

## Canon 201

### Chapter 201 Never Seen Such a Shameless Person (1)

Shi Songtao looked at the mountain of forging materials in front of him with mixed feelings.

They had gone to great lengths to identify the materials and compete for them.

...

But with just a few words, they had obtained ten times as many materials as their own. Was this the difference?

He was shocked when he first saw Zhou Shu rob Great Wei. Later, he gradually felt numb when Zhou Shu did the same to the other nations.

Shi Songtao didn't know what he was thinking now.

He felt an inexplicable sense of satisfaction when he thought of the distressed expressions of the challengers.

So what if my life is being controlled by that Zhou fellow? Didn't you guys also suffer a loss?

Zhou Shu clapped his hands and said casually, "Alright, let's go to the second checkpoint."

Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan looked like they wanted more.

It was really a waste of their good posture. Those fellows were so cowardly that they didn't even give them a chance to strike.

Lu Wenshuang glanced at Yin Wuyou with disdain. What's there to be excited about bullying a bunch of weaklings?

Yin Wuyou really thought it was fun. When she was in Chang'an, she had always kept a low profile and rarely used her strength to suppress others.

This time, she realized that scaring people was fun.

If the challengers from the other countries knew what Yin Wuyou was thinking, they would definitely curse loudly.

Fun your head!

You are a second-rank martial artist, yet you're robbing people. Where is your dignity as a Martial Dao expert? Where is your martial virtue?

One was a second-rank martial artist while the other was a third-rank martial artist. They were practically invincible among all the challengers.

Just like Great Wei's Shen Yue, he hesitated for a long time but ultimately didn't make a move. He obediently put down half of the forging materials and even left behind their identification information.

He didn't want to do it, but he had to.

Great Qin's army never intervened. If Shen Yue and the others resisted, they would be beaten up and their belongings stolen.

In any case, they had to hand over everything in the end. There was no need for them to be beaten up as well.

Shen Yue was a smart person. Even though he felt aggrieved, he still knew what to do.

Other than Shen Yue, the final decision of the challengers from the other countries was almost the same.

They were not stupid. Great Xia might not kill them, but it would be embarrassing to be beaten up.

Thus, Zhou Shu's robbery went unexpectedly smoothly.

When Zhou Shu and the others carried bags of forging materials to the location of the second checkpoint, the challengers from the various countries were complaining to a Great Qin general. "General, it's him! He's the one who robbed us!" One of them pointed at Zhou Shu. "They snatched away the materials we obtained from the first checkpoint. You must punish them severely for this!"

"Brother Zhang, we may be familiar with each other, but I will sue you for defamation if you do this," Zhou Shu said. "Aren't your materials behind you? How can you say that we robbed you?"

"You! You robbed half of them!"

"What a joke. Have you ever seen a robber only taking half your stuff? Brother, it's robbery!"

"Enough," the Great Qin general said impatiently. "If you have any personal grudges, settle them yourselves after the trial is over!"

"Now, let me announce the content of the second checkpoint!"

From his attitude, it was clear that he didn't care whether a robbery took place or not.

The challengers from the various countries weren't idiots. At this moment, they realized that the rules of Great Qin didn't explicitly state that people were prohibited from robbing!

It could only be said that they were too slow to react!

"I have nine different forging formulas." The Great Qin general raised his hand and shook the stack of papers in his hand. "The teams are to use your forging materials to forge the weapons on the forging formulas.

"Those who succeed in forging will enter the next checkpoint. Those who fail will be eliminated."

"General, what if our forging materials don't match the forging materials?" someone asked.

"That's your own business. I will kindly remind you that you can exchange forging formulas or forging materials as long as others are willing."

The Great Qin general made things clear.

There were no restrictions on trading. As for robbery...

This round didn't allow robbery!

"Which one of you will choose first?" He raised the nine forging formulas.

All the challengers looked at each other and then raised their hands. Everyone wanted to be the first to choose.

"I'll choose first. Does anyone have any objections?" A lazy voice sounded.

Everyone's gazes fell on the person who spoke. Who else could it be other than Zhou Shu?

Someone wanted to object but was stopped by his teammates. Didn't he see the two gods behind him?

Would it do any good to anger him? Zhou Shu glanced at the challengers from the various nations. He liked the way they looked at him. They were unhappy but couldn't do anything to him.

He walked forward with a smile and took the nine forging formulas from the general.

He looked at each and every one of them carefully. He had to look at each of them for fifteen minutes.

He spent more than two hours reading the nine forging formulas!

The challengers from the various nations were angry but didn't dare to say anything.

This was the effect of strength. If one's strength was inferior to another, then one could only endure.

Zhou Shu finally picked up a forging formula and said casually, "This one then."

As soon as he left, the people of the other eight nations flocked over and even started fighting.

The challengers of Great Xia possessed absolute strength, and no one dared to challenge them.

Chapter 202 Never Seen Such a Shameless Person (2)

However, the remaining eight nations' challengers all seemed to have the same strength and were not afraid of each other. In order to snatch forging formulas that they could successfully forge, they competed intensely.

All of this had nothing to do with Great Xia.

...

They stood aside to watch the show.

"Old Shi, do you see this? This is the benefit of strength." Zhou Shu clicked his tongue in wonder. "If Great Xia had the strength to look down on the ten nations, would we still need to come here to challenge the trial? Who would dare to disobey Great Xia's orders?" The Great Qin general sneered.

Our Great Qin is the most powerful among the ten nations.

Great Xia?

It's the last of the bunch, yet he's talking big. "If we can win the rights to host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, Great Xia's strength will increase rapidly over the next ten years," Shi Songtao muttered.

Zhou Shu smiled but didn't say anything. He tossed the secret forging formula to Shi Songtao.

"See if you can forge it."

If Shi Songtao could forge it, he wouldn't do it.

It was only the second checkpoint. It was not time for him to take action yet.

Zhou Shu had seen all nine forging formulas. They weren't difficult to forge.

Obviously, Great Qin didn't make a big move right from the beginning.

What they were doing now was similar to how Zhou Shu had taught apprentices to forge weapons in the past. They had dismantled the process!

That's right. They were dissecting the problem into countless smaller problems and throwing them to the challengers.

As long as they solved all these minor problems, then Great Qin would naturally be able to solve the final problem by itself.

Shi Songtao looked at it for a while, then raised his head. "I can forge it!"

While they spoke, the other nations' fight also came to an end.

Every nation had obtained a forging formula.

"Everyone, there's no need to be so courteous. If you lack any forging materials, you can come and look for me."

Shi Songtao was just about to begin forging when he heard what Zhou Shu said. He staggered and almost fell to the ground.

What is the meaning of this?

You just robbed them of their forging materials, and now you're returning them?

In that case, why did we rob them in the first place?

At this moment, he heard Zhou Shu continue.

"The price is favorable. If you want to buy anything, you have to be quick. Silver, banknotes, or anything of value is fine. If you really don't have anything, you can mortgage your weapons."

Everyone: "..."

The Great Qin general: "..."

So, you came here to do business?

The Great Qin general was a little depressed. He was the one who said that the teams of the various nations could exchange forging materials.

A trade was also considered an exchange...

The challengers from the various nations looked at each other. Spending money to buy back their things?

This was intolerable...

Yet it seemed to be tolerable...

Money was just a worldly possession. The most important thing was to succeed.

If they could obtain the hosting rights of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, it was something that couldn't be exchanged with money.

Yin Wuyou became a bit anxious and whispered in Zhou Shu's ear, "Zhou Shu, if you need money, I can give you some."

Wasn't it a good thing that the challengers from the other nations didn't have enough materials?

If they were all eliminated, wouldn't Great Xia be able to directly obtain the rights to hold the next Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament?

If he sold them the forging materials now, wouldn't he be creating opponents for himself?

Zhou Shu shook his head. Things were not that simple.

Great Qin wouldn't allow the challengers from the other nations to be eliminated so quickly.

They were still hoping that these people would help them solve their problems.

Zhou Shu was certain that Great Qin definitely had a backup plan. They wouldn't allow the challengers from the various nations to be eliminated simply because they didn't have enough forging materials.

Since that was the case, Zhou Shu might as well sell the materials to them and earn some money. "If we sell the materials to them, what if we don't have enough?" Yin Wuyou said anxiously.

"We can just rob them again," Zhou Shu said casually. "Isn't it tiring to have to carry all the forging materials to the next checkpoints ourselves?"

"Don't worry. I know what to do."

Yin Wuyou still wanted to say something, but Zhou Shu interrupted her because there were already people from other countries coming over with banknotes!

Those who had the qualifications to join the challenge teams were also well-known figures in their own nations. Such people naturally wouldn't lack money.

However, they didn't bring much money with them this time.

A lot of people wouldn't be able to fork out much money.

Thus, they could only take out all their valuables as collateral.

Shen Yue even mortgaged his personal sword to Zhou Shu.

For a moment, the scene looked like a market, but the result was good.

Everyone was happy.

Every country had gathered all the forging materials they needed.

Zhou Shu looked at the pile of banknotes and various collateral items in front of him and smiled very happily.

“There’s no need to stand on ceremony. Everyone has a share. Take whatever you like.” Zhou Shu laughed.

Yin Wuyou, Lu Wenshuang, Chen Ji, and Yin Chengshan looked at each other.

“What’s there to be polite about? Both of them are rich ladies. Don’t you know?” Zhou Shu rolled his eyes at Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan. “Take them. These are yours!”

He stuffed a bunch of banknotes into their hands.

There were at least a thousand taels of silver.

Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan were overwhelmed.

The two of them were actually not poor. Of course, this also depended on who they were compared with.

Compared to Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang, they wouldn’t be able to rebut even if someone said they were poor.

One was the princess of Great Xia, and the other was the daughter of an aristocratic family. How could they compare to them?

Even if they were not poor, a thousand taels of silver was not a small sum to them.

This was an unexpected windfall.

Who would have thought that aside from being able to make a contribution, they would also be able to receive a fortune just from joining the challenge team?

Following the marquis was indeed a good idea.

“I won’t give you two-” Zhou Shu said to Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang.

“Why won’t you give any to us?” Yin Wuyou blinked her bright eyes. “We also contributed.”

“You two are so rich...”

Before Zhou Shu could finish speaking, Yin Wuyou had already grabbed a few banknotes and stuffed them into her arms. Her eyes narrowed into crescent moons.

"It's our business if we are rich. We earned this ourselves, so of course we want our share." Lu Wenshuang's expression was also cold. She used her actions to tell Zhou Shu that she wanted her share too.

Zhou Shu said helplessly, "Alright, let Shi Songtao and the others split the rest."

Shi Songtao had already brought a few other Forging Masters to begin forging.

After the challengers from the other nations gathered the forging materials, they also started forging

Yin Wuyou looked around and said, "Zhou Shu, aren't you going to do anything?"

"Shi Songtao can do it." Zhou Shu shook his head. "There's no need to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Experts are always the last to appear."

The Great Qin general rolled his eyes. Who is this person? Why is he so shameless?

One moment, he said the Great Xia would command the world, and no one would dare to disobey. The next moment, he claimed to be an expert. Ptui!

"That makes sense. Do you want some water?" Yin Wuyou nodded in agreement and took out a water jug.

The Great Qin general was dumbfounded. He couldn't bear to watch any longer and turned his head to the side. Are you here to challenge the trial or to mock people without partners?

Amid the clanging sounds, the challengers from various nations forged their weapons.

In this round, the nine secret weapon forging formulas only recorded standard weapons. There was no need for star positioning at all. For these elite Forging Masters, it was naturally extremely easy. The general guarding the checkpoint examined the weapons forged by everyone and immediately chased everyone away impatiently.

If he let them stay any longer, he was afraid that he would have a heart attack.

They were both humans, but why was it that he could earn money and had beauties to accompany him while he could only watch from the side?

After passing the second checkpoint, the people from the other nations exchanged glances, then glanced at Zhou Shu's group.

Then they spread their legs and ran toward the third checkpoint at full speed.

They had to clear the third checkpoint before Great Xia. They couldn't give Great Xia the chance to rob or extort them anymore!

Zhou Shu watched as the group of people dispersed and disappeared in the blink of an eye. He said in surprise, "Why are they running so fast?"

"The third checkpoint isn't something that can be passed just by running. I wanted to take care of them, but they didn't give me a chance."

Chapter 203 Green Dragon Crescent Blade Successfully completes a Kill (1)

“Marquis, let’s hurry.” Shi Songtao urged anxiously.

The group now had a light load and didn’t need to carry the heavy forging materials.

...

But Zhou Shu seemed to be taking a stroll in the park, walking unhurriedly toward the location of the third checkpoint.

Shi Songtao was anxious. We no longer have any forging materials. When we arrive, we’ll have to rob the other challengers.

They’ve already gone far ahead. If they’ve already used up all the forging materials by the time we arrive, we won’t be able to rob them.

He put himself in the others’ shoes and thought about it. If it was him, he definitely would quickly use the forging materials. He definitely wouldn’t leave any for Zhou Shu’s group. The corners of Zhou Shu’s mouth curled up slightly. “What are you worried about? Running fast might not necessarily be advantageous.”

No matter how anxious Shi Songtao was, Zhou Shu refused to speed up.

Shi Songtao wanted to catch up first, but he thought about it. Even if he caught up, without Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang, he wasn’t confident that he would be the one robbing others.

Get Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang to go with him?

That would be a joke. It would be weird if they listened to him. Shi Songtao sighed. He had originally thought that the chances of winning this time had greatly increased. But in the end, the marquis had started to bluff again. He was mentally exhausted.

The location of the third checkpoint was only tens of kilometers away from the second checkpoint.

Even though Zhou Shu and the others were walking slowly, it only took them half a day to reach the third checkpoint.

When they were still some distance away from the third checkpoint, Yin Wuyou’s and Lu Wenshuang’s expressions suddenly changed.

The two of them moved at almost the same time, one on the left and one on the right, staying close to Zhou Shu.

Two powerful sword qi shot into the sky.

Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan finally realized what was going on and quickly reacted.

The two of them darted to the front of the group.

The Green Dragon Crescent Blade and the Flaming Sunset Saber were placed in front of him.

“An enemy?” Shi Songtao and the other Forging Masters finally reacted.

Before they could finish speaking, they heard the sounds of fighting coming from ahead.



Interspersed with the roars of demonic beasts and the cries of martial artists, a chaotic battle seemed to be taking place.

A look of understanding flashed across Zhou Shu's eyes.

Indeed, it was the same as what he had learned when he dreamed he was Wang Xin. The third checkpoint was to slay demonic beasts.

Great Qin said that the nine trials were related to forging. Now, they were requesting the nine nations' challengers to kill demonic beasts. It seemed to have nothing to do with forging, but in reality, it was related.

Forging materials were not limited to ores. Some demonic beasts' bones, fur, and even blood could be used for forging.

It was barely reasonable to let the nine nations' challengers kill demonic beasts and personally obtain forging materials from the demonic beasts.

"Everyone, don't be nervous. We have business," Zhou Shu said with a smile.

The group continued forward and soon arrived at the third checkpoint.

This place was still a valley. There was a group of Great Qin soldiers guarding the entrance.

A Great Qin general saw Zhou Shu's group arrive and said, "The third checkpoint, pass through the valley and kill ten demonic beasts to enter the next checkpoint. Otherwise, you will be eliminated.

"There's a certain amount of danger in this pass. If all of you give up, then you can head directly to Great Qin's capital."

Give up?

Giving up was equivalent to giving up the right to compete for the hosting rights of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. No nation would easily give up.

This was something that would affect the fate of the nation for the next ten years.

"Let's go in," Zhou Shu said nonchalantly.

Shi Songtao was a little nervous, but looking at the four martial artists on the team, he was somewhat relieved.

The marquis is truly far-sighted. Fortunately, there are many martial artists in our team, and they are strong. Shi Songtao had forgotten. Back then, he felt that there were too many martial artists on the team and had objected.

The group entered the valley. The battle in the valley was currently intense.

The challengers from other countries formed groups of three to five and fought with the demonic beasts.

There were already many demonic beasts' corpses lying on the ground.

But even more demonic beasts were swarming over.

This valley was basically a demonic beast lair. Countless demonic beasts surrounded the challengers from all over the world.

Boom!

Two demonic beasts charging toward Zhou Shu's group were sent flying by Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang

Chen Ji drew his Green Dragon Crescent Blade halfway.

Then he put it back slowly...

He just wanted to test the power of the Green Dragon Crescent Blade. Why was it so difficult?

"Zhou Shu, let's hurry over." Yin Wuyou wrinkled her nose.

Although the demonic beasts here weren't strong, there were too many of them. She was afraid that if she wasn't careful, Zhou Shu would be injured.

"There's no hurry." Zhou Shu smiled.

He raised his voice and said, "Is there anyone who needs help? We can help you kill a demonic beast for one hundred taels of gold."

"One thousand taels of gold for clearing the level is definitely a good deal. Don't wait any longer."

Zhou Shu's voice reverberated throughout the valley. Even the sounds of battle couldn't cover *it*.

The Great Qin general guarding the entrance of the valley revealed a somewhat stunned expression.

He was stunned for a while before spitting out a curse word.

The rules didn't prohibit nations from helping each other...

This was the first time Great Qin had set up a trial. There were too many loopholes in the rules, and the main reason was that these loopholes didn't affect their final objective.

"Help me! I have money!" a voice shouted.

Zhou Shu looked over and was immediately amused. Yo, an acquaintance.

Chapter 204 Green Dragon Crescent Blade Successfully completes a Kill (2)

The person who shouted was Great Liang's Han Dazhi.

The seemingly fierce but actually cowardly Great Liang general.

...

He was currently being chased by a demonic beast bear that was even taller than him. His teammates were also held back by other demonic beasts and couldn't help.

"An old acquaintance, it's our first deal, so I'll give you a 20% discount," Zhou Shu said with a smile.

“General Chen, do you want to make some money?” Zhou Shu looked at Chen Ji.

Chen Ji laughed. “I can’t wait!”

He was just worried about not having the chance to attack.

Carrying the Green Dragon Crescent Blade, Chen Ji charged toward Han Dazhi. Even though there were many demonic beasts here, Chen Ji wasn’t worried about Zhou Shu’s safety.

With the princess and Deputy Envoy Lu, there was no need to worry about the marquis’s safety.

“Green Dragon Crescent Blade!” Chen Ji roared.

The Green Dragon Crescent Blade emanated a brilliant glow. There seemed to be a shadow of a dragon swimming on the blade, and everyone seemed to have heard a dragon’s roar.

Swish!

The Green Dragon Crescent Blade descended from the sky. With just one slash, it split the demonic beast chasing Han Dazhi from head to toe.

Blood and organs splattered all over the ground.

The surrounding demonic beasts seemed to be shocked.

The area around Chen Ji and Han Dazhi suddenly turned into a no man’s land.

Chen Ji was also surprised.

Although he already knew the power of the Green Dragon Crescent Blade, he was still pleasantly surprised when it came to actual combat.

Is this still a yellow-grade weapon?

This is almost as powerful as a black-grade weapon.

Chen Ji was full of excitement.

“Zhou Shu, is this the Green Dragon Crescent Blade you forged? It’s so powerful.” Yin Wuyou’s voice sounded.

Shi Songtao and the others all looked at Zhou Shu. Marquis Zhou also forced this Green Dragon Crescent Blade?

Shi Songtao felt his mind go blank. This Green Dragon Crescent Blade was so powerful. It would probably enter the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual very soon.

He suddenly recalled something that Zhou Shu had once said. “I’m taking over the Yellow-grade Armament Manual...”

From the looks of it, it was impossible for him to take over the entire Yellow-grade Armament Manual. But it was very likely that he would take over the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

Fortunately, there was still the Great Destroyer Sword ranked second in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. Otherwise, the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual would become his domain.

Shi Songtao let out a sigh of relief. Although Zhou Shu was one of their own, he was also a Forging Master. Seeing the gap between the two grow bigger and bigger, how could Shi Songtao, who had always bragged about being a forging genius, feel good?

“Marquis, shall I try as well?” Yin Chengshan said.

Seeing Chen Ji show off his power, he couldn’t wait to take action as well.

The Flaming Sunset Saber had not killed an enemy before.

“There’s no hurry. You will have a chance.” Zhou Shu laughed. “We can’t kill these demonic beasts for nothing. If they don’t pay, why should we kill them?”

Meanwhile, Han Dazhi was pleasantly surprised. This thick-skinned demonic beast was killed in one strike?

The people of Great Xia are truly abnormal!

Also, this saber is really mighty. I want it.

Han Dazhi wiped the saliva from the corner of his mouth.

“I’ll pay! Escort the people from Great Liang and help us kill ten demonic beasts!” Han Dazhi said loudly.

Great Liang’s strength was the weakest among the challengers.

Even the demonic beasts were bullying them for being weak. There were more demonic beasts attacking them than the other teams.

Even though they would be able to make it through if they went all out, they would definitely suffer injuries.

This was greatly detrimental to the later stages.

Why would they risk their lives for something solvable with money?

Chen Ji glanced at Zhou Shu. When he saw Zhou Shu nod, he laughed heartily. “As you wish!

“Follow me!” Chen Ji’s Green Dragon Crescent Blade led the way as he led Han Dazhi’s group toward the exit of the valley.

(The Green Dragon Crescent Blade you forged effectively completed a kill. Reward...]

A barrage of messages flashed past Zhou Shu’s eyes, but he didn’t have the time to take a closer look.

Among the remaining nations, another one asked for help “Look, I told you they still had money on them, didn’t I? At the last checkpoint, they were all pretending to be poor.” Zhou Shu smiled. “General Yin, go and help.” “Understood!” Yin Chengshan said excitedly. He picked up the Flaming Sunset Saber and imitated Chen Ji. He bent his knees, leaped high into the air, and slashed in the direction of the person asking for help. Boom!

A figure was sent flying. The person being rescued was forced back a few steps by the shockwave and almost crashed into the arms of another demonic beast.

He cursed angrily. "Is this how you do things after receiving money?" Yin Chengshan somersaulted twice in the air and landed awkwardly.

He was the one who was sent flying...

His cultivation level was not as high as Chen Ji's, and the Flaming Sunset Saber in his hand was not as good as Chen Ji's Green Dragon Crescent Blade either. He had embarrassed himself.

"I won't take your money for nothing!"

Yin Chengshan flew into a rage out of humiliation. He raised the Flaming Sunset Saber and charged over again.

Zhou Shu couldn't help but laugh. The demonic beasts here ranged from the fourth to the eighth rank.

Yin Chengshan was only a sixth-rank martial artist. Even if he held a sharp weapon, he couldn't kill the demonic beasts as he wished.

"Little Deputy Envoy Lu, do you want to practice?" Zhou Shu looked at Lu Wenshuang

He was also led astray by Yin Wuyou. "Mm?" Killing intent radiated from Lu Wenshuang's eyes as she stared at Zhou Shu. Say that again?

Zhou Shu glanced at her chest and said awkwardly, "Deputy Envoy Lu, Deputy Envoy Lu."

"I'm not interested!" Lu Wenshuang said coldly. She held her sword and stood still, not showing any intention of attacking.

Zhou Shu felt a little awkward. It was not easy to lead a team. Even if he got money, he wouldn't do it again.

"Grand Minister?" He could only look at Yin Wuyou.

Letting Yin Wuyou deal with these demonic beasts that were not even at the third rank was truly overkill.

But there was nothing he could do. If Yin Wuyou didn't make a move, would he have to take action personally?

It wasn't a big problem for him to make a move. Right now, his cultivation was at the sixth rank of the Martial Dao, just like Yin Chengshan's.

No one would suspect anything if he killed a few sixth-rank demonic beasts.

After all, he still had the Great Destroyer Sword ranked second in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

"Okay, I'll do it." Yin Wuyou didn't refuse, but she didn't move.

She reached out and drew her sword, but there was nothing in her hand.

Swish!

A streak of sword qi crossed a distance of several meters, and a hole appeared in the chest of the demonic beast in front of Yin Chengshan.

At this moment, Yin Chengshan's Flaming Sunset Saber had just landed.

Swish

Yin Chengshan chopped off the demonic beast's head with a single slash.

Unfortunately, before his blade landed, the monster was already dead.

Yin Chengshan awkwardly turned around and grinned at Zhou Shu.

(The Shadow Sword you forged effectively completed a kill. The Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique has advanced (10 days added to the dream entry time))!

A message flashed past Zhou Shu's eyes. "Take a third of this money," Zhou Shu shouted at Yin Chengshan.

Although it was Yin Wuyou who killed the demonic beast in the end, Yin Chengshan had also fought for half a day. He couldn't fight for nothing.

Yin Wuyou didn't have any objections. She didn't lack this bit of money to begin with, and she only acted to cooperate with Zhou Shu.

Seeing that the other challengers had no intention of asking for help, Zhou Shu shook his head regretfully. "These people don't know how to live. Why would they risk their lives for something solvable with money?"

"Grand Minister, please help General Yin complete the mission. Deputy Envoy Lu, we will have to trouble you with our ten demonic beasts.

"I'm going to help General Chen." Zhou Shu's hands felt a little itchy. On Chen Ji's side, he had encountered quite a bit of resistance when he was escorting the challengers out of the valley alone.

After all, he couldn't keep killing enemies with one slash. He didn't have the cultivation level that Yin Wuyou had to sweep through the valley.

Lu Wenshuang didn't refuse this time and nodded.

She unsheathed her sword. After a flash of sword light, she had already killed ten demonic beasts. Everyone was dumbfounded.

Oh my god, why didn't we bring a grandmaster with us? The rest of the challengers cursed in their hearts. Great Xia is simply cheating!

"Old Shi, collect the useful materials and pass the checkpoint!"

Zhou Shu gave the order and drew his Great Destroyer Sword before charging toward Chen

Chapter 205 I Can't Afford To Mess with You, Zhou Shu Fixes A Star (1)

Boom!

The Great Destroyer Sword transformed into a shadow that was hard to see with the naked eye and heavily struck the chest of a demonic beast.

...

The demonic beast let out a blood-curdling scream as it was sent flying dozens of feet away and crashed to the ground, dead.

Lu Wenshuang looked at Zhou Shu in surprise, her brow slightly furrowed.

She knew that Zhou Shu's Martial Dao cultivation had broken through to the sixth rank. At the time, she had personally witnessed Zhou Shu's breakthrough. It was one thing for his spiritual essence cultivation to improve at lightning speed, but his Sword Dao cultivation also improved at lightning speed!

Lu Wenshuang watched Zhou Shu kill demonic beasts. Every move he made was simple and concise to the extreme. All of his attacks were perfectly executed without wasting any of his energy. Even if she made a move, she wouldn't be able to do what Zhou Shu was doing at his cultivation level.

Clang!

Zhou Shu sheathed his sword. He looked at the few demonic beasts he had killed and nodded in satisfaction.

He had spent almost 90% of his entire year fighting with demonic beasts when he became Wang Xin in his dream, and he had brought this battle experience back to reality.

When he was killing the demonic beasts earlier, he felt that he could handle them with ease.

They were both sixth-rank martial artists. But if Yin Chengshan fought a sixth-rank demonic beast, he would have to fight for half a day and might not be able to kill it.

But Zhou Shu only used three strikes to kill a sixth-rank demonic beast.

First, it was because his Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique had already reached perfection. Second, he was extremely familiar with demonic beasts because of his battle experience from that year.

This was like dissecting a cow with a butcher's cleaver[1]. The weaknesses of these demonic beasts were extremely clear in his eyes.

Yin Wuyou's figure was ethereal as she lightly landed beside Zhou Shu.

Yin Chengshan also ran over with large strides.

At this moment, all the challengers in the valley had already come over. There were only a few sparse demonic beasts left.

Large groups of Great Qin soldiers poured into the valley and very quickly killed the remaining demonic beasts.

The valley was full of the stench of blood.

Apart from Zhou Shu's team, most of the other challengers had injuries. But fortunately, no one died.

Only a few of them were heavily injured and looked like they would have to withdraw.

Everyone in Great Liang heaved a sigh of relief.

Luckily, they spent money...

They were the weakest among the nine nations. If not for Han Dazhi spending money decisively just now, they would have most likely been seriously injured.

Unlike now, where only a few people suffered minor injuries in the beginning.

Afterward, they didn't take any action at all. Right now, they were in the state of recharging their energy. They were in a much better state than the other nations' challengers.

The money was well spent!

Han Dazhi walked over to Zhou Shu and handed him a stack of banknotes with a smile.

"Marquis Zhou, please take care of me," he said with an earnest smile. "Sure." Zhou Shu took the banknotes and threw them to Chen Ji without even looking at them. "Great Xia and Great Liang have diplomatic relations. I'll give you a discount later."

"Thank you, Marquis." Han Dazhi laughed very happily.

The rest of the challengers looked at him with disdain.

This Great Liang guy is too shameless!

For a moment, some people cursed, while others regretted it.

If they had known earlier, they would have spent some money to ask Great Xia to help. In that case, they could have saved some spiritual essence.

In this great battle, their spiritual essence was nearly depleted. If they had to do a similar mission, it would be troublesome.

"The third checkpoint is over. Everyone may proceed to the fourth checkpoint!" the Great Qin general shouted.

This time, no one rushed forward like last time.

Last time, they ran so quickly because they were worried that Zhou Shu would rob them again.

In the end, they ran into a bunch of demonic beasts.

If they had arrived a little later, Great Xia would have killed most of the demonic beasts...

This time, they decided that they would definitely not enter the fourth checkpoint before Great Xia! Seeing all the challengers taking their time, Zhou Shu said indifferently, "Old Shi, have you cleared all the forging materials?"

"Yes," Shi Songtao muttered.



“Then stop dawdling. Let’s go.” Then Zou Shu used the Riding on Cloud and Wind Technique and headed forward.

Shi Songtao: “...”

You weren’t anxious before. But this time, you’re anxious?

It’s one thing to be anxious. But how about you help out with the forging materials?

As soon as Zhou Shu left, Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang had already followed him. Chen Ji and Yin Chengshan helped take a portion of the forging materials.

The remaining people were naturally Shi Songtao and the few other Forging Masters. Fortunately, although they were Forging Masters, they were still martial artists. Their combat abilities might not be good, but carrying a huge bag was not a problem...

The group from Great Xia quickly disappeared on the main road. The martial artists from the various nations looked at each other. They suddenly had a bad feeling in their hearts.

Was there something special up ahead?

This Zhou fellow was a little strange. No, they had to keep up!

“Marquis Zhou, wait for me. We’re allies.” Han Dazhi yelled as he led Great Liang’s challengers to chase in the direction Zhou Shu’s group disappeared.

No one noticed that after they left, the blood on the ground gradually seeped into the ground and disappeared.

By the time they reached the fourth checkpoint, the sky had already turned completely dark.

The venue set up by Great Qin was in the wilderness, so it was impossible to find an inn to stay in.

(1) Meaning one is extremely skilled

Chapter 206 I Can’t Afford To Mess with You, Zhou Shu Fixes A Star (2)

Fortunately, Great Qin had set up many tents at the fourth checkpoint.

When everyone arrived at the location, they saw that Great Xia had already occupied the few tents in the best positions, and each of them had one tent...

...

There were a total of 81 challengers from the nine nations, and Great Qin had only set up around 30 tents.

Now, Great Xia had occupied nine of them. In other words, dozens of people could only share the remaining tents.

“If you don’t want to be beaten up, then don’t disturb my sleep.”

Before they could raise any objections, Zhou Shu’s voice came from one of the tents.

Everyone: "..."

A fist was the absolute logic.

Their cultivation level was inferior to Zhou Shu's. Could they reason with him?

They would probably just get beaten up!

"I don't care about the rest of you. These three tents belong to Great Wei!" Shen Yue pointed at three tents.

There were nine people from Great Wei, and they only wanted three tents, which was reasonable.

"Why do you want three?" someone said loudly. "Do you think you can take a beating?"

"What do you mean?" Shen Yue's face darkened. That Zhou fellow occupied nine tents. I only want three. How dare you have any objections?

"What do you mean? If you want a tent, ask my fist first!" A fist the size of a clay pot appeared before Shen Yue's vision.

"Brothers, attack! Whoever wins will sleep in a tent!"

A group of elites from various nations was now like a group of commoners as they fought over tents.

Fortunately, they still had their rationality. Basically, they fought with their fists and legs, and no one used their weapons.

Bang! Bang!

The sound of fists hitting flesh echoed continuously. Everyone seemed to be venting their anger.

The unlucky Shen Yue became the target of public criticism.

Although his cultivation level wasn't bad, he would be kicked and punched occasionally during chaotic battles. The damage was not great, but the humiliation was extremely high.

He was full of grief and indignation. That Zhou fellow occupied nine tents. Instead of beating him up, you attack me when I only want three.

I have to squeeze into a small tent with three people. You guys are too much of a bully!

The banging sounds outside the tent continued incessantly. When they fell into Zhou Shu's ears, it was like a lullaby, and he quickly entered his dreams.

After a tiring day, he would get a good night's sleep and continue helping others tomorrow.

The next morning, Zhou Shu stretched and walked out of his tent.

He saw many people sleeping outside the tent.

Most of them were bruised and battered.

More than twenty tents were not enough for all of them. In the chaotic battle last night, only a small number of people had managed to get their hands on the tents. Most of them could only use the sky as their shelter.

Great Qin could still be considered decent. They even prepared breakfast for the challengers from various nations.

Looking at the other challengers' dispirited looks, Shi Songtao raised his head and puffed out his chest as he walked past them.

He had slept comfortably last night, and all his fatigue from the day had been swept away. He was feeling refreshed now.

The marquis is wise. He snatched the tents ahead of time. Otherwise, we wouldn't have been able to rest well and would have had to squeeze with others or even sleep in the wilderness!

Shen Yue glared at Shi Songtao with his panda eyes. Forget it if Zhou Shu is acting all arrogant, but you're on the same level as me. What's there to be arrogant about?

Shi Songtao ignored him and walked away. His arrogant look almost made Shen Yue faint from anger.

The Great Qin general appeared before everyone and said, "After a good night's rest and a good meal, everyone can enter the next checkpoint."

A good night's rest and a good meal?

Everyone looked at the challengers from Great Xia. They were probably the only ones who had eaten and slept well.

Yesterday, everyone had identified forging materials, forged the standard weapons, and even fought a huge battle with demonic beasts.

Their mental strength and physical strength were greatly exhausted.

At the fourth checkpoint, in order to snatch tents, they had fought another battle. Under such circumstances, how many people could sleep well?

As if the Great Qin general didn't know what had happened last night, he said, "There are nine incomplete ranked weapons here. As long as the stars are fixed, they will become ranked weapons.

"This trial is to design star paths for these nine weapons and determine the positions of the stars. As you all are experts in this aspect, there is no need for me to explain further.

"There is no need for you to truly fix the stars for this stage. As long as the design results are correct, you will be able to pass. Otherwise, you will fail.

"Everyone can choose a weapon and begin."

The Great Qin general waved his hand.

After he finished speaking, no one moved. The gazes of all the challengers automatically fell on Zhou Shu.

Unknowingly, if there was something good, letting Great Xia choose first seemed to have become their unspoken rule...

Zhou Shu gave everyone an appreciative look. Sensible!

All the challengers were a little confused. Damn it! Why do we feel so flattered?

Zhou Shu is just a Forging Master like us. His cultivation level is even lower than ours. He's just a little more good-looking!

If not for the two terrifyingly strong women beside him, what is there to be proud of?

Pfft, pretty boy! Freeloader! Shameless!

The challengers looked down on him in their hearts, but at the same time, they were secretly envious.

Under everyone's gaze, Zhou Shu walked forward, picked up the nine incomplete ranked weapons, and began to play with them one by one.

He played with the weapons slowly while occasionally making a tsk sound.

Some of the challengers from other countries were impatient and wanted to go up and snatch a weapon. But when two cold and murderous gazes landed on them, they immediately stood back.

They couldn't defeat them and couldn't afford to offend them either!

Under the pressure of Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang, Zhou Shu spent a full two hours before choosing a weapon.

As soon as he stepped down from the stage, the rest of the challengers from the other nations rushed forward. There was another battle, and finally, each nation snatched a weapon.

"Let us begin, Marquis." Shi Songtao and the other Forging Masters rolled up their sleeves, looking extremely motivated.

They were already prepared to show off.

"What are you doing?" Zhou Shu saw Shi Songtao and the others take out a toolbox from somewhere and place all kinds of tools in front of them. At first glance, it looked like a physics and chemistry laboratory he had seen in his previous life. "Designing star paths," Shi Songtao said matter-of-factly. "We have to first determine the composition of this weapon. We also have to determine the patterns formed within the weapon during the forging process. Then according to its material and internal structure, we can design the star paths of this weapon..."

Shi Songtao spoke non-stop, spewing out professional terms.

If one wasn't a Forging Master, they wouldn't understand what was going on.

Setting the star paths for weapons was the most important ability of Forging Masters. Forging Masters of different schools of thought had different methods.

Zhou Shu shook his head. "There's no need to go through so much trouble. I'll personally handle this checkpoint."

He knew Shi Songtao's star positioning technique. Shi Songtao was good at determining the star paths of weapons through various calculations.

The calculation process was extremely complicated. Even if he was given half a day, he might not be able to calculate the result.

The other Forging Masters in the Great Xia team were not as good as Shi Songtao. It would probably take longer for them.

Zhou Shu didn't have the patience to wait for a day or two.

After these four checkpoints, he had already roughly grasped the direction Great Qin was heading

According to the current situation, it was practically impossible to predict the condition of Great Qin's imperial cauldron from the nine checkpoints.

There were experts in Great Qin's path of forging.

Since that was the case, there was no point in wasting too much time on these mere qualifiers.

"Serve me a brush and ink," Zhou Shu said.

Although Shi Songtao was somewhat unconvinced, he also wanted to see Zhou Shu's star positioning technique.

He placed the brush and ink in front of Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu raised his brush and drew a weapon on the paper. This weapon was the weapon he had chosen earlier.

After drawing the weapon, Zhou Shu drew a few more strokes and tapped a few ink dots on the weapon.

"The first star is at the bottom of the sword, an inch from the sword tip. The second star is..." Zhou Shu quickly wrote a note on the paper. Shi Songtao and the other Forging Masters stared with their eyes wide open. They hadn't seen how Zhou Shu had determined the star positions at all. Is he writing nonsense?

Chapter 207 Qin Emperor: I Am Invincible (1)

Shi Songtao was an expert. Before Zhou Shu, he was Great Xia's most famous forging genius. His skills in forging didn't come from boasting.

But the more experienced he was, the more he felt that Zhou Shu's actions were an eyesore. Indeed, Zhou Shu had observed this weapon for a long time.

...

But he only looked at it with his eyes. He didn't analyze the materials used to make this weapon, nor did he know the forging process used to make it.

If he didn't know any of this, how could he deduce the internal structure of the weapon? If he didn't know the internal structure of the weapon, how could he design the star path for it?

It had to be known that the so-called star paths were the meridians of a weapon. It had to adhere to the bones and flesh of the weapon in order to create a ranked weapon. Otherwise, it would be impossible to fix the star.

In Shi Songtao's opinion, Zhou Shu was simply messing around when he started drawing the star positions without knowing anything!

If not for the fact that Zhou Shu's power was growing by the day, Shi Songtao would have probably pointed at Zhou Shu's nose and scolded him for messing around. Even though Shi Songtao didn't dare to say much, he was still a little anxious.

Seeing that Zhou Shu was not using the incomplete weapon, Shi Songtao quietly held it in his hand and shot a glance at the other Forging Masters.

The few Forging Masters understood and moved closer. They began to analyze the weapon together.

To them, it was impossible for Zhou Shu to succeed.

In that case, it was up to them to pass this checkpoint.

Zhou Shu acted as if he didn't notice their small movements and drew furiously.

A moment later, he threw the brush in his hand.

"Done!"

At this moment, if I had a wine gourd in my hand and drank a mouthful of wine, I would look like a poet immortal, Zhou Shu thought nonsensically.

"So fast? Amazing!" Yin Wuyou clapped and praised.

Although she was the grand minister of the Forging Division, she didn't know much about forging. She didn't feel that there was anything wrong with Zhou Shu being too fast.

Zhou Shu smiled at Yin Wuyou and then took the piece of paper to the general in charge of guarding this checkpoint. "General, where is the judge for the fourth checkpoint?"

The general was also surprised. How long has it been? Is he messing with me?

The general frowned. In the end, Zhou Shu drew a diagram that was full of words.

"Wait." He turned around and walked toward a tent not far away. He lifted the curtain and walked in.

The moment the guard entered the tent, Zhou Shu saw an old man with a head full of white hair sitting on the table, studying something.

After a short while, the general walked out of the tent with a surprised expression and then came to Zhou Shu.

"Great Xia, pass!" He raised his voice.

All the Forging Masters engrossed in studying the incomplete weapons raised their heads in unison.

Disbelief appeared on their faces as they stared at Zhou Shu.

It was the same for Shi Songtao and the other Great Xia Forging Masters.

Pass?

The marquis wasn't writing rubbish?

Did he really design a star path for this weapon?

Shi Songtao scratched his head with all his might. He didn't even notice that his hair was in a mess.

How was this possible?

How was it possible for him to design a star path for the weapon after only coming in contact with it an hour?

He didn't analyze the composition of the weapon, nor did he use any secret techniques. How did he do it?

Is the gap between him and me really that big?

Shi Songtao's thoughts were the thoughts of almost all the Forging Masters present. Zhou Shu's name reverberated like thunder in their ears.

In the previous few incidents, they had a deep impression of Zhou Shu. Such a shameless person was truly rare.

Now, they were truly shocked.

The more knowledgeable one was, the more they knew how difficult it was for Zhou Shu to pass the checkpoint so quickly!

As expected of Great Xia's number one forging genius!

As expected of a man who had almost taken over the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual!

"Let's go to the next checkpoint," Zhou Shu said calmly as he walked forward.

Shi Songtao and the others hesitated for a moment before sighing. They put down the weapon and followed him dejectedly.

They felt that they were really worthless. They couldn't fight, and it seemed they couldn't forge either.

On the way, Shi Songtao hesitated for a long time before finally asking, "How did you do it, Marquis?"

"You want to know?" Zhou Shu smiled faintly.

"I want to know!" Shi Songtao gritted his teeth.

"If you want to know? Join the Huaxia Pavilion, and I'll tell you," Zhou Shu said.

Shi Songtao was slightly stunned. He actually felt a little flattered. Is the marquis trying to poach me?

"But I'm—" Shi Songtao said hesitantly.

“Great Xia Forging Division’s grand minister is right here. The Forging Division doesn’t say that people can’t job-hop to another workshop, right?” Zhou Shu said casually. “No,” Yin Wuyou said firmly.

“Let me think about it, Marquis.” Shi Songtao was extremely conflicted.

Zhou Shu smiled and didn’t speak anymore.

He knew Shi Songtao too well.

Shi Songtao might be a little lecherous and afraid of death, but his love for forging was genuine.

In the year that he became Shi Songtao in his dream, the thing that Shi Songtao had done the most was study forging techniques every day, rain or shine. He also played with his concubines on the bed every day, rain or shine...

In addition, during this diplomatic mission, Zhou Shu also discovered that Shi Songtao was quite a talented manager.

## Chapter 208 Qin Emperor: I Am Invincible (2)

If he joined the Huaxia Pavilion, he would be able to forge and do miscellaneous chores. He would be good as a head steward!

“Marquis, I’m willing to join the Huaxia Pavilion. Can you impart your star fixing technique to me?” another Forging Master in the team suddenly said.

...

“You?” Zhou Shu glanced at this person. “When the Huaxia Pavilion officially opens, you can register. If you can pass, you can join.”

This person: “...” Why is the treatment different?

Why doesn’t Shi Songtao have to apply?

He glanced at Shi Songtao.

Shi Songtao noticed his gaze and puffed out his chest proudly.

Are you kidding me? Are you comparing yourself with me?

No matter what, I, Shi Songtao, am the previous Great Xia’s number one forging genius. Although you have some skill, you’re still far off compared to me!

Shi Songtao flicked his hair and walked proudly into the group.

As Zhou Shu deliberately sped up, everyone quickly reached the next checkpoint.

At this time, the challengers from the other nations were still racking their brains for the fourth checkpoint.

The fifth checkpoint was to repair damaged weapons.



This checkpoint allowed Zhou Shu to faintly sense something. But after carefully studying the nine damaged weapons provided by Great Qin, he still couldn't figure out what they had to do with Great Qin's imperial cauldron. It wasn't too difficult to repair the nine damaged weapons. As long as one had some skill, they would be able to do it.

If it was only at this level, then Great Qin's imperial cauldron would have long been repaired by Great Qin's forgers.

But even Wang Xin didn't know the exact situation. With the information Zhou Shu currently possessed, he was unable to deduce the final situation.

Zhou Shu didn't continue to take part in the fifth checkpoint. Instead, he handed it over to Shi Songtao and the other Forging Masters.

As long as it didn't involve star positioning, Shi Songtao and the others were still very fast.

**we**

After they successfully passed the fifth checkpoint, the other challengers were still nowhere to be seen.

Zhou Shu didn't wait for them.

He knew that there was no chance for him to gain anything from the other challengers for the checkpoints ahead.

The sixth checkpoint was also to repair weapons. But it had gone from standard weapons to ranked weapons. For standard weapons, as long as the weapon body was repaired, it was fine.

Ranked weapons involved the repair of the star paths.

It was just like people. External injuries were easy to treat, but once their meridians were damaged, the difficulty of treating them was on a completely different level.

Meng Bai was a second-rank expert, yet he became old and weak. Wasn't it precisely because his meridians were damaged that his cultivation completely disappeared?

The star paths of ranked weapons were similar to the meridians of the human body. Furthermore, they were even more complicated. After all, although the human body was different, it was made up of muscles and bones.

But the forging materials of weapons were different. Different forging materials resulted in different structures. Each of them was unique. Naturally, the 'meridians' would not be identical.

Theoretically speaking, the cost of repairing a defective ranked weapon was greater than forging a new one.

But this was a challenge, so there was naturally no need to consider the cost.

In any case, Great Qin handled all the costs. At the sixth checkpoint, it became apparent how capable everyone was. Great Xia's Forging Masters had all been carefully selected. Among Great Xia's Forging Masters, they were the more skilled ones.

But compared to former Great Xia's former number one Forging Master, Shi Songtao, the difference was obvious.

When the other Forging Masters were at a loss as to what to do, Shi Songtao had already found a direction and began to attempt to repair it.

Seeing that Shi Songtao was able to resolve the issue, Zhou Shu was happy not to have to do anything.

After a bit of effort, with Zhou Shu's help, Shi Songtao successfully solved the problem at the sixth checkpoint. Everyone continued forward with momentum.

Just as the people of Great Xia were clearing the checkpoints, the relevant information had already been sent to the Qin emperor in the Great Qin imperial palace.

In the imperial study, the Qin emperor sat behind a desk.

He still looked pale, but he was no longer as pale as before.

In front of him stood a court official surnamed Xu.

"Great Xia's forging techniques were once glorious for an era. A starving camel is still bigger than a horse. Their young generation of Forging Masters is really quite skilled."

The Qin emperor asked, "Xu Qing, have you gotten any inspiration from these people?"

Although the performance of the people from Great Xia was a little stunning, the Qin emperor wasn't surprised.

After all, the Qin emperor was very clear about the design of the nine checkpoints. There were some difficulties, but the difficulty was not high.

After all, it was only the qualifiers. If the difficulty was too great, it would easily arouse suspicion.

The middle-aged man surnamed Xu shook his head slightly and sighed. "I took it for granted previously."

"It's not your fault." The Qin emperor shook his head. "If it was so easy to repair the imperial cauldron, I wouldn't have to spend so much effort."

"Your Majesty, the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament is imminent. If the imperial cauldron can't be repaired, then..." the middle-aged man surnamed Xu said worriedly.

"It's fine." The Qin emperor waved his hand and said in a deep voice, "Even without the imperial cauldron, I am still invincible!"

"Your Majesty is mighty." The middle-aged man surnamed Xu bowed.

"Your Majesty, the imperial cauldron has been damaged. What if it won't last until the Martial Arts Tournament..." The middle-aged man surnamed Xu still looked worried.

"Don't worry," the Qin emperor said in a low voice. "It won't be a big problem for the imperial cauldron to last through the Martial Arts Tournament."

“Since it’s impossible to repair the imperial cauldron, there’s no need to waste your energy on it.” “Xu Qing, think of a way to let the Martial Arts Tournament be held in Great Xia.”

“Your Majesty, why is that?” the middle-aged man asked. “You don’t need to know why. Just do as you’re told,” the Qin emperor said.

Compared to Emperor Yuan Feng’s gentleness, the Qin emperor was simply overbearing! “Actually, there’s no need for me to do anything,” the middle-aged man surnamed Xu replied. “That You Marquis of Great Xia is so skilled that even I can’t tell how skilled he is. The other nations won’t be able to defeat him.” Although the Qin emperor was worried about the imperial cauldron, he still asked curiously, “Is he really that strong?”

“Half of the top ten weapons in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual were forged by him,” the middle-aged man surnamed Xu said. “When he creates black, earth, and even heaven-grade weapons, there will probably be another battle in the armament manuals.

“At least, in my opinion, no one among the younger generation of Forging Masters can compare to him.”

“I rarely hear you praise someone so much.” The Qin emperor laughed. “Could it be that you want to take him in as a disciple?”

“Your Majesty, you must be joking. He’s not from Great Qin.” The middle-aged man shook his head.

“So what? So long as he’s willing to join Great Qin, it won’t be a problem to offer him a high position or a generous salary,” the Qin emperor said with an imposing manner.

“Yuan Feng is just a petty person for fooling him with just the title of a marquis.

“Xu Qing, if he can help Great Xia win the rights to hold this Martial Arts Tournament, tell him that if he joins Great Qin, I will betroth my daughter to him and let him live a life of luxury!”

“Your Majesty is wise!” The Qin emperor laughed out loud before coughing uncontrollably.

On the other side...

Under Zhou Shu’s lead, Great Xia charged through the checkpoints like a hot knife through butter. Zhou Shu also faintly noticed the change in Great Qin’s attitude. The difficulty of this checkpoint seemed to have changed.

It became easier and somewhat... perfunctory?

When he entered the Wang Xin dream, although he didn’t understand the exact situation, he could vaguely guess that at the ninth checkpoint, Great Qin would eliminate at least half of the nations.

But after they passed the ninth checkpoint, Zhou Shu felt that even the weakest Great Liang would be able to pass.

Could Great Qin have already repaired the imperial cauldron? So, there’s no need to seek anything from the various Forging Masters?

Zhou Shu had some doubts in his heart. But the matter of the imperial cauldron was too confidential, and the information he could obtain was too little. Even Wang Xin could only come into contact with superficial things.

Who cares? I'm not here for the imperial cauldron anyway. I'm here to recruit workers.

With the benefits from the Green Dragon Crescent Blade and the Flaming Sunset Saber, Zhou Shu should be able to return from this trip with a full load.

Chapter 209 Iron Smelting Hands, Edgeless Mo Mei Sword

(The Flaming Sunset Saber you forged effectively completed a kill. You are rewarded with the Iron Smelting Hands Technique!)

Zhou Shu recalled the message that flashed before his eyes that day during the process of slaying demonic beasts.

...

At the time, there were too many people, and Zhou Shu didn't have time to carefully examine his harvest.

Over the next few days, he had continued on his journey. Furthermore, Lu Wenshuang and Yin Wuyou were almost always by his side, so he didn't have time to check his gains.

Ever since Yin Wuyou joined the diplomatic mission and saw that Lu Wenshuang never left his side, she followed suit.

At night, Lu Wenshuang would meditate beside Zhou Shu's bed while Yin Wuyou moved her bed to Zhou Shu's room.

Anyway, no one in the diplomatic mission of Great Xia dared to say anything about her.

After they arrived at Great Qin's capital, although the two of them insisted on being Zhou Shu's guards, Zhou Shu finally had some personal space.

The room Great Qin had prepared for them was a suite. Zhou Shu let the two of them stay in the outer room. He used the excuse that he wanted to comprehend forging techniques to enter his own room.

Iron Smelting Hands! A thought flashed through Zhou Shu's mind, and pieces of information appeared in his mind.

Fire could generate energy; Qi could generate strength; strength and energy coexist; melt metal and liquefy gold!

As his true qi circulated, Zhou Shu's hands suddenly burst into flames. Soon after, his hands turned fiery red, as if they were red-hot steel.

The temperature in the room rose several degrees.

Zhou Shu raised his hand and pressed them on the table.

Crackle! Crackle!

There was the sound of a fire burning, and the wooden table turned to charcoal. Zhou Shu's eyes flashed with amazement. This Iron Smelting Hands Technique is truly formidable!

Let me try again!

He raised his hand and slapped the floor.

Earth-shattering thunder!

In an instant, the floor was burnt to a crisp.

Puu

Zhou Shu's hands shook, and the flames disappeared. His hands returned to normal.

Cultivating the Iron Smelting Hands Technique was extremely difficult and painful.

If Zhou Shu cultivated the Iron Smelting Hands Technique on his own, he reckoned that he wouldn't be able to withstand the pain of being burned by the flames.

But with the benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon, he directly possessed the cultivation of the Iron Smelting Hands Technique and passed the most painful cultivation stage.

With this Iron Smelting Hands Technique, it will be much easier for me to forge weapons in the future, Zhou Shu thought.

His hands separated and once again turned scarlet red.

He casually picked up the Great Destroyer Sword and swiped his palm across the blade.

The Great Destroyer Sword's blade instantly turned fiery red.

Impressive!

His Iron Smelting Hands Technique was still at basic mastery, but a casual strike could almost destroy a yellow-grade weapon. If he cultivated it to perfection, he could melt metal, liquefy gold with a single palm, and even smelt them into weapons. Its power was simply unimaginable.

When my Iron Smelting Hands Technique reaches perfection, I won't even need a furnace. My hands will be the best furnace!

According to the information about the Iron Smelting Hands Technique, Zhou Shu was almost certain that the temperature of his palms wouldn't be below that of the True Fire used by Forging Masters when he cultivated the Iron Smelting Hands Technique to perfection.

In other words, as long as his true qi could withstand it, he could directly forge weapons with his hands!

I can save money with this...

I won't have to waste money on forging furnaces and True Fire seeds anymore...

Later, I still have to urge Yin Chengshan to kill more enemies. This Iron Smelting Hands Technique is absolutely useful to me.

Currently, Zhou Shu's cultivation of the Iron Smelting Hands Technique was still insufficient to forge weapons. He could only use it as support. The greatest benefit of this Iron Smelting Hands is that it will be easier to fix stars in the future.

Zhou Shu loved his Iron Smelting Hands Technique.

Normally, when Forging Masters fixed stars, they would melt the Heaven Refining Stone in the forging furnace. Then they would use their spiritual essence to absorb the Heaven Refining Stone's solution through the air and place it on the weapon. Although it was possible for ranked martial artists to control objects remotely, if their cultivation wasn't high enough, the accuracy of controlling objects remotely was actually not

high.

With the Iron Smelting Hands Technique, Zhou Shu could directly melt Heaven Refining Stones in his hand and then use his hands to fix the solution against weapons.

This accuracy and control were much better than controlling objects through space.

I can't use my Iron Smelting Hands Technique to forge directly yet, but I should be able to pinpoint the location of stars.

Before we set off, I've already prepared a few weapons that I haven't fixed stars on. I can give it a try.

I haven't even given Yang Hong the ranked weapon I promised him.

Zhou Shu couldn't help laughing when he thought of Yang Hong's resentful gaze every time he saw him.

Back then, he had indeed told Yang Hong that as long as he joined the diplomatic mission, he would equip him with a ranked weapon.

In that case, let me test the power of the Iron Smelting Hands Technique and complete the ranked weapon prepared for Yang Hong!

Zhou Shu got up and took out a wooden box.

He had brought this wooden box from Chang'an and kept it with the diplomatic mission.

After the trials ended, he met up with Great Xia's diplomatic mission in the capital and naturally took back the wooden box.

He took out an incomplete ranked weapon and a small piece of Heaven Refining Stone from the wooden box.

His eyes were bright as flames rose from his hands. One of his hands was entirely red, as if it was burning.

The weapon gradually turned red in his hands. As for the small piece of Heaven Refining Stone, it gradually turned liquid.

Zhou Shu's consciousness was like water as it covered the weapon.

At the same time, he used his finger as a brush, and the Heaven Refining Stone solution followed his fingertip and landed on the sword.

Chapter 210 Iron Smelting Hands, Edgeless Mo Mei Sword (2)

Boom!

Streams of aura continuously rippled on the sword.

...

Outside, Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang stood up at the same time and looked inside.

“What’s happening?” The two of them looked at each other but didn’t rush in.

They didn’t sense any danger. Furthermore, Zhou Shu had said that he wanted to study forging techniques, so they shouldn’t disturb him.

“Little Senior Sister Lu, do you think he’s forging?” Yin Wuyou asked doubtfully. She could feel waves of heat coming from inside.

But Zhou Shu didn’t bring a furnace.

Lu Wenshuang rolled her eyes and harrumphed.

“Call me Senior Sister Lu!” she corrected patiently. “How would I know? Don’t you know him better?”

Yin Wuyou blushed slightly. “No, I’m just his superior.”

Lu Wenshuang pursed her lips. Anyone can tell what you’re thinking.

“My mission is only to ensure he doesn’t die. What he does has nothing to do with me,” Lu Wenshuang said. I am only interested in swords. Men?

Men will only affect the speed at which I draw my sword!

She glanced at Yin Wuyou with contempt. Your aptitude clearly isn’t inferior to mine. Instead of putting your heart and soul into cultivating your Sword Dao, you revolve around a man all day. What future prospects do you have!? Thinking of this, Lu Wenshuang suddenly felt an ache in her heart.

This infatuated junior sister seems to have broken through to the second rank of the Martial Dao before me!

Lu Wenshuang frowned slightly. Could it be that men have such uses?

She frowned and looked in the direction of the inner room. An indescribable expression flashed across her eyes.

Zhou Shu stayed in his room for several days.

If not for the fact that they could still sense Zhou Shu’s aura, Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang would have already charged in.

During this period of time, the challengers from the other nations had already arrived at Great Qin's capital.

Just like what Zhou Shu had felt before, the nine nations, in addition to Great Qin-which wasn't allowed to host the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament in succession according to the rules-gathered in Great Qin's capital.

They would compete for the right to host this year's Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament.

Now that everyone had arrived, and Great Qin had prepared the final venue, they informed the diplomatic missions of the various nations to prepare for the final competition. Just as Yin Wuyou and the others were hesitating about whether or not to interrupt Zhou Shu, the heat waves in Zhou Shu's room suddenly subsided, and he rushed out excitedly.

"Huh? Why is everyone here?" Zhou Shu said as soon as he left the room.

"Wait." Without waiting for everyone to speak, he said directly, "Have you seen Yang Hong? Where is he?"

"Yang Hong?" Everyone was slightly stunned.

"Who is Yang Hong?" Shi Songtao asked.

Zhou Shu glanced at him. "You're not capable enough to be the head steward. You don't even know the people in our diplomatic mission?"

Then he walked away.

Shi Songtao was a little confused. When did I become the head steward?

I am the deputy envoy of Great Xia's diplomatic mission!

Yang Hong, which one is Yang Hong?

I really don't know!

"Yang Hong is a divine constable of the Divine Constable Bureau. He is among the guards of the diplomatic mission." With that, Yin Wuyou chased after Zhou Shu. Shi Songtao was going crazy. Chen Ji is in charge of the guards, not me! Why are you looking down on me!?

Zhou Shu's gaze agitated him.

I am not capable enough? This is intolerable!

Just you wait! I will get to know everyone in the diplomatic mission later!

I, Shi Songtao, can remember tens of thousands of forging materials. How can I not remember these mere two thousand people? Shi Songtao didn't realize that he seemed to have become a head steward.

Because of what Zhou Shu said, he made up his mind to get to know everyone in the diplomatic mission. The key was that he didn't feel that there was anything wrong with this matter!



When Zhou Shu found Yang Hong, Yang Hong had just gotten off duty. "Greetings, Marquis, Your Highness, and Deputy Envoy Lu." Yang Hong bowed while secretly giving Zhou Shu a thumbs up. As expected of the marquis, the two beauties are inseparable from him. He is my role model. "Catch this!" Zhou Shu laughed. He raised his hand, and a black shadow flew toward Yang Hong

"What?" Yang Hong was shocked and subconsciously reached out to grab it.

His hand felt a little heavy, and a cold sensation came from his palm.

Yang Hong realized that he had a sheathed sword in his hand.

This is... A thought appeared in his mind, and joy appeared on his face uncontrollably. He could even hear his own heartbeat. Is this what I think it is?

"Divine Constable Yang, try it and see if it suits you." Zhou Shu smiled. "I think this sword is more suitable for the divine constables of the Divine Constable Bureau. If you don't like it, then-11

"I like it! I like it!" Yang Hong was already shouting before Zhou Shu could finish.

His face flushed red as he gripped the sword in his hand tightly. The sword was already in his hands. He would never return it.

Live or die, my sword will stay with me...

I will never be without it!

"Try it first." Zhou Shu was speechless. Why is everyone so excited?

They're just yellow-grade weapons.

It won't be too late for them to get excited after I've upgraded them to heaven-grade weapons.

Yang Hong noticed his loss of composure and smiled awkwardly.

Only then did he unsheathe his sword with a  
clang.

When he saw the sword, he was clearly stunned.

Not only him, but even Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang looked surprised.

Rather than calling it a sword, Yang Hong's weapon was more like a ruler.

It was more than three feet long, completely black, and rectangular. It was a longer version of a ruler.

"Like a sword it attacks, Edgeless Mo Mei Sword," Zhou Shu said loudly. "This sword is called Mo Mei.

"Divine Constable Yang, you are a divine constable of the Divine Constable Bureau. The Divine Constable Bureau is not part of the three armies. Even if you encounter enemies, you need to capture and interrogate them first. This Mo Mei Sword is suitable for divine constables.

"Although it is edgeless, as long as there is enough spiritual essence, it can produce invisible sword qi with infinite power. Killing and capturing people will all depend on a single thought."

"The Mo Mei Sword?" Yang Hong muttered. He gripped the sword hilt as the spiritual essence in his body surged into the sword.

Several profound lines lit up on the body of the ruler-like sword.

Swish!

A stream of sword qi slashed out from the tip of the sword, landing on the rock garden several meters away.

With a soft sound, a ten-foot-tall boulder was cut in two.

Yang Hong panted heavily, looking surprised and delighted.

"Marquis, this sword is too valuable. I can't afford it..." Yang Hong said with a pale face while panting heavily.

With his ninth-rank cultivation, he could only use the Mo Mei Sword three times before his spiritual essence was depleted.

Yang Hong knew in his heart that it was a waste for Zhou Shu to give him the Mo Mei Sword.

If given to a seventh-rank or even sixth-rank martial artist, the power that the Mo Mei Sword could unleash would definitely be ten times or even a hundred times greater than his!

Even though he was reluctant to part with it, he didn't want to do the Mo Mei Sword injustice.

It was true that he couldn't afford it...

"Didn't I say before that you can pay in installments?" Zhou Shu said. "You are a divine constable of the Divine Constable Bureau. I don't have to worry about you running away without paying for it."

"But I don't deserve it." Yang Hong's face flushed red.

To ordinary people, ninth-rank martial artists were already experts. But Yang Hong really didn't dare to say that he was an expert. Furthermore, he estimated that the Mo Mei Sword would rank in the top ten of the Yellow-grade Armament Manual.

Chen Ji was a fifth-rank martial artist, but he had only just gotten his hands on the Green Dragon Crescent Blade, one of the top ten weapons in the Yellow-grade Armament Manual. Yang Hong didn't dare to imagine owning the Mo Mei Sword.

"This Mo Mei Sword is from me to you. Who dares to say that you're unworthy of it?" Zhou Shu said. "If you feel that you are not worthy of it, then work hard on your cultivation and strive to be worthy of it as soon as possible."

"Divine Constable Yang, I believe in you!" Zhou Shu patted Yang Hong's shoulder.

"Marquis!" Yang Hong's eyes instantly turned red as tears welled up in his eyes. A gentleman is ready to die for his bosom friend. I, Yang Hong, will be the marquis's lackey in the future. If the marquis ask me to head west, I will absolutely not head east! "Divine Constable Yang, keep the Mo Mei Sword well. If anyone dares to lay their hands on your sword, tell me, and I'll stand up for you," Zhou Shu continued.

“Marquis!” Yang Hong immediately knelt on one knee, looking like he was offering his life.

“Well, now that you have a ranked weapon, I have something that I would like you to help me with...”

“Marquis, please give me your orders. I will do whatever you ask of me!”