zhou Shu had a more direct understanding of this diplomatic mission.

It had to be said that this diplomatic mission was an enormous entity.

Apart from the 2,000 guards, the rest of the people, including Zhou Shu, the official and deputy envoys, the staff, and the servants and maids, numbered in the thousands.

A diplomatic mission with more than 3,000 people gave Zhou Shu a headache just thinking about it.

Fortunately, he was the leader and didn’t need to worry about many trivial matters.

“Great General, what do I need to do?” Zhou Shu really didn’t know what he was supposed to do as the official envoy.

Meng Bai had arranged guards, and Shi Songtao had arranged the other trivial matters in the diplomatic mission.

After thinking about it, he still felt that he was most suitable as a mascot.

“You don’t need to worry about these trivial matters. The only thing you need to worry about is how to let Great Xia host the next Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament,” Meng Bai said.

“Great General, I can’t guarantee that.” Zhou Shu shook his head.

He didn’t even know what kind of challenges Great Qin had set up, so he naturally wouldn’t take on everything.

To put it bluntly, Zhou Shu didn’t care whether or not Great Xia would be able to become the host of the next Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament.

As for gaining merit? Only someone without a noble title like Shi Songtao was in a hurry to gain merit.

He was already the You Marquis. Did he need to gain more merits?

“Just do your best,” Meng Bai said casually. Then he introduced the identities of the various generals in the diplomatic mission to Zhou Shu.

After Zhou Shu memorized them, before leaving, he finally couldn’t help asking, “Great General, let me say something more. Why do you have to follow the diplomatic mission?”

“You have your mission, and I also have mine. These have nothing to do with you, so you don’t have to worry.” Meng Bai shook his head. “You only need to treat me like an ordinary staff officer in the diplomatic mission.”

An ordinary staff officer? How can you be ordinary! Zhou Shu thought. But since Meng Bai isn’t willing to say anything, I shouldn’t probe further. Anyway, I’m just curious.

Who cares what motives Meng Bai has, as long as it doesn’t affect me.

Zhou Shu was very clear about his decision. He was going to Great Qin to find workers!

Everything else was up to fate...

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The next morning, Zhou Shu departed from the You Marquis’s mansion and arrived at the gathering point of the diplomatic mission. The composition of the diplomatic mission this time was very complicated. Many people had been transferred from various parts of Great Xia, so they had arrived at the capital early and checked into the post house.

Zhou Shu thought that he had arrived very early. But when he arrived, Shi Songtao was already having a meeting with a group of people.

“Hello, everyone.” Zhou Shu waved at the crowd. Then... he didn’t know what to say.

“Marquis, this is...” Shi Songtao’s expression darkened, and he stepped forward to break the stalemate. One by one, he introduced the members of the diplomatic mission to Zhou Shu.

They were mainly the Forging Masters and the officials of the Ministry of Rites. The officials were in charge of formal negotiations with Great Qin.

As for the Forging Masters, they were responsible for dealing with the difficult challenges set up by Great Qin.

After all, it was related to forging.

What puzzled Zhou Shu was that the diplomatic mission only had Forging Masters but not even one Grand Craftsman.

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“Great Qin said that no Grand Craftsmen are allowed to participate,” Shi Songtao explained unhappily.

They were about to set off soon, but the official envoy didn’t even know about this!

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Fortunately, at least the official envoy knew to show up. What about the other deputy envoy?

She was nowhere to be seen!

Shi Songtao cursed in his heart. What wrongdoings did he do in his previous life to have to partner with these two people in this life!

As he was thinking, a slender figure walked in from outside.

This person was dressed in green and had delicate features. She looked like a fairy that had walked out of a painting. She carried a long sword on her back, and the hilt of the sword was exposed above her right shoulder. After entering, she didn't even glance at the crowd as she walked to the spot behind Zhou Shu.

Then she stood there like Zhou Shu's personal maid without saying anything.

"Does everyone know this person?" The scene became a bit awkward. Zhou Shu coughed, breaking the deathly silence. "This is Lu Wenshuang, and she is also our deputy envoy for this diplomatic mission." "Greetings, Deputy Envoy." The people from the Ministry of Rites reacted quickly and greeted her one by one. The Forging Masters were all stunned by Lu Wenshuang's beauty. "Hmph!" Lu Wenshuang felt uncomfortable under their gazes and harrumphed coldly.

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Everyone felt a sharp pain in their ears, as though their heads had been stabbed by a sword. They immediately woke up.

"Alright, everyone knows each other now. In the following days, we must work together to complete this mission beautifully." Zhou Shu wasn't very good at speaking formally. After clapping his hands, he threw the scene to Shi Songtao and left. After leaving the post house, Zhou Shu realized that Lu Wenshuang was still following him.

Zhou Shu turned around and asked curiously, "Miss Lu, Deputy Envoy Lu, why are you following me? We are leaving officially tomorrow. You can do whatever you want to do today. You don't have to follow me."

"The mission I received was to keep you safe," Lu Wenshuang said coldly. "From now on, I will follow you everywhere and protect you until we return from Great Qin."

"Follow me everywhere?" Zhou Shu frowned. "No need. Besides, we haven't set off yet. This is Chang'an!"

"Someone was abducted twice in Chang'an." Lu Wenshuang said expressionlessly.

Zhou Shu could clearly see the disdain in her eyes.

Zhou Shu was furious. What do you mean?

I was acting with my enemies both times, alright? Otherwise, would they be able to abduct me?

How ridiculous?

He couldn't be bothered to explain to Lu Wenshuang "Follow me if you want."

Zhou Shu simply pretended that she didn't exist. He wanted to see how long she could follow him. She couldn't possibly follow him to the toilet and watch him as he slept.

As he strode forward, he deliberately increased his speed. He stepped on the clouds and rode the wind. His speed didn't seem fast, but he had already overtaken quite a few carriages by the road.

Lu Wenshuang's footsteps didn't change, but she still followed Zhou Shu a step behind. No matter how Zhou Shu sped up, the distance between them didn't increase or decrease.

Unless Zhou Shu was willing to use his full strength, there was no way he could shake her *off*.

Zhou Shu didn't return to the marquis's mansion. Instead, he went to the camp outside the city.

Great Xia's diplomatic mission's guards were currently training here.

After revealing his identity, Zhou Shu met Chen Ji, the commander of the guards.

Chen Ji looked to be in his thirties. He was handsome, and his silver armor was very fitting, making him look very well-built.

Lu Wenshuang's eyes flashed when she saw Chen Ji.

"Greetings, Marquis Zhou. Greetings, Deputy Envoy Lu." Chen Ji cupped his hands.

"Greetings, General Chen," Zhou Shu said.

Yesterday, he had learned from Meng Bai that Chen Ji's cultivation was at the fifth rank of the Martial Dao. Even among the Demon Executing and Fiend Eradication armies, he could be considered an expert.

He was a high-ranking military officer with a high level of cultivation. Compared to cultivating, he was better at leading troops in battle.

In the Country Protector Army, Martial Dao cultivation had nothing to do with position.

Take Cheng Wanli, the previous commander of the Huben Troops, for example. He wasn't even a ranked martial artist at the start, but he could still become a commander of an army. Although the Huben Troops were only the outermost imperial guards, and their duty was to guard the palace gates... Not only was Chen Ji's cultivation level high, but his position in the army was also high.

After all, someone that Meng Bai praised was definitely a genius.

"General Chen, we are leaving tomorrow. How are the guards' training?" Zhou Shu smiled.

The guards of the diplomatic mission were a hodgepodge. There was the Country Protector Army, the Demon Executing Army, and the Divine Constable Bureau. It would depend on Chen Ji's ability to integrate them well.

"We've already begun to get used to each other. Along the way, I will continue to train them. When we arrive in Great Qin, they will definitely be elite soldiers that can fight!" Chen Ji said confidently. "Do you want to inspect them?"

"Forget it." Zhou Shu was tempted, but he still shook his head.

He believed in one principle-letting professional people do professional things.

He didn't think that the half-assed military training methods he had learned in his previous life could train an elite army.

How would it be possible to train an elite army by just standing in a military posture and marching?
“General Chen, how are the military supplies? Is there anything lacking?” Zhou Shu asked.

He wasn't familiar with how to train soldiers, but he was familiar with military supplies and equipment. He was a Forging Master, and the Forging Division was his territory... “It's not so bad,” Chen Ji said. “The great general came forward to coordinate. The standard weapons supplied by the Forging Division are all fine.”

“What about the ranked weapons?” Zhou Shu asked. “How many ranked martial artists are there among our guards?”

Chen Ji was a little puzzled. It was impossible to supply ranked weapons directly. As a Forging Master, did the marquis not understand this?

“Three hundred of the guards were transferred over from the Demon Executing Army. All of them are ranked martial artists. There are also one hundred from the Divine Constable Bureau. Together with the ranked martial artists of the Country Protector Army, there are about four hundred and thirty ranked martial artists.”

“More than four hundred?” Zhou Shu smacked his lips.

He didn't think much of it, but Lu Wenshuang's eyes flashed with surprise.

More than four hundred ranked martial artists was definitely not a small number.

Ranked martial artists were not easily found everywhere. Even if many of them were ninth-rank martial artists, it was still a lot.

Now, for the sake of the diplomatic mission, the Imperial Court had mobilized so many ranked martial artists. It was obvious how much the Imperial Court valued this diplomatic mission.

Chen Ji quickly calculated and said, “About one-fifth of these ranked martial artists have ranked weapons.”

“Only one-fifth?”

Zhou Shu once again realized the scarcity of ranked weapons. But this problem wasn't something that he could solve for the time being. There were over four hundred people, and there were still over three hundred guards who didn't have ranked weapons. With his current forging speed, it would take him a long time to forge three hundred or so ranked weapons. “One-fifth of the ranked martial artists have ranked weapons. It's not a small number,” Chen Ji said. “Marquis, even if we face five thousand Great Qin elites, we can still hold them off.”

Zhou Shu shook his head. He wasn't concerned about these things. If they really needed to fight a war with Great Qin, then even if all four hundred people had ranked weapons, how useful would it be?

In other people's territory, they could easily pull in tens of thousands of soldiers. “General Chen, what weapon are you using? Yellow-grade or black-grade?” Zhou Shu asked. He didn't forget that he was here to look for workers.

“I am using a saber, but it's a yellow-grade weapon,” Chen Ji said with a strange look in his eyes.

Previously, there was a guard named Yin Chengshan who had brought the Flaming Sunset Saber. It was similar in shape to the saber he used, but it was more powerful than his saber. It was said that Marquis Zhou had personally forged it.

“Saber? A yellow-grade weapon?” Zhou Shu pondered. “General Chen, would you mind changing to another weapon?”

Chapter 173 Green Dragon Crescent Blade (1)

“Change to another weapon?” Chen Ji was confused.

It was like walking alone on the streets when a beauty suddenly ran over and asked you if you had a girlfriend. You told her you had one, but she asked you if you minded changing your girlfriend.

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Chen Ji felt like money was falling from the sky.

The You Marquis, Zhou Shou, was now famous.

He alone occupied three of the top ten in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

What does he mean by asking if I want to change weapons?

Is he planning to customize a ranked weapon for me?

This was something he didn't even dare to think about!

To change or not to change?

That is the question.

Chen Ji was at a loss. How should I reply?

If I say I'm willing, will Marquis Zhou think that I'm a disloyal person who abandons the old for the new?

But if I say I'm not willing, won't this mean I'm looking down on the marquis's ability to forge weapons?

The problem is, I really want it.

I'm not changing. Can't I have one more instead?

Chen Ji was at a loss.

“General Chen?” Zhou Shu said.

Meng Bai had introduced Chen Ji to him before. He was one of the backbones of the military, and his future was bright.

What did this mean?

He was a walking worker!

He would definitely have many opportunities to kill enemies in the future.

Since he met him, Zhou Shu naturally wouldn't let him go so easily.

By giving him a weapon, he would be able to work diligently for Zhou Shu in the future. In the future, the more battles he fought, the more benefits Zhou Shu would receive.

He only had to invest a weapon, so why not?

"What do you mean, Marquis?" Chen Ji asked carefully.

"Oh, it's like this. I've forged a saber recently. It's quite powerful," Zhou Shu said casually. "Since you are a saber user, I thought that it would be great to give you this saber. "Of course. If you think that your weapon is good enough, just pretend that I didn't say anything." Zhou Shu pretended to leave. Chen Ji hurriedly said, "Marquis, please wait! I'm willing! I'm willing!" He couldn't be bothered to think about it anymore. A chance like this might not come again.

Marquis Zhou's reputation was well-known. If he said that it's powerful, how bad could it be?

In any case, if the weapon wasn't good enough, it was still a ranked weapon. At the very least, its power should be similar to the weapon in his hand.

Chen Ji couldn't be blamed for being tempted. His ranked weapon had been forged by a Forging Master using the Imperial Court's rewards because he had made a great contribution that year.

This Forging Master couldn't compare to Marquis Zhou.

Since the rise of Marquis Zhou's reputation, how could any weapon forged by him be ordinary?

Putting aside the standard weapons, even the worst Flaming Sunset Saber was ranked in the top 100 of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

Under such circumstances, it was obvious that his weapon wouldn't be too bad.

"Marquis, I am used to using a long saber..." Chen Ji said hesitantly.

His gaze fell on Zhou Shu's back.

Zhou Shu was carrying a sword on his back. It should be the legendary Great Destroyer Sword ranked first in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. Other than that, he didn't have any other weapon on him.

"I know. I didn't bring the saber with me. Come back with me," Zhou Shu said casually.

"Marquis, the cost—" Chen Ji said after some hesitation.

"Didn't I say? Change," Zhou Shu said. "Give me your current weapon, and I'll give you a ranked one. We're even."

Chen Ji: "..."

Initially, he had been fantasizing about whether or not he would be able to own two ranked weapons.

He hadn't thought that the marquis would really want to trade.

But then again, using his weapon to exchange for a better-ranked weapon in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual was a gain.

“General Chen, let’s go get the saber,” Zhou Shu said.

Chen Ji paused for a second. Before he could say no, Zhou Shu turned around and walked away.

“Afterward, give your ranked weapon to a guard who doesn’t have one yet. This way, we can also increase the strength of the guards,” Zhou Shu said casually while walking.

Chen Ji’s eyes widened. Give it to someone?

This is a ranked weapon!

Did I hear wrongly?

“General Chen, let’s go.” Zhou Shu’s voice came from the distance. “It’s getting late. You still have to come back after getting your weapon. Our diplomatic mission is leaving tomorrow.”

Chen Ji followed Zhou Shu and Lu Wenshuang to the marquis’s mansion.

Along the way, he was repeatedly thinking. The You Marquis is doing all of this just to increase the strength of the guards. It seems he’s taking this mission very seriously.

No wonder even the great general had to follow the group. It seems this mission is more important than I imagined.

I have to make sure that nothing happens to the diplomatic mission!

While Chen Ji was thinking, Zhou Shu had already retrieved a weapon from the forging room and returned to the front hall.

“This...” As soon as Chen Ji saw the weapon in Zhou Shu’s hand, his eyes were immediately attracted to it, and he couldn’t look away.

All the random thoughts in his mind vanished. All he could think about was the saber in Zhou Shu’s hand.

Chen Ji was not the academic type. His cultivation of the Martial Dao had always been on the battlefield.

It could be said that his current cultivation and status were absolutely things he had gained by fighting and killing with his saber.

Chapter 174 Green Dragon Crescent Blade (2)

When he saw the saber in Zhou Shu’s hand, he could already tell that if he used this saber on the battlefield, it would definitely be extremely powerful!

It’s a winner, Chen Ji thought. He was an expert in using sabers. He didn’t even need to use his hands to confirm that the saber Zhou Shu took out was definitely stronger than his current weapon!

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This was the intuition of a martial artist and not a Forging Master’s standards of judging the quality of a weapon.

Chen Ji was very glad that he had agreed to change his weapon.

Otherwise, he would have regretted it for a hundred years! “This is the Green Dragon Crescent Blade, also known as the Frost Fair Blade,” Zhou Shu said casually. “I just forged it yesterday.

“It doesn’t have any battle records and is temporarily ranked twenty-eighth on the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. It’s barely passable,” Zhou Shu said unhappily.

“General Chen, I hope that you will be able to improve its ranking so that it will at least enter the top twenty.”

Chen Ji: “...”

Ranked 28th on the Yellow-grade Armament Manual?

And this is barely passable?

The Flaming Sunset Saber had barely entered the top hundred.

His original weapon couldn’t even enter the top hundred!

There were tens of thousands of Yellow-grade weapons in the world. Chen Ji didn’t even dare to think about a weapon in the top thirty of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

“General Chen, give it a try first,” Zhou Shu said casually. “This Green Dragon Crescent Blade is a little heavy. See if you can get used to it.”

Zhou Shu handed over the Green Dragon Crescent Blade.

Chen Ji reached out and caught the Green Dragon Crescent Blade with both hands. His arms were trembling slightly.

It was due to excitement.

“Wonderful saber!” Chen Ji exclaimed.

He lowered his arm, and the next moment, the spiritual essence in his body circulated as he lifted the Green Dragon Crescent Blade.

This Green Dragon Crescent Blade was indeed quite heavy.

But for Chen Ji, a fifth-rank martial artist, this weight was just right!

Chen Ji brandished the Green Dragon Crescent Blade. He could even imagine how lethal it would be when he used it on horseback!

Standing at the side, Lu Wenshuang watched Chen Ji try out the saber.

Her eyes flashed with surprise, but she said nothing. If it had been a sword, she would have wanted to try it.

She was like a competent maid standing by the side. If one didn’t pay attention, they might even forget about her existence. Chen Ji was extremely excited. He thanked Zhou Shu, then walked into the courtyard and performed a saber technique.

Zhou Shu watched with interest. Compared to sword techniques, his saber techniques were stronger. The Heavenly Saber Art Technique was no joke.

Naturally, he could tell that Chen Ji's saber skills were not top-notch. Every move he made was aimed at extreme lethality. There was even a faint shadow of Heavenly Saber Art's moves.

He was enlightened. Chen Ji must have comprehended the saber intent in the capital's Saber Cave.

Zhou Shu had a deep understanding of the Heavenly Saber Art Technique, and the Heavenly Saber Art Technique focused on saber intent. It didn't focus on moves. If Zhou Shu was willing, he could also use the Heavenly Saber Art Technique with the Green Dragon Crescent Blade. He could even create some suitable moves for the Green Dragon Crescent Blade.

He rubbed his chin and said, "General Chen, you should lower your hand slightly for this move."

Chen Ji was stunned for a moment. He did as he was told and felt that his moves were much smoother.

He glanced at Zhou Shu in surprise.

Marquis Zhou's cultivation should be at the seventh rank of the Martial Dao.

He has such a deep understanding of the saber?

Yes, I remember now. When I was comprehending saber intent in the Saber Cave, Marquis Zhou was also there. He comprehended saber intent in less than an hour.

At the time, Marquis Zhou hadn't even entered the ranks.

Zhou Shu didn't know that Chen Ji was one of the few people who had comprehended saber intent back then.

At the time, Zhou Shu and Chen Ji didn't know each other. He didn't really care who was in the cave either.

Lu Wenshuang also glanced at Zhou Shu in surprise. Everyone knew that Zhou Shu's expertise was in forging sabers.

Before he became a Forging Master, he was famous for forging sabers.

The Huben Saber, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, Horse Slaying Saber, and even Great Xia's Dragon Sparrow Saber...

In terms of understanding the saber, if Zhou Shu claimed to be second, no one would dare claim to be first!

It was not surprising that he knew saber techniques so well.

So, he's better at saber techniques, Lu Wenshuang thought. He's skilled in saber techniques, but his sword techniques are also so impressive. Can someone be so talented in the Martial Dao?

She had always believed that no matter which weapon she chose to cultivate, she had to be determined. If she wanted to practice her sword techniques, she had to give up everything else.

It was the same for saber techniques.

If one cultivated multiple weapons, their understanding would be shallow.

But now, Zhou Shu seemed to have overturned her perception.

Zhou Shu didn't notice Lu Wenshuang's expression. He discussed a few more moves with Chen Ji before speaking with a smile.

"With the Green Dragon Crescent Blade in your hands, General Chen, it should be useful."

"You flatter me, Marquis." Chen Ji was a little embarrassed. "Marquis, this Green Dragon Crescent Blade is really too good. I can't--"

Before he could finish, Zhou Shu interrupted him. "General Chen, you don't like it?" "I like it... but it's too valuable. My original weapon isn't worth..." Chen Ji stammered.

He held the Green Dragon Crescent Blade, and the veins on the back of his hand were exposed.

He couldn't bear to part with it.

But he couldn't pretend not to know.

His original weapon was trash compared to the Green Dragon Crescent Blade!

It wouldn't even be enough to exchange for the Green Dragon Crescent Blade's hilt!

"As long as you like it," Zhou Shu said. "As a man, don't be so wishy-washy. If you like it, take it. If you really feel embarrassed, then use the Green Dragon Crescent Blade to kill more powerful enemies so that its ranking can increase as soon as possible. If it can rise to the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual, then you will have helped me."

Zhou Shu waved his hand impatiently.

Chen Ji: "..."

"Don't worry, Marquis! I will definitely not disgrace the Green Dragon Crescent Blade!"

Within the Great Xia imperial palace, Emperor Yuan Feng looked at Eunuch Zhao's message with a complex expression.

"The Zhou brat forged the Green Dragon Crescent Blade ranked 28th in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual and gave it to Chen Ji?" Emperor Yuan Feng said in a deep voice. "Yes, Your Majesty," Eunuch Zhao replied.

He was also somewhat amazed. It had only been a month since the end of the military parade. He had heard that Marquis Zhou had gone into seclusion to forge weapons, but he had never imagined that in a short month, he would actually forge another ranked weapon!

And it was ranked 28th on the Yellow-grade Armament Manual!

He was indeed a genius. Incomprehensible!

Emperor Yuan Feng had a complex expression. This boy is truly a genius! “Great companion, do you think my decision was a little hasty?” Emperor Yuan Feng asked. Eunuch Zhao had served Emperor Yuan Feng for many years and naturally understood what he was asking

He shook his head. “Although I don’t know anything about forging, I also know that it is beneficial to have more experience and knowledge about forging. With Miss Lu’s personal protection, the marquis’s safety shouldn’t be a problem.”

“What if Great Qin goes crazy and kills Lu Wenshuang and the Zhou brat?” Emperor Yuan Feng suddenly said.

One was Great Xia’s number one Martial Dao genius, and the other was Great Xia’s number one forging genius. If anything happened to them, wouldn’t it be a great loss to Great Xia?

“I don’t think so,” Eunuch Zhao said hesitantly. “There are first-rank experts protecting them in secret, and Great General Meng is leading them personally. If Great Qin wants to kill them, they will have to mobilize their army...”

Emperor Yuan Feng frowned. He regretted his decision a little, but the imperial decree had already been issued. It was too late to regret now.

“Arrange for a few more experts to follow them secretly. Also, get Mi Ziwen to lead the army and be prepared at any time!” Emperor Yuan Feng said in a deep voice.

“Yes.” Eunuch Zhao thought, If you knew this would happen, why did you make such a decision in the first place?

“Great companion, the Zhou boy is from the Forging Division, and he forged the Green Dragon Crescent Blade. Has he registered it with the Forging Division and handed over the commission?” Emperor Yuan Feng suddenly said.

Eunuch Zhao: “...”

Chapter 175 The Zhou Boy Is Unscrupulous (1)

Eunuch Zhao really couldn’t understand. His Majesty clearly values Marquis Zhou greatly in his heart, yet he keeps wanting to fight with him from time to time.

Is this the legendary love-hate relationship?

...

Eunuch Zhao didn’t know what his master was thinking. He only knew to follow his master’s instructions.

If he wanted Marquis Zhou to stay far away from the capital, and he didn’t want anything to happen to him, then he could only send more experts to protect him secretly.

Eunuch Zhao also felt a headache.

If Great Qin abided by the rules, then Great Xia’s diplomatic mission had sufficient guards.

If Great Qin didn’t abide by the rules, then what was the point of sending a few more experts?

How could they let a diplomatic mission escape in their territory?

Of course, the possibility of something happening was very low.

If Great Qin really annihilated the diplomatic mission of Great Xia with great fanfare, it would definitely incur the wrath of the masses. Even with the power of Great Qin, they wouldn't do such a thing rashly.

Zhou Shu naturally didn't know about Emperor Yuan Feng's conflicted thoughts.

But he was very conflicted right now.

Lu Wenshuang was an extraordinary woman...

She did as she said and actually followed Zhou Shu closely!

Although most of the time, she didn't speak and wouldn't affect Zhou Shu's actions, there were some situations that made Zhou Shu feel extremely uncomfortable. For example, when he went to the toilet, she guarded the door...

For example, when he was sleeping, she sat on a stool outside Zhou Shu's door without fearing it would affect her reputation...

Zhou Shu repeatedly tried to reason with her, but she only had one mission. Her mission was to protect Zhou Shu until he returned. During this process, she wouldn't leave Zhou Shu's side.

Zhou Shu didn't know how Emperor Yuan Feng had given Lu Wenshuang the order. He couldn't do anything to this extremely stubborn woman.

"Do you want to come up and sleep together?" Zhou Shu shouted at Lu Wenshuang.

Lu Wenshuang glanced at him expressionlessly.

Zhou Shu was not happy at all. He turned around and fell asleep.

I don't care. If you want to keep watch, then keep watch. I don't believe you can go without sleeping!

Zhou Shu felt relieved and quickly fell asleep.

When he woke up, he had just opened his eyes when he saw Lu Wenshuang sitting on a chair not far from him, cultivating with her eyes closed.

The early morning light shone in through the window and landed on Lu Wenshuang's face. Her already fair skin looked even more like porcelain.

It had to be said that apart from being a little cold, Lu Wenshuang's appearance was flawless.

She's almost catching up to our grand minister.

Zhou Shu looked down. She's too different from our grand minister. It's too peaceful...

A sharp gaze shot toward Zhou Shu. Lu Wenshuang's eyes had opened at some point, and she was staring icily at Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu was like someone who had been caught peeking at a beautiful woman, and he smiled awkwardly. "You're awake? You really stayed up all night. Didn't I tell you? This is Chang'an. Nothing will happen," Zhou Shu said. "Is it possible that you won't sleep during this mission at all?" Lu Wenshuang remained silent with a cold expression. She didn't need sleep. After cultivating for a night, the effect was better than sleeping

"Alright, do whatever you want," Zhou Shu said helplessly. When this woman wanted to talk, she would talk. When she didn't want to talk, she wouldn't say a word no matter how much he asked her.

He got out of bed, washed up, and ate breakfast.

Lu Wenshuang followed by Zhou Shu's side. She did what she was supposed to do and ate without any reservation. Zhou Shu had an illusion. After getting used to Lu Wenshuang's existence, it seemed that it didn't affect him much after all...

The Great Xia diplomatic mission didn't set out with great fanfare.

Apart from the relevant personnel, the citizens of Chang'an didn't even know about it.

Perhaps it was because Great Xia didn't know the outcome of this diplomatic mission. If they publicized it too much and the results were not good, it wouldn't look good on them.

Three thousand people gathered at the post house outside the capital.

By the time Zhou Shu and Lu Wenshuang arrived, the large group of people had already gathered. Following Zhou Shu's command, the large group slowly began to move. Zhou Shu sat on a horse and glanced at the carriage at the back. It was Great General Meng's carriage.

He had fought his entire life, and now that he was old, he couldn't even ride a horse anymore. There was nothing more helpless in life than this.

Zhou Shu turned around and held the reins. I definitely can't be like Meng Bai. I must work hard to increase my strength!

Workers, come to me!

While thinking, Zhou Shu suddenly felt a gaze fall on him.

He turned around and saw a resentful gaze.

Yang Hong? Zhou Shu was slightly stunned.

"Marquis, where is my ranked weapon?" Yang Hong asked with his eyes.

Didn't you say that you would give me a rank weapon if I joined the diplomatic mission?

I waited until the flowers wilted. I still haven't seen my ranked weapon.

Zhou Shu smiled faintly at Yang Hong and nodded.

In Yang Hong's eyes, Zhou Shu was saying, "Don't worry. Leave it to me."

He was shocked. I knew that the marquis didn't forget me!

“Giddy up!” Zhou Shu spurred his horse and raised his whip. Great Xia’s diplomatic mission set off!

More than three thousand people left Chang’an. To Chang’an, which had a population of tens of millions, it was nothing.

The people’s lives were still the same. The civil and military officials were already on duty and handling official business.

Emperor Yuan Feng looked up from Cheng Shan’s memorial and rubbed his sore neck. “The diplomatic mission has set off?” Emperor Yuan Feng looked at Eunuch Zhao.

Chapter 176 The Zhou Boy Is Unscrupulous (2)

“They’ve already set off on time.” Eunuch Zhao knew what Emperor Yuan Feng wanted to ask and continued, “The Demon Executing Army’s Lord Luo Ling and Lord Li Tongyang are already waiting at the border. They will secretly follow the diplomatic mission.”

Luo Ling and Li Tongyang were both first-rank martial artists.

Two first-rank martial artists were dispatched at the same time. In addition, there was Lu Wenshuang, a Grandmaster, as well as hundreds of ranked guards.

...

If nothing unexpected happened, protecting Zhou Shu wouldn’t be a problem.

Emperor Yuan Feng nodded. “Where’s Wuyou? Is she still mad at me?”

Eunuch Zhao hesitated. “Perhaps Her Highness has too many official duties at the Forging Division...”

It had been several days since Yin Wuyou came to pay her respects.

“No matter how much work she has, can she have more than me?” Emperor Yuan Feng snorted coldly. “This damn girl, I really spoiled her too much in the past!”

“Your Majesty, Her Highness is actually quite sensible,” Eunuch Zhao whispered. “Wasn’t she the one who discovered Marquis Zhou’s talent?”

“Her Highness still has Your Majesty in her heart. She specially sent someone to bring the Light Bearing Sword and Night Practice Sword into the palace...” “Oh?” Emperor Yuan Feng was stunned. He looked at the wooden box Eunuch Zhao had brought over. This girl is actually willing to give me the Light Bearing Sword and Night Practice Sword?

Doesn’t she treasure them a lot? “Bring it over. Let me take a look!”

Emperor Yuan Feng waved his hand. Eunuch Zhao swallowed the words he was about to say. Emperor Yuan Feng took the wooden box and opened it. He first sensed it carefully before reaching out to touch it. He felt a cold sensation in his hand, and his spiritual essence moved slightly. Emperor Yuan Feng finally felt the existence of the three swords personally!

Emperor Yuan Feng looked at Eunuch Zhao and asked. “Great companion, do you think Wuyou colluded with the Zhou brat?”

“This Zhou brat isn’t stupid. He clearly named them Three Swords of Yin Tianzi, but he dared to risk universal condemnation to give them to Wuyou. Do you think he gave them to Wuyou so that she could in turn give them to me?”

“In order to win Wuyou’s favor, this brat is really unscrupulous!”

Emperor Yuan Feng snorted coldly. The more he thought about it, the more likely it seemed.

Even if he was magnanimous, the name Three Swords of Yin Tianzi wasn’t just for show!

After the military parade, quite a few officials submitted an official request to impeach Zhou Shu.

If it were any other emperor, they would have taken this brat away and interrogated him!

But thinking about it this way, this brat gave Three Swords of Yin Tianzi to Wuyou so that Wuyou could personally give them to me. This way, Wuyou wins my favor, and he wins Wuyou’s favor...

This damn brat, he is really scheming!

Eunuch Zhao: “...”

He felt that the emperor might be overthinking things, but what could he say?

This is too tough.

“Your Majesty is wise.” Eunuch Zhao could only agree.

“This girl dares to draw commission from my things. She is really worthy of the title of the grand minister of the Forging Division!”

The Forging Division drew commission from the weapons forged by Forging Masters. After all, they enjoyed the benefits of the Forging Division.

Previously, when Zhou Shu forged the Green Dragon Crescent Blade, Emperor Yuan Feng had asked if he had registered the weapons with the Forging Division for commission drawing.

He didn’t expect that his Three Swords of Yin Tianzi had contributed part of their cost to the Forging Division!

Two of the three swords were left. He didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

“Great companion, bring some lychees that the south offered as tribute to that girl,” Emperor Yuanfeng said.

By saying this, he clearly forgave Yin Wuyou and found a way to make up with her.

“Yes, Your Majesty. Your Majesty, when Her Highness sent someone to deliver the swords, she also sent a letter. Would you like to take a look?” Eunuch Zhao said.

“Bring it over.” Emperor Yuan Feng was in a great mood. The Three Swords of Yin Tianzi were only yellow-grade weapons. In terms of power, they were naturally inferior to heaven-grade weapons.

But to Emperor Yuan Feng, the power of a weapon was not important. He didn’t need to fight with anyone.

The Three Swords of Yin Tianzi were invisible to the naked eye. How miraculous was this? This was why the emperor was interested in them.

He took the letter from Eunuch Zhao, opened the envelope, and saw the elegant handwriting. She is indeed my daughter. Her handwriting is beautiful, like mine.

Emperor Yuan Feng smiled happily.

His gaze fell on the letter.

The smile on his face gradually froze, and his expression turned uglier and uglier.

A moment later, his expression turned furious.

Thump!

He slapped his desk hard.

Eunuch Zhao was shocked.

“Your Majesty...”

Eunuch Zhao didn’t know what had happened.

“This wretched girl is really trying to anger me to death!” Emperor Yuan Feng angrily shouted. “Look for yourself!”

He threw the letter in his hand away and slammed his palm on the desk.

Cracks appeared on the hard wooden desk. He would have to change desks again.

Eunuch Zhao quickly picked up the letter and read through it.

Then his expression became very strange.

He stole a glance at the enraged Emperor Yuan Feng. Is His Majesty being too smart for his own good?

“Your Majesty, do you want me to invite Her Highness back?” Eunuch Zhao said cautiously.

He folded the letter and covered up the glaring ‘I’m leaving. Don’t worry about me.’

“Do you know when she left? Bring her back? With this wretched girl’s cultivation, which one of you can bring her back unscathed?”

Emperor Yuan Feng was enraged.

Although he was angry, she was still his daughter.

Yin Wuyou’s cultivation was already at the second rank of the Martial Dao. Even if a first-rank expert made a move, it would be easy to kill her, but it wouldn’t be easy to subdue her.

If she didn’t cooperate, who could bring her back to the capital?

No matter what, she was still the princess of Great Xia. Who would dare to truly capture her?

“Should we send the lord?” Eunuch Zhao whispered.

He was referring to Yin Changhao. Yin Changhao was Emperor Yuan Feng’s younger brother and Yin Wuyou’s uncle. He was also a first-rank expert.

Perhaps only if he went personally could he bring back Yin Wuyou.

If he sent other first-rank experts, it would be impossible for them to really fight Yin Wuyou. After all, if they really fought, they could easily hurt Yin Wuyou.

“He has something to do. He can’t go!” Emperor Yuan Feng said angrily.

He paced back and forth, occasionally punching the air.

Eunuch Zhao kept quiet out of fear, not even daring to breathe loudly.

After venting his anger, Emperor Yuan Feng gradually calmed down.

He said coldly, “Let this wretched girl die outside! At most, I’ll just pretend that I don’t have this daughter!”

Moments later, he suddenly raised his head.

“Send a message to Luo Ling and Li Tongyang. Tell them to pay attention to this wretched girl’s whereabouts!

“Does she think I’m a fool? The world is so big, and she wants to take a look?

“She just wants to go look for that brat!

“Does she think I’m sending Zhou Shu to his death? What nonsense!”

A thousand miles away from Chang’an...

Two unbelievably handsome young masters were riding their horses on the official road.

“Young Master, do you think Master will lose his temper?” the attendant said with a worried expression.

“Don’t worry. My father’s temper will last for at most three days.” Yin Wuyou said confidently. Father should have seen the letter by now, right? Unfortunately, it was already too late. She had already left Chang’an. The emperor could forget about capturing her back.

“But Young Master, why aren’t we going with the main team?” Haitang blinked. “We don’t know which route the team is taking. What if we miss them?”

“No, we won’t miss them!” Yin Wuyou said confidently. “There’s only one path to enter Great Qin. No matter which path they take, they will eventually reach Hangu Pass. As long as we wait there, we will definitely be able to see them.

“In any case, even if it’s dangerous, it’s only after we enter Great Qin. We just have to join the team before we enter Great Qin.”

She had done her homework. She didn’t leave home on impulse.

Thinking of this, Yin Wuyou patted the longsword at her waist, which was hard to see with the naked eye. Zhou Shu, since you've given me the Three Swords of Yin Tianzi, I'll be your bodyguard for once. I'm very kind, right?

Chapter 177 If Marquis Zhou Can't Do It, Then We Can Go Back Home (1)

"Marquis, we are about to enter the borders of Great Liang. We will be able to reach Hangu Pass in about ten days after we go through Great Liang."

Chen Ji was fully armored, and he held the Green Dragon Crescent Blade in his hand. He urged his horse to walk beside Zhou Shu and pointed ahead.

...

When he heard the familiar name of the place, Zhou Shu was somewhat stunned.

But he knew that although some places had similar names to his previous life, this world had nothing to do with his previous life. Everything was just a coincidence.

Along the way, although Zhou Shu didn't have much interest in political geography, what he heard and saw with his eyes gave him a deeper understanding of this world and the situation of the ten nations.

Great Xia was located in the southeastern part of the continent. To the north of it was Great Wei, to the south was a continuous mountain range, to the east was the Endless Sea, to the west was Great Liang, and farther west was Great Qin.

Great Qin was powerful, but it was actually not a big threat to Great Xia. If it wanted to threaten Great Xia, it had to first destroy Great Liang.

But Great Liang wasn't a weak nation, and unless Great Qin mobilized all its forces, it was impossible to destroy Great Liang.

Of the two countries bordering Great Xia, Great Wei was an enemy nation, but it had a rather good relationship with Great Liang.

This was why the diplomatic mission had to go through Great Liang.

If they didn't go through Great Liang, they would have to go through Great Wei. This would be troublesome.

"Will there be any problems with Great Liang's Imperial Court?" Zhou Shu asked casually.

"There shouldn't be," Chen Ji said. "We've already submitted a letter of state in advance. Great Liang agreed to let us go through."

Of course, it was impossible for three thousand people to pass through without making a sound.

Zhou Shu could sense that there were scouts watching them from afar. This was normal.

Any other country would do it.

"Tell everyone to speed up and pass through Great Liang as soon as possible." Zhou Shu nodded.

Although Great Xia had already informed Great Liang's Imperial Court in advance, Zhou Shu still decided that they should pass through as soon as possible. The longer he stayed in their territory, the more worried they would be.

He might as well pass through as soon as possible. After all, the destination of this diplomatic mission was Great Qin.

Chen Ji had the same idea and urged his horse to inform the team to speed up.

After traveling like this for several days, they didn't encounter any ignorant people who came looking for trouble.

Who would seek death when there were two thousand armed soldiers?

Just as the diplomatic mission of Great Xia was about to leave the borders of Great Liang and Hangu Pass was already in sight, an accident happened. Smoke and dust rose in front of them, and even the ground was shaking slightly, as if a large number of cavalry were galloping.

"General Chen!" Zhou Shu shouted.

He wasn't the only one who noticed the commotion. Chen Ji also noticed it.

Chen Ji urged his horse forward and shouted. "Everyone, get ready!"

Lu Wenshuang also moved a bit closer to Zhou Shu, and her body was faintly emitting a sharp aura.

Only in the carriage at the rear of the group, the carriage driver was sitting steadily on the carriage. Meng Bai, inside the carriage, didn't move at all. It was as if they didn't hear the commotion at all.

The two thousand guards had already formed a circle, protecting Zhou Shu and the others in the center. Their blades pointed outward as they prepared for battle.

Just as they got into position, a large group of cavalry appeared in front of them.

There were no less than a thousand mounted soldiers, all of them fully armed.

"Halt!" Chen Ji had already raised the Green Dragon Crescent Blade and pointed it forward.

"This is the diplomatic mission of Great Xia. If you take another step closer, we will treat you as our enemy. You will bear the consequences!"

Boom!

Chen Ji's body erupted with a powerful saber intent, and the Green Dragon Crescent Blade glowed brightly.

Worker, are you starting work now? Zhou Shu was not nervous at all. Instead, he was looking forward to the battle.

He had forged the Green Dragon Crescent Blade in Chen Ji's hand. If Chen Ji killed enemies, he would receive benefits.

"Stop!"

When the opposing cavalry was still some distance away from the Great Xia diplomatic mission, a loud shout resounded, and the cavalry stopped their horses.

“Don’t worry! We mean no harm!” A general rode out.

“Identify yourself! Chen Ji remained unmoved. He pointed his Green Dragon Crescent Blade forward steadily.

“Great Liang’s Flying Bear Army, Han Dazhi.” The cavalry general opposite raised his voice and cupped his hands at Chen Ji, indicating that he was unarmed. Chen Ji still didn’t put down his saber. Great Xia’s diplomatic mission behind him also didn’t put down their weapons.

“So, it’s General Han,” Chen Ji said. “Please forgive me for my lack of manners. May I know why you are here?”

Chen Ji’s eyes shone brightly as he stared at Han Dazhi.

If Han Dazhi couldn’t give him a reasonable explanation, he would choose to attack without hesitation. He would disperse the opposing cavalry and rush into Hangu Pass as quickly as possible.

“General Chen, the Flying Bear Army is not here for your diplomatic mission.” Han Dazhi cupped his hands. “We came from Hangu Pass and have an important matter to attend to. Please make way for us.”

Chen Ji frowned. Make way? Impossible! “General Han, there are many ordinary people in the diplomatic mission of Great Xia. It’s inconvenient for us to move. Your side is full of cavalry. Why don’t you take a detour...”

“This is Great Liang’s land. There’s no reason for us to take a detour,” Han Dazhi said coldly as his face darkened. “General Chen, step aside, or don’t blame me for being rude!”

He raised his right arm, and the mounted soldiers behind him were ready to attack again.

Chapter 178 If Marquis Zhou Can’t Do It, Then We Can Go Back Home (2)

Chen Ji snorted. Make way?

If they made way for them, the formation of the diplomatic mission’s guards would definitely be messed up. Once the formation was messed up, if the other party took advantage of the opportunity to attack, the guards would definitely suffer heavy casualties.

...

Under such circumstances, how could Chen Ji give in?

“General Han, are you trying to sabotage the diplomatic relations between Great Xia and Great Liang?” Chen Ji said coldly.

“The situation is urgent. Anyone who obstructs our Great Liang’s army will be killed without mercy!” Han Dazhi shouted coldly.

“Say...” A voice suddenly sounded. “Instead of taking the time to quarrel, you would have long passed by if you took a detour.”

It was Zhou Shu who spoke.

He said to Han Dazhi, "If you want to pick a fight, just say it. Great Xia is not afraid."

Han Dazhi's face darkened. "Who are you? You have no right to speak here!"

"Impudent!" Chen Ji shouted angrily. "The person in front of you is Great Xia's You Marquis, the official envoy. If you dare to be rude again, I will kill you right now!"

His saber intent soared into the sky. Chen Ji's entire body seemed to have turned into a saber as his aura locked onto Han Dazhi.

VdS

Han Dazhi didn't seem to have expected that the person who spoke in such a manner was actually the official envoy of Great Xia's diplomatic mission. He frowned slightly.

"Let me ask you again. Are you going to give way or not?!" Han Dazhi shouted.

It wasn't a big deal to take a detour, but to make way for the people of other countries within the territory of Great Liang was a big deal!

"The location of Great Xia's diplomatic mission is the territory of Great Xia. The soldiers of Great Xia are still alive, and not a single inch of land has been lost!" Chen Ji said coldly. With a clang, everyone in the Great Xia diplomatic mission drew their sabers. A biting cold killing intent soared into the sky and seemed about to condense.

This was the first time Zhou Shu had seen thousands of people attack at the same time. He was amazed.

Thousands of sabers were already so imposing when they were unsheathed at the same time. What about tens of thousands? What about one hundred thousand?

No wonder the Country Protector Army was said to be the foundation stone of the country.

When the number of ordinary soldiers reached a certain level, even a first-rank expert would have to retreat!

Zhou Shu estimated that if he encountered an army of more than ten thousand soldiers, even he wouldn't be able to face it head-on. He would only be able to rely on the Golden Bell Shield Technique to escape. To directly defeat an army of ten thousand soldiers, even if it was only the Country Protector Army, wasn't something a single person could do.

Although first-rank martial artists had all sorts of mystical abilities, in the end, they also had mortal bodies.

Han Dazhi didn't expect the Great Xia diplomatic mission to reject him like this. He felt like he was riding a tiger and couldn't get off.

It would be embarrassing if they took a detour. If they didn't take a detour, would they really fight with the Great Xia diplomatic mission?

Everyone was just bragging a little. How could they really fight?

“General Han, can you give me some face?” Suddenly, a voice came from the Great Xia diplomatic mission.

It wasn’t loud, and there were a few coughs in between.

But Han Dazhi was a ranked martial artist. With his sharp ears and eyes, he could still hear the voice.

“Speaking of which, your teacher Bao Bigong and I have some friendship.”

Han Dazhi’s expression was slightly startled as he blurted out, “Great General Meng?”

Meng Bai, the God of War of the Great Xia, was known by all soldiers, regardless of friend or foe.

“Has General Bao been well?” Meng Bai continued.

Han Dazhi seemed to be overwhelmed by this unexpected greeting. He hurriedly cupped his hands and said, “Thank you for your concern, Great General Meng. My teacher has been well.”

His teacher, Bao Bigong, regardless of achievements, merit, or reputation, couldn’t compare to Meng Bai.

Meng Bai was a famous general of the ten countries. His teacher, Bao Bigong, was not even considered one of the top generals in Great Liang.

The two of them were on completely different levels.

Although they belonged to different countries, Han Dazhi, as a soldier, was in awe of an existence at the peak of military power.

To an existence like Meng Bai, one could hate him, could become enemies with him, but one could not disrespect him.

Anyone who had reached the pinnacle of his career was worthy of respect, be it friend or foe.

“I didn’t know that you were part of the diplomatic mission, Great General Meng. Since you’ve spoken, I will naturally give you face. Otherwise, my teacher will punish me.”

Since there was a way out to avoid embarrassment, Han Dazhi naturally took the opportunity.

“Thank you, General Han.” Meng Bai’s voice was neither humble nor arrogant, like a calm flowing water.

“General Han, let me ask you something. Did something happen at Hangu Pass? Why are you in such a hurry?”

Perhaps because Meng Bai was a legendary figure, Han Dazhi’s attitude was much better than before.

“This has something to do with all of you.” He glanced at Chen Ji. “If it wasn’t for Great General Meng, I wouldn’t have told you. You dare to be so arrogant in the territory of Great Liang. It’s only because Great General Meng is here today. Otherwise...”

He snorted. This person was definitely a talkative person.

Chen Ji's face was frosty, but he didn't retort.

The great general had spoken. What he had to do was follow orders.

When Han Dazhi saw that Chen Ji didn't dare to retort, a hint of pride flashed across his face. Then he said, "Great Qin has locked down Hangu Pass and forbade anyone from entering."

"Oh? Not even the diplomatic missions?" Meng Bai asked in confusion.

Hangu Pass was the only way to enter and exit Great Qin. If people didn't go through Hangu Pass, then they would have to pass through the continuous mountain range. So it wasn't a matter of wasting time but a matter of whether people were able to get to Great Qin.

Now that the other nine countries had sent diplomatic missions to Great Qin, what was the meaning of them sealing off Hangu Pass?

"Who knows," Han Dazhi said. "I originally wanted to escort Great Liang's diplomatic mission to Great Qin. But Great Qin has locked down Hangu Pass, and we can't pass through. I heard from our envoy that Great Qin has set up a difficult problem at Hangu Pass. Only those who can answer it can pass. Otherwise, we will have to return home! My envoy sent me to fetch someone from the capital. That's why we're so anxious."

It was unknown whether Han Dazhi was shrewd or not, but he even said this.

But this wasn't a secret. As long as Great Xia's diplomatic mission arrived at Hangu Pass, they would definitely find out.

Great Liang's diplomatic mission was unable to solve the problem that Great Qin had set up at Hangu Pass, so they had to return to the capital to seek help?

They were close by and could ask for help. The capital of Great Xia was too far away. If they went back and forth, everything would be delayed.

"General Han, do you know what kind of problem Great Qin has set up at Hangu Pass?" Meng Bai asked.

Han Dazhi shook his head. "How would I know? I'm only responsible for protecting people. I don't care about anything else.

"Great General Meng, we still have military matters to attend to, so I won't say much more. We'll meet again someday. Farewell!"

With a wave of his hand, Han Dazhi led the cavalry around the Great Xia diplomatic mission and galloped away.

It wasn't until they were out of sight that Chen Ji had the guards at ease.

Zhou Shu looked regretfully in the direction where Han Dazhi's cavalry had disappeared. If they had fought just now, Han Dazhi's group would have died.

Zhou Shu wasn't worried that there would be any problems with the diplomatic mission. Not to mention that the mission had more soldiers than Han Dazhi's group, he could sense that the first-rank experts hiding in the dark were enough to make Han Dazhi's group suffer.

If they really fought, Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan would definitely be able to kill off a bunch of people...

"Marquis, Great General, what should we do now?" Chen Ji said.

"Keep moving forward," Zhou Shu said. "Don't tell me we're going home?"

"The marquis is the official envoy. He has the final say." Meng Bai's fatigue voice sounded from within the carriage.

"No matter what problems Great Qin has set up at Hangu Pass, it has something to do with forging. It shouldn't be difficult for the marquis," Meng Bai said. Great Qin already informed the various countries in advance that they would use a method related to forging to decide the host of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament this time. Regardless of how it was carried out, this would definitely not change.

Zhou Shu was Great Xia's number one forging genius. In addition to Shi Songtao and the other Forging Masters, if they couldn't solve the problem that Great Xia had set up at Hangu Pass, then even if they returned to Chang'an to ask for help, it would be useless.

In that case, the diplomatic mission could directly return home.

Chapter 179 Revival (1)

Zhou Shu only treated Meng Bai's words as business flattery.

He had never said what Zhou Shu had to do during this trip or what goals he had to achieve.

...

Great Xia's number one Forging Master? Zhou Shu wasn't the kind of person who would get arrogant just because someone praised him.

He wouldn't do anything that didn't benefit him.

After the small interlude with Han Dazhi, the Great Xia diplomatic mission's speed increased. In less than a day, they arrived outside Hangu Pass.

The so-called Hangu Pass was actually a canyon.

The canyon was as long as a hundred miles. On both sides of the canyon were towering cliffs and precipices. The wonder of creation was astonishing.

When Great Xia's diplomatic mission arrived outside Hangu Pass, many people had already set up camp there.

Shi Songtao was experienced and knowledgeable, so he gave Zhou Shu a simple introduction.

There were the diplomatic missions from Great Liang, Great Wei—Great Xia's archenemy—and three other countries.

The diplomatic mission from most of the ten countries had arrived.

Zhou Shu also saw what Han Dazhi meant by Hangu Pass being blocked.

At the entrance of Hangu Pass, there were Great Qin soldiers wearing black armor guarding it. They were so densely packed that it was impossible to see their heads.

The entrance to Hangu Pass was only so wide. Now that Great Qin soldiers were guarding it, it was impossible for even one man to pass through.

If the diplomatic missions from the various countries wanted to go through, they had to get permission from the other party.

“Deputy Envoy Shi, go and ask how we can go through.”

Zhou Shu was already quite proficient at being a leader. It was very simple. He wouldn't do anything that others could do. He would just treat himself as useless...

Shi Songtao didn't refuse. He was already used to it. Most of the time, he had the illusion that he was the leader of the diplomatic mission.

He did everything!

Shi Songtao brought two officials from the Ministry of Rites to communicate with Great Qin, while Zhou Shu curiously sized up the diplomatic missions from the other countries.

His gaze landed on the camp of the Great Wei diplomatic mission.

Just as he was observing the Great Wei camp, a person suddenly walked out of the central army tent.

Upon seeing this person, Zhou Shu's pupils suddenly contracted. His body, which was sitting on a horse, straightened up.

Lu Wenshuang noticed Zhou Shu's reaction and thought that there was an enemy. She raised her right hand and grabbed the hilt of the sword revealed above her shoulder. She instantly became a sharp sword.

The next moment, a puzzled expression appeared on her face. She didn't sense any enemies nearby.

Following Zhou Shu's gaze, they saw a tall and slender young man in white nodding toward them.

“You know him?” Lu Wenshuang said.

Zhou Shu glanced at her. Lu Wenshuang was not a talkative person. Along the way, she had spoken less than ten sentences!

“Shen Yue!” Zhou Shu frowned. “He was once the deputy envoy of the Great Wei diplomatic mission to Great Xia. I've met him a few times!”

Zhou Shu's tone was very calm, but his heart was already in turmoil.

Shen Yue!

It's Shen Yue!

He remembered that during the You Prefecture incident, Yang Hong had once told him that after the Divine Constable Bureau chased after the Great Wei diplomatic mission, they had met Shen Yue.

At the time, he didn't think much of it, thinking that the Divine Constable Bureau saw someone disguised as him.

After all, this world also had disguising techniques. Yang Hong and the others were not very familiar with Shen Yue, so it was not difficult to deceive them.

Looking at it now, Yang Hong and the rest indeed saw Shen Yue!

Zhou Shu never thought that he would see Shen Yue again!

Back then, Shen Yue had indeed died under his Great Destroyer Sword. Even the Legendary Armament Canon had given him benefits, so how could he not have died?

If the one who died under his sword wasn't Shen Yue, then who was it?

Although they were far away, Zhou Shu was certain that the person in the camp of the Great Wei diplomatic mission was indeed Shen Yue, the one who had competed with him in forging!

But at the time, there was no problem with the aura of the Shen Yue he killed. He was very sure that this person was Shen Yue!

Two Shen Yues?

"Deputy Envoy Lu, is there any revival technique in this world?" Zhou Shu asked in a low voice.

"No," Lu Wenshuang said coldly.

If there was no revival technique, what was going on?

Even if Shen Yue had a twin brother, their auras couldn't be exactly the same.

It was impossible that Lu Wenshuang wouldn't know the existence of a revival technique in this world.

Lu Wenshuang was not an ordinary person. She was the eldest daughter of the Lu family of Qingzhou, the number one Martial Dao genius of Great Xia. If a revival technique really existed, it was impossible for her not to know.

In the Great Wei camp, Shen Yue cupped his hands toward Zhou Shu as if they were old friends reuniting.

Zhou Shu's expression became rather ugly. If Shen Yue really came back from the dead, will my secret be safe?

After Shen Yue cupped his hands toward Zhou Shu, he leisurely walked into another tent. From beginning to end, his attitude was very friendly and didn't seem threatening at all.

Zhou Shu frowned in thought for a moment, his expression grim as he arrived in front of Meng Bai's carriage.

"Great General, I have something to discuss with you!" Zhou Shu said in a low voice.

“Come up.” Meng Bai’s voice sounded.

The coachman, who had been guarding the carriage all this time, opened up a gap. Zhou Shu jumped onto the carriage.

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He turned around and said to Lu Wenshuang, “Guard the surroundings and don’t let anyone approach!”

Lu Wenshuang nodded in agreement.

...

Zhou Shu entered the carriage and pulled back the curtains.

Meng Bai, wrapped in a blanket, looked at Zhou Shu somewhat strangely.

“Did you find out the questions set by Great Qin?” Meng Bai said.

“Deputy Envoy Shi went to ask around.” Zhou Shu shook his head. “Great General, I have something very important to ask you. Is it convenient here?”

“Just say it,” Meng Bai said. “My carriage is specially made. The soundproofing is quite good.”

Zhou Shu nodded and lowered his voice., “Great General, I saw Shen Yue!”

“Shen Yue?” Meng Bai was a bit confused.

“The son of the minister of war of Great Wei, Shen Yue!”

“I know he’s the son of the minister of war,” Meng Bai said. “He was part of the diplomatic mission from Great Wei.”

Meng Bai knew the minister of war of Great Wei very well. Furthermore, he knew about the matter of Mi Ziwen, so he naturally knew that the minister of war had a son called Shen Yue.

“Great General, you know that I was abducted by Great Wei’s imperial preceptor once, right?” Zhou Shu said.

Meng Bai nodded, and his gaze naturally landed on the Great Destroyer Sword on Zhou Shu’s back.

“I saw with my own eyes that Shen Yue was killed by the Great Destroyer Sword,” Zhou Shu said solemnly.

“Are you sure?” Meng Bai’s expression also became serious. “Yes!” Zhou Shu said firmly.

“I want to know if there are any revival techniques in this world!” Zhou Shu asked again. He really wanted to know what was going on with Shen Yue!

If he really came back from the dead, would his secret be exposed?

Should he kill him again?

Meng Bai revealed a thoughtful expression and then shook his head. "To come back from the dead is unheard of."

He had never heard of any resurrection technique.

Lu Wenshuang has never heard of one, nor has Meng Bai. Is there really no revival technique in this world? Zhou Shu furrowed his brows tightly. He had already started to plan to kill Shen Yue again!

The most important thing now was to confirm that if Shen Yue really came back from the dead, did he remember that Zhou Shu had killed him?

If he revealed his secret, how should he deal with it?

"Don't worry about this first," Meng Bai said. "Regardless of whether or not Shen Yue revived from the dead, this matter shouldn't have happened recently."

"The fact that Great Wei didn't make things difficult for Great Xia previously means that even if Shen Yue came back from the dead, there is still a big problem."

"In any case, the one who killed Shen Yue is the mysterious expert. No one can be sure if the mysterious expert is from Great Xia. Even if they want to seek revenge, they shouldn't come after Great Xia."

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes in his heart. Shen Yue won't take revenge on Great Xia. He will take revenge on me.

If Shen Yue came back to life and remembered how he died, then he would definitely remember who killed him.

Under these circumstances, wouldn't it be obvious who Shen Yue would find for revenge?

"I'll find a way to investigate this matter. You don't have to worry about him now," Meng Bai continued. "Just do your job well. This time, even if Xiao Shunzhi personally takes action, there is no way he can kidnap you."

Zhou Shu was speechless. Was worried that Great Wei would kidnap him?

It would be fine if they really abducted him. He would kill them again.

But since Shen Yue came back from the dead, could Xiao Shunzhi have also come back to life?

Zhou Shu suddenly remembered that the news of the death of Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi had never spread.

Moreover, Great Xia didn't seem to have collected Xiao Shunzhi's corpse back then.

Back in You Prefecture, after killing Xiao Shunzhi, he had been busy saving the princess and Sun Gongping and hadn't thought of destroying his corpse to erase all traces.

Now that he thought about it, he was indeed a little hasty back then.

Something's not right, Zhou Shu thought.

He remembered that after Xiao Shunzhi's death, his Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber was still left at the scene. But afterward, he didn't hear that Great Xia had obtained the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber.

If Great Xia really obtained a heaven-grade weapon, he would have definitely heard about

Could Xiao Shunzhi also not be dead?

No, it's impossible for him not to die. The Legendary Armament Canon gave me feedback about it.

He might have come back from the dead!

What kind of secret is Great Wei hiding that can allow people to come back from the dead?

If they really mastered such a technique, wouldn't they be invincible?

Does this method have something to do with the situation of the You and Bing prefectures? Zhou Shu recalled that when Great Wei suddenly lost the You and Bing prefectures to Great Xia, it was a little strange. If not for Zhou Shu unraveling the fog of the You and Bing prefectures, perhaps no one would have been able to walk out alive.

Zhou Shu frowned as he pondered.

Then Shi Songtao's voice came from outside. "Marquis, Great General, I've already asked about the questions set up by Great Qin."

Meng Bai patted Zhou Shu on the shoulder and said, "Alright, let's not think about Shen Yue for now. Let's deal with the diplomatic mission first."

Zhou Shu nodded. He opened the curtain of the carriage. "How do they want to play?"

Shi Songtao's expression darkened. Is this a game? "Great Qin has set up a total of nine checkpoints from Hangu Pass to Great Qin's capital. If the diplomatic mission from each country wants to reach Great Qin's capital, they have to clear all the checkpoints.

"Those who can make it to the capital of Great Qin are qualified to compete for the host of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. If not, they will be eliminated.

"According to their rules, the diplomatic missions of the various countries can only send nine people to pass through the checkpoints at most. The others will wait outside Hangu Pass, or they can head to Great Qin's capital to wait."

Shi Songtao briefly explained the procedure.

Zhou Shu and Meng Bai both frowned.

The diplomatic mission had to be divided into two groups?

At most, nine people would go and challenge the checkpoints, but the rest couldn't tag along?

Wouldn't this mean that the challengers couldn't bring any guards with them? What if the process was dangerous?

"Challenging the trial is voluntary, at our own risk," Shi Songtao continued.

Meng Bai frowned. Zhou Shu's significance to Great Xia was extraordinary. If he went with the diplomatic mission to Great Qin, the danger would be within control.

But if they were separated, the danger would be completely uncontrollable.

If something happened to Zhou Shu, even if Great Xia obtained the rights to host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, it wouldn't be worth it.

Meng Bai followed the diplomatic mission, disregarding his own condition, to ensure that nothing unexpected happened to Zhou Shu.

If necessary, he even decided to use himself as bait to ensure Zhou Shu's safety.

Meng Bai, Great Xia's God of War, was enough to attract all the firepower. As long as he appeared, the enemy would probably focus their attention on him. At that time, Zhou Shu's chances of escaping would greatly increase.

But now that Great Qin was playing this game, his plans were completely disrupted.

For nine people to challenge the trial, there had to be a Forging Master among them. After all, the setup of the checkpoints was related to forging. This way, how many guards could he place among the nine?

Under such circumstances, it was impossible for Great Xia to send a first-rank martial artist to protect Zhou Shu and the others.

A first-rank martial artist protecting a Forging Master? Wasn't that telling the enemy how important Zhou Shu was?

Wouldn't the enemy try to kill him?

For a while, Meng Bai was a bit hesitant. Should they continue forward, or should they give up now and return home?

As Meng Bai pondered, he heard Zhou Shu ask, "Did they say what the nine checkpoints are?" "I don't know the rest, but the first checkpoint is to identify forging materials," Shi Songtao said.

"Great Qin has set up an army camp in Hangu Pass. There are various forging materials in the camp. The first task is to choose some forging materials and bring them along.

"The first checkpoint's forging materials will be the foundation for the next few checkpoints. There won't be any more opportunities to replenish the materials later on. If the need to forge arises, you can only use the materials obtained from the first checkpoint.

"I feel like we have to select as many materials as possible during the first checkpoint. Otherwise, it will be troublesome if we don't have enough materials."