

Canon 191

Chapter 191 A Big Fish, Great Qin General (1)

“The hair of a Great Qin general?” Shi Songtao warily looked at Zhou Shu, and his body involuntarily shifted backward.

He remembered that Zhou Shu had pulled a strand of his hair.

...

Does Marquis Zhou have a special fetish?

Shi Songtao’s body shifted backward again.

I must keep a distance from him in the future!

I was wondering why he was looking at me so strangely!

Zhou Shu didn’t notice Shi Songtao’s movements. He looked at Shi Songtao with a strange expression because when he first saw Shi Songtao, he had the feeling that he was mistaken.

Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique must not be used recklessly. If I use it too often, will I become a pervert?

Zhou Shu cursed in his heart.

“I have a use for it. Just tell me if you are able to get it,” Zhou Shu said. “This concerns whether we can achieve a complete victory on this diplomatic mission. If you can obtain it, I will give you big credit later!”

Shi Songtao frowned. Can a single strand of hair affect our victory?

Do you think I’m a three-year-old? I don’t believe you!

Suddenly, the expression on his face froze. He looked at Zhou Shu with fear in his eyes, and his body began to move once more.

“Marquis, are you trying to use black magic to control a person?”

According to the legends, there was black magic that could curse a person through their skin, hair, blood, and so on.

When he thought about how Zhou Shu had pulled a strand of his hair, Shi Songtao felt his entire body go numb. He wished that he could get farther and farther away from Zhou Shu.

“Marquis, I didn’t offend you!” Shi Songtao shouted.

Even though he had a small conflict with Zhou Shu in the beginning, they hadn’t completely fallen out.

Moreover, from then on, he never caused trouble for Zhou Shu again. Furthermore, ever since he joined the diplomatic mission, he had always been willing to do anything...

Without him, how could Zhou Shu be so relaxed?

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes. In his dream, he had transformed into Shi Songtao for a year, so he had a deep understanding of him. With a single glance, he knew what Shi Songtao was thinking! "What are you thinking? I don't know black magic. Even if I do, what makes you think you're worth me casting black magic on?" Zhou Shu said. "Cut the crap. Just tell me if you can do it."

"No!" Shi Songtao said firmly.

"If you can't, then get lost!" Zhou Shu said unhappily. He didn't have much of a good impression of this fellow who appeared to be serious on the surface but was actually indulging in debauchery every night. Shi Songtao walked out with a black face. Do you have to be so arrogant? You're just a little more handsome than me, and your forging skills are a little better than mine, and your Martial Dao talent is a little bit stronger than mine.

So what?

If not for you, I, Shi Songtao, would be the main character!

Shi Songtao silently cursed in his head. I come from a prestigious family and was once the number one forging genius of Great Xia. Now, I've been reduced to a worker. Every day, I have to conscientiously handle the various miscellaneous tasks of the diplomatic mission...

Zhou Shu sent Shi Songtao away and returned to his tent to take a look. Yin Wuyou still hadn't woken up and was lying on the couch like a sleeping beauty.

Lu Wenshuang was no longer guarding her. Instead, she returned to Zhou Shu's side as a guard.

After confirming that Yin Wuyou's life was no longer in danger, she naturally remembered her duty.

Seeing Yin Wuyou's peaceful sleeping face, Zhou Shu finally pulled himself out of that dream.

This is reality. I am Zhou Shu!

How can Shi Songtao compare to me? How can those ordinary people by his side compare to my grand minister?

After walking out of the tent, Zhou Shu arrived in Meng Bai's tent.

When Zhou Shu walked into Meng Bai's tent, Meng Bai's legs were covered by a blanket, and he was reading a book.

Seeing Zhou Shu walk in, he placed the book on his knees and said, "Is there something you need from me?"

In this diplomatic mission, in terms of status, other than Yin Wuyou, Meng Bai was the one with the highest status. Although he had stepped down from his position as the commander-in-chief of Great Xia's three armies, he still had the title of a duke, which was one rank higher than Zhou Shu's title.

But Meng Bai knew his place. In the diplomatic mission, he rarely appeared in front of everyone.

Even when it came to the diplomatic mission's matters, he almost never interfered.

Most of the time, Meng Bai remained completely invisible. Occasionally, when Zhou Shu came to ask for his opinion, if it wasn't a big deal, he wouldn't interfere with Zhou Shu and the others' decisions.

After Zhou Shu greeted Meng Bai, he sat down across from him and went straight to the point. "Great General, do you have any acquaintances in Great Qin?"

"Great Qin?" Meng Bai was a bit confused. "You Marquis, what do you want to do?"

"I do know some people in Great Qin. However, if you want to inquire about the nine checkpoints, then don't waste your energy.

"Great Qin is the most united of the ten countries. It's difficult to obtain information from their people."

"Can't you find out? What if I talk to them?" Facing Meng Bai, Zhou Shu didn't directly ask for someone else's hair.

If he could see the higher-ups of Great Qin through Meng Bai, then Zhou Shu could do it himself.

In truth, if he wasn't at Hangu Pass but at the capital of Great Qin, it would have been extremely easy for him to obtain the hair of the higher-ups of Great Qin.

But there weren't many higher-ups of Great Qin here, and the only one here was probably the general that guarded the pass. It was not exactly appropriate to say he was guarding the pass.

Chapter 192 A Big Fish, Great Qin General (2)

In fact, Great Qin had never said that they wouldn't allow the diplomatic mission of the ten nations to enter Hangu Pass. They had only set up the trial, and the nine nations could challenge the trial voluntarily.

It was fine if they were unwilling to challenge the trial.

...

But this was equivalent to giving up the right to host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament.

Of course, even if they didn't challenge the trials, they could still participate in the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. It was just that they couldn't participate as the host.

It was precisely because of this that the current army of Great Qin stationed at Hangu Pass wasn't the true elites of Great Qin, and the general wasn't necessarily a higher-up of Great Qin.

He might not even know the specifics of the nine checkpoints. Even if Zhou Shu obtained the hair of this general, what use would it be?

Meng Bai's status was different! The one he knew was definitely an absolute higher-level person in Great Qin.

Only such a character could have access to Great Qin's true secrets.

"I can't get any information." Meng Bai shook his head. "However, when we reach Great Qin's capital, I can introduce a few people to you, You Marquis."

It will be too late by the time I arrive in the capital!

“General, you are Great Xia’s God of War. Before you arrive at Hangu Pass, won’t Great Qin send someone important to welcome you?” Zhou Shu asked.

Meng Bai couldn’t help laughing. “I’m already old and weak. Moreover, I’m not an official member of the diplomatic mission, so why would Great Qin welcome me?”

“You Marquis, what exactly do you want to do? Why don’t you just say it? Perhaps I can think of a way.”

Zhou Shu was going around in circles. Meng Bai wasn’t stupid, so he naturally knew that Zhou Shu was planning something.

“Erm...” Zhou Shu scratched his head. He definitely couldn’t tell him about Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique. That would be too shocking.

He could only think of another way.

“Great General, do you know that I have a senior brother?” Helpless, Zhou Shu could only bring out his undeserved invincible senior brother.

“Oh?” Meng Bai nodded, indicating for Zhou Shu to continue.

Meng Bai naturally knew about the senior brother Zhou Shu spoke of. He was the one who had severed Xiao Shunzhi’s arm.

Of course, Zhou Shu’s words, regardless of whether it was Emperor Yuan Feng or Meng Bai, they merely just listened to him.

As for whether they believed it, no one knew.

“My senior brother told me that Great Qin’s actions this time are slightly strange. There might be a huge problem within it,” Zhou Shu said. “That’s why I was wondering if I could meet someone who knows about it. Even if I can’t get any concrete information, I might be able to use some indirect methods.”

“Your senior brother told you that there’s a problem with Great Qin?” Meng Bai said with a low voice. Regardless of whether the matter of his senior brother was true or false, he felt that Zhou Shu shouldn’t be joking.

Actually, Meng Bai also felt that Great Qin’s methods were a bit strange.

If they wanted the various countries to compete in forging skills, they could compete however they wanted in Great Qin.

Why did they set up a checkpoint starting from Hangu Pass?

But Great Qin always controlled information extremely strictly, and even Meng Bai didn’t obtain much valuable information.

“You don’t have to worry about Great Qin playing any tricks,” Meng Bai said with a low voice. “No matter what checkpoints they set up, it won’t affect the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. They wouldn’t dare.”

“Great General, is there anything else to be said about this Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament?” Zhou Shu asked, puzzled. He didn’t know why Meng Bai said Great Qin wouldn’t dare.

“It’s a long story. You’ll find out later.” Meng Bai shook his head. “You don’t have to think too much about the matters of Great Qin. As for whether or not you’ll be able to obtain the right for Great Xia to host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, it’s up to fate. There’s no need to force it.”

After walking out of Meng Bai’s tent, Zhou Shu looked in the direction of Hangu Pass.

Meng Bai couldn’t obtain what he wanted here either, so he could only give the general at Hangu Pass general a try.

Although Meng Bai and Emperor Yuan Feng said it was up to fate, Zhou Shu felt that since he was already prepared to take action, it would be too embarrassing if he lost.

Since he was here, there would be no second outcome.

He had never lost in the path of forging. At present, there was an army from Great Qin at Hangu Pass, as well as diplomatic missions from various countries.

Even with Zhou Shu’s cultivation, he didn’t dare to forcefully attack Great Qin’s guarding general.

But it didn’t seem like there was a need to use force. After all, he only needed a strand of the other party’s hair.

Zhou Shu arrived in front of Hangu Pass and announced his identity to the Great Qin guard. Soon, a person dressed like a general arrived in front of him.

“Are you the official envoy of the Great Xia diplomatic mission? Have you decided on the candidates of your team?” The general thought that the Great Xia diplomatic mission had decided on who was going to challenge the trial.

“We are still deciding.” Zhou Shu shook his head. “I’m here because I have something to ask you, General.”

“Didn’t I already explain the rules to you?” the general said impatiently.

“It’s very simple. Every country will send out nine people to challenge the trial, whereas the others can head to Great Qin’s capital to wait. Those who succeed in the trial will have the qualifications to compete for the hosting rights of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, whereas those who fail will lose the right to compete.” “General, you’re mistaken.” Zhou Shu smiled. “I’m not here to ask for guidance on the rules. “I just want to ask, General, do you know the details of these nine checkpoints?”

“I know, but I won’t tell you,” the general said. “You can only know the contents of the next checkpoint after passing through one.”

“I’m glad you know, General.” Zhou Shu suddenly reached out and patted the general’s shoulder.

When he reached out, the general had already sensed it and instinctively wanted to dodge.

But Zhou Shu's seemingly slow movements landed right on his shoulder, and he was completely unable to dodge! After Zhou Shu patted the general on the shoulder, he turned and floated away. The general still hadn't reacted. The general only returned to his senses when Zhou Shu was far away.

He shook his head, looking puzzled, wondering why he hadn't avoided Zhou Shu's action.

Perhaps it was because the other party had no hostility.

After all, the official envoy of Great Xia was only a seventh-rank martial artist, while he was already a fourth-rank martial artist. How could he not be able to dodge the other party's actions?

The general shook his head and turned around to return to the camp.

"What are you going to do?" Lu Wenshuang suddenly said.

When Zhou Shu patted the general's shoulder, he had pulled out a strand of hair from the general's head. The general didn't notice, but Lu Wenshuang had seen it clearly. "Would you believe me if I told you I'm going back to bed?" Zhou Shu didn't explain and smiled.

He had obtained this general's hair very easily. He just didn't know what his status in Great Qin was like and how many secrets he knew.

Lu Wenshuang frowned slightly. She watched as Zhou Shu casually entered a tent. A moment later, he began to snore. He's still cultivating while sleeping? When Lu Wenshuang saw the faint white light appear on Zhou Shu's body, a trace of surprise flashed through her eyes. She had even forgotten about the strand of hair.

Along the way, she had never left Zhou Shu's side. She had never seen him work so hard before. Does he want to sharpen his spear in the face of imminent challenge?

Lu Wenshuang didn't think in any other direction. In this world, there were also cultivation techniques that could be cultivated while sleeping. Zhou Shu didn't appear special to her.

Even as a Forging Master, he's working so hard. I should cultivate harder.

Lu Wenshuang found a place and sat cross-legged. Soon, she entered a state of cultivation.

The seemingly sleeping Zhou Shu transformed into a black-armored general in a dreamland. His name was Wang Xin, the grandson of Great General Wang Muzhi!

This Great Qin general was equivalent to the commander-in-chief of the Great Xia's three armies.

Wang Muzhi was equivalent to Meng Bai in Great Xia!

Even though his grandson's current position wasn't high, he would definitely be able to come into contact with the secrets of Great Qin!

Initially, he thought that the other party was just an ordinary guard general. He didn't expect him to have such an identity!

A thought flashed through Zhou Shu's remaining consciousness. I actually caught a big fish!

Chapter 193 Ten Imperial Cauldrons, Great Qin's Crisis (1)

Whoosh

Zhou Shu suddenly sat up, gasping for breath like a drowning person who had just breathed in fresh air.

...

Lu Wenshuang also opened her eyes and looked at Zhou Shu in surprise.

At this moment, the layer of white light on Zhou Shu's body had already disappeared. In its place was a cyclone visible to the naked eye.

The vital qi of heaven and earth surged madly into his body.

His cultivation had broken through!

Lu Wenshuang's icy expression finally changed.

After receiving the appointment as a deputy envoy of Great Xia's diplomatic mission, Lu Wenshuang had read up on Zhou Shu.

More than half a year ago, Zhou Shu was just a Forging Apprentice in Great Xia's Forging Division.

How much time had passed?

Half a year? In less than a year, he had advanced from an ordinary person to a sixth-rank martial artist?

A sixth-grade martial artist was already considered a master. They could call themselves an expert anywhere. If she hadn't seen it with her own eyes, Lu Wenshuang wouldn't believe that a person could break through after sleeping!

She was known as the number one Martial Dao genius in Great Xia. There was no doubt about her Martial Dao aptitude. Even for her, it took her one year and two months to go from the ninth rank to the sixth rank.

This didn't include the time she had spent cultivating before she entered the ranks.

Before Zhou Shu became famous, he didn't have the privileged conditions that she had.

In other words, Zhou Shu had relied on himself to reach the sixth rank.

Lu Wenshuang could no longer hide her shock. This was the first time she felt malice for a genius.

In the past, it was others who felt this way when facing her.

So, this is a genius?

Boom!

Zhou Shu's aura continued to rise, finally breaking through a node. After his aura reached its peak, it began to fall and gradually stabilized.

His spiritual essence cultivation had already broken through to the sixth rank of the Martial

Dao.

At this moment, Zhou Shu was still not finished. He was still sitting on the couch with his aura fluctuating.

What Lu Wenshuang couldn't tell was that not only had Zhou Shu's spiritual essence broken through, but his Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and Golden Bell Shield Technique had also broken through at the same time!

They actually broke through without receiving benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon!

Before this, Zhou Shu's Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique had already reached the twelfth level, and he was only a step away from the thirteenth level, perfection.

The Golden Bell Shield Technique was similar. It was not far from the twelfth level. Ever since the end of the war in Great Xia's southern territory, the Huben Saber and the Horse Slaying Saber had completed very few kills.

It took a long time to receive benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon.

Zhou Shu originally thought that it would take very long to reach perfection in the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique and Golden Bell Shield Technique.

Who would have thought that just by using the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique to enter a dream, these two cultivation techniques would reach perfection at the same time!

This was the real surprise!

Previously, when he used Shi Songtao as an experiment, Zhou Shu had already understood that what he brought back from the dream was only experience. His cultivation level couldn't be brought back, and the memories of the person he became in the dream couldn't be brought back.

He had entered Shi Songtao's dream and recalled Shi Songtao's experiences in the past year. After he woke up from his dream, all he remembered was the information Shi Songtao came into contact with during this year. He couldn't remember the information about Shi Songtao's childhood.

It was the same for Wang Xin.

He recalled Wang Xin's experiences in the past year and lived one year as Wang Xin.

This immersive experience and the strong sense of identity isolation after waking up from a dream made Zhou Shou feel so confused that he wanted to kill himself.

Unbearable pain!

He gasped for breath, but the pain in his mind lasted an hour before it eased.

It was extremely painful for Zhou Shu to enter two people's dreams within such a short period of time.

If not for the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form stabilizing his consciousness, he might have already collapsed and turned into a lunatic.

The Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique was incredibly powerful, but the repercussions were also tremendous.

Every time he entered a dream, he would become another person. It was easy for him to lose himself. In the end, he wouldn't even know who he was anymore.

I can't use the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique for the time being! Zhou Shu felt that if he used the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique again in the near future, he might really go crazy! He could only wait for his Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form to advance further before using it. Perhaps it would be better.

Zhou Shu slowly opened his eyes. He didn't immediately get up but instead sat on the bed and pondered.

As for Lu Wenshuang, Zhou Shu chose to ignore her. The last time I entered the dream, my cultivation level didn't change much. Shi Songtao is too second-rate, Zhou Shu cursed. They are both geniuses, but the difference between them is extraordinary.

Actually, to say Shi Songtao was second-rate was being a bit of a bully.

Shi Songtao was usually very diligent.

In the past year, he had never stopped his practice of forging.

However, Zhou Shu's forging skills were too strong, so he didn't gain much from it.

But Wang Xin was different.

Wang Xin was the grandson of Great Qin's General Wang Mu. He was also a famous young general in Great Qin.

In the past year, he had spent most of his time fighting demonic beasts!

This was an extremely novel experience for Zhou Shu.

Speaking of which, although Zhou Shu's cultivation was high, his battle experience was actually not that rich.

Other than the Emperor Xuan Jade Book, the rest of Zhou Shu's cultivation techniques came directly from the Legendary Armament Canon.

Chapter 194 Ten Imperial Cauldrons, Great Qin's Crisis (2)

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that he had reached the peak of his cultivation techniques.

Although there was no problem with his mastery of the cultivation techniques, he didn't have much battle experience after all.

...

This time, he had fought against demonic beasts almost every day. His battle experience had skyrocketed.

Conversely, his combat experience gave him a deeper understanding of the Martial Dao.

This kind of epiphany-like experience resulted in his successive breakthroughs after waking up from his dream.

At the end of the day, be it the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique or the Golden Bell Shield Technique, they had just both been a step short of reaching perfection. After an epiphany, breaking through was a matter of course.

Wang Xin was the complete opposite of Shi Songtao. Shi Songtao was diligent and hardworking, but he also enjoyed spending a lot of time with women.

But Wang Xin was a martial arts fanatic. This year, other than cultivating to slay demonic beasts, he led troops to slay demonic beasts. He didn't get close to women at all. He was even more of a monk than a monk!

In short, he was either fighting or on the way to battle.

There was a reason why Great Qin was so formidable. In Wang Xin's dream, many of the soldiers that Zhou Shu had seen were like Wang Xin.

A breakthrough in cultivation is just a pleasant surprise. Wang Xin's greatest value is not his battle experience but the information he has!

Increasing his strength was naturally something worth being happy about, but what made Zhou Shu even happier was that when he became Wang Xin in his dream, he had finally come into contact with some secrets of this world!

In Great Xia, although Zhou Shu was already a marquis, his foundation was still too shallow. Furthermore, he had only been a marquis for a short period of time. There were many things that he had yet to come into contact with. Even Meng Bai was secretive about the matters of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament and had never told him too much.

Wang Xin was different. He was the grandson of Great Qin's General Wang Mu, and he was nurtured as an heir.

He was naturally qualified to come into contact with these secrets.

In the year that he became Wang Xin, Zhou Shu had personally attended a few high-level court meetings in Great Qin.

It was also from this that he was able to see the truth of this world!

No wonder the ten nations are competing for the right to host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, Zhou Shu thought.

Besides other reasons, in the next ten years, the vital qi of heaven and earth of the place where the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament is hosted will be several times richer than elsewhere.

The cultivation of martial artists was to absorb vital qi of heaven and earth into the body.

In places with rich vital qi of heaven and earth, a martial artist's cultivation speed would definitely be faster.

Whichever nation held the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, the vital qi of heaven and earth there would be richer than the other nine countries.

This meant that the nation would be more suitable for cultivation. Martial artists would be stronger, and the country would also become stronger.

If not for the fact that a nation wasn't allowed to continuously become the venue for the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, Great Qin would probably continue to host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. That way, it would become stronger and stronger.

The reason why Great Qin is unable to take over all the other nations is because all the ten nations must participate in the martial arts tournament. No country would dare to break the rules on the surface.

The Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament can only be held with the Ten Imperial Cauldrons. And these Ten Imperial Cauldrons can only be used by the ten nations' imperial families. Even if other countries want to seize them, they can't.

In the year that he had transformed into Wang Xin, Zhou Shu had also learned about this information that ordinary people wouldn't be able to know.

The information he heard previously was completely different from the truth.

Wang Xin doesn't have the right to know what exactly is going on with the Ten Imperial Cauldrons. He can only deduce that each of the ten nations has one of the ten cauldrons. Furthermore, only the imperial families of the various nations can activate them. It's useless even if someone obtains the ten cauldrons by destroying other nations. In just one year, the things that Wang Xin could experience were naturally limited. A lot of information had to be inferred by Zhou Shu himself.

Before coming to Hangu Pass, Wang Xin and his grandfather, Wang Mu, had an exchange. Great Qin deliberately designed the nine checkpoints this time. There is indeed a huge problem. Zhou Shu's eyes flickered.

He sat on the couch without saying a word. Lu Wenshuang stared at his face for a while and felt a little bored, so she started cultivating again.

Great Qin isn't trying to make things difficult for the nine nations with this trial, but rather, something has happened to Great Qin! Zhou Shu recalled Wang Mu's and Wang Xin's words. He already knew what would happen during the trial.

The reason Great Qin had set up nine checkpoints was that,

Something went wrong with Great Qin's imperial cauldron!

Wang Mu didn't mention the exact problem.

But he had told Wang Xin that the nine checkpoints set up by Great Qin were related to the restoration of the imperial cauldron.

There was a problem with the imperial cauldron, and it was a matter of great importance. Great Qin naturally couldn't allow outsiders to know about it.

And with the power of Great Qin, they were unable to directly repair the imperial cauldron, so they set up nine checkpoints to test the Forging Masters of the other nine nations. Their goal was to find a way to repair their imperial cauldron.

The settings of these nine checkpoints were related to the repair of the imperial cauldron.

If the Forging Masters of the nine nations could resolve some of the problems during the process of challenging the trial, they would be able to give Great Qin's forgers a revelation and give them a chance to repair the imperial cauldron.

To put it bluntly, they had set up nine checkpoints to test the Forging Masters of the other nine nations after identifying the problems they couldn't solve.

Great Qin has a good idea. They got the nine countries' Forging Masters to help them solve the problem for free and also solved the problem of the host of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. It's killing two birds with one stone.

But even Great Qin's Grand Craftsmen are unable to repair their imperial cauldron. How effective can a group of Forging Masters be?

Zhou Shu couldn't help complaining inwardly.

There might be other problems, but Wang Xin hadn't experienced it, so Zhou Shu didn't know.

Something actually went wrong with Great Qin's imperial cauldron, Zhou Shu thought.

The Ten Imperial Cauldrons were related to whether or not the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament could be held normally. If something went wrong with Great Qin's imperial cauldron, then the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament would be ruined.

This was definitely an earth-shattering matter.

If the other nine countries found out, they would probably attack Great Qin.

Should I tell Meng Bai?

Zhou Shu hesitated for a moment, but in his heart, he rejected this idea.

If this matter was really leaked out, it might be a world war.

The Ten Imperial Cauldrons are also weapons, Zhou Shu thought. What grade of weapons are they? Is it also because of them that the vital qi of heaven and earth in the hosting nation is so rich?

Zhou Shu didn't care much about the political situation of the nations. His interest was in weapons.

The Ten Imperial Cauldrons sounded very interesting

It was unknown what grade of weapon they were.

Zhou Shu had the urge to take them and study them.

He thought back to when he was in You Prefecture and the strange mirror that had once made a short appearance in the Legendary Armament Canon.

Divine artifact...

Could the Ten Imperial Cauldrons also be divine artifacts above heaven grade?

Apart from the time in You Prefecture, Zhou Shu had never heard of the existence of divine artifacts from anyone else.

Not to mention divine artifacts, even heaven-grade weapons were extremely rare in the ten nations.

What Zhou Shu could see was that only some first-rank experts had heaven-grade weapons.

Most second and third-rank martial artists only used earth-grade weapons. Divine artifacts seemed to be a little far from the martial artists of the ten nations.

The Ten Imperial Cauldrons are kept a secret within the imperial families of the ten nations. If not for the problem with Great Qin's imperial cauldron, Wang Xin might not even know of their existence.

Under normal circumstances, wanting to study them is impossible. No matter how good Emperor Yuan Feng is, he won't give me this chance.

But now is a good opportunity. If I'm able to prove myself in the trial, then Great Qin might ask me to help repair their imperial cauldron. Isn't this an opportunity to come into contact with an imperial cauldron?

Even so, we still have to be on guard against Great Qin killing us to silence us. It's quite troublesome.

But it's not impossible. If I have the chance to come into contact with a divine artifact, even if I have to take some risks, it's worth it.

Zhou Shu made up his mind. His eyes flashed with determination.

In that case, let's have some fun! Let Great Qin experience a miracle!

Chapter 195 Yin Wuyou Awakens, and The Trial Begins (1)

Originally, Zhou Shu came to Great Qin with the intention of finding a few workers for himself.

Now that he knew about the Ten Imperial Cauldrons, his curiosity was aroused. Of course, he knew that curiosity killed the cat.

...

It was impossible for ordinary people to come into contact with something like the Ten Imperial Cauldrons.

Even though he thought about it, he also knew that under normal circumstances, even if he displayed the ability to repair the imperial cauldron of Great Qin, the day he helped Great Qin repair it would be the day he died.

There was no doubt about it. It would definitely not be surprising.

... Unless he was willing to be loyal to Great Qin from now on.

The problem was that even if he was loyal to Great Qin, Great Qin might not trust him.

After all, he was not a native of Great Qin.

I can't rush it. I must act according to the circumstances.

It was naturally good to be able to see a divine artifact, but if the risk was too great, he wouldn't force his way in.

After all, with the Legendary Armament Canon, he would be able to come into contact with divine artifacts sooner or later.

At the very least, he still had the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique.

Even if he couldn't come into contact with Great Xia's imperial cauldron, he could think of a way to pull off a strand of Great Qin's emperor's hair. Or perhaps, after he returned to Great Xia, he could pull off a strand of Emperor Yuan Feng's hair. He could definitely find a way to see an imperial cauldron.

But in the short term, he didn't dare to use the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique again.

Zhou Shu pondered for a long time before getting out of bed. When he moved, Lu Wenshuang also opened her eyes.

She stared straight at Zhou Shu.

"Let's fight again," Lu Wenshuang suddenly said, her eyes filled with eagerness.

Ever since she had sparred with Zhou Shu, she had been thinking about the flaws of the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique. Now that Zhou Shu's cultivation had reached a higher level, his grasp of the Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique had definitely deepened.

Lu Wenshuang wanted to see if he could be on par with her.

Zhou Shu looked at her strangely. Fight? Fight demonic beasts?

"Maybe another day." Zhou Shu shook his head.

Lu Wenshuang was about to say something when someone rushed in.

"Marquis! Marquis! Her Highness is awake!" It was Haitang.

"The grand minister is awake?" Zhou Shu was delighted and quickly walked out.

In the central army camp, Yin Wuyou was already sitting up. Her face was still a little pale, and she appeared a little weak. But her aura had clearly stabilized.

She felt a little embarrassed by Zhou Shu's stare, and her face blushed.

"Have you seen enough?" she whispered.

"No," Zhou Shu blurted out before scratching his head. "No, what I mean is, are you alright, Grand Minister?"

"It's nothing serious." Yin Wuyou shook her head. "I don't know why Xiao Shunzhi's rank fell. We're both second-rank martial artists, so my injuries aren't that serious."

“When did you break through to the second rank of the Martial Dao?”

Suddenly, a voice came from the side.

It was Lu Wenshuang.

She looked at Yin Wuyou with a puzzled expression.

“Little Senior Sister Lu, you’re here too.” Yin Wuyou smiled with a smug expression. “It’s been a few months. I’ve been practicing and practicing, and I accidentally broke through.”

As she spoke, she shot Zhou Shu a look, indicating that Zhou Shu shouldn’t expose her.

The mischievous gaze made Zhou Shu want to pinch her cheeks. To think the grand minister has such a mischievous side.

Lu Wenshuang harrumphed. “Call me Senior Sister Lu!”

She said heavily, “When you recover, let’s spar. Let me see if your Sword Dao has improved!”

Lu Wenshuang’s tone was still as cold as ever, but Zhou Shu could still hear a hint of envy.

The number one Martial Dao genius of Great Xia had been overtaken by someone else, and this person was her junior sister. This was definitely a blow to the proud Lu Wenshuang.

“No!” Yin Wuyou said simply. “Little Senior Sister Lu, your Sword Dao is definitely stronger than mine.”

Yin Wuyou knew Lu Wenshuang’s personality too well, so she admitted defeat without hesitation.

In the past, when the two of them were training with the sword, every time Lu Wenshuang lagged behind, she would pester Yin Wuyou to compete with her until she won.

Yin Wuyou didn’t have such a strong fighting spirit, so she was extremely annoyed every time.

Rather than being pestered by Lu Wenshuang for a sword fight, it was better to just admit defeat.

“It’s not up to you!” Lu Wenshuang glanced at her and turned to leave.

Just as she was about to leave the tent, she turned around and said solemnly, “Call me Senior Sister Lu!”

Swish!

Yin Wuyou laughed out loud, and the atmosphere in the tent instantly brightened considerably.

Zhou Shu was stunned.

Only then did Yin Wuyou remember that Zhou Shu was still here. She stuck out her tongue in embarrassment and put on a serious expression. “Grand Minister, is it really okay for you to lie to Miss Lu like this?” Zhou Shu coughed softly.

“Did I lie to her?” Yin Wuyou blinked her big bright eyes with an innocent expression.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes. Women, huh.

“Alright, I was just joking with her.” Yin Wuyou smiled. “Zhou Shu, what kind of medicinal pill did your senior brother give me last time? Do you still have any?”

“Why?” Zhou Shu said warily.

The reason he didn’t dare to let others know about the Breakthrough Pill was that he was afraid that he would get into trouble for possessing a treasure.

In this world, the most terrifying thing was not cultivation levels but the human heart.

If others knew that he had a pill that could increase one’s cultivation without any side effects, he would never have a day of peace.

No matter how high his cultivation was, he couldn’t stop the greed in people’s hearts.

Chapter 196 Yin Wuyou Awakens, and The Trial Begins (2)

“If you have more, I want to buy one,” Yin Wuyou said. “The imperial physician said that it was the medicinal effects of the pill that saved my life. The pill might be able to treat the great general’s old injuries.” Yin Wuyou only knew that her breakthrough in cultivation had something to do with the medicinal pill she took at the time. But she only thought that the medicinal pill was used for healing injuries and that she could break through in her cultivation because the medicinal effects of the pill were too great.

She had never thought that the true use of the medicinal pill was actually to break through.

...

“You don’t have to think about that.” Zhou Shu shook his head.

Yin Wuyou was a little disappointed. Every time she saw Meng Bai, she would feel extremely worried. But she had no choice. Meng Bai’s injuries had already reached the point where medicinal pills were useless.

She suddenly remembered what had happened before, so she asked casually.

“There are only three pills in the world. You and Sun Gongping took one each. I’ve given the last pill to the great general.

“Grand Minister, I’ve only told you because you’re one of us. Don’t tell anyone else about the pill. I really don’t have any more,” Zhou Shu said seriously.

“One of us?” Yin Wuyou felt sweet inside and nodded solemnly. “Don’t worry. I won’t tell anyone. Even if it’s Little Senior Sister Lu, I won’t tell her!”

“I believe you.” Zhou Shu nodded.

The matter of the Breakthrough Pill actually had endless repercussions.

But even if it happened again, he would still make the same choice.

... Including the one he gave Meng Bai.

He worked so hard to forge weapons and increase his cultivation so that he could have the ability to make decisions.

If he was afraid of trouble and could only watch the people around him die, then there was no point in raising his cultivation level. "Grand Minister, when you're better, I'll have General Chen send someone to escort you back to Chang'an-" Zhou Shu said.

"I'm not going back," Yin Wuyou interrupted before Zhou Shu could finish. "Zhou Shu, do you know what kind of place Great Qin is?"

"What kind of place is Great Qin?"

"Great Qin is a land of tigers and wolves!"

"You haven't met anyone from Great Qin. They're all competitive people, even more competitive than Little Senior Sister Lu," Yin Wuyou said excitedly. "You don't know how to fight with others. What if someone bullies you when you go to Great Qin?"

"You're a member of my Forging Division. I'm the grand minister of the Forging Division. I can't watch you being bullied by others. Thus, I have come to protect you." Yin Wuyou puffed out her chest, revealing his perfect figure.

She didn't notice how lethal her posture was to men. Zhou Shu turned his head away unnaturally.

How can I not know what Great Qin is like?

Battle maniacs like Wang Xin are everywhere in Great Qin.

But I'm the official envoy of Great Xia. As long as there's nothing wrong with their heads, they won't come find trouble with me.

Grand Minister, your reason is too lame.

"Does His Majesty know?" Zhou Shu asked.

"Don't worry about him." Yin Wuyou waved her small hand. "I heard that Great Qin has set up some sort of challenge this year. There must be nine people, right? Count me in!"

After Yin Wuyou woke up, she already understood the situation at Hangu Pass.

Zhou Shu: "..."

"Marquis, there are already very few Forging Masters in the team. If we lose another one, we will be in great danger. This time, we are relying on forging skills, not martial strength!" Shi Songtao shouted.

"Go tell the grand minister then. Tell her that there are no more slots in the team to challenge the trial. Tell her to play somewhere else," Zhou Shu said calmly.

Shi Songtao: "..."

Am I tired of living? How can I tell the grand minister that?

“Even if Her Highness wants to join the team, we don’t have to reduce the number of Forging Masters. We can have one less guard!”

“Challenging the trial isn’t like fighting a war. Why do we need so many martial artists? I feel that Yin Chengshan can be removed.”

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes at him. Who said that there’s no need for a war?

If it was that simple, the teams only had to consist of Forging Masters. Why did they still include martial artists?

Naive!

When he entered Wang Xin’s dream, Zhou Shu already knew the specifics of the nine checkpoints, so he was fully confident. Even if all of them were removed, he could clear the checkpoints by himself.

Bringing these people along was merely giving them a chance to contribute.

“Yin Chengshan can’t be removed. Why don’t you stay and lead the diplomatic mission?” Zhou Shu said.

ess

Yin Chengshan was his worker, so of course he had to follow him. There was a chance for him to complete kills during this process. “How can that do! I am the deputy envoy of the diplomatic mission. I must be in the team!” Shi Songtao said agitatedly. He was the deputy envoy of the diplomatic mission. How could he not participate in the most important part? “In that case, do as I say. Otherwise, you will withdraw.” Zhou Shu waved his hand.

He, along with Yin Wuyou, Lu Wenshuang, Chen Ji, Yin Chengshan, and Shi Songtao, were already six people. Together with the other three Forging Masters, they made up the nine people in the team.

The only regretful thing was that he wasn’t able to include Yang Hong.

The main reason was that Yang Hong was a little too weak. Including him in the team might not be a good thing for him.

When he transformed into Wang Xin, Zhou Shu knew that although Great Qin didn’t deliberately make things difficult for the nine nations, there was still a certain degree of danger while clearing the checkpoints.

This was also why Great Qin emphasized that there had to be Forging Masters and martial artists to clear the checkpoints.

“Marquis, you’re so obstinate. Will you be able to shoulder the responsibility if you fail?!” Shi Songtao shouted. Zhou Shu stopped and turned to look at Shi Songtao. Shi Songtao suddenly remembered that Zhou Shu had pulled out his hair, and he felt a little nervous. He involuntarily took a step back and mustered his courage to look at Zhou Shu.

“Marquis, this matter concerns whether or not we can win the right to host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. You can’t act so arbitrarily.”

“I’m the official envoy. I have the final say,” Zhou Shu said calmly. “I’ll bear all the consequences.”

“Old Shi, if you want to make the decision, wait until you become the official envoy.

“By the way, red copper and stone essence can’t be mixed directly. It will cause an explosion. You have to smelt it for seven days first, then...”

Zhou Shu left these words and floated away.

Shi Songtao opened his mouth wide, and his expression changed from shock to horror.

He had been developing a weapon. Every time he mixed it with red copper and stone essence, there would be an explosion.

He had never told anyone about this. How did he know?

Black magic! It must be black magic!

Shi Songtao covered his mouth to prevent himself from screaming.

He recalled that Zhou Shu had once pulled a strand of his hair. It was very likely that he had used his hair to cast black magic on him.

Otherwise, it was impossible for him to know about the matter of the red copper and stone essence.

If he knew about the red copper and stone essence, wouldn’t that mean that his life was in his hands?

He had read about it in a book. There was black magic that could control a person’s actions through their blood essence and hair. Is it possible that the You Marquis knows this kind of black magic?

I was too careless. Why did I let him pull my hair?

Shi Songtao wanted to cry but had no tears. Could it be that I can only be controlled by him in the future? I should still have some value. He won’t kill me, right?

Zhou Shu walked out of Shi Songtao’s tent. He understood Shi Songtao’s personality and wasn’t afraid that Shi Songtao would expose anything

This fellow Shi Songtao was completely different from the rumored forging genius. He was extremely afraid of death. Zhou Shu, who had become Shi Songtao in his dream, naturally understood this very clearly.

Shi Songtao was a person who was afraid of death. Even if he suspected why he knew about this matter, he definitely wouldn’t dare to make it public.

He was just scaring him to vent his anger. After he woke up from the Shi Songtao dream, he was affected by that year’s experience...

Thump, thump, thump!

In front of Hangu Pass, the sound of war drums resounded from Great Qin’s army.

The voice of Great Qin’s Wang Xin spread throughout the various camps.

“Time is up. All teams, prepare!”

Chapter 197 First Checkpoint, Inspecting Forging Materials (1)

“Old Shi, Deputy Envoy Shi, relax,” Zhou Shu said to Shi Songtao, who was constantly rubbing his hands. “It’s just a qualifier. Why are you so nervous?”

“Qualifier?” Shi Songtao was stunned for a moment. After thinking for a moment, he understood what Zhou Shu meant.

...

This word was really apt.

Even if it was just a qualifier, if they lost the qualifiers and didn’t even get to compete, their mission would be considered a failure.

Zhou Shu was not nervous at all. He walked forward slowly and had the time to look at the teams from the other nations.

As expected, Shen Yue was among the team from Great Wei.

Zhou Shu also saw a familiar face among Great Liang’s challengers. It was Han Dazhi, whom they had encountered on their way here.

Apart from the teams from these two nations, the other nations all had unfamiliar faces that Zhou Shu had never seen before.

He took a closer look at these teams challenging the trial. Their configurations were basically the same as Great Xia’s.

Five or six Forging Masters, together with three or four martial artists... The martial artists’ cultivation was generally between the fourth and fifth rank. Third-rank martial artists were considered very high level for individual nations.

For the diplomatic mission of Great Xia, there was one second-rank and one third-rank martial artist. It was a unique combination.

Wang Xin’s army escorted the various teams into Hangu Pass. The other members of the diplomatic missions would take another route to Great Qin’s capital after passing through Hangu Pass.

After entering the Wang Xin dream, Zhou Shu already had a rough understanding of the nine challenges set up by Great Qin. The purpose of Great Qin setting up the nine challenges was actually not to make things difficult for others.

It was for screening.

Wang Xin was not a forger, so he didn’t pay attention to the details of the nine checkpoints. But Zhou Shu was able to guess what had happened from his conversations with his grandfather Wang Mu.

The content of the tests in the nine checkpoints of Great Qin was surely related to repairing the imperial cauldron. Wang Xin brought everyone to a canyon and said, “There are nine maps here, one for each team. Your mission is to go to the locations marked on the map and complete the corresponding

mission. Those who complete the mission will enter the next level. Those who fail can directly head to the capital.”

Wang Xin got someone to distribute the maps to everyone. “Now, I will announce the rules of the first checkpoint!” Wang Xin said.

While Wang Xin was announcing the rules for the first checkpoint, the emperor of Great Qin was standing on the tallest building within the imperial palace of Great Qin, which was 500 kilometers away. A middle-aged man dressed in black was standing beside him.

“Minister Xu, do you really think this method will work?” the Qin emperor said in a low voice. His face was somewhat pale, as though he was heavily injured.

The Qin emperor was the same as Emperor Yuan Feng of Great Xia. They were both first-rank martial artists.

Actually, all the nations’ emperors had the same situation.

After they succeeded the throne, they would use secret techniques to raise their cultivation to the first rank.

Although their first ranks were somewhat false, they were still first-rank martial artists after all. Ordinary people wouldn’t be able to hurt them. Furthermore, with the body of a first-rank martial artist, they would be full of energy when handling national affairs.

Different from Emperor Yuan Feng, although the Qin emperor had raised his cultivation to the first rank, he didn’t raise it as much.

When the Qin emperor ascended the throne, he was already a third-rank grandmaster.

Therefore, in terms of true strength, the Qin emperor was definitely the strongest among the ten nations’ emperors.

It could even be said that if the ten nations’ emperors personally fought, the Qin emperor would be able to take on all the other nine nations’ emperors!

This didn’t include the countless experts protecting the Qin emperor. Logically speaking, it was almost impossible for such a person to be injured. “Your Majesty, we can only make a Hail Mary effort now,” the middle-aged man in black beside the Qin emperor said with a bitter smile. “If it wasn’t for the fear that Grand Craftsmen would notice something, the chances of success would be higher if we invited the Grand Craftsmen from the various nations to help.

“Right now, we are breaking up the restoration steps and hiding them among the nine checkpoints. Even those who set their mind on it would find it hard to discover the secret. “If the elites of the various nations can’t solve these problems, then even if Grand Craftsmen came, the outcome wouldn’t be much different.”

The middle-aged man’s face was full of bitterness. Great Qin had many Grand Craftsmen as well, but no matter how hard they tried, they couldn’t solve the problem.

Right now, he could only hope that the genius Forging Masters of the various nations would live up to their reputation as geniuses.

“Let General Wang prepare for battle.”

The Qin emperor coughed a few times, and his palm was covered in blood. He pondered for a moment before saying in a deep voice, “If the restoration of the imperial cauldron fails, war is inevitable!”

The black-clothed middle-aged man bowed. “Yes.”

“There are over a thousand materials for forging in this valley.” Wang Xin’s voice echoed in everyone’s ears. “The first test is for you to identify forging materials. As long as you are able to identify them correctly, you will be able to take away the forging materials.

“There is a limit to the amount of forging materials. Those that successfully identify the materials first have the right to obtain them first.

“Right now, I can tell you that the second checkpoint is to use the materials you took away to forge weapons. “There will be no victor in the first round. But the more materials you obtain, the more advantage you will have in the later rounds. Good luck.”

After Wang Xin finished speaking, the soldiers of Great Qin parted, revealing a path to the valley.

The enormous valley was full of forging materials.

In front of each pile of forging materials stood a black-clothed official. He should be the official in charge of determining whether the challenger was correct.

Chapter 198 First Checkpoint, Inspecting Forging Materials (2)

Boom!

The teams from the various nations all rushed forward. There was a limit to each type of forging material. First come, first served. Of course, they had to snatch them. Although there was no victory in the first round, it was related to the outcome of the later rounds. How could they let their guard down?!

...

“Marquis, let’s move quickly.” Shi Songtao said anxiously.

Other countries had already begun to move, but only Zhou Shu was still standing there calmly. He didn’t seem anxious at all.

“Everyone, let’s split up.”

As soon as Zhou Shu waved his hand, Shi Songtao shot forward like an arrow.

The other Forging Masters quickly joined in the scramble for the materials.

“Zhou Shu, if we don’t snatch the forging materials now, they will be snatched away by others,” Yin Wuyou said helplessly.

Shi Songtao and the other Forging Masters rushed over. But Yin Wuyou, Lu Wenshuang, Chen Ji, and Yin Chengshan didn't move.

They surrounded Zhou Shu. Even though there didn't seem to be any danger, they were still on full alert.

As for Shi Songtao and the others, there was no need to protect them...

"After they're done, we'll go rob them. The rules don't say that we're not allowed to rob others," Zhou Shu whispered.

Yin Wuyou, Lu Wenshuang, and the others were all stunned. This works too?

But then again, the rules didn't seem to prohibit it...

"That's not very nice, is it?" Yin Wuyou said hesitantly. But the eagerness in her eyes betrayed her.

A look of admiration appeared in Chen Ji's eyes. Forgers are crafty and cunning. The marquis is indeed ingenious. No wonder he could forge so many imaginative weapons. The teams from various nations went to fight for forging materials, but Wang Xin was still standing there.

Although Zhou Shu's voice was soft, it couldn't be concealed.

Wang Xin's cultivation base was extremely high. His hearing ability allowed him to hear Zhou Shu's words clearly.

A trace of shock flashed across his face, but his eyes were full of approval. This is Great Xia's official envoy. He's interesting.

Even though he said that they could rob the teams from other nations, Zhou Shu didn't stand aside and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

He slowly walked to a pile of forging materials with fewer people.

He picked up a brick-like material and examined it.

Some of the materials that Great Qin had placed in the valley were the most rudimentary materials, while others were composite materials that had undergone processing.

Simply put, there were pure iron and alloys... It was very easy to identify a single forging material. Unless it was a very rare material, it was not a difficult task for Forging Masters.

Alloys were much more difficult. According to the rules, Forging Masters had to identify the composition of the alloys and the composition ratio before their answers could be accepted.

This was an enormous test to the Forging Masters' forging ability.

What Zhou Shu was holding was an alloy.

"Can you identify it?" Yin Wuyou whispered in Zhou Shu's ear.

"No," Zhou Shu said simply.

He threw the alloy brick aside and continued walking forward. Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang were a little confused. Could it be that he really planned to rob the other nations' teams?

To say that he couldn't identify it without taking a closer look, wasn't he a little too hasty?

Zhou Shu continued to walk forward while occasionally stopping in front of piles of forging materials. In front of each pile of forging materials, there were officials from Great Qin. They were responsible for determining whether the judgment of each nation's challenger was correct.

These challengers would write down their appraisal of the forging materials on paper and hand them to the judges. After the judges confirmed that they had answered correctly, they would allow them to take away the corresponding materials.

In a short period of time, the various nations had snatched up all the pure forging materials.

Most of the alloy materials were still there. It was too difficult to identify them.

Zhou Shu walked past quite a few forging materials, but he only paused for a moment before throwing them down. He never picked up his brush to identify them.

Lu Wenshuang looked at Yin Wuyou in confusion. What does he mean by that? He really can't identify them?

Yin Wuyou replied with her eyes. How can that be possible? Zhou Shu is the number one Forging Master of Great Xia. He must feel it is too simple and meaningless!

Zhou Shu stopped and walked around the valley.

He roughly counted. There were indeed over a thousand types of forging materials in this valley. Among them, there were only two to three hundred types of pure forging materials, not even a third of them.

The remaining materials were all composite forging materials. There were also differences in the composite forging materials. Some only had two or three combined materials, while others had seven or eight.

There were even some with more than ten types.

Of course, Zhou Shu wasn't completely unable to identify these composite materials.

However, it was not that easy for him to identify them.

His divine sense could indeed see through the internal structures of the composite materials, but it couldn't distinguish the ratio of various materials.

If he wanted to identify them, he would have to rely on other methods.

Zhou Shu had previously made up for his general knowledge of forging. Later on, he had transformed into Shi Songtao in his dream. During that year, he had also learned quite a bit about forging.

Shi Songtao had some ability in terms of forging. Furthermore, he was indeed very hardworking

After benefiting from this, the current Zhou Shu could be considered a qualified Forging Master even without the Legendary Armament Canon.

Shi Songtao's basics were indeed solid.

While Zhou Shu was observing, Shi Songtao had already successfully identified several types of forging materials. He carried a few large bags on his back and was still trying his best to squeeze forward to identify other materials.

Like Shi Songtao, even the worst among the other three Forging Masters in Great Xia's team managed to identify two types of forging materials.

Compared to the thousand types of forging materials in the valley, there were only eighty-one people from all nine nations. Even if each person could identify ten types, not all the forging materials could be completely identified.

As such, Great Xia's harvest was nothing more than a drop in the ocean from the mass of forging materials.

These Forging Masters seemed to have also discovered this problem.

They no longer gathered together to compete. Instead, they each chose their own targets and began to break down the composite materials.

No one knew what weapons they would need to forge at the next checkpoint. Therefore, the more materials they got, the better. This was because they didn't know what materials they would need.

It was better to take more.

"Zhou Shu, are we really..." Yin Wuyou whispered again when she saw that Zhou Shu had yet to identify any forging materials.

Although she also felt that what Zhou Shu said at the beginning was a little too extreme, if they really robbed people, would it damage Great Xia's reputation?

"What do you think?" Zhou Shu said noncommittally.

A contemplative look appeared on Zhou Shu's face. He was pondering what Great Qin had meant by setting up this trial.

If he was someone from Great Qin, what would he do to repair the imperial cauldron?

As he looked at the pile of materials in front of him, an idea suddenly flashed through Zhou Shu's mind.

In order to forge a ranked weapon, materials, craftsmanship, tools, star positions, and star paths were indispensable.

This checkpoint was obviously related to the materials!

If Great Qin's imperial cauldron was damaged, then they would have to use the same materials to repair it.

In this way, Great Qin would have to know what materials were used to forge the imperial cauldron.

Zhou Shu didn't know who had first created the imperial cauldrons, nor did he know if the secret forging formula had been passed down. He could only assume that Great Qin didn't have the secret forging formula for the imperial cauldron.

In this way, the first step to repairing the imperial cauldron was to identify its materials!

If I'm from Great Qin, then I'll mix the materials for the imperial cauldron with these materials. If a Forging Master recognizes them, then...

Zhou Shu's gaze swept across the piles of forging materials. In that case, what kind of composite materials were used to forge the imperial cauldron?

Following this train of thought, Zhou Shu began to walk through the materials again. This time, his expression became much more serious, and his diligence caused his entire body to emit a special glow.

Chapter 199 Grand Minister, It Seems Like Someone Doesn't Believe In Our Abilities (1)

There were over a thousand types of forging materials that Great Qin had placed in this valley, and it was impossible to determine exactly how many of them there were.

Zhou Shu searched for a long time, but he still couldn't find any materials that seemed to be pieces of the imperial cauldron.

...

On second thought, something might have happened to Great Qin's imperial cauldron, but it might not be broken.

Even if it was broken, they might not necessarily take out the fragments of the imperial cauldron directly.

There were so many Grand Craftsmen in Great Qin. No matter how useless they were, they should be able to analyze the forging materials of the imperial cauldron.

They might have even disassembled the forging materials.

Zhou Shu had to admit that Great Qin was indeed cautious.

Even someone like him, who knew some inside information, was unable to discover any abnormalities in these materials, let alone these Forging Masters who didn't know the inside story.

They thought that Great Qin was merely testing their forging abilities.

It seems like it's impossible to use these materials to speculate about the situation of the imperial cauldron... Zhou Shu thought... unless I can analyze all of these materials.

He looked at the forging materials.

Over a thousand forging materials had been identified in half a day.

The Forging Masters sent by the various nations were all elites, and their basic skill of identifying the materials was definitely passable. The speed at which they identified the materials was very fast.

Zhou Shu estimated that in another half a day, they would be able to identify all of these materials.

... Unless there were forging materials that no one could recognize.

There was no need to consider this possibility.

If the teams of the nine nations were able to identify all the forging materials, then...

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes.

He felt tired just thinking about personally analyzing over a thousand different materials. He couldn't be bothered to do such manual labor.

Wasn't there so much free labor now?

After they identified all the forging materials, he would go to find them and reason with them. It shouldn't be a problem for everyone to share information, right?

Is there a problem?

Then, may I ask if there are any second-rank martial artists on your team?

If not, then stand still!

Thinking of this, Zhou Shu's mood improved.

He strode toward Wang Xin. "Hello, General Wang." Zhou Shu chuckled. "Does that mean that we can head to the second checkpoint anytime now?" Since there was no victory or defeat in the first round, there was no such thing as elimination.

According to the rules, everyone should be able to enter the second checkpoint at any time as long as they felt that they had enough materials.

Wang Xin looked at Zhou Shu strangely and nodded.

He could clearly see that from the beginning to the end, this official envoy of the Great Xia diplomatic mission had not identified even a single forging material.

Wang Xin thought, This young master isn't really planning to rob the challengers from the various nations, right?

Speaking of which, we didn't specify that this isn't allowed in our rules. Should I stop them?

They're not breaking the rules, so why should I stop them?

If someone else snatches forging materials away, you can only blame yourself for being incompetent. What does it have to do with me?

Wang Xin decided that as long as they didn't kill anyone or violate the rules, he would pretend not to see anything!

"Thank you, General Wang." Zhou Shu smiled and cupped his hands. Then he turned and walked toward the exit of the valley. As he walked, he raised his voice. "Old Shi, and who... that's enough. We're going to the second checkpoint."

Shi Songtao and the other Forging Masters raised their heads in confusion. That's enough? There are so many forging materials here. How do you know we won't need them for the next round?

"Marquis—"

“Let’s go!”

Before Shi Songtao could finish his sentence, Yin Wuyou shouted coldly and followed Zhou Shu.

Fine, one is the official envoy and the You Marquis, the other is the princess of Great Xia. Since both of them have spoken, what else can I say?

Shi Songtao looked at the remaining materials reluctantly.

As long as he was given time, he was confident that he could identify the other forging materials!

But now...

No matter what he thought, in front of the people from other nations, he couldn’t appear to be someone who disobeyed orders!

Zhou Shu, ah, Zhou Shu, when we reach the next checkpoint, if there aren’t enough forging materials, I want to see how you will take responsibility! Shi Songtao thought. He felt a little sad. It seemed that this time, not only would he not be able to accomplish anything, but he would also get into trouble.

If news that they had been eliminated in the second checkpoint spread back to Great Xia, who knew how many people would curse him.

He shook his head and sighed. He gritted his teeth and said to the other Forging Masters, “Let’s go!”

They did their best to carry the materials they had already obtained, supporting each other as they chased after Zhou Shu and the others.

He didn’t know if Great Qin was intentionally trying to mislead him, but these nine checkpoints weren’t located in the same place. Instead, they were arranged in various places from Hangu Pass to Great Qin’s capital.

The first checkpoint was located in a valley within Hangu Pass. The second checkpoint was located a fifty kilometers away from Hangu Pass.

Zhou Shu and the others relaxed. Although Shi Songtao and the others were carrying hundreds of kilograms of forging materials on their backs, they were still martial artists after all. It wasn’t like they couldn’t walk.

They continued forward, arriving a few kilometers away from the second checkpoint. Zhou Shu stopped. “Marquis, according to the map, the second trial is still about four kilometers away,” Shi Songtao said while panting.

Chapter 200 Grand Minister, It Seems Like Someone Doesn’t Believe In Our Abilities (2)

“I know. Everyone put your things down and rest,” Zhou Shu said casually.

Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang looked at each other.

...

Yin Wuyou’s eyes were full of excitement, while Lu Wenshuang only felt bored.

Lu Wenshuang wasn't interested in bullying weaklings.

"General Chen, General Yin, it will be up to you later," Zhou Shu said.

Chen Ji and Yin Cheng Shan nodded heavily and said at the same time, "Don't worry, Marquis!"

The sabers in their hands dropped to the ground at the same time, causing the ground to tremble slightly.

The Green Dragon Crescent Blade and the Flaming Sunset Saber were both long sabers, and they looked extremely murderous.

Matched with Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan, who were both tall and sturdy men, they looked like they could hold off ten thousand enemies by themselves standing in the middle of the main road with sabers in their hands.

With these two great gate gods here, who could easily pass through? Shi Songtao and the other Forging Masters were confused. They couldn't understand what Zhou Shu, Chen Ji, and Yin Chengshan were saying. Shi Songtao thought about it and felt that even if he asked, there was a high chance that he wouldn't get an answer. Instead, he would be asking for a rebuff.

He might as well not ask anything. After all, as the official envoy, Zhou Shu would be the one to bear the responsibility in the end!

After waiting for half a day, just as Zhou Shu was beginning to yawn, a group of people finally arrived.

"It's the diplomatic mission from Great Wei," Yin Wuyou said through gritted teeth.

Enemies were bound to cross each other's path!

Zhou Shu was also a little surprised. He didn't expect to meet Great Wei first.

What a coincidence.

When Zhou Shu and the others saw Shen Yue's group, Shen Yue's group naturally also saw them.

But Shen Yue's team didn't stop. Instead, they walked to Zhou Shu's team.

If Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan hadn't blocked most of the main road, they would have continued forward.

"What are you trying to do?" Shen Yue narrowed his eyes, his expression cold.

"Hey, isn't this Brother Shen?" Zhou Shu chuckled. "Brother Shen, you've been pretending to be a Forging Apprentice for so many years. You're finally not pretending anymore. Looks like you guys have gained quite a lot."

His gaze fell on the bags behind Shen Yue's group.

The bags on everyone's backs were almost half the height of a person. There were quite a lot of forging materials.

Zhou Shu's eyes lit up, and he smiled even more happily.

"None of your business!" Shen Yue snorted. "Good dogs don't stand in the way. Move!"

Last time, he had already fallen out with Zhou Shu, so he couldn't be bothered to pretend. Not long ago, he had already received news of Xiao Shunzhi's death, and the hatred between him and Great Xia had increased yet again!

"You want to get through us?" Zhou Shu chuckled. "Sure, I'm very interested in the materials that you have identified. Why don't you introduce them to me, Brother Shen? At the same time, give me ten to twenty kilograms of each material. How about that?"

Shen Yue's expression changed slightly. He involuntarily took half a step back and shouted coldly, "What do you mean?!"

"What do I mean? Am I not clear enough?" Zhou Shu said. "Then let's put it simply, robbery!"

"Raise your hands and hand over the forging materials obediently!"

"I am compassionate, and I'm only robbing half. I'm just robbing you and not hurting you. Don't ask for trouble."

Zhou Shu had no intention of robbing everything. If he really did so, they would be directly eliminated.

If this happened, Great Qin wouldn't be able to carry out their plan. If eight out of the nine nations were eliminated at the second checkpoint, Great Qin's plan would be a direct failure.

Great Qin would definitely not accept it.

But if he robbed half, there would be no problem. Great Wei could continue to challenge the next checkpoint, and it wouldn't affect Great Qin's plans.

Shen Yue was furious.

Robbery?

How dare they!

How dare they!

This is not Great Xia's territory. How dare they act so recklessly!?

"Zhou Shu, you dare to rob us? Aren't you afraid that Great Qin will execute you on the spot?" Shen Yue said angrily. The few martial artists behind him had already put down the materials in their hands. They each took out their weapons, and their auras erupted.

Behind Zhou Shu, Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan also took a step forward. One of them held the Green Dragon Crescent Blade, while the other held the Flaming Sunset Saber. The two sabers were overflowing with killing intent, and the two of them directly targeted the martial artists from Great Wei.

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Zhou Shu shrugged. "Looks like you guys are planning on resisting. Old Shen, you're a smart person, but it seems like you want to do this the hard way."

"You have one, two, three guards, including you. Are any of you above the third rank?"

Shen Yue frowned. The third rank?

This was the grandmaster realm!

Of course, Great Wei's diplomatic mission had a third-rank grandmaster. But they didn't allow the third-rank grandmaster to follow them in this challenge. It would be a waste of talent!

They were accompanied by two fourth-rank martial artists and one fifth-rank martial artist. Shen Yue was currently a fifth-rank martial artist, and the other Forging Masters were martial artists above the seventh rank.

Such strength was considered above average among the nine nations' challengers. After all, the trial mainly tested forging ability, not martial power. "You don't?" Zhou Shu said with a smile. "We do."

He snapped his fingers, and a hint of helplessness flashed through Lu Wenshuang's eyes. But she still released her aura with Yin Wuyou secretly nudging her.

The aura of a third-rank grandmaster made Shen Yue's expression very ugly.

Their team of nine was not weak, but they had no chance of winning against a grandmaster.

"You don't even have a third-grade martial artist, let alone a second-rank martial artist, right?" Zhou Shu smiled happily.

"Sorry, we do." Zhou Shu snapped his fingers again.

Yin Wuyou also smiled very happily and cooperatively released her aura.

This time, she didn't plan to hide anymore. If she still hid her cultivation level at this time, how was she going to show off to her own people?

Boom!

The aura of a second-rank martial artist was much stronger than that of a third-rank grandmaster.

Even Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan were shocked, let alone Shen Yue and the others.

Shen Yue's body started to tremble slightly. No one knew if it was from fear or anger.

What a bully!

One is a second-rank martial artist while the other is a third-rank martial artist!

There are also two men who look like death gods carrying sabers!

This isn't the way to do things! Shen Yue actually felt a little wronged.

Where is Great Qin's army?

Don't you care? The aura of a second-rank and a third-rank martial artist erupted. Can't Great Qin detect it?

Great Qin's army didn't appear as Shen Yue expected.

Shen Yue stared fixedly at Zhou Shu, his face alternating between green and purple.

Fight? Stop fooling around. Just a second-rank martial artist could kill all nine of them without any bloodshed.

Not to mention, they had a third-rank martial artist as well!

They were on completely different levels.

If they didn't fight, would they allow them to rob them?

Shen Yue was full of grief and indignation as he heard Zhou Shu continue. "Old Shen, you have to be more open-minded. We can have a good exchange without much loss on your end. Leave half of the forging materials, and you can continue to challenge the checkpoints.

"If we fight, you guys will be beaten up for nothing, and the outcome won't change. What's the point?

"Although our side is much stronger than yours, if we really fight, fists and kicks have no eyes. You know that."

Zhou Shu chuckled like an old friend.

In Shen Yue's eyes, he looked like a ferocious demon. How can there be such a shameless person in this world?

How can he talk about robbery so openly?

Shen Yue glared at Zhou Shu, wishing he could skin him alive.

"Grand Minister, someone doesn't seem to believe in our abilities. Shall we show them?" Zhou Shu said.

"Alright," Yin Wuyou replied crisply.

Boom!

With a wave of her hand, a dazzling sword light slashed out. In front of everyone's eyes, a deep ravine over 30 meters long appeared. Everyone from Great Wei shut their mouths and didn't even dare to breathe. The entire place became silent.