

Canon 181

Chapter 181 Breakthrough Pill, I Really Admire Your Confidence (1)

Choose the forging materials and bring them along?

Isn't the first checkpoint set by Great Qin too easy?

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A thought flashed across Zhou Shu's mind, but he immediately denied it.

The first checkpoint seemed simple. It was merely to select some forging materials.

But on further thought, it was not simple at all!

The number of materials he chose would directly affect the following eight checkpoints!

The rules of Great Qin stated that only nine people could go through the trial. This meant that the materials they could carry were limited.

With limited forging materials, and not knowing what the following eight checkpoints encompassed, how many forging materials would he have to bring? How would he match each material?

Theoretically speaking, the higher one's cultivation was, the greater their strength would be and the more items they could carry.

In order to bring more forging materials, apart from the Forging Masters, the rest would have to be martial artists with high cultivation.

Although Forging Masters were also martial artists, and their cultivation might not be low, there were not many Forging Masters with extremely high cultivation and extremely strong forging techniques in any country.

This was a matter of teamwork.

In short, although the first checkpoint seemed simple, it was actually very difficult. If he handled it well, he would get twice the results with half the effort. If he didn't handle it well, things might get tough later.

Since Zhou Shu had thought of this, Meng Bai, who was proficient in the art of war, naturally thought of it as well.

Great Qin was well versed in the art of war.

"Deputy Envoy Shi, did Great Qin prohibit us from carrying weapons?" Zhou Shu asked.

"No. There are no other rules for the other members of the diplomatic mission. Those going through the trial can only bring one weapon each to protect themselves," Shi Songtao replied. He had also been thinking of strategies. If there were nine people, he would definitely have to join them. He, Shi Songtao, had come to Great Qin to gain merits. How could he sit aside and watch?

He, Zhou Shu, and the other deputy envoy, Lu Wenshuang, would already take up three spots.

He didn't know how the following checkpoints were set up, so they would definitely need a few more Forging Masters...

"Great General, what do you think we should do?" Zhou Shu shamelessly asked Meng Bai.

Arranging soldiers was Meng Bai's expertise. When it came to professional matters, he naturally had to ask the professionals.

Zhou Shu was confident in himself, but he didn't know what checkpoints Great Qin had set up. Even if he used his toes to think, he knew that it definitely wouldn't just be forging.

Zhou Shu wasn't afraid of forging. In fact, he was even willing to teach Great Qin. But if there were other things, he might not be able to settle them himself.

According to Zhou Shu's character, he should have directly led the team to Great Qin to wait. As for going through the trial?

Wasn't there still a diligent fellow like Shi Songtao?

But this would seem like bullying.

As the official envoy, how could he not do anything? Therefore, Zhou Shu still decided to play with them. Isn't it just challenging the trial? It's no big deal.

Meng Bai pondered. "Wait first. let me think about it."

The diplomatic missions from the various countries had yet to take action. This meant that everyone realized that although the first checkpoint seemed simple, it was actually very troublesome. Therefore, they were still considering it.

Great Liang had even sent people back to seek help.

In other countries, there were probably many people who had such thoughts.

Zhou Shu nodded. He was just about to get off the carriage when he suddenly remembered something. He turned around and returned to the carriage. He reached out and pulled down the curtain.

Outside, Shi Songtao's face darkened.

Who is he guarding against?

There's no one around!

No, I seem to be the only outsider...

Inside the carriage, Zhou Shu's expression was very serious.

"Great General, keep this well," Zhou Shu said solemnly as he took out a palm-sized porcelain bottle from who knew where and handed it to Meng Bai.

"This is?" Meng Bai said with some surprise.

The Zhou Shu he knew didn't seem like someone who would give gifts to others.

Furthermore, he had already retired. There wasn't much value in giving him gifts.

"Great General, no matter how the team is formed, I will definitely be among them," Zhou Shu said seriously. "When the time comes, we will definitely split up into two groups. As for the diplomatic mission, I'll leave it to you to take care of it."

"Great General, don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to bribe you. Keep this with you. If you really end up in a dead-end, it might be useful."

Zhou Shu didn't know if the Breakthrough Pill would be useful to Meng Bai, but he might be able to make a Hail Mary effort.

Zhou Shu originally didn't plan on giving it to Meng Bai at this time.

But when he saw Shen Yue, he felt a sense of danger.

In addition to how Great Qin had planned the trial, there might be trouble in between.

If his strength was exposed and he didn't want to cause too much trouble, he might not be able to return to Great Xia.

After all, he had lived in Great Xia for so long. This Breakthrough Pill could be considered a little bit of contribution. If he really couldn't make it back, it would be considered a farewell gift.

Meng Bai frowned slightly. After thinking for a bit, he nodded and said, "Okay, I'll keep it first. When we meet up in Great Qin's capital, I'll return it to you."

He put away the porcelain bottle without opening it to take a look.

Only then did Zhou Shu get off the carriage.

"Deputy Envoy Shi, bring everyone and set up camp first," Zhou Shu said casually.

"Marquis, where are you going?" Shi Songtao hurriedly asked when he saw Zhou Shu staggering away from the diplomatic mission.

"Me? I'm going to find out more."

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With that, he walked toward the camp of Great Wei's diplomatic mission.

Lu Wenshuang didn't say a word and followed two steps behind Zhou Shu.

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Seeing Zhou Shu leave the camp, the commander of the guards, Chen Ji, gave Yin Chengshan a look. Yin Chengshan and his team quickly followed.

"Don't be so nervous. I'm just going over to chat with an old friend." Zhou Shu drove them back. "They won't dare to do anything to me in public. Even if they dare, there's Deputy Envoy Lu around. You guys can also rush over any time."

In front of Hangu Pass, there were the camps of several countries. Unless Great Wei went crazy, they wouldn't assassinate the official envoy of Great Xia in public.

While Yin Chengshan hesitated, Zhou Shu had already walked far away.

He gritted his teeth. He didn't follow, nor did he return to the camp. Instead, he brought his men and waited in place, his gaze fixed on Zhou Shu. As long as there was any movement, he would immediately rush over to help.

Zhou Shu came to the camp of Great Wei's diplomatic mission. After revealing his identity, Shen Yue quickly appeared in front of him.

This time, Shen Yue was no longer a deputy envoy but an official envoy...

Ever since Shen Yue appeared, Zhou Shu had been staring fixedly at him.

"Brother Zhou, you've been staring at me the entire time. Have you forgotten about me after not meeting for a short period of time?" Shen Yue said with cupped hands, his expression not changing in the slightest.

"Brother Zhou, I haven't congratulated you on your promotion yet. Speaking of which, I deserve some credit for your promotion, right?" he joked.

A strange look flashed across Zhou Shu's eyes. The Shen Yue in front of him was no different from the Shen Yue he had seen before.

Even if they were twins, it was impossible for them to be exactly the same. Zhou Shu was very confident in his own judgment. With his cultivation, it was impossible for him not to be able to tell whether they were twins or the same person. Shen Yue really came back to life! Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes slightly. He had killed Shen Yue personally by chopping off his head. Even a first-rank martial artist wouldn't survive with their head chopped off.

Furthermore, there was the feedback from the Legendary Armament Canon. If he hadn't died back then, why would the Legendary Armament Canon give him benefits?

How did he come back to life?

"It's been a few months since we last met. Brother Shen, you're still as elegant as ever." Zhou Shu grinned, revealing his white and neat teeth. "After we parted in You Prefecture that day, I've really missed you." Shen Yue was slightly stunned, but his expression didn't show any falsehood.

"You Prefecture? Brother Zhou, did you remember wrongly? After we parted in Chang'an, we have never met again," Shen Yue said.

Zhou Shu looked straight into Shen Yue's eyes, and Shen Yue didn't avoid his gaze.

"Brother Zhou, you came to look for me because of Great Qin's trial?" Shen Yue continued. "I also wanted to discuss it with you. I admire your forging skills."

Something is wrong! Very wrong!

Even in Chang'an, before Shen Yue revealed his true intentions, he and Zhou Shu didn't have much of a relationship.

Now, he kept calling him Brother Zhou as if they were very close.

In fact, when Shen Yue was in Chang'an, they didn't speak to each other much.

At the end of the day, Great Wei and Great Xia were enemies. How could Shen Yue be so friendly toward him?

Was it because he couldn't threaten him directly in front of outsiders?

Did he think that he could manipulate him just because he knew his secret?

Could it be that he felt that he had died too easily last time?

Zhou Shu's heart stirred. He said, "That's right. Brother Shen, your reputation as a genius has spread far and wide. I came here to discuss Great Qin's trial with you. Is this convenient?"

Since he can't find an opportunity to threaten me in public, I'll create an opportunity for him.

"Of course." As expected, Shen Yue didn't refuse and reached out his hand to make an inviting gesture. "Brother Zhou, please forgive me for the poor conditions of the camp."

"No, no. We don't even have a camp yet."

Zhou Shu and Shen Yue made some meaningless small talk as they entered Shen Yue's tent.

Lu Wenshuang was about to follow when Zhou Shu suddenly stopped. "Wait for me outside."

Lu Wenshuang was about to speak when Zhou Shu said angrily, "I'm talking to Brother Shen. Why are you, a maid, getting involved? Wait for me outside!"

He snorted and turned back to Shen Yue. "I've spoiled her at home. She doesn't obey me."

Shen Yue smiled. "Brother Zhou, you are so lucky." Lu Wenshuang watched as the tent's curtain fell. Her chest rose and fell violently, and her eyes shone with a cold light.

With a snort, she turned around with a murderous look and guarded the door.

Zhou Shu had probed Shen Yue. It seems Shen Yue doesn't know Lu Wenshuang's true identity.

Although Lu Wenshuang's name resounded throughout the continent, not many people had actually seen her.

Many people in the diplomatic mission didn't know that she was one of the deputy envoys.

Most of the time, she simply followed behind Zhou Shu without saying a word. She seemed more like a maid, not the third most powerful person in the diplomatic mission.

The two of them sat down in the tent.

Zhou Shu looked at Shen Yue and said, "Some things can't be said in front of outsiders. You can say it now."

He went straight to the point. It was as if he wanted to see what this Shen Yue was up to. He was sure that even if Shen Yue was shrewd, he wouldn't be able to tolerate the murderer who killed him.

Shen Yue's expression was slightly startled. He was stunned for a moment before saying, "What do you mean, Brother Zhou?"

"Although there are some grudges between Great Wei and Great Xia, it has nothing to do with us..."

"Shen Yue, it's just the two of us now. Why are you acting so hypocritically?" Zhou Shu laughed coldly.

Shen Yue's expression froze, and then a smile slowly appeared on his face.

Seeing his smile, Zhou Shu snorted coldly in his heart. He's finally revealed his true appearance. He's clearly a villain, so why is he pretending to be a gentleman!?

"As expected of someone who climbed up from the ranks from a Forging Apprentice, even if you were conferred a title, you can't escape the style of a peasant," Shen Yue mocked. "You belong to the upper class, but the head of an upper-class person isn't any heavier than the head of a peasant." Zhou Shu laughed coldly.

"Zhou Shu, I will make you and Mi Ziwen pay for what you did to my brother!" Shen Yue's face was as cold as ice and full of killing intent.

Zhou Shu looked at Shen Yue and saw that the hatred on his face was real.

But his hatred is because of his brother?

Zhou Shu knew who Shen Yue's elder brother was. His elder brother was the spy who had been lurking around Mi Ziwen.

Later on, he was killed by Mi Ziwen.

Because of this, Shen Yue hated Mi Ziwen and even hated Zhou Shu, Mi Ziwen's sworn brother.

The problem was, if he wanted to hate someone, shouldn't he hate Zhou Shu more?

He had killed him before.

Does he not remember dying?

Or maybe he doesn't remember me killing him?

"Shen Yue, how does it feel to die?" Zhou Shu suddenly said.

Shen Yue's expression froze again. He frowned and said, "Zhou Shu, what nonsense are you spouting!" There was disgust and impatience in his eyes. Seeing Shen Yue's expression, Zhou Shu was almost certain that Shen Yue didn't remember dying! "Shen Yue, is Xiao Shunzhi dead?" Zhou Shu probed again.

Shen Yue's eyes were cold. "Zhou Shu, do you think you can look down on my teacher just because he lost an arm? Who do you think you are? You're just a mere marquis!"

Upon hearing that Xiao Shunzhi was also alive, Zhou Shu let out a sigh of relief.

It sounded like Shen Yue didn't know that he had severed Xiao Shunzhi's arm.

Although he didn't know what had happened, it seemed that after they came back to life, they forgot what had happened before they died.

They probably didn't remember that they had died once, nor did they remember Zhou Shu's true strength.

It made sense. If Shen Yue remembered, how would he dare to be alone with him?

Did he not know that Zhou Shu could easily kill a noob like him?

"I'm nobody. At the very least, I'll win you all again and make you scam with your tails between your legs," Zhou Shu said calmly. "Haha." Shen Yue suddenly laughed out loud. "Zhou Shu, do you think you can win against me? The last time we bet on the two prefectures, did you really think you won with your own ability?"

"If I were you, I would return home right now. Otherwise, you will be the one embarrassed. Don't blame me for not warning you!" Shen Yue said confidently.

Zhou Shu looked at him like he was an idiot. "I really admire your confidence. I'm just waiting to see how you'll embarrass me."

Chapter 183 Another Fight, Candidates For The Trial (1)

"Young Master, are we lost?" Haitang, dressed as a male attendant, repeatedly looked at the map in her hand and asked for the umpteenth time.

Yin Wuyou, who was also dressed as a man and was unbelievably handsome, was speechless. She didn't want to admit it, but it seemed... they were really lost...

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"Stop looking. It's not like you can understand it!" Yin Wuyou snapped. "It's better to find someone to ask for directions."

Your Highness, you can't read the map either, Haitang muttered in her heart while carefully putting the map into her bag. "But there's no one here in the wilderness, Your Highness."

There were no outsiders here, and Haitang forgot to change the way she addressed the princess. "We have asked for directions several times. We are indeed going in the direction they pointed."

"How would I know?" Yin Wuyou said helplessly.

If she knew, would they have lost their way?

Suddenly, Yin Wuyou's expression changed.

"Haitang, don't worry about anything later. Keep walking in the direction of the sunset! Remember, no matter what happens, don't look back!" Yin Wuyou said solemnly.

She raised her right hand and grasped the hilt of the sword exposed above her right shoulder.

With a clang, she unsheathed the sword. Her body lit up slightly, and her aura rose steadily.

Yin Wuyou had brought two weapons with her when she left the capital. One was an earth-grade longsword that Emperor Yuan Feng had specially hired someone to forge for her, and the other was the Shadow Sword!

The Shadow Sword couldn't be seen with the naked eye as it hung at her waist.

At this moment, she didn't use the Shadow Sword but her earth-grade sword.

"Come out!" Yin Wuyou shouted coldly.

Stretching out her arm, she pointed her sword forward. A series of sharp sword qi warped the air around her.

Although the powerful aura was not aimed at Haitang, she had already involuntarily taken two steps back.

Her cultivation was only at the seventh rank of the Martial Dao, so she couldn't withstand the powerful aura coming from Yin Wuyou's cultivation at the second rank.

Pada

Footsteps sounded, and a figure walked out from the forest not far ahead.

This person was tall and sturdy, and his skin was bronze in color. He carried a large saber that was as tall as a person, and his body exuded a powerful aura.

"Great Wei's imperial preceptor!" Yin Wuyou's pupils constricted, and her heart sank.

Her gaze landed on Xiao Shunzhi's right arm, and shock flashed across her eyes. Why is his right arm still there?

The number one weapon in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual, the Great Destroyer Sword, clearly had the record of severing the right arm of Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi!

Yin Wuyou had some doubts in her heart, but now was not the time to consider these things. She stared at Xiao Shunzhi, and her spiritual essence burst out without reservation.

Xiao Shunzhi was a first-rank martial artist.

If she still had any reservations, then she would be courting death!

Yin Wuyou had once fought with Xiao Shunzhi. At the time, Xiao Shunzhi was seriously injured, but she still almost died.

Although her cultivation level had increased by one rank now, Xiao Shunzhi's injuries had already recovered.

Yin Wuyou didn't have any confidence in escaping

She only hoped that Haitang could escape. Otherwise, if both of them died here, no one would know who killed them.

Xiao Shunzhi looked at Yin Wuyou with a faint smile. "The princess of Great Xia actually dares to enter the territory of our Great Wei. Could it be that you thought Great Wei wouldn't notice you entering our territory?" Yin Wuyou's expression was solemn. She wasn't stupid at all. In an instant, she understood that the people she had asked for directions earlier had likely pointed her in the wrong direction on purpose. They wanted to lure her into the wilderness.

Otherwise, if they were in the middle of a bustling city, even if she wasn't Xiao Shunzhi's match, with her second-rank Martial Dao cultivation, Great Wei would incur enormous losses.

There were no problems in this barren wilderness.

Xiao Shunzhi could completely let loose and kill her.

After Yin Wuyou thought through all this, she didn't regret intentionally going through Great Wei to avoid her father's pursuit.

If she could do it again, she would still leave the capital.

Great Qin wasn't a good place. She didn't feel at ease letting Zhou Shu go to Great Qin alone. His cultivation was only at the seventh rank. Just like Haitang, he was too weak.

Yin Wuyou took a deep breath, and her expression became incomparably determined. I absolutely can't admit defeat. I still have to catch up to the diplomatic mission. I still have to protect Zhou Shu!

Xiao Shunzhi pointed the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber on the ground and said, "Your Highness, I advise you to surrender. That way, you will suffer less. If you fight, I can't guarantee that I won't hurt you."

"Xiao Shunzhi, cut the crap! Great Xia's princess will die in battle, but there will be no coward who begs for mercy!" Yin Wuyou shouted. "Kill me if you can!"

Before she finished speaking, she had already transformed into an afterimage. Boundless sword qi stabbed toward Xiao Shunzhi.

"Go!" Yin Wuyou's voice rang in Haitang's ears, and a force sent her flying backward.

Haitang was already in the air with tears streaming down her face.

She knew that with her cultivation, it was simply impossible for her to interfere in the battle between the princess and Xiao Shunzhi.

Even if she wanted to sacrifice herself to buy time for the princess, she couldn't.

The only thing she could do now was to look for reinforcements!

Hanyu Pass! The marquises! For some reason, the first person that flashed through Haitang's mind was Zhou Shu.

Chapter 184 Another Fight, Candidates For The Trial (2)

She gritted her teeth and released the spiritual essence in her body. She ran toward the sunset in the forest.

She didn't avoid the branches and vines in the forest and allowed them to leave marks on her body. She didn't have time to dodge. She had to use the fastest speed to find reinforcements!

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Boom!

Yin Wuyou flew into the air like a fairy and made a beautiful turn in the air. The sword light in her hand swept out, and a dazzling sword beam slashed down.

Boom!

Sword beam and saber beam collided.

Yin Wuyou was sent flying by the force of the collision. Below, Xiao Shunzhi took a few steps back, leaving clear footprints on the ground.

Yin Wuyou's eyes became somewhat bright. Although she was at a disadvantage in this short exchange, she could clearly sense that Xiao Shunzhi had become weaker!

The last time in You Prefecture, her cultivation was at the third rank of the Martial Dao. Under the hands of the heavily injured Xiao Shunzhi, she had only lasted a few moves before she was seriously injured.

At the time, Xiao Shunzhi had lost his right arm and still had that much strength.

The current Xiao Shunzhi seemed to be unscathed, but the strength he displayed was still incomparable to when he didn't have his right arm!

Although she didn't know why, the strength Xiao Shunzhi had shown now was absolutely not that of a first-rank martial artist!

The second rank of the Martial Dao!

His cultivation is only at the second rank of the Martial Dao!

Even if he's stronger than me, there is still a limit to his strength!

We are both at the second rank. Does he think he can kill me?!

Yin Wuyou felt a sense of pride. The longsword in her hand returned to its sheath with a clang, and she casually tore off a corner of her clothes. She tied her loose hair behind her back, looking valiant and heroic.

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"So what if you're Great Wei's imperial preceptor!" Yin Wuyou shouted.

Her right hand once again grasped the hilt of her sword and unsheathed it. Sword qi crisscrossed and slashed at Xiao Shunzhi.

Xiao Shunzhi's expression was gloomy. The Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber also transformed into saber beams that blotted out the sky and charged forward.

If he wasn't worried that too many people would know about his fallen state, he wouldn't have come alone.

He didn't expect the princess of Great Xia to be a second-rank martial artist!

How old was she?

Lu Wenshuang, who was known as the number one Martial Dao genius of Great Xia, was only at the third rank.

This princess of the Grand Xia has truly hidden herself well!

But so what if she's a second-rank martial artist? If I can't even take down a junior, my hundred years of cultivation would have been wasted!

Rumbling sounds echoed in the forest as sword qi and saber beams wreaked havoc. Everything within a radius of several miles became a mess.

The destructive power of a battle between two second-rank martial artists was truly shocking.

If this had happened in the city, countless innocent commoners would have been shredded into pieces by the sword qi and saber beam.

This was also why Xiao Shunzhi had thought of a way to lure Yin Wuyou to this place before taking action. Martial artists above the third rank had already entered another realm. It wasn't easy to capture or kill experts at this level.

While the battle was taking place in the forest of Great Wei, the diplomatic mission of Great Xia had already set up camp at Hangu Pass hundreds of miles away.

Zhou Shu, Lu Wenshuang, and Shi Songtao, the top three members of the Great Xia diplomatic mission, had gathered together in a rare meeting

There was also Great General Meng Bai.

In just a short period of time, Meng Bai seemed to have aged a bit more than when he just left the capital.

He would cough every now and then.

This made Zhou Shu worry if he could survive the journey to the capital of Great Qin.

He was now even more curious why Meng Bai had to follow the diplomatic mission.

With Meng Bai's condition, even if he didn't die before they achieved victory, there was a high chance that he wouldn't be able to return to Chang'an.

He looked like he could die at any moment.

Every time he coughed, Zhou Shu would feel fear and trepidation.

There were many times when he wanted to ask Meng Bai why he didn't eat the Breakthrough Pill and give it a try?

But the effect of the Breakthrough Pill was also a huge problem. If others knew about it, he would definitely become the target of all the martial artists in the world.

At that time, who knew how many people would come looking for him. Even if he said that he didn't have any Breakthrough Pills, they wouldn't believe him.

At that time, not only would people come to beg him, but there would be many people who would use underhanded means against him. Zhou Shu was most afraid of trouble. Those people wouldn't be able to hurt him, but they would be like annoying flies.

This was why when he handed the Breakthrough Pill to Meng Bai, he had told him to only take it when it was dangerous.

The chances of the Great Xia diplomatic mission really reaching this kind of situation were not high. But if Zhou Shu's strength was exposed, and he left the Great Xia, Meng Bai would definitely become suspicious of the things Zhou Shu left behind. At that time, if he took the Breakthrough Pill, Zhou Shu's whereabouts would already be unknown, so there would be no trouble.

Zhou Shu's thoughts were very good. But from Meng Bai's appearance, that day might not come.

He made up his mind. If there was still no activity from Shen Yue, then before he officially began the trial, he would have Meng Bai take the Breakthrough Pill.

At worst, he would ask Meng Bai to help him keep it a secret. As for the origin of the Breakthrough Pill, he could just push it onto his nonexistent senior brother. With Meng Bai's character, he probably wouldn't expose him.

"Marquis! Marquis!" Shi Songtao's voice jolted Zhou Shu out of his reverie.

Zhou Shu returned to his senses and asked, "What did you say?"

Shi Songtao was speechless. We're talking about serious matters. Is it really appropriate for you to be so distracted?

He helplessly repeated what he had just said.

"I think that since Great Qin said that the trial this time is a test of forging skills, then the martial strength of the nine people passing the trial isn't the most important. 'I feel that we should arrange as many Forging Masters as possible. As for martial strength, two ranked martial artists are enough. Actually, if we didn't need people to transport the materials for the first checkpoint, I don't think the nine of us would need martial artists to protect us,'" Shi Songtao said.

Zhou Shu glanced at Meng Bai and Lu Wenshuang. "Great General, Deputy Envoy Lu, what do you think?"

Meng Bai coughed twice again and said, "What Deputy Envoy Shi said makes sense. Even though Great Qin didn't explicitly explain it, according to the various countries' unspoken rules, first-rank martial artists won't act rashly. 'Therefore, there's no need to worry about a first-rank martial artist appearing among the trial challengers. There may be second-rank martial artists, but the possibility is not high.

"It's most likely that there will be third-rank martial artist guards among the trial challengers. "We have Deputy Envoy Lu with us, so we don't have to worry about others having third-rank martial artists. But we don't know the specific situation of the checkpoints Great Qin set up. To be safe, I suggest that among the nine people, besides Deputy Envoy Lu, we need two more guards.

"Of course. It's still up to you to decide. I am just giving a suggestion."

Then Meng Bai began to cough intensely again.

The ratio between Forging Masters and pure martial artists was two to one. This ratio was quite appropriate. Zhou Shu looked at Lu Wenshuang. Lu Wenshuang's expression implied that she had no comments.

Seeing her, Zhou Shu couldn't be bothered to ask for her opinion.

"We'll do as you say, Great General. Six Forging Masters and three martial artist guards!

"Deputy Envoy Lu will be one of them. As for the other two guards. Great General, do you think General Chen Ji can leave the guards?"

"Yes," Meng Bai said. Even if Zhou Shu didn't mention it, he would have arranged for Chen Ji to join. Protecting Zhou Shu was the most important thing for the guards. As for the other members of the diplomatic mission who weren't participating in the trial, they weren't actually in too much danger.

"Other than General Chen Ji, I think General Yin Chengshan is not bad either." Zhou Shu was prepared to bring all his workers along. After all, this was a chance to make a contribution. Of course, he had to take care of his own people first.

If not for the fact that there were too few spots, he also wanted to include Yang Hong.

"As for the Forging Masters, Deputy Envoy Shi and I count as two. As for the other four, Deputy Envoy Shi, you can decide," Zhou Shu said nonchalantly.

I knew it! Shi Songtao said in his heart. Zhou Shu, this boss who left everything to others, had never cared about anything before. Shi Songtao was already somewhat surprised that he chose two guards this time. "Got it. I'll pick a few people later and then let you determine the final candidates, Marquis," Shi Songtao said in a muffled voice. He had no choice since he was the deputy envoy!

"Alright, let's go." Zhou Shu clapped his hands. "Great General, rest early. The terrain of Hangu Pass is quite interesting. I'll go take a look."

Chapter 185 Who Said I Only Have One Weapon? (1)

"What can you tell?" Lu Wenshuang's cold voice sounded in Zhou Shu's ear.

With her personality, for her to ask this question, it was enough to see that she had reached her limit.

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In other words, Lu Wenshuang didn't have much patience.

But no matter how patient someone was, they couldn't stand being in the wind on this mountain.

It had already been half a night. Zhou Shu was standing on the mountaintop, looking at something
“I can’t go back.” Zhou Shu sighed.

“What do you mean?” Lu Wenshuang frowned.

“You don’t understand.” Zhou Shu shook his head.

Although the name was the same, Hangu Pass was not the same.

Just like this Great Qin, it wasn’t related to the Great Qin in his memories at all.

This was not Earth.

Zhou Zu just lamented that he could never go back to Earth, and then he laughed.

In essence, he was someone who went with the flow. He didn’t really feel sad. If he couldn’t go back, then so be it. After all, he was living quite well in this world.

“Roar!”

Just as he was about to descend the mountain with Lu Wenshuang and return to the camp, the roar of a wild beast suddenly came from afar.

Such sounds were very common in the nearby mountains.

III

There were many demonic beasts in the mountains of Great Qin, and the diplomatic missions of the various countries at the foot of the mountain were already used to it.

The demonic beasts in this mountain were spiritually intelligent. They wouldn’t just run out of the mountain forest.

If the demonic beasts didn’t run out, people naturally wouldn’t be so bored as to run into the mountains to slay them.

“It doesn’t seem too far away.” Zhou Shu looked in the direction of the voice and suddenly had a thought. “Deputy Envoy Lu, are you interested in killing demonic beasts for fun?”

“No.” Lu Wenshuang said coldly.

Zhou Shu: “...”

This woman is too boring, far worse than the grand minister, Zhou Shu complained inwardly.

“I am,” he said. “Since we have nothing to do, I’ll be a demon-executing general for once!” Zhou Shu laughed loudly. Without waiting for Lu Wenshuang to object, he strode toward the source of the roar.

Although he didn’t like to be sad, when he heard the familiar name of Hangu Pass and saw a completely different scene, he was still a bit disappointed. His complicated feelings made him want to vent. This demonic beast came at the right time!

Zhou Shu used his Riding on Cloud and Wind Technique and moved forward extremely quickly without his feet touching the ground.

Upon seeing Zhou Shu's movement technique, Lu Wenshuang, who was following closely behind him, had a strange look flash across her eyes.

Originally, when Lu Wenshuang learned that Zhou Shu had obtained the Great Destroyer Sword and also learned the mysterious expert's Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique, she had thought that Zhou Shu was a sword expert. After she exchanged moves with him, she thought Zhou Shu's sword cultivation was very outstanding and admired him greatly.

Later on, she discovered that Zhou Shu was more skilled in saber techniques.

Now, his movement technique was also so impressive.

The more she interacted with him, the more she felt he was unfathomable.

Lu Wenshuang didn't know how dangerous this thought was. She only dutifully acted as a bodyguard and followed Zhou Shu closely.

Soon, the two of them saw the roaring demonic beast.

It was a greenish-black demonic wolf that was as tall as a human.

When they saw the demonic wolf, they also saw
blood.

This figure was lying on the ground, their fate unknown. The demonic wolf opened its bloody mouth and was about to eat that person.

Zhou Shu frowned and shouted, "Save him!"

He no longer had any intention of slaying demons. If not for the fear of exposing his strength in front of Lu Wenshuang, he would have already attacked.

But with Lu Wenshuang around, he didn't have to worry about not being able to save the person.

As expected, before Zhou Shu finished speaking, a sword light had already brushed past him. The next moment, the demonic wolf's massive head was already flying high into the air.

The blood on its neck froze for a moment before gushing out. It was obvious just how fast Lu Wenshuang's sword was.

With a flash, Lu Wenshuang arrived in front of the fallen figure. She squatted down and reached out to feel this person's breathing.

Her slender waist revealed a beautiful curve as she moved.

Lu Wenshuang looked so thin, but Zhou Shu didn't expect her figure to be so good, even though she was slightly flat-chested...

"Haitang?" Lu Wenshuang suddenly exclaimed.

Zhou Shu was stunned. He appeared beside Lu Wenshuang in a flash and looked down.

The unconscious person with disheveled hair and stained with blood was none other than Yin Wuyou's personal maid, Haitang, who had protected him for a period of time!

"Haitang! Why is she here?" Zhou Shu said.

Lu Wenshuang shook her head. She helped Haitang up and sent a stream of spiritual essence into her body.

Fortunately, she had only exhausted her spiritual essence. Although she looked a little miserable, it was only superficial wounds, and her life was fine.

The moment Lu Wenshuang's spiritual essence entered her body, Haitang let out a muffled groan and abruptly opened her eyes.

"Miss Lu?" She was about to jump up when she suddenly saw Lu Wenshuang's face. She immediately grabbed Lu Wenshuang's arm and said anxiously, "Help! Her Highness is being chased by Great Wei's imperial preceptor. Miss Lu, hurry and save her!" "What?" Before Lu Wenshuang could say anything, Zhou Shu loudly said, "Xiao Shunzhi is chasing after the grand minister?"

Only then did Haitang notice Zhou Shu's existence, and she became even more excited. "Marquis! Marquis! Quickly go and save Her Highness! We were originally going to catch up to the diplomatic mission. Her Highness wanted to follow you to Great Qin to protect you. We didn't expect to encounter Great Wei's imperial preceptor on the way."

Chapter 186 Who Said I Only Have One Weapon? (2)

"Where is the grand minister now?" Zhou Shu asked with a dark expression.

"I don't know. I ran all day in the direction of the sunset..." Haitang was anxious to get up. But halfway up, she exhausted her strength and fell back down.

...

Zhou Shu's heart sank. It's been an entire day?

"Deputy Envoy Lu, please send her to the camp. I will go and save her!" Zhou Shu said coldly.

Haitang had headed toward the sunset, which meant she came from the east!

Before he could finish, a gust of wind blew past him.

Lu Wenshuang was already several hundred feet away, heading east!

"Your cultivation is insufficient. It's useless even if you go." Lu Wenshuang's voice came from afar.

The next moment, she disappeared.

Zhou Shu was stunned. What happened to protecting me? Are you leaving just like that?

What's going on?

He turned back to look at Haitang and subconsciously asked, "Lu Wenshuang knows the grand minister?"

"Miss Lu is Her Highness's senior sister..." Haitang said weakly.

"Senior sister?" Zhou Shu was truly astonished. Lu Wenshuang and Yin Wuyou had such a relationship? He had never heard of it before.

But now was not the time to ask about this.

"Haitang, take a rest first." Zhou Shu arrived at Haitang's side and then struck out like lightning, striking the back of Haitang's head.

The

Before Haitang could react, she fainted again.

Zhou Shu picked up Haitang and looked around. The next moment, he shot into the sky.

A black shadow flashed across the forest. It was so fast that it was almost impossible to see with the naked eye.

If Lu Wenshuang could see this, she would definitely be able to tell that Zhou Shu's current speed was more than ten times faster than when he was on the way to slay the demonic beast!

Zhou Shu continued to rush out of the mountain forest. Only when he was about to reach Hangu Pass did he slow down and run back to the Great Xia camp at a speed matching a seventh-rank martial artist's.

"General Chen, I'll leave her with you!" As soon as he entered the camp, Zhou Shu bumped into Chen Ji, who was patrolling. He handed Haitang over to Chen Ji. "Take care of her. Wait for me to come back!"

A young girl was thrown into Chen Ji's arms, and he was at a loss.

Before he could react, Zhou Shu had already run out of the camp and disappeared. "This..." Chen Ji looked at the unconscious Haitang. He carefully carried Haitang into the camp and placed her on a board.

Only then did he wipe away his cold sweat. Haitang was very light, but this distance of dozens of steps felt like a huge battle to Chen Ji. His entire body was drenched in sweat.

"This is Miss Haitang?" At this time, Deputy Envoy Shi Songtao was also alarmed. After rushing over, he immediately recognized Haitang lying there. "What's wrong with her? Why is she here?" Shi Songtao asked anxiously.

"I don't know. The marquis just sent her back -" Chen Ji said.

"Where is the marquis?"

"He's gone again."

Shi Songtao felt that he wasn't a deputy envoy at all but a steward!

He was the one who did the work. But as the deputy envoy, he didn't know anything else! Shi Songtao cursed silently. But soon, he shouted loudly. "Doctor, where is the doctor?"

There was a doctor in the diplomatic mission.

Zhou Shu was naturally unaware of Shi Songtao's resentment.

He was currently shuttling through the forest at full speed!

Ever since he learned the Riding on Cloud and Wind Technique, this was the first time he was using his full strength. He was shuttling through the top of the forest. Every step he took was tens of meters long. It was as if he was riding the clouds. It was not inferior to the movement technique of an ordinary grandmaster. In fact, it was even superior.

Not long after, he saw Lu Wenshuang.

In a hurry, Zhou Shu was unable to change his clothes. He could only take off his outerwear and wear it inside out. Then he tore off a piece of undergarment and covered his face.

As for whether he could conceal his identity, it was up to fate. Zhou Shu didn't even consider if he would expose his strength. Even if he did, he had to save the grand minister!

This f*cking Xiao Shunzhi came back to life.

Then, I'll kill you again!

If anything happens to the grand minister, I will make sure that all of Great Wei is buried with her!

The fury in Zhou Shu's heart could burn down the entire forest.

When he thought of the Zhou character that Yin Wuyou had written with her blood in You Prefecture, he felt as if his heart had been squeezed tightly. An entire day had already passed. Nothing must happen to Yin Wuyou!

Zhou Shu gritted his teeth and increased his speed by thirty percent.

Lu Wenshuang was hurrying on her way when she suddenly felt a gust of wind blow past her. Following this, a figure appeared in her field of vision before disappearing at an extremely high speed.

Lu Wenshuang was so shocked that she almost fell from the sky.

Who just passed by?

So fast!

This speed isn't below that of a first-rank expert.

She was full of doubts. Why would this expert pass by in the middle of the night in the desolate mountains?

Did Zhou Shu get reinforcements from the camp? Lu Wenshuang only thought about it for a moment before continuing on her way. Regardless of whether Zhou Shu got reinforcements or not, she had to hurry over. No matter what the outcome was, she had to personally see it!

In a mountain forest several hundred miles away from them, a radius of several dozen miles had almost been flattened.

Two figures stood several tens of meters apart.

Yin Wuyou's face was pale, and her body was on the verge of collapse. But her gaze was still incomparably firm. "Xiao Shunzhi, you have indeed deteriorated!"

The imperial preceptor of Great Wei, Xiao Shunzhi, looked much better than Yin Wuyou, but his expression was very ugly. He had spent so much effort dealing with an up-and-coming junior, yet he still couldn't take her down. This made him feel ashamed and angry.

"Even if I've deteriorated, dealing with you won't be a problem," Xiao Shunzhi said coldly. "I have already destroyed your weapon. Let's see how long you can resist!"

Yin Wuyou's original sword was merely an earth-grade weapon. Originally, her cultivation level was at the third rank of the Martial Dao, and an earth-grade weapon was more than sufficient. After advancing to the second rank, she had yet to change to a heaven-grade weapon. Now, this earth-grade weapon had been forcibly severed by Xiao Shunzhi's Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber.

Xiao Shunzhi could tell that not only was Yin Wuyou's weapon broken, but she was also an arrow at the end of its flight.

Speaking of which, if not for her nimble movements, he would have taken her down long ago. How could it have dragged out until now!

"Who said that I only have one weapon?" Yin Wuyou smiled sweetly, her pale face like a blooming flower, lighting up the night sky.

She threw the broken sword away and reached for her waist.

Xiao Shunzhi frowned. Rousing gods and devils!

From his point of view, Yin Wuyou was simply posturing, and there was nothing in her hand! "Since you're stubborn, don't blame me for being ruthless." Xiao Shunzhi snorted coldly. "As long as you're still alive, it's enough!"

He took a step forward, and the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber slashed toward Yin Wuyou with a violent aura.

After fighting for an entire day, Xiao Shunzhi's spiritual essence was actually still not exhausted!

Even though he was no longer a first-rank martial artist, his cultivation was still much deeper than Yin Wuyou, who was also a second-rank martial artist.

His attack wasn't to kill Yin Wuyou but to sever the tendons in her hands and feet, rendering her powerless. Yin Wuyou's figure was like a graceful swan, dodging the blade light by a hair's breadth. Then as if her strength was insufficient, she staggered, and a blade light had already arrived in front of her.

In the nick of time, her waist bent backward, almost to 90 degrees, narrowly avoiding the attack. At the same time, she thrust her right hand forward.

Xiao Shunzhi snorted coldly. He didn't take Yin Wuyou's actions seriously. There's nothing in her hands, yet she's trying to scare me?

He was about to give chase when he suddenly felt a sense of danger.

His movements came to a sudden stop. His chest felt cold, and a trace of blood appeared.

Xiao Shun was greatly alarmed, and his feet suddenly stomped on the ground. He couldn't be bothered to chase after Yin Wuyou, and his figure retreated explosively by over one hundred feet.

Chapter 187 First Kill of the Shadow Sword (1)

Xiao Shunzhi retreated more than one hundred feet back and stared fixedly at Yin Wuyou's right hand.

There was a smear of red blood on his chest, but he didn't seem to notice it at all.

...

"How did you do it?" Xiao Shunzhi asked coldly.

A trace of regret flashed across Yin Wuyou's face. She had endured until now to use the Shadow Sword. She originally wanted to heavily injure Xiao Shunzhi. But in the end, she still didn't succeed.

Although Xiao Shunzhi had fallen to the second rank, his combat experience and Martial Dao intuition far surpassed that of ordinary second-rank martial artists.

Yin Wuyou had only just leveled up for a short time, and she wasn't Xiao Shunzhi's match. It was already good luck that she could last until now.

"Do you think I'll tell you?" Yin Wuyou's body swayed. She was on the verge of collapse.

Although the Shadow Sword was only a yellow-grade weapon, and in terms of power, it was far inferior to Xiao Shunzhi's Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber, its greatest characteristic was not its lethality but its invisibility!

It was invisible to the naked eye!

Martial artists might be able to sense its existence through their intuition, but it was invisible to the naked eye. In battle, the effects were too great. An invisible sword in the hands of an expert of the same rank, even a second-rank martial artist wouldn't be able to dodge it easily. Xiao Shunzhi's expression was ugly. He originally thought that capturing the princess would be an easy task, but he didn't expect that it would be full of twists and turns.

First, he didn't expect Yin Wuyou to already be a second-rank martial artist. Second, he didn't expect her movement technique to be so good that she could fight him for an entire day.

Now, Yin Wuyou had an invisible weapon in her hands. It was beyond his expectations.

A weapon that couldn't be seen with the naked eye was truly unheard of! "Do you think you can turn the tables with a strange weapon?" Xiao Shunzhi said coldly. "You're underestimating me!"

"If I can't capture you alive, I'll bring your corpse back!"

With a cold shout, his aura erupted once more. His body emitted a weak golden light as the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber slashed forward.

There was clearly a distance of over a hundred feet between them, but when Xiao Shunzhi slashed out with his saber, the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber seemed to streak across space and instantly appear in front of Yin Wuyou.

Yin Wuyou's pupils constricted. She raised her arm and used the Shadow Sword to block the attack.

Boom!

With a loud bang, Yin Wuyou was sent flying. After landing on the ground, she continuously retreated. Her face turned even paler, and blood flowed down her snow-white neck.

Yin Wuyou looked at the Shadow Sword in her hand with some heartache, but she couldn't see it.

Although she couldn't see, she could feel that after blocking Xiao Shunzhi's saber, the Shadow Sword was already somewhat overwhelmed.

If she did it again, the sword would probably break.

It's not a bad thing if it breaks, in case it falls into Xiao Shunzhi's hands, Yin Wuyou thought. She was already prepared to die. Even if she died, she absolutely couldn't be held captive by Xiao Shunzhi.

Although she couldn't bear to part with the Shadow Sword, rather than letting Xiao Shunzhi take it away after she died, it was better for her to leave with the Shadow Sword.

Yin Wuyou raised her arm again and injected her remaining traces of spiritual essence into the Shadow Sword.

Bright rays of light appeared in the sky, forming a beautiful outline. It was the Shadow Sword.

A hint of surprise flashed across Xiao Shunzhi's eyes. This was his first time seeing such a weapon.

"This is the newest weapon developed by Great Xia? Did Zhou Shu forge it?" Xiao Shunzhi asked in a low voice.

Zhou Shu's name had already spread throughout the various countries. Even though Xiao Shunzhi didn't remember that he had once died at Zhou Shu's hands, he still knew about Great Xia's famed forging genius.

Yin Wuyou didn't say anything. Her expression was incomparably firm, and the aura she exuded was extremely heroic.

Swish!

The sword qi tore through the sky as Yin Wuyou became one with the sword, seemingly entering a profound state. An extremely dazzling sword light collided with Xiao Shunzhi.

Xiao Shunzhi gave a cold snort. Without hesitation, he roused his true essence and slashed out with his blade.

Boom!

With a loud bang, the shockwave produced by the explosion spread out.

The ground within a radius of a few hundred feet seemed to have been plowed through. The soil flew, and all the vegetation turned into nothingness.

Yin Wuyou's body was like a fallen leaf in the wind as she was tossed high into the air, appearing exceptionally weak. A bitter smile appeared on her face. Am I going to die?

It's not fair!

I have yet to see Zhou Shu become a Grand Craftsman.

I have yet to see him make a name for himself in the ten nations.

I have yet to see him cross that boundary.

I have yet to see him surrounded by his children...

The light in Yin Wuyou's eyes gradually dimmed, and she slowly closed her eyes.

Boom!

A figure appeared in the distance, approaching at an inconceivable speed.

Xiao Shunzhi's pupils constricted, and his expression instantly became incomparably solemn.

He had just raised the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber in his hand when this figure had already rushed forward.

It was Zhou Shu, who had rushed all the way here.

Zhou Shu leaped up and caught Yin Wuyou in his arms before slowly landing on the ground.

Yin Wuyou had already fainted, and her breathing was extremely weak. Looking at her pale little face, Zhou Shu could no longer suppress the anger in his heart.

He suddenly raised his head and looked at Xiao Shunzhi, the killing intent in his eyes almost tangible.

Xiao Shunzhi's heart thumped, and he actually involuntarily took a step back.

After taking a step back, he came to his senses and felt a little angry.

"Who are you!" Xiao Shunzhi shouted coldly.

Chapter 188 First Kill of the Shadow Sword (2)

"Xiao Shunzhi!" Zhou Shu said coldly. He slowly squatted down and carefully placed Yin Wuyou on the ground before taking the Shadow Sword from her hand.

"Wait for me," Zhou Shu said gently.

...

He stood up again and looked at Xiao Shunzhi.

“Xiao Shunzhi!” Zhou Shu shouted again. “It’s the second time!

“You came back from the dead, right? Then I’ll kill you again!”

Zhou Shu stamped his right foot, and his entire body instantly disappeared.

Almost at the same time, he already appeared in front of Xiao Shunzhi.

Boom!

Xiao Shunzhi had just raised the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber when he felt a strong force on his chest. His body flew up involuntarily.

Puu

Xiao Shunzhi spat out a mouthful of blood. Before he could react, a figure appeared before him.

A foot appeared in his vision and stomped on his chest.

With a loud bang, Xiao Shunzhi fell from the sky, directly creating a foot-deep pit in the ground.

Xiao Shunzhi appeared both distressed and angry. He struggled with all his might, but the foot stepping on his chest was like a massive mountain, and he could barely breathe.

“Is this the price you have to pay for coming back from the dead? Second-rank martial artist?”

While stepping on Xiao Shunzhi, Zhou Shu also discovered the abnormality.

Although he had killed Xiao Shunzhi last time, he had gone through a bitter battle with him.

Although his cultivation level had increased slightly during this period of time, it didn’t increase much. Logically speaking, it shouldn’t be so easy for him to defeat Xiao Shunzhi.

But Xiao Shunzhi couldn’t even receive a single attack from him. He was clearly not a first-rank martial artist.

Instantly, a thought appeared in Zhou Shu’s mind. It seems that after Xiao Shunzhi came back from the dead, his cultivation level fell a rank.

To the current Zhou Shu, a second-rank martial artist posed no threat at all.

Moreover, Xiao Shunzhi and Yin Wuyou had been fighting for a long time, and he had already consumed most of his spiritual essence.

Facing the furious Zhou Shu, being defeated in one move was not strange at all.

“Who exactly are you?!” Xiao Shunzhi angrily. He couldn’t struggle. He didn’t even know where the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber had flown to.

Where did this expert come from?

There shouldn’t be such an expert in Great Xia.

"I guess you really don't remember," Zhou Shu said coldly. Previously, he had probed Shen Yue and discovered that after coming back from the dead, he seemed to have forgotten some things.

Now that Xiao Shunzhi didn't recognize him, it further proved this point.

He was relieved.

"Xiao Shunzhi, if you died, you should have just stayed dead. Why did you come back to life?"

Zhou Shu raised the Shadow Sword in his hand and stabbed at Xiao Shunzhi's throat.

Xiao Shunzhi's eyes instantly widened. "Wait _ 11

His throat was pierced by a sword, and he was unable to make any sound.

He was going crazy. Is he going to kill me just like that?

Shouldn't we discuss terms first? I haven't even begged for mercy!

Swish!

Zhou Shu moved his hand and chopped off Xiao Shunzhi's head.

Zhou Shu hesitated for a moment, then stabbed out with his sword again. A burst of sword qi exploded, directly blowing Xiao Shunzhi's head into a pile of mashed-up flesh.

Let's see if you can revive this time! Zhou Shu snorted coldly.

(The Shadow Sword you forged effectively completed a kill...]

A barrage of messages flashed in front of Zhou Shu, and the Legendary Armament Canon appeared in front of him.

After flipping to the page of the Shadow Sword, the number for its upgrade condition changed from zero to one.

The Legendary Armament Canon once again acknowledged Xiao Shunzhi's death.

But Zhou Shu couldn't be certain that Xiao Shunzhi would really be unable to revive again.

He still didn't understand the principle behind Xiao Shunzhi and Shen Yue coming back to life.

Hmph, if you come back to life again, I'll kill you again! If you come back once, I'll kill you once. If you come back twice, I'll kill you twice! Let's see how many times you can revive! The killing intent in Zhou Shu's heart was firm. He absolutely wouldn't allow Xiao Shunzhi to live!

Before Zhou Shu could check what the benefit from the Legendary Armament Canon was, he suddenly heard movement in the distance.

Lu Wenshuang is here!

Zhou Shu looked at Yin Wuyou and hesitated for a moment. The next moment, he disappeared in a flash.

Just as Zhou Shu disappeared, Lu Wenshuang descended from the sky.

When Lu Wenshuang saw Yin Wuyou on the ground, her icy expression changed slightly.

She moved to Yin Wuyou's side and felt her breath before heaving a sigh of relief. Without hesitation, Lu Wenshuang took out a porcelain bottle, poured out a medicinal pill, and stuffed it into Yin Wuyou's mouth.

With her status, it wasn't strange at all for her to carry healing pills with her. Although the effects couldn't compare to Zhou Shu's Breakthrough Pill, Yin Wuyou's injuries were not as serious this time.

After examining Yin Wuyou's injuries, Lu Wenshuang relaxed slightly. Only now did she have the mood to look at the headless corpse in the distance. The pile of flesh at the side should be the head. The head seemed to have been blown up by sword qi.

The Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique?

Lu Wenshuang was very sensitive to sword intent. Just by sensing it, she felt that it was very familiar.

Isn't this the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique that Zhou Shu used?

But compared to the sword intent Zhou Shu had used to spar with her, the difference was like the difference between heaven and earth.

It's that expert!

Lu Wenshuang's pupils constricted as the silhouette of a peerless swordsman appeared in her mind.

According to the legends, this mysterious expert had once severed the arm of Great Wei's imperial preceptor. He had even accepted a disciple on behalf of his master and taught Zhou Shu the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique. She didn't expect him to reappear and kill Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi!

What sword did he use this time? Lu Wenshuang was curious.

She glanced at the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber not far away.

The Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber lay on the ground, and it didn't look like a heaven-grade weapon at all.

Lu Wenshuang only glanced at it and ignored it. It wasn't that Lu Wenshuang couldn't recognize that it was a heaven-grade long saber.

It was because she had no interest in weapons other than swords.

So what if it was a heaven-grade weapon?

It wasn't a sword, so Miss Lu couldn't even be bothered to look at it.

Strange. With Wuyou's cultivation, how could she last so long against Xiao Shunzhi? Did the mysterious expert appear from the start?

A thought flashed across Lu Wenshuang's mind, but she didn't think too deeply about it.

After checking her surroundings, she didn't find anything unusual.

Lu Wenshuang returned to Yin Wuyou's side, carried the unconscious Yin Wuyou on her back, and walked toward Hangu Pass.

Only Xiao Shunzhi's headless corpse and pieces of flesh were left on the spot.

And the Blood Thirsty Rampant Saber was completely ignored... While carrying Yin Wuyou on her back, Lu Wenshuang bumped into the panting Zhou Shu halfway back.

"I've finally found you." Zhou Shu panted heavily. "Is the grand minister alright?"

He looked worriedly at Yin Wuyou on Lu Wenshuang's back.

"She won't die," Lu Wenshuang said casually, "You came alone?"

She frowned. Powerful demonic beasts could appear at any time in this forest. Isn't he courting death running around like this?

"No, I met my senior brother." Zhou Shu spouted nonsense. "You know my senior brother, right? He told me that everything is fine."

"Where is he?" Lu Wenshuang's eyes lit up as she looked around.

"Can I see him?" Lu Wenshuang said in a rare pleading tone.

"Too late. He's already gone. Maybe next time," Zhou Shu said casually.

Disappointment flashed across Lu Wenshuang's eyes as she said coldly, "Then let's go. It's almost dawn!"

Traveling hundreds of miles in a single night was not an easy task for Zhou Shu and Lu Wenshuang, even with their cultivation bases.

The sky was already bright when they returned to the camp in front of Hangu Pass.

Shi Songtao was standing at the entrance of the main camp.

As soon as he saw Zhou Shu, he couldn't help saying, "Marquis! Your Shadow Sword ranks first in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual!"

Shi Songtao's expression was very complicated.

Now, he realized that he no longer felt any envy toward Zhou Shu.

Only when their levels were about the same would one be envious. If the difference in levels was too great, one wouldn't be envious. One would only look up to them!

Chapter 189 Shadow Sword's Killing Reward, Zhuang Zhou's Butterfly Dream (1)

"The Shadow Sword is ranked first in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual?"

Zhou Shu was shocked when he heard what Shi Songtao said.

...

Previously in You Prefecture, his achievement of killing Xiao Shunzhi with the Great Destroyer Sword didn't seem to be recorded by the Heavenly Mountain Villa.

Was it because the situation in You Prefecture was special, so the Heavenly Mountain Villa didn't know I killed Xiao Shunzhi?

Zhou Shu took out the Heavenly Mirror and activated it with his spiritual essence.

As expected, the number one weapon in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual had changed from the Great Destroyer Sword to the Shadow Sword.

There was a note behind the Shadow sword. "A nameless expert used the Shadow Sword to kill Great Wei's Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi."

"Xiao Shunzhi indirectly pushed two swords to the top of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual all by himself," Zhou Shu muttered.

Shi Songtao and Lu Wenshuang heard his words and rolled their eyes at the same time.

He pushed two swords to the top of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual all by himself?

If Xiao Shunzhi wasn't dead, he would probably get up and strangle you to death. "Marquis, isn't the Shadow Sword with Her Highness? Why would a mysterious expert use the Shadow Sword to kill Xiao Shunzhi?" Shi Songtao asked. "Also, how did Her Highness get injured?"

"Old Shi, you shouldn't ask. Don't ask. It's safer." Zhou Shu patted Shi Songtao's shoulder. While Shi Songtao was still in a daze, he had already walked into the camp.

Lu Wenshuang had long carried Yin Wuyou back to Zhou Shu's tent.

Come to think of it, she didn't even have her own tent in the camp. It wasn't because she didn't deserve one but because she didn't need it.

She stayed by Zhou Shu's side to protect him, and at night, she also meditated within three steps of Zhou Shu...

What else could Zhou Shu say when he saw Lu Wenshuang unceremoniously place Yin Wuyou on his bed?

He could only help to serve tea and water.

Later, Haitang came, and they didn't even need him to serve tea and water. He was directly chased out.

Seeing that Yin Wuyou's life was no longer in danger, Zhou Shu didn't get angry from being chased out. He found a place outside the tent, sat down, and began examining the benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon. After killing Xiao Shunzhi, the Legendary Armament Canon had given him feedback. At the time, he didn't have the time to look carefully.

After escorting Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang back, he didn't have time to look either.

Now that the dust had settled, he could finally take a look at his gains.

Speaking of which, although Xiao Shunzhi was detestable, he allowed two of his weapons to reach the top of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual and also contributed two waves of benefits to him.

If he continues to come back to life, I'll be able to continue killing him and receiving benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon, Zhou Shu thought somewhat nonsensically. It was a pity that Xiao Shunzhi didn't revive on the spot, or else he could have killed him continuously like a monster spawn.

Zhou Shu flipped through the information that had appeared in his mind, and a look of surprise gradually appeared on his face.

There's something so amazing.

The Shadow Sword had successfully completed a kill, and the reward was the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique!

The information that appeared in his mind was the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique.

Zhou Shu had naturally heard of Zhuang Zhou's Dream Butterfly in his previous life.

"Once, Zhuang Zhou dreamed he was a butterfly, a butterfly flitting and fluttering about, happy with himself and doing as he pleased. He didn't know that he was Zhuang Zhou. Suddenly he woke up and there he was, solid and unmistakable Zhuang Zhou. But he didn't know if he was Zhuang Zhou who had dreamt he was a butterfly, or a butterfly dreaming that he was Zhuang Zhou. Between Zhuang Zhou and the butterfly there must be some distinction! This is called the Transformation of Things." This was the beginning of Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique.

One day, Zhuang Zhou slept on the grass and had a dream. In his dream, he became a butterfly. The butterfly fluttered in the air and wandered around. He was so happy that he forgot his original appearance and that he was transformed from Zhuang Zhou.

After a while, Zhuang Zhou suddenly woke up, but the dream was still clearly imprinted in his mind.

When this Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream

Technique was used, it was through a medium, using a dream realm to look back at a person's experiences!

For example, Zhou Shu could use the Zhuang Zhou's Butterfly Dream Technique to experience everything that a person had experienced using a person's hair through a dream.

Of course, to experience a person's complete life was something that Zhuang Zhou's Butterfly Dream Technique could only achieve after cultivating it to the extreme.

Zhou Shu's Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique had only just reached basic mastery. At most, he could only go back a few months' worth of experiences. In fact, he might not even be able to go back a few months. He might only go back a few days.

But even so, this skill was already abnormal enough.

Zhou Shu could even imagine that if he cultivated the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique to a certain level, he would be able to know practically everyone's secrets.

For the simplest example, if he used Meng Bai's hair and the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, then he could experience Meng Bai's entire life in his dreams. He could experience everything Meng Bai had learned in his life, martial arts, cultivation methods, battles he had experienced, and so on.

This was practically equivalent to him transforming into Meng Bai and experiencing everything he did for an entire lifetime. Wouldn't he be able to completely grasp the military tactics and martial arts that Meng Bai grasped in a dream?

Also, if he used the hair of Emperor Yuan Feng and the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, then the harem of 3,000 beauties in the inner palace... I can't think about this. I can't think... Of course, this didn't mean that the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique was flawless.

The Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique was not just to observe a person's past but to immerse oneself in it.

Chapter 190 Shadow Sword's Killing Reward, Zhuang Zhou's Butterfly Dream (2)

It meant that Zhou Shu would become a completely different person in his dream. After waking up, these dreams would still remain clear in his mind.

This could easily cause problems in his self-awareness.

...

Was he Zhou Shu or the person in his dream?

Otherwise, Zhuang Zhou's Butterfly Dream Technique wouldn't exist. It was unknown if Zhuang Zhou had become a butterfly or if the butterfly had become Zhuang Zhou in the dream.

If one's mental strength was insufficient, and they recklessly used the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, the only result would be a state of confusion and madness.

But I have the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form that can suppress one's consciousness. I won't lose my mind so easily. It's a perfect match for Zhuang Zhou's Butterfly Dream Technique, Zhou Shu thought.

I wonder how far my Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique can trace back.

Suddenly, Shi Songtao walked past him.

"Old Shi!" Zhou Shu said.

Shi Songtao stopped and turned around.

When Zhou Shu called him Old Shi, he had the illusion that Zhou Shu was calling him teacher (1. 'Old Shi' means teacher in a similar intonation). This gave him a strange feeling. Can I be his teacher?

"Is there something wrong?" Shi Songtao asked.

"Lend me a strand of hair!"

Without waiting for Shi Songtao to refuse, Zhou Shu's hand moved like lightning. He quickly pulled a strand of hair from Shi Songtao's head and then ran off.

Shi Songtao widened his eyes, but there was nothing he could do. He spat and continued to do his things.

Zhou Shu grabbed Shi Songtao's hair and randomly found a tent to hide in.

His tent was occupied by Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang, but he was the official envoy of the diplomatic mission, so it was easy for him to find a place to sleep.

Holding Shi Songtao's hair, Zhou Shu awkwardly lay down on the bed.

The thought of sleeping with a man's hair was perverse.

But in order to test his technique, Zhou Shu endured it.

Actually, he did not necessarily have to use a strand of hair as a medium when using the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique.

Fingernails, blood, even bodily fluids...

They could all be used as a medium.

In comparison, his hair seemed more acceptable.

Zhou Shu first visualized the Five Mountains' True Form. Five mountains appeared in his consciousness, suppressing all the chaotic thoughts in his sea of consciousness.

Then he began to activate the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique.

A faint white light began to emanate from his body as Shi Songtao's hair suddenly began to burn. In the blink of an eye, it transformed into a streak of white light that dissipated between Zhou Shu's eyebrows.

A strange power seemed to envelop Zhou Shu's body. His breathing gradually became steady and long, as if he had fallen asleep.

At the same time, the layer of faint white light on the surface of his body didn't disappear. On the contrary, as he breathed, the white light flickered, making the scene appear exceptionally magical.

After Zhou Shu used the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, he felt as if his entire body was floating, as if he was weightless. After he flew for a while, a black tunnel suddenly appeared in front of him. Before he could react, he was sucked into the tunnel.

He felt the world spinning around him. When he opened his eyes again, he was greeted by the sight of snow...

Zhou Shu felt very strange. He seemed to have become a completely different person. He clearly knew everything that was happening, but at the same time, he also had a thought that belonged to him.

But this thought had no intention of interfering with the body's original thoughts.

It felt like he was thinking about something while doing something else.

He was not watching from the sidelines but was actually doing it himself. Yet he felt a sense of detachment.

This feeling made Zhou Shu feel extremely uncomfortable.

His extravagant voice echoed in the room. Zhou Shu clearly knew that he was in a dream.

Damn it. Shi Songtao looks so pretentious, but he's actually so coquettish! Zhou Shu cursed. The reason he was still able to maintain a sliver of his consciousness was probably because of the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form.

Otherwise, he should have completely felt like he had become Shi Songtao.

An hour later, Shi Songtao fell asleep.

Zhou Shu felt like he had fallen asleep in his dream.

After a night, Shi Songtao woke up.

Zhou Shu felt as if he had truly become Shi Songtao. All of Shi Songtao's thoughts and actions seemed to come from him.

Shi Songtao's life was very regular. Every day, he would study the art of forging on time and forge on time.

In his dream, Zhou Shu didn't feel that he was watching another person's life. He truly felt that he had become Shi Songtao!

Under these circumstances, he naturally wouldn't feel that Shi Songtao and his concubine's activities were dirty.

Day after day, Zhou Shu's self-awareness grew fainter and fainter, as if he had truly become Shi Songtao.

After an unknown period of time, Zhou Shu's body suddenly trembled, and the layer of white light dissipated.

He opened his eyes. There seemed to be countless scenes flashing in his eyes, and his pupils were somewhat unfocused.

Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form!

Zhou Shu used a sliver of clarity to visualize the Five Mountains' True Form.

Five mountains suddenly appeared in his sea of consciousness, suppressing all his emotions.

After a long while, Zhou Shu let out a long sigh of relief. His eyes gradually regained clarity.

What a terrifying technique! Zhou Shu thought in fear.

When he just woke up, he almost thought he was Shi Songtao!

Even now, the scene in his dream was still clear in his eyes. It was as if he was recalling his own experiences.

If not for the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form, he might really have suffered from schizophrenia.

Zhou Shu felt terrified just thinking about it. If his mental strength wasn't enough, and he recklessly used the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, he really might become the person in his dreams.

In the dream, I became Shi Songtao, Zhou Shu thought. But right now, I haven't completely mastered his forging skills and Martial Dao.

He carefully analyzed his gains this time.

In reality, he had experienced one year of Song Shitao's life.

Putting aside the trivial matters of his life this year, at most, it would be a wet dream. Zhou Shu wouldn't develop any feelings for Shi Songtao's concubines just because of this.

Shi Songtao himself might not have any feelings...

What Zhou Shu was concerned about was the knowledge he had obtained from his dream. He also discovered that he didn't grasp all of Shi Songtao's forging techniques and Martial Dao cultivation. What he grasped was only what Shi Songtao had learned in the past year. In other words, unless he learned it from the life he had experienced in the dream, he wouldn't be able to obtain what the person in the dream had learned in other times, much less directly obtain the cultivation of the person in the dream.

This was also normal. Otherwise, wouldn't he be able to grasp all the knowledge of the person just by entering their dreams?

From the looks of it, only by experiencing the learning process in the dream would he be able to grasp that portion of knowledge instead of directly grasping it from the memories of the person in the dream.

Even so, the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique is abnormal.

Zhou Shu was extremely shocked. This Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique was as abnormal as he had imagined.

Shi Songtao won't be able to hide anything from me in the future.

Although it seemed a little perverted when he thought about it in detail, this was what Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique was about.

If I can get Shen Yue's hair, nails, blood, and so on, then won't I be able to know the secret of his and Xiao Shunzhi's resurrection?

If I obtain the medium of the higher-ups of Great Qin, there won't be any secrets to the setup of the nine checkpoints.

Zhou Shu's eyes lit up. This was a good idea!