

## Canon 221

### Chapter 221 Soaring Strength, Qin Emperor's Reward (1)

"Yang Hong? You said you're Yang Hong?" Yin Wuyou looked at the man in front of him, whose face was bruised and swollen and whose original appearance was barely recognizable. Her gaze then fell on the Mo Mei Sword in his hand.

Finally, she couldn't hold back her laughter.

...

"How did you become like this?"

When the others arrived, Yin Wuyou was already laughing so hard that she couldn't speak.

Yang Hong had an aggrieved look on his face. Combined with his appearance, the scene appeared unusually comical.

"It's all in order to complete the mission the marquis ordered." Yang Hong felt wronged.

"Thank you for your hard work." Zhou Shu patted Yang Hong's shoulder and smiled. "You've made a great contribution by capturing Shen Yue alive this time."

"I'm like this now because of him!" Yang Hong kicked Shen Yue, who was already under the control of Great Xia's diplomatic mission's guards. Shen Yue glared at him angrily, and Yang Hong also glared at him rudely. Holding the Mo Mei Sword, he had gone to the diplomatic missions of the various nations to exchange pointers. The diplomatic missions of other nations didn't care about him.

Shen Yue doesn't care about martial virtue. Just because his cultivation is higher than mine, he smacked my face so much!

What happened in the end? Didn't my sword still defeat him? Yang Hong thought smugly.

He had noticed that the soldiers from Great Qin were trying to capture the members of Great Wei's diplomatic mission, so he had secretly followed Shen Yue and taken the opportunity to strike. He didn't expect he would really succeed.

Yang Hong had stabbed Shen Yue. His injuries were not minor, but they were not life-threatening

He glanced coldly at Zhou Shu, closed his eyes, and said no more.

"Will you kill him or not?" Yin Wuyou asked Zhou Shu.

"Leave it to Great Qin." Zhou Shu said. "He's the cause of everything that happened today. I reckon that the Qin emperor wants to cut him into pieces. We are guests, so it's not convenient for us to meddle in this."

"Marquis Zhou, you are indeed a particular person." A voice sounded, and Xu Shi walked over from the corner of the street.

His body rippled with a bloody aura that was invisible to the naked eye. Who knew how many demonic beasts he had killed.

Xu Shi's expression was very calm. It was impossible to tell that he had just experienced a huge battle.

"Marquis Zhou, leave Shen Yue to me." Xu Shi cupped his hands toward Zhou Shu. "Many thanks for your help this time, Marquis. My Great Qin will definitely reward you greatly."

"Lord Xu, you are too polite." Zhou Shu signaled Chen Ji to hand Shen Yue over to Xu Shi and cupped his hands.

Xu Shi reached out to take Shen Yue from Chen Ji's hands.

Shen Yue suddenly opened his eyes and stared at Xu Shi coldly. "There's indeed a problem with Great Qin!"

Just as he spoke, Xu Shi's hand on Shen Yue's shoulder already emitted a faint light, and then Shen Yue couldn't make another sound.

Zhou Shu's heart stirred.

If he didn't know anything, he wouldn't think too much when he heard Shen Yue's words.

But he knew bits of information.

Shen Yue's words made him instantly think of Great Qin's imperial cauldron!

Previously, when he had entered the Wang Xin dream, Zhou Shu had already learned some information about the imperial cauldron.

The Great Qin had set up the nine checkpoints to test the diplomatic mission of the various nations precisely so that they could think of a way to repair their imperial cauldron.

But for some reason, they seemed to have given up.

From the looks of it now, Great Wei seemed to know that something was wrong with Great Qin's imperial cauldron. Previously, Shen Yue had used the excuse of challenging him to create a mirror in public just to test this?

For the sake of probing if something is wrong with Great Qin's imperial cauldron, Great Wei formed a diplomatic mission? What is Great Wei after?

Aren't they afraid of Great Qin taking revenge on them?

Zhou Shu didn't know what use the imperial cauldron had, but he knew that the power of Great Qin was definitely above that of Great Wei.

Is Great Wei courting death?

"Lord Xu, is there anything we can help you with?" Zhou Shu asked.

"No need." Xu Shi shook his head. "The situation in the city is under control. The demonic beasts will be wiped out soon."

"You can return to the post house to rest for a while. His Majesty will summon you soon."

After Xu Shi finished speaking, he carried Shen Yue and disappeared into the streets in a few steps.

Zhou Shu looked around and could no longer see any demonic beasts. He knew that this opportunity to gain experience had come to an end.

“Let’s go back.”

Back at the post house, Chen Ji and the guards went to do their own things.

Zhou Shu suddenly called out to Yin Wuyou and asked softly, “Grand Minister, have you heard of the imperial cauldrons?”

“Imperial cauldrons? Are they uncommon weapons? I’ve never heard of them,” Yin Wuyou said doubtfully. Zhou Shu frowned. Even Yin Wuyou doesn’t know of the existence of the imperial cauldrons?

This is interesting.

Zhou Shu didn’t suspect Yin Wuyou was lying. Since she said she didn’t know, then she definitely didn’t know.

These imperial cauldrons are really a little mysterious. If not for the problem with Great Qin’s imperial cauldron, Wang Xin probably wouldn’t have heard about it either.

“I guess so,” Zhou Shu said casually.

After returning to his room, Zhou Shu no longer thought about the imperial cauldrons. Who cares what they are? It has nothing to do with me.

Taking stock of his harvest loot was the most important thing. With a thought, the *Legendary Armament Canon* appeared in front of him. The pages rustled as the contents of the book flashed past his eyes.

A moment later, Zhou Shu couldn’t help letting out a peal of laughter resembling a male duck’s. Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang, who were outside, were confused.

Great Wei is such a good nation, Zhou Shu praised. They sacrificed their diplomatic mission and summoned so many demonic beasts to help me gain experience. This kind of spirit is worthy of praise.

Chapter 222 Soaring Strength, Qin Emperor’s Reward (2)

Speaking of which, Great Wei had contributed a lot to Zhou Shu.

Back then, when they had traveled thousands of miles to Great Xia, they had lost the two prefectures to Great Xia. In the end... Zhou Shu was conferred the title of marquis. Later on, Great Wei’s Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi had sacrificed his own life to allow Zhou Shu’s *Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique* to reach perfection. Of course, Shen Yue had also sacrificed himself to help Zhou Shu raise his cultivation level.

...

It was the same this time. They had risked the lives of the entire diplomatic mission to summon demonic beasts. Zhou Shu didn’t know about the others, but he knew that he had made a killing this time!

The moment the demonic beasts attacked, Zhou Shu had already thrown himself into slaying them.

Although the spiritual essence cultivation he revealed wasn't high, his demon-slaying skills were adept, and he had killed many demonic beasts.

The Astounding Heavenly Eighteen Swords Technique, the initial reward from the Great Destroyer Sword, had already reached perfection. Now that he had used it to kill demonic beasts, the Legendary Armament Canon increased his cultivation level.

After killing a large number of demonic beasts, his spiritual essence cultivation had directly broken through to the fifth rank of the Martial Dao. Furthermore, he had already advanced a lot on the path of the fifth rank.

If not for Great Qin's quick reaction, Zhou Shu felt that he could have broken through to the fourth rank...

Apart from his own use of the Great Destroyer Sword, Great Xia's diplomatic mission had also completed many kills.

On this diplomatic mission, the members of Great Xia's diplomatic mission were mainly equipped with Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers, Horse Slaying Sabers, and Spring Embroidered Sabers. This was a deliberate arrangement Zhou Shu had made.

The Heavenly Saber Art, rewarded by the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, didn't improve much this time.

This was because his Heavenly Saber Art had already reached a very high level, and it was extremely difficult to level up.

Correspondingly, with every improvement, his saber technique greatly increased.

The initial benefit from the Horse Slaying Saber was the Golden Bell Shield Technique. When he woke up from the Wang Xin dream, his Golden Bell Shield Technique was already at the twelfth level.

This time, the completed kills from the Horse Slaying Saber was spiritual essence cultivation.

Combined with the feedback from the Great Destroyer Sword, Zhou Shu's spiritual essence cultivation had skyrocketed.

The Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form, rewarded by the Spring Embroidered Saber, was the one that benefited the most other than his spiritual essence cultivation.

His Five Mountains' True Form Visualization had always been at a relatively basic level. This time, the benefits from the Spring Embroidery Saber had allowed his Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form to take a huge step forward. His divine sense had almost doubled!

If he fully released his divine sense at this moment, he would be able to cover a radius of 30 feet around him! Other than that, Chen Ji's Green Dragon Crescent Blade and Yin Chengshan's Flaming Sunset Saber had also completed a large number of kills.

His cultivation of the Iron Smelting Hands had improved tremendously, and the Unparalleled Benevolence divine art had also increased immensely.

After half a day of fighting, Zhou Shu's overall strength had nearly doubled! Great Wei, thank you for all the benefits.

Zhou Shu couldn't help sighing. Every time he met people from Great Wei, he would be able to make a harvest.

Xiao Shunzhi even let him kill him twice.

He had sacrificed himself to give Zhou Shu lots of benefits...

After checking the feedback from the Legendary Armament Canon, Zhou Shu took out the items Yang Hong had given him.

Yang Hong had taken Zhou Shu's Mo Mei Sword and then went on a mission.

Even though he was beaten up badly, he didn't delay his mission.

Zhou Shu looked at the different types of hair that Yang Hong had collected. Every single one of them had their names and origins marked. Zhou Shu gave Yang Hong a thumbs up in his heart.

No one knew how Yang Hong did it, but he had actually collected so many people's hair.

He got them from diplomatic missions from the various nations, from officials to Forging Masters. There were at least dozens of strands of hair.

Zhou Shu took a look and then put away the hair.

He had collected these not because he had a special fetish but to prepare materials for his Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique.

However, he didn't plan to enter the dreams for the time being.

Becoming someone else in a dream seemed very pleasurable, but this experience could also make people break down.

Even though his Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form had improved greatly, he didn't want to experience the feeling of being invested and then separated after waking up from the dream for now.

"Zhou Shu, the people from Great Qin are here."

Zhou Shu had just finished counting his gains when Yin Wuyou's voice sounded in his ear.

After opening the door, Zhou Shu immediately saw a group of soldiers from Great Qin constantly moving things into the courtyard where the Great Xia diplomatic mission was staying

They were carrying large boxes that were half the height of a person. There were around thirty large boxes that were quickly moved into the courtyard.

Then without a word, these soldiers turned and left.

"This is..." Zhou Shu and the others were stunned.

Chen Ji held the Green Dragon Crescent Blade in his hand and carefully used the tip of the blade to open a box.

Pada

The box opened, and a dazzling golden light shone in everyone's eyes.

"Gold?"

The box was filled with gold bars.

There were at least several thousand taels of gold in this box!

"Great Qin, what's the meaning of this?"

"Is this our reward for helping them slay demonic beasts?"

Everyone was discussing fervently.

"Open all the boxes," Zhou Shu instructed.

Seeing that there was no danger in the boxes, Chen Ji ordered the guards to open them.

In these boxes, other than gold, there were all sorts of jewelry, calligraphy, artworks, and so on.

Zhou Shu even saw a chest of forging materials.

In summary, there was only one thing worth noting about these items! "Is Great Qin that rich?" Zhou Shu couldn't help exclaiming. During the demonic beast outbreak earlier, even though they had taken the initiative to help kill the demonic beasts on the streets, Great Qin had given them too many things.

Yin Wuyou glanced at Zhou Shu, slightly worried.

Last time, that bastard surnamed Xu brazenly tried to recruit Zhou Shu, and now, Great Qin sent over so much gold and jewels. What is the meaning of this?

Are you showing off that Great Qin is rich?

Great Xia isn't poor either!

I... am rich too!

"Marquis Zhou, my lords."

At this moment, an official from Great Qin walked in. He first bowed toward Zhou Shu and the others and then said, "His Majesty said that everyone extended a helping hand to Great Qin. This is a small gesture of our appreciation.

"After His Majesty is done settling this matter, he will reward you again.." "There's more?" Zhou Shu said in surprise. He looked at the Great Qin official and said, "Sir, did His Majesty, the Qin emperor, only reward our Great Xia's diplomatic mission, or did he also reward the other diplomatic?"

"Marquis Zhou," the Great Qin official said very politely. "Only the diplomatic missions that lent a helping hand to Great Qin received His Majesty's reward. Other than the Great Xia diplomatic mission, only the Great Liang diplomatic mission took the initiative to act. The rest of the diplomatic missions..."

The Great Qin official curled his lips in disdain. Those fellows are all cowards who had no balls.

The Great Liang diplomatic mission also received rewards?

They had picked up a bargain.

They weren't slaying demonic beasts on the streets. They just felt that it was safer to follow the Great Xia diplomatic mission!

Zhou Shu did not pay much attention to this. "We were just trying to protect ourselves. The Qin emperor is too polite."

"I still have official business to attend to. I will take my leave first." The Great Qin official shook his head and bowed.

After the Great Qin official took his leave, Zhou Shu looked at the gold and jewelry, the corners of his mouth curling up slightly.

"General Chen," Zhou Shu said. "Everyone contributed to the slaying.

"In terms of merits and rewards, everyone gets a share."

Everyone cheered.

Yin Wuyou secretly let out a sigh of relief when she saw Zhou Shu casually distribute these treasures to everyone.

Hmph, you want to poach our Great Xia's Zhou Shu with just these things? Dream on! With me around, you can forget about succeeding! "Marquis, the great general wishes to see you."

Just as everyone was happily splitting the treasures, a person suddenly appeared beside Zhou Shu.

This person was shockingly Meng Bai's carriage driver. At the same time, he was also Meng Bai's guard, who always stayed close to Meng Bai.

Zhou Shu was a bit surprised. This person is actually willing to leave Meng Bai's side?

"What is it?" Zhou Shu asked.

"There's something he wants to tell you," the man said straightforwardly.

Zhou Shu's mind stirred. Along the way, Meng Bai rarely displayed his presence. For him to look for Zhou Shu at this time, and even send this guard over to call him so urgently, could it be related to this demonic beast incident?

"Let's go!" Zhou Shu no longer hesitated and said to the carriage driver and guard.

Chapter 223 Imperial Cauldron, The Country Exists with the Cauldron, If The Cauldron Is Gone, The Country Will Perish (1)

"Great General."

When he saw Meng Bai, Zhou Shu was shocked.

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After not seeing Meng Bai for a few days, Meng Bai looked even older than before.

He looked like he was on the verge of death, as if a gust of wind could take him away.

you last time?” Zhou Shu asked.

“I’m fine.” Meng Bai shook his head. Medicinal pills were already completely ineffective for his injuries. He understood Zhou Shu’s intentions, but he didn’t believe that the medicinal pill Zhou Shu gave him would be useful to him.

Over the years, in order to treat his injuries, Emperor Yuan Feng had invited countless doctors.

In the end, his injuries continued to worsen.

“Great General,” Zhou Shu said. “You should really try the pill.”

Meng Bai nodded. “I will take it later. You Marquis, I didn’t call you over because of me.”

“Great General, is it because of the incident that happened in Great Qin’s capital?”

Even though Meng Bai didn’t leave the house, he definitely could sense the great disturbance from before.

“Exactly.” Meng Bai nodded and said solemnly, “Leave Great Qin right now. Leave right after our meeting!”

Meng Bai’s expression was grave. “Bring Her Highness and Lu Wenshuang. I’ll get Chen Ji to cover you. “Go now!”

Zhou Shu was slightly stunned. He didn’t expect Meng Bai to call him over because he wanted him to return to Chang’an.

“Great General, the matter has already been settled,” Zhou Shu said curiously.

Meng Bai shook his head. “Great Qin is already a place of trouble, so you shouldn’t stay for long.” “I won’t stay for long,” Zhou Shu said. “Grand General, you still don’t know, right? We’ve already won the right to hold the next Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. After the diplomatic mission and the Great Qin handover is over, it won’t be too late for me to leave...”

“Don’t worry about these things.” Meng Bai didn’t have the slightest bit of joy on his face. He said with a deep voice, “You leave first. I will deal with the matters of the diplomatic mission.”

Zhou Shu looked at Meng Bai and suddenly understood something.

Great General Meng Meng Bai had insisted on following the diplomatic mission to Great Qin. Along the way, he didn’t have any presence at all, and he said that he came to Great Qin to visit friends and seek medical treatment. After he arrived in Great Qin, he didn’t go anywhere as well.

Now, he suddenly stood out and said that he would handle the matters regarding the Great Xia diplomatic mission.

Zhou Shu wasn’t worried that Meng Bai would steal the credit.



Because there was no need.

Great General Meng Bai had been an extremely influential official in Great Xia and the commander-in-chief of Great Xia's three armies. He had already retired. Would he care about such a small contribution?

Since he stood out now, he probably felt that there was danger here.

His goal in following the diplomatic mission was likely to wait until there was danger before he stood out to take care of matters and let Zhou Shu leave first.

When he thought of this, Zhou Shu felt somewhat moved.

Who was Great General Meng Bai?

He came with the diplomatic mission just to cover his retreat?

"Great General, there's no need for this," Zhou Shu said. "I'm not afraid of danger."

Whatever happened in Great Qin had nothing to do with him.

Danger?

Zhou Shu was really not afraid of any danger.

With his current cultivation, there were not many situations that could make him feel fear.

"You Marquis, it's not a matter of whether you're afraid of danger or not. It's just that a gentleman does not stand under a dangerous wall. The reason why His Majesty sent you to Great Qin isn't to put you in danger but to allow you to gain experience and grow.

"We have achieved our goal along the way. There's no need for you to stay here and take the risk.

"Have Her Highness and Lu Wenshuang protect you as you leave Great Qin. There will be people waiting for you at the border of Great Xia."

Meng Bai said with a sunken voice, "Just treat this as the dying words of an elder. Trust me this once and go."

"Great General, I can leave, but you have to tell me why." Zhou Shu smiled bitterly. "Do you know what will happen in Great Qin?"

Meng Bai looked at Zhou Shu and suddenly began to cough violently. After coughing for a while, his entire body began to sway.

"Return to Chang'an. His Majesty will give you an explanation." He waved his hand, indicating that he couldn't hold on any longer.

"Marquis," the carriage driver and guard whispered to Zhou Shu and made an inviting gesture.

Zhou Shu left Meng Bai's room and raised his head to glance at the skies of Great Qin.

It was already late at night. The sky was as black as ink, without a single star in sight.

An extremely oppressive atmosphere seemed to pervade the air, making it difficult to breathe.

Zhou Shu returned to his residence. As soon as he entered, Yin Wuyou rushed over.

“Zhou Shu, I remember now!” Yin Wuyou said softly as she looked around.

Zhou Shu was still thinking about Meng Bai’s actions and momentarily unable to react, so he subconsciously said, “What did you remember?”

Yin Wuyou glanced at Lu Wenshuang and pulled Zhou Shu into the inner room.

After entering the inner room, she still felt that it was not safe. She pulled Zhou Shu onto the bed and lowered the curtain.

Zhou Shu: “...”

He involuntarily glanced at Yin Wuyou’s body and secretly gulped.

“Grand Minister, aren’t you being too direct?” Zhou Shu hesitated.

“What’s too direct?” Yin Wuyou looked puzzled.

She shook her head. “Little Senior Sister Lu won’t mind. She’s not interested in these things.”

Lu Wenshuang isn’t interested?

Even so, we can’t do this in front of her...

She’s just a few steps away, and there’s only this curtain. Do you think she can’t hear anything?

Chapter 224 The Country Exists with the Cauldron, If The Cauldron Is Gone, The Country Will Perish (2)

But since she doesn’t mind, why should a man like me be afraid?

Just as Zhou Shu raised his hand and was about to pounce on Yin Wuyou like a hungry wolf...

...

Yin Wuyou whispered in a voice that only the two of them could hear, “Didn’t you ask me if I’ve heard of the imperial cauldrons before? I remember now!”

Zhou Shu’s raised hands suddenly froze. Grand Minister, you’re acting so ambiguously just to tell me this?

Do we need to talk about this in bed? Is the bed a place for discussing such matters?

Yin Wuyou sat cross-legged in front of Zhou Shu, her knees almost touching his knees. She leaned forward slightly, revealing her alluring curves in front of him.

“I might have seen it when I was young,” she whispered into his ear.

Zhou Shu knew that Yin Wuyou was afraid someone would eavesdrop, but this ambiguous atmosphere still made him involuntarily think about all sorts of things.

He leaned forward awkwardly.

“You did?” Zhou Shu tried his best to distract himself.

“I don’t really remember,” Yin Wuyou replied. “I didn’t even remember when you suddenly mentioned it. I just recalled it after thinking about it carefully. Our Great Xia does indeed have an imperial cauldron.

“When I was very young, I seemed to have heard my father talk about the imperial cauldron. He said that the imperial cauldron is the foundation of the country. The country exists with the cauldron. If the cauldron is gone, the country will perish.” “The country exists with the cauldron. If the cauldron is gone, the country will perish?” Zhou Shu said.

The name ‘imperial cauldron’ seemed to have something to do with the country. Originally, Zhou Shu had only thought of it as a symbol, just like the legendary imperial jade seal.

But these words held great significance.

The country wouldn’t perish if the imperial jade seal was lost.

Furthermore, this world was different from his previous life. These words were not just empty talk.

“Do you remember why the imperial cauldron is so important? Is it a kind of weapon?” Zhou Shu asked.

“All I know is that the imperial cauldron seems to be related to my father’s cultivation.” Yin Wuyou shook her head. “My father’s Martial Dao talent is actually average. His cultivation of the first rank is related to the imperial cauldron.

“Oh right, not only does Great Xia have an imperial cauldron, but other nations do too. The imperial cauldron of each nation seems to make a set.”

Yin Wuyou didn’t treat Zhou Shu as an outsider at all. She told Zhou Shu everything regarding the imperial family without reservation.

But she didn’t care much about this before, so she knew very little. Emperor Yuan Feng’s Martial Dao cultivation is related to the imperial cauldron?

Doesn’t that mean that the emperors of the various nations are all first-rank martial artists because they have an imperial cauldron?

If Great Qin’s imperial cauldron is damaged, will the cultivation of the Qin emperor be affected?

The reason Great Wei sent Shen Yue to cause the demonic beast outbreak was to test if the cultivation of the Qin emperor had decreased.

How do they know that Great Qin’s imperial cauldron is damaged?

Could the destruction of Great Qin’s imperial cauldron be related to Great Wei?

Countless questions flashed through Zhou Shu’s mind.

“Grand Minister, if the imperial cauldron is damaged, will His Majesty’s cultivation be affected?” Zhou Shu asked.

“Yes.” Yin Wuyou nodded. “It’s not just Father’s cultivation level. Father seemed to have said before that if something happened to the imperial cauldron, Great Xia would face a catastrophe.”

"I understand," Zhou Shu muttered. He understood why Meng Bai wanted him to leave Great Qin immediately.

It was likely that Meng Bai also guessed that something might have happened to Great Qin's imperial cauldron through what had happened earlier.

If something really did happen to Great Qin's imperial cauldron, they would be facing a calamity.

What sort of force would be capable of annihilating Great Qin? It was definitely not something that a mere Great Xia diplomatic mission could withstand.

If we can't leave Great Qin before this incident occurs, then I'm afraid...

"You understand?" Yin Wuyou was a bit puzzled. She didn't even understand what was going on with the imperial cauldrons, yet Zhou Shu already understood?

"Grand Minister, you don't have to think about the imperial cauldrons for now," Zhou Shu said. "The great general wants us to leave Great Qin immediately. Prepare yourself with Deputy Envoy Lu. We'll leave at daybreak tomorrow!"

No matter what happened to Great Qin, Zhou Shu had no intention of risking his life in Great Qin.

He had nothing to do with the Great Qin Empire. There was no need for him to stay here and be buried with Great Qin.

But it was different from what Great General Meng had imagined. Not only did Zhou Shu want to leave, but he would also bring the Great Xia diplomatic mission with him!

He didn't need anyone to cover his retreat, especially an old man who planned to sacrifice himself to do so!

They had come here openly, so he didn't believe that Great Qin would be able to detain them.

"We're leaving tomorrow?" Yin Wuyou was somewhat surprised.

"Don't ask why. I don't know why either," Zhou Shu said, "Since the great general has said that our mission in Great Qin is completed, it doesn't matter if we leave sooner.

"Tomorrow morning, I will enter the palace to bid farewell to the Qin emperor. Prepare to leave."

When Yin Wuyou returned to the outer room, Lu Wenshuang sized her up with a strange expression.

"Little Senior Sister Lu, why are you looking at me like that?" Yin Wuyou looked at her doubtfully.

"That's it? Is he impotent?" Lu Wenshuang said in her pleasant voice.

"What?" Yin Wuyou was stunned for a moment. The next moment, she turned into a fierce little kitten and pounced into Lu Wenshuang's arms.

Hearing the noise outside, Zhou Shu shook his head. He took out a porcelain bottle from his pocket.

This porcelain bottle contained the blood of the demonic beast that had fallen from the sky earlier.

The beast's blood came from the existence who had battled against the Qin emperor!

Zhou Shu had seen it with his own eyes. Every drop of the beast blood had fallen like a meteor, creating deep craters in the ground. He had seized the opportunity and obtained a drop of blood.

Although it was just a small drop, this drop of blood was even heavier than an ordinary adult!

After hesitating for a moment, Zhou Shu placed the beast's blood back.

The Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique could also be used with blood.

With this beast blood, Zhou Shu could use the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique to go back to the past year... The method was to transform into the other party in a dream!

Although it was a little awkward to transform into a human in a dream, it was still acceptable.

But to transform into a demonic beast...

What if that demonic beast was like Shi Songtao, unable to spend a night without a woman...

Zhou Shu shuddered at the thought of it. He was afraid that he would be traumatized. He hadn't even gotten married yet!

The demonic beast isn't much weaker than the Qin emperor. How did Great Wei manage to control a demonic beast with cultivation of at least the first rank?

A first-rank demonic beast's intelligence was no weaker than a human's. It wouldn't be easily controlled. Zhou Shu couldn't figure out how Shen Yue, or perhaps Great Wei, did it.

Just as the Great Xia diplomatic mission was preparing to leave, in the Qin Palace, the Qin emperor sat on the dragon throne with an ugly expression.

In front of him, in the main hall, heads were rolling

All the members of Great Wei's diplomatic mission had been killed, including Great Wei's official envoy, Shen Yue.

He had killed them all, but he didn't get any information he wanted.

These people from Great Wei's diplomatic mission were like death warriors. They would commit suicide immediately after being interrogated.

Even when the Qin emperor personally took action, he was unable to stop Shen Yue from committing suicide. This made him very upset.

"Xu Shi," the Qin emperor said solemnly. "How's the situation with the imperial cauldron?"

"Not very good," Xu Shi said seriously. "Your Majesty forcefully used the imperial cauldron earlier..."

"Will it be able to last until the end of this Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament?" the Qin emperor interrupted Xu Shi. He had a firm personality and wouldn't regret what had happened. Even if it happened again, he would still do the same.

"I'll do my best." Xu Shi bowed.

“Your Majesty, the marquis of Great Xia’s You Prefecture, Zhou Shu, has a secret divine art known as the Iron Smelting Hands. If I can obtain the aid of the Iron Smelting Hands, I am confident that the imperial cauldron will be able to hold on for a period of time.”

“Go and exchange with him,” the Qin emperor said, “Gold, silver, jewelry, a high rank, generous rewards, let him name his price!”

Chapter 225 I Am a First-rank Martial Artist, the Qin Army Cannot Stop Me (1)

“Lord Xu, what do you mean?”

At the post house where the Great Xia diplomatic mission was, Zhou Shu’s eyes narrowed as he stared at Xu Shi.

...

The sky had just begun to brighten, and before Zhou Shu could head to the Great Qin imperial palace, Xu Shi had rushed over to pay him a visit.

Behind Zhou Shu, Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang exuded sharp auras at the same time, one on the left and one on the right, locking onto Xu Shi.

The two of them were like two unsheathed swords that could attack at any moment.

Xu Shi didn’t seem to notice the change in the atmosphere. He wore his usual smile and said, “Don’t misunderstand. I’ve come here today only to discuss a deal with you, Marquis Zhou.

“Whatever you want, be it gold, silver, treasures, a high rank, or beautiful women, as long as you want it, as long as my Great Qin has it, we can discuss it.” “Lord Xu, if I refuse, will I not be allowed to leave Great Qin?” Zhou Shu said coldly.

“Of course not.” Xu Shi shook his head. “I’ve already said that this is only a transaction. Great Qin isn’t the type to take advantage of others.

“If it wasn’t for a good reason, I wouldn’t have come to approach you.”

A bitter smile appeared on Xu Shi’s face, as if he had no other choice.

Zhou Shu was unmoved and said coldly, “Since that’s the case, I refuse!”

“Marquis Zhou, please reconsider,” Xu Shi said. “We only want the cultivation method of the Iron Smelting Hands. This in itself isn’t a loss to you. Moreover, Great Qin is willing to pay a price that you will be satisfied with, Marquis Zhou.”

“I don’t lose anything?” Zhou Shu laughed. “Then, what would you think if I told you that I wanted your Eight Quaint Fire Divine Art?”

Although Zhou Shu was not the kind of person who treasured his cultivation techniques, he wouldn’t easily pass them on to outsiders.

“No problem,” Xu Shi said bluntly. “I have no problem exchanging the Eight Quaint Fire Divine Art for the Iron Smelting Hands.”

Zhou Shu laughed in anger.

The Eight Quaint Fire Divine Art was quite famous, and its power wasn't bad either. But in terms of power, it really wasn't as great as the Iron Smelting Hands.

Using the Eight Quaint Fire Divine Art to exchange for the Iron Smelting Hands, only he could think of this.

"Alright, Lord Xu, let's cut the crap," Zhou Shu said, "I will not sell the cultivation technique of the Iron Smelting Hands.

"Oh right, the host of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament has already been decided. It's time for us to return to Great Xia. Originally, I was prepared to bid farewell to the Qin emperor. Lord Xu, since you are here, I'll have to trouble you to pass the message."

Xu Shi's brows furrowed imperceptibly, but they quickly returned to normal. He looked at Zhou Shu and said, "Marquis Zhou, are you leaving?"

"Can't I?" Zhou Shu asked.

"Of course you can. But during the demonic beast outbreak earlier, you helped Great Qin. His Majesty has yet to express his gratitude..."

"He has already done so," Zhou Shu said. "The gold and jewelry from before are enough." "Alright, since you've made your decision, then I'll report it to His Majesty," Xu Shi said. "When His Majesty issues the imperial decree, you may return to Great Xia." Before leaving, Xu Shi said once more, "Marquis, although I know you may not like what I'm saying, I must say something.

"Marquis, I hope that you can consider the matter of the Iron Smelting Hands. As long as you are willing, you can have anything you want."

"Bastard!" After Xu Shi left, Yin Wuyou swung the Shadow Sword in the air a few times. "Shameless to the extreme! How dare he scheme for someone else's cultivation technique! I've never seen such a shameless emperor!" Yin Wuyou cursed.

She didn't know how to scold people at all. All she could say was that he was a bastard and shameless.

If it were Zhou Shu, he would be able to scold them for a month without repeating his words.

Zhou Shu was also a little surprised. He thought that Great Qin might stop Great Xia's diplomatic mission from leaving, but he never expected that Great Qin would actually want to trade for his Iron Smelting Hands Technique! Zhou Shu had been hiding his strength all this time because he was worried that if his strength was revealed, there would be people who would suspect how he had obtained it. At that time, there would probably be people suspecting that his cultivation techniques could rapidly increase people's strength. This has always been the source of trouble.

At that time, who knew how many people would come for his secrets.

What he didn't expect was that he didn't even attract the attention of many people in Great Xia. But in Great Qin, he had merely revealed the Iron Smelting Hands Technique, yet it had already attracted the attention of many.

But Zhou Shu didn't regret publicly displaying the Iron Smelting Hands Technique.

With his current strength, he wasn't afraid of people coveting his things. It was just slightly troublesome.

If Great Qin really didn't give up, Zhou Shu didn't mind letting them know that they couldn't mess with some people.

"Do you want me to kill him?" Lu Wenshuang said coldly.

Cultivation techniques were the foundation of a martial artist.

Stealing someone else's cultivation technique was an irreconcilable grudge!

Zhou Shu shook his head. You want to kill him?

If you really went, who knows who would kill who.

"Don't worry about him." Zhou Shu shook his head. "I don't think Great Qin would be so shameless as to try and rob us.

"Follow the plan. Everyone, get ready. Once we get the Qin emperor's imperial decree, we will immediately return to Great Xia." After instructing Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang to leave, Zhou Shu prepared to discuss it with Meng Bai.

Meng Bai's idea was to let him, Yin Wuyou, and the others leave first. Now, if Zhou Shu wanted to bring everyone from the diplomatic mission away, he had to tell Meng Bai.

Chapter 226 I Am a First-rank Martial Artist, the Qin Army Cannot Stop Me (2)

Halfway there, he was stopped by Shi Songtao.

"Marquis, Han Dazhi requests an audience," Shi Songtao said to Zhou Shu. "Han Dazhi?" Zhou Shu asked curiously, "What is he doing here?"

...

"I don't know." Shi Songtao shook his head.

Zhou Shu thought for a moment. It won't be too late to meet Han Dazhi first.

When he arrived at the front hall, Zhou Shu saw Han Dazhi sitting there nervously. Beside his feet was a large chest half the height of a person.

"General Han, what are you doing?" Zhou Shu asked.

"Marquis!" Han Dazhi stood up and hurriedly bowed.

"This is the reward from Great Qin to Great Liang's diplomatic mission. I've brought it all here." Han Dazhi pointed at the chest. "We didn't do anything yesterday. We don't deserve to receive these." "At least you know your place," Shi Songtao said.

Zhou Shu glared at Shi Songtao. "General Han, what do you mean?"



"We only picked up a bargain by following behind you, Marquis. These rewards should naturally belong to you," Han Dazhi said. "Take inventory, Marquis. We haven't touched any of this stuff."

"General Han, what are you saying? These were given to you by Great Qin, so why should I accept them?"

"It's for you. Just take it. Great Qin is rich anyway." "No, Marquis-" Han Dazhi said anxiously. "General Han, I understand. Great Xia and Great Liang are allies. It is only right for us to help each other. If we're in danger, will Great Liang stand by and do nothing?"

"Of course not." Han Dazhi patted his chest.

"Then, it's settled." Zhou Shu smiled. "You can just accept these things in peace."

"By the way, I have something to ask you, General Han."

"What is it?" Han Dazhi said. "Feel free to instruct me. I will do it as long as I can. If I reject you, I will be a coward!"

"It's like this. This matter has already been settled. We are preparing to return to Great Xia immediately. On our way back, we still have to pass by Great Liang. I was thinking, does Great Liang's diplomatic mission want to go together? We can take care of each other on the way back," Zhou Shu said.

"Of course." Han Dazhi heaved a sigh of relief. He had thought that it was a big deal, but it turned out to be a small matter.

This was Great Xia taking care of them. If they followed the Great Xia diplomatic mission, they wouldn't have to worry about any accidents on the way.

Great Xia's diplomatic mission was much stronger than Great Liang's.

"When I return, I'll have our official envoy bid farewell to the Qin emperor and return with Great Xia." Han Dazhi patted his chest and promised.

After a series of rejections, Han Dazhi finally brought the chest he brought back.

Shi Songtao smacked his lips regretfully. The chest contained quite a lot.

Although he wasn't poor, who would despise money?

Great Liang had it easy!

"Marquis, why are we leaving with Great Liang?" Shi Songtao asked in confusion.

The people from Great Liang were not strong, but they were good at taking advantage of others.

If they left with them, wouldn't it be equivalent to having a group of burdens?

"If we leave with another diplomatic mission, Great Qin will have to think twice if they want to try anything funny," Zhou Shu explained. Even a country as powerful as Great Qin would have to think twice about offending two countries at the same time.

"Do you think Great Qin would restrain themselves because of the existence of the Great Liang diplomatic mission?"

In Meng Bai's room, after Meng Bai heard Zhou Shu's idea, he shook his head and said, "No.

"You don't understand the Qin emperor. If he wants to do something, he won't change his mind so easily. Even if he became enemies with everyone in the world, he wouldn't care.

"Great Qin actually wants to trade for your cultivation technique. This is slightly troublesome."

Meng Bai's expression became a bit grave.

If it was just an unforeseen event occurring in Great Qin, even if Zhou Shu wanted to bring all the members of the Great Xia diplomatic mission with him, it would still be possible.

But now, Great Qin was already tempted by his cultivation technique, so it wouldn't be so easy for him to leave.

Meng Bai sighed inwardly. The emperor asking Zhou Shu to come to Great Qin was a bit too hasty.

But then again, no one expected so many unforeseen events to occur after coming to Great Qin. Under normal circumstances, there shouldn't have been too much risk on this trip.

Otherwise, Meng Bai himself would have strongly opposed it back then. At the time, he had also felt that this trip was an extremely good experience for Zhou Shu. Talents needed to be tempered in order to grow.

Furthermore, he thought that with him around, it would be enough to ensure Zhou Shu's safe return to Great Xia.

"Grand General, do you think that if I don't agree to the trade, the Qin emperor will send people to rob it?" Zhou Shu said.

"With the Qin emperor's character, this possibility cannot be ruled out." Meng Bai frowned. "The Qin emperor only cares about results, not the process. Rules cannot restrict him."

The Qin emperor's character could be seen from how he decided on the host of Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament.

Prior to this, determining the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament's host had always had set rules.

But it just so happened that Great Qin had created some sort of trial this time. Even if his country objected, the Qin emperor didn't compromise.

"Could it be that he dares to brazenly attack the Great Xia diplomatic mission?" Zhou Shu said.

During the war between the two nations, Great Xia didn't do anything to Great Wei's diplomatic mission even when Great Wei's diplomatic mission left Great Xia.

What happened to Xiao Shunzhi and Shen Yue was not instigated by the Great Xia Imperial Court.

"This is Great Qin. It will be easy for them to do anything," Meng Bai said.

This made sense. Wasn't this how Zhou Shu treated Great Wei's diplomatic mission?

If Great Xia's diplomatic mission was really attacked in Great Qin, Great Qin only needed to show that they would strictly investigate the attacker and even directly push out a few scapegoats. What could Great Xia do then? Even if Zhou Shu dragged the Great Liang diplomatic mission with him, as long as the Qin emperor wanted to attack, the outcome would be the same.

"Great General, what do you think we should do now?" Zhou Shu asked.

He wasn't afraid himself. Even if he fell out with the Qin emperor now, he was confident in being able to kill his way out of Great Qin.

But there were more than two thousand people in the Great Xia diplomatic mission. If the Qin emperor made a move, these two thousand people would probably be completely annihilated here.

Meng Bai looked at Zhou Shu and fell into deep thought.

The best method was naturally to have Zhou Shu hand the Iron Smelting Hands Technique over to Great Qin.

But this couldn't be done.

First of all, the Iron Smelting Hands Technique was Zhou Shu's personal possession. Meng Bai didn't have the authority to make him hand it over. Even Emperor Yuan Feng didn't have this authority.

Second, the two countries were allies. It was not a good thing to show weakness. But from Zhou Shu's description, it seemed that Great Qin was determined to obtain the Iron Smelting Hands Technique. They had even asked Zhou Shu to state a price. From this, it was apparent just how determined they were. According to the Qin emperor's style, he would never stop until he achieved his goal. Even if he had to resort to unscrupulous means, he wouldn't care.

If Zhou Shu refused to trade, it was obvious that it was impossible for them to return safely to Great Xia.

"You definitely can't hand over the Iron Smelting Hands Technique just like that." Meng Bai pondered.

"If I'm not wrong, Great Qin will issue an imperial decree agreeing to let us leave.

"At the very least, they probably won't make a move until we leave Great Qin. This is our chance.

"After we leave Great Qin, I'll think of a way to draw Great Qin's attention while you leave secretly..."

"No," Zhou Shu directly denied. Wouldn't this mean they had returned to the original plan?

If he let Meng Bai lead the team to cover him, then there was simply no need to discuss so much. Wouldn't it be fine if he left now?

"My life is important, and so are the lives of others. I can't let so many people take risks just because of me." Zhou Shu shook his head.

"Great General, if your injuries recover, how confident are you in leading the diplomatic mission away?"

"If I recover?" Meng Bai sighed. "About sixty to seventy percent." He was burdened by his body and couldn't execute many of his plans. If he recovered from his injuries, then not to mention anything else, he would have a certain amount of confidence in escaping Great Qin, even if he did it forcefully.

“Great General, what if you can become a first-rank martial artist? How confident are you?”

“First-rank martial artist?” Meng Bai couldn’t help laughing. “If I were a first-rank martial artist, Great Qin’s army wouldn’t be able to keep my Great Xia diplomatic mission!”

Chapter 227 First-rank Martial Artist, The Return of the God of War

“If I were a first-rank martial artist, Great Qin’s army wouldn’t be able to keep my Great Xia diplomatic mission.” Meng Bai’s tone was calm, but the confidence within was simply about to break through the horizon.

Meng Bai’s ability to lead an army didn’t lose to anyone in this world.

...

If his cultivation could reach the first rank of the Martial Dao, he would have no shortcomings. Unless Great Qin brazenly mobilized its army... Otherwise, with the two thousand elite soldiers of the Great Xia diplomatic mission and a first-rank martial artist, Meng Bai was confident that he could lead the Great Xia diplomatic mission to leave Great Qin.

But this was provided he was a first-rank martial artist. How was it possible?

He sighed. Before he was injured, he might have had a chance to break through to the first rank.

But ever since he was injured, his cultivation level kept dropping. Until now, he didn’t even have a bit of spiritual essence left in his body. Let alone a first-rank martial artist, he was far inferior to even a ninth-rank martial artist.

“In that case, I think there’s something we can do,” Zhou Shu said. “Great General, you haven’t taken the pill I gave you, right?”

“Not yet.”

Zhou Shu changed the topic too quickly, and even Meng Bai couldn’t keep up.

They were originally discussing how to leave Great Qin, yet he suddenly asked about his cultivation. Now, he suddenly brought up the medicinal pill he had given him. What exactly did he want to say?

While Meng Bai was confused, Zhou Shu already continued, “Great General, why don’t you take the pill first, and then we can talk.”

“Take the pill?” Meng Bai’s brows furrowed slightly. He didn’t think that a mere pill could cure his injuries.

If it was that easy, why would he have suffered so many years of pain?

“You Marquis, the matter at hand is—” Meng Bai said. He was already on the verge of death, so he didn’t care about his own life and death.

If he sacrificed his life to allow Zhou Shu to leave safely and save a talent for Great Xia, he felt that it would be worth it.

“Great General, did you forget what I told you before? Why don’t you try taking the pill at a moment of crisis?” Zhou Shu interrupted. “Now, isn’t the current situation a moment of crisis?”

Meng Bai looked at Zhou Shu, his expression somewhat grave.

Could it be that the pill he gave him was a pill that allowed him to erupt all his strength for a short period of time by consuming the rest of his life?

Otherwise, why did he have to consume it at a critical moment?

If it really was that type of pill, Meng Bai didn’t mind taking it.

He knew that with his current condition, he would only have one final attack left after consuming the medicinal pill. Once the medicinal effect wore off, he would definitely die.

“Okay, I’ll take it.” Meng Bai nodded.

If he was given a few days, or even if he didn’t recover his full strength, even if he only recovered 50-60% of his peak strength, he was still confident that he could lead the Great Xia diplomatic mission and fight against Great Qin. Meng Bai asked his guard to bring the porcelain bottle over. Seeing this, Zhou Shu sighed.

He didn’t tell Meng Bai the truth about the Breakthrough Pill, so Meng Bai didn’t take it too seriously.

If he didn’t bring this pill with him at all times, how could he consume it in times of danger?

Meng Bai opened the stopper of the porcelain bottle, revealing a thumb-sized pill inside. Without much hesitation, he put the pill into his mouth.

The pill melted as soon as it entered his mouth. It transformed into a cool aura that entered his stomach.

Zhou Shu stared at Meng Bai without blinking.

He was also very curious whether this Breakthrough Pill was useful to Meng Bai or not. The effect of the Breakthrough Pill was very clear. It could defy all external conditions and allow martial artists below the first rank to advance a rank.

Defying all external conditions... Meng Bai’s injuries could be considered external conditions, right?

Back then, when Yin Wuyou and Sun Gongping were seriously injured, the Breakthrough Pill had allowed them to directly break through a rank. Meng Bai should also be fine, right?

But Meng Bai’s situation was a bit different.

He had lost his cultivation due to his serious injuries.

There was no way to know his current rank.

In terms of spiritual essence, he was indeed not even a ranked martial artist.

But when he was at his peak, he was a second-rank martial artist. In terms of the Martial Dao, it was possible to call him a second-rank martial artist.

Thus, whether or not the Breakthrough Pill would be useful to Meng Bai, Zhou Shu didn't know.

"It doesn't work?" Zhou Shu stared at Meng Bai. After a long time, Meng Bai's body didn't change at all.

He had neither broken through to the first rank nor the ninth rank of the Martial Dao.

After he consumed the Breakthrough Pill, it seemed to be completely ineffective.

"That shouldn't be the case," Zhou Shu muttered. The Breakthrough Pill was a reward from the Legendary Armament Canon. It was impossible for it to be ineffective.

No matter how Meng Bai's cultivation was determined, at the very least, he should have the strength of a ninth-rank martial artist. "Sigh..." Meng Bai was just about to open his mouth to speak. His body was already like a dried up lamp. Even if it was a pill that burned his life force, it might not necessarily be useful to him.

Suddenly, his expression changed.

Boom!

A powerful aura suddenly emitted from Meng Bai's body.

The expression of the carriage driver and bodyguard, who had always been guarding Meng Bai, changed greatly. Just as he was about to move forward, the tyrannical aura already directly pushed him several meters away, smashing him into the wall with a bang. Zhou Shu also felt a powerful pressure coming at him. He stood rooted to the ground, not moving at all.

His face revealed a look of pleasant surprise. This aura, did Meng Bai break through to the first rank?

Zhou Shu looked over, only to see Meng Bai's eyes tightly shut as heaven and earth vital qi crazily surged into his body.

In the air, an enormous vortex that was over a hundred meters in diameter appeared. Heaven and earth vital qi formed the shape of a funnel, and Meng Bai was below it.

Chapter 228 First-rank Martial Artist, The Return of the God of War (2)

Crack!

Zhou Shu heard a light noise. He saw a pained expression appear on Meng Bai's face, and then his body twisted, as if he couldn't bear the burden.

...

Zhou Shu frowned slightly. Although his strength was not weaker than any first-rank martial artist, his spiritual essence cultivation was far from the first rank.

He didn't know what it was like for martial artists to break through from the second rank to the first rank.

Judging from Meng Bai's current situation, was it the right choice for him to take the pill?

Zhou Shu didn't dare to interfere rashly. If he affected Meng Bai's breakthrough, then it would be too late for regrets. Only the first Breakthrough Pill was effective.

Crack!

Melodious sounds rang continuously. Meng Bai's body seemed to have been reconstructed by the spiritual qi of heaven and earth. Even with Meng Bai's willpower, he couldn't help releasing a suppressed low roar due to the tremendous pain.

At this moment, in Great Qin's imperial palace, the Qin emperor suddenly raised his head and looked in the direction of the post house where Great Xia's diplomatic mission was.

"Who is breaking through to the first rank?" the Qin emperor said in a low voice.

"I don't know," a minister replied. "That direction is where Zuo Shuzhang's residence is. Zuo Shuzhang's cultivation is already at the peak of the second rank. Did he break through?"

Joy flashed across the Qin emperor's eyes. If Great Qin could have one more first-rank expert, the pressure on Great Qin would be greatly reduced.

"Let's go and congratulate Zuo Shuzhang."

The Qin emperor revealed a rare smile.

The Qin Emperor brought a few trusted ministers and headed toward Zuo Shuzhang's residence.

"Ah!" Blood gushed out from all the pores on Meng Bai's body, covering his entire body in blood.

The blood was reddish black and emitted a foul stench.

"Great General!" Meng Bai's guard shouted loudly, his face full of panic.

"Shut up!" Zhou Shu shouted. "If you don't want to kill the great general, then stop shouting!"

The guard's expression changed. He struggled for a moment and swallowed the words about to come out of his mouth.

He was no fool. He could already vaguely guess what had happened. But deep down, he found it hard to believe.

It was too unbelievable.

The great general had visited all the famous doctors in the world but was unable to cure his injuries. But the You Marquis was able to cure him with a single medicinal pill?

Not only did his injuries heal, but it seemed like the great general was about to make a breakthrough as well?

The great general was a second-rank expert back then. If he broke through...

The guard's eyes were full of surprise and joy as he involuntarily looked at Zhou Shu.

What kind of pill was it?

Zhou Shu glanced at him coldly. This glance made him feel as if he had been struck by lightning, and he instantly sobered up.

No matter what kind of medicinal pill it was, it was not something he should be tempted by.

I saw nothing. I know nothing. I have no idea how the great general recovered from his injuries! the guard thought.

Zhou Shu no longer paid him any attention, and his gaze returned to Meng Bai's body.

Meng Bai clenched his fists tightly, and in the end, he growled in pain.

This situation continued for some time before he slowly stopped growling.

The pain on his face subsided and was replaced by relief.

At this moment, he still didn't open his eyes.

The spiritual qi of heaven and earth was still pouring into his body endlessly.

His aura rose rapidly too.

Zhou Shu heaved a sigh of relief. From the looks of it, Meng Bai should have passed the dangerous period and officially begun to break through.

The Breakthrough Pill was indeed effective!

Meng Bai broke through to the first rank and underwent a rebirth. His old injuries naturally healed without any medicine.

Boom!

An intense storm spread out from Meng Bai.

Zhou Shu retreated until he reached the door.

Meng Bai breaking through was a good thing, but his body full of filthy blood really was too smelly!

Zhou Shu turned around and left the room.

People were already standing outside the door.

How could such a huge commotion not alarm the people of Great Xia?

Yin Wuyou, Lu Wenshuang, Chen Ji, Shi Songtao, and the others all came to Meng Bai's door.

When everyone saw Zhou Shu come out, their gazes landed on him.

"What happened?" Yin Wuyou was the first to speak.

"The great general has recovered from his injuries, and his cultivation has risen to another level." Zhou Shu smiled. "Everyone, don't be nervous. It's a good thing."



“The great general has recovered from his injuries?” Yin Wuyou was startled.

She was the one who knew Meng Bai’s condition the best. In the past decade or so, for Meng Bai’s injuries, Emperor Yuan Feng had approached countless doctors.

But none of them had been able to treat the great general. How did his injuries suddenly recover?

“Who cured the great general?” Yin Wuyou asked.

Yin Wuyou understood her father. Although many people said that Great General Meng retired because his achievements were too great, Emperor Yuan Feng had never doubted Meng Bai. He sincerely wanted Meng Bai to recover.

Now that someone had cured Great General Meng, if her father knew, he would definitely reward him heavily.

“I don’t know. Ask Great General Meng yourself later.” Zhou Shu shrugged.

Apart from Meng Bai, only the guard knew that he had given Meng Bai a medicinal pill.

Zhou Shu was certain that Meng Bai wouldn’t betray him. As for the guard, since Meng Bai had him by his side, he should be able to trust him.

In any case, the reason Meng Bai came to Great Qin this time was to seek medical treatment. His injuries completely recovered, which meant he found a famous doctor...

Meanwhile, the Qin emperor and his entourage arrived at Zuo Shuzhang’s residence.

“Greetings, Your Majesty.” Zuo Shuzhang bowed to the Qin emperor in surprise.

The Qin emperor frowned slightly. “Zuo Shuzhang, didn’t you break through to the first rank?”

He could tell at a glance that Zuo Shuzhang’s cultivation level was clearly at the second rank.

“I am incompetent.” Zuo Shuzhang said.

“It has nothing to do with you.” The Qin emperor waved his hand and looked up.

The commotion from the breakthrough had already disappeared, which meant that the advancement had ended.

“Which other second-rank martial artist lives here?” The Qin emperor raised his finger and pointed.

The officials looked at each other and shook their heads.

“Your Majesty, that’s the post house where the Great Xia diplomatic mission resides. Among them, there are second-rank martial artists...” Xu Shi said softly.

“Mm?” The Qin emperor frowned.

“Great Xia’s Princess Wuyou revealed her cultivation base a few days ago. She is at the second rank,” Xu Shi continued.

“She was the one who broke through?” The Qin emperor frowned. That old fellow Emperor Yuan Feng doesn’t have much talent in the Martial Dao, but he has a daughter who is a Martial Dao genius!

On the other hand, he had been a great man all his life, but his sons were all useless!

“I don’t think so.” Xu Shi shook his head. “She should have just broken through to the second rank. I’ve seen her fight before. She’s still far from the first rank.”

“What do you mean?” the Qin emperor said unhappily.

“There is another second-rank martial artist in the Great Xia diplomatic mission,” Xu Shi said softly. “Meng Bai.”

“Meng Bai?” The Qin emperor frowned.

Yin Wuyou was only a junior, so the Qin emperor didn’t pay much attention to her.

But the name Meng Bai didn’t need a prefix.

Everyone knew who Meng Bai was.

Meng Bai, that Meng Bai.

Great Xia’s God of War Meng Bai!

“Didn’t he lose his cultivation due to his injuries?” The Qin emperor frowned.

“It’s like this. When I visited him previously, he was already on the verge of death and didn’t seem to be faking it,” General Wang Mu said.

They were both commanders-in-chief of the military, but Wang Mu and Meng Bai were considered enemies and friends. Like knew

like.

Back when Meng Bai first arrived in Great Qin’s capital, Wang Mu had visited him.

After seeing Meng Bai’s situation, he even sighed with emotion for many days. When he saw his old opponent become like this, not only was he not happy, but he instead felt endless sorrow.

“Let’s go and take a look at the Great Xia diplomatic mission!” the Qin emperor said after pondering for a moment. “Previously, the Great Xia diplomatic mission helped us, and I have yet to thank them personally!”

The eyes of the Qin emperor flickered.

It was naturally a joyous occasion for someone to break through to become a first-rank expert in Great Qin’s capital.

But if it was an outsider, it would not be a joyous occasion.

And if this outsider was Great Xia’s God of War, it would be far from a joyous occasion!

Chapter 229 My Sword Has Only Attacked a First-rank Martial Artist (1)

In the post house where the Great Xia diplomatic mission was staying, Zhou Shu once again came into close contact with the Qin emperor.

With the Qin emperor personally arriving, Zhou Shu, the official envoy of the diplomatic mission, definitely had to show his face.

...

“Your Majesty, what brings you here?” Zhou Shu said while cupping his hands.

“I heard that your country’s Great General Meng is also in the diplomatic mission. In the past, Great General Meng and I met once. I came here today to meet an old friend,” the Qin emperor said calmly.

“Sorry.” Zhou Shu shook his head. “Your Majesty, you came at a bad time. The great general’s injuries are severe. After taking some medicine, he fell asleep.”

Meng Bai was still consolidating his cultivation in his room. Zhou Shu naturally wouldn’t let the Qin emperor disturb him.

“Is that so?” the Qin emperor said indifferently. “I heard that Great General Meng was seriously injured, so I specially brought the imperial physicians over to let them diagnose him.”

The Qin emperor looked straight at Zhou Shu, his gaze filled with oppression.

Zhou Shu didn’t avoid it and looked straight into the eyes of the Qin emperor.

He was observing the Qin emperor.

If his previous speculations were true, then the cultivation of the Qin emperor would be affected if something went wrong with Great Qin’s imperial cauldron.

Now, the Qin emperor didn’t seem to have changed.

His aura was as deep as the ocean, and he gave people the feeling that he was a lion ready to attack.

It was so deep that even Zhou Shu felt a sense of danger.

The sense of danger was stronger than what he felt from Xu Shi.

Zhou Shu was just about to speak when Meng Bai’s voice suddenly sounded. “I appreciate your kind intentions.”

A wheelchair was pushed out.

Meng Bai was sitting in the wheelchair, his face aged, his hair already white.

His breath was weak, and he coughed from time to time, looking like he was in his last years.

Seeing Meng Bai’s appearance, the Qin emperor, Xu Shi, and others all frowned slightly.

Meng Bai didn’t look like a first-rank martial artist at all.

“My injuries are incurable. There’s no need to trouble your imperial physicians.” While speaking, Meng Bai coughed intensely again, looking like he might die at any time.

“Since we’re here, we have to let them diagnose you, Great General.” The Qin emperor narrowed his eyes.

Without waiting for Meng Bai to agree or refuse, he waved his hand, and a middle-aged man already walked out from behind him.

This middle-aged man directly walked in front of Meng Bai and reached out his hand to take Meng Bai’s pulse.

Suddenly, his vision went black. A tall and sturdy figure was already standing between him and Meng Bai.

“Chengliang, stand down,” Meng Bai ordered.

The guard named Chengliang hesitated for a moment before retreating back behind Meng Bai.

Meng Bai generously extended his arm. “Your Majesty, since you are so generous, then I will have to trouble you.”

The man reached out his fingers and pressed them against Meng Bai’s wrist.

After a while, he retracted his hand.

“I am incompetent. I am powerless against Great General Meng’s injuries.” He sighed and shook his head before returning to the Qin emperor’s side.

“It’s not that. My injuries are already ineffective against medicine,” Meng Bai said with a bitter smile.

The Qin emperor’s expression didn’t change as he said, “Great Qin still has many famous doctors. Later, I will get them to diagnose you, Great General Meng.”

“Thank you, Your Majesty, but there is no need.” Meng Bai shook his head. “I am well aware of my own situation. My body cannot hold on any longer.

“Since Your Majesty is here, I shall be thick-skinned and make a request.

“As the saying goes, the fallen leaves return to their roots. I am about to die from old age, and I want to die in my homeland. Now that the matters of the Great Xia diplomatic mission are more or less settled, I wish to bid farewell to Your Majesty. I hope Your Majesty will permit it.”

“Sure, I will issue the imperial decree. Great General Meng, please rest well. I won’t disturb you any further.” He stood up and bid farewell.

After leaving the diplomatic mission of Great Xia, the Qin emperor frowned. “Are there any experts from Great Qin residing nearby?”

If the one who broke through wasn’t Meng Bai, then who was it?

“There are two second-rank martial artists. I wonder if they are the ones who broke through,” a minister said.

“Go and investigate. I don’t believe that a second-rank martial artist would suddenly appear in my capital.” The Qin emperor snorted.

Inside the post house, after Meng Bai confirmed that the Qin emperor and his group had already left, his face revealed a relaxed expression.

“Great General, you...” Yin Wuyou, Lu Wenshuang, and the others all looked at Meng Bai in shock.

Meng Bai had already stood up from the wheelchair. Following his movements, his white hair turned black at a visible speed.

The wrinkles on his face seemed to have flattened.

He only took a second to stand up.

A second ago, he was a seriously injured old man on the verge of death.

One second later, he turned into a suave middle-aged man.

Yin Wuyou blinked and asked, “Great General, have you really recovered?”

“I’m fully recovered. Not only am I fully recovered, but I’ve also profited from a disaster and attained the first rank of the Martial Dao.” Meng Bai was unable to conceal the happiness on his face.

After being entangled by injuries for decades, even Meng Bai found it hard to hide the excitement in his heart.

“Great General, how did you recover?” Yin Wuyou asked curiously.

“Great General, how did you hide from Great Qin’s imperial physician?” Zhou Shu interrupted.

Meng Bai glanced at Zhou Shu and understood his thoughts. He smiled and said, “It’s just a small trick, not worth mentioning.”

Chapter 230 My Sword Has Only Attacked a First-rank Martial Artist (2)

“Your Highness, I was only able to recover from my injuries because I was lucky,” Meng Bai continued.

“Originally, I was trying my best, wishing to see if I could break through before I died. In the end, I was lucky and actually succeeded.

“Let’s not talk about this anymore.” Meng Bai didn’t elaborate further and instead changed the topic.

“Even though I’ve managed to bluff my way through, the Qin emperor will definitely become suspicious.

...

“We have already bid farewell to the Qin emperor. If nothing unexpected happens, we should be able to obtain the imperial decree today.”

The commotion of him breaking through to the first rank was too great. The reason the Qin emperor came here was likely that he was suspicious.

Although he had managed to bluff his way through, he couldn’t hide it for long.

In addition, the Qin emperor was still coveting Zhou Shu’s Iron Smelting Hands Technique. If he was really ruthless, the Great Xia diplomatic mission would face a calamity!

Meng Bai had completely recovered, and he had even broken through to the first rank. But the Great Xia diplomatic mission didn't celebrate openly.

They even hid the news intentionally. Even though the commotion caused by Meng Bai's breakthrough was great, if people didn't personally see it, they wouldn't suspect him either.

There were only seven or eight people in the diplomatic mission who knew about this.

When they came to Great Qin, Meng Bai had always lived in seclusion. He didn't show himself, so not many people suspected him.

Just as Meng Bai expected, in the afternoon, an official from Great Qin delivered the imperial decree.

The members of the Great Xia diplomatic mission had already packed up. As soon as they received the decree, they immediately set off.

On the other hand, Great Liang's diplomatic mission had yet to obtain the Qin emperor's approval and couldn't leave with Great Xia's diplomatic mission.

About fifteen kilometers away from the capital, just as Meng Bai was preparing to take over and lead the Great Xia diplomatic mission to return to Great Xia, a fully armed army suddenly appeared in front of them.

The hearts of the Great Xia's diplomatic mission instantly rose to their throats.

Chen Ji gripped his Green Dragon Crescent Blade tightly and whispered to Zhou Shu, "Marquis, it's Great Qin's General Wang Mu!"

"I know," Zhou Shu said.

He had once entered a dream and became Wang Xin. In his dreams, he had interacted with his grandfather Wang Mu.

General Wang Mu's status in Great Qin was equivalent to Meng Bai's status in Great Xia.

He was an out-and-out general!

Zhou Shu frowned slightly. Could my and Meng Bai's estimations be wrong?

Great Qin actually mobilized its army to stop us from leaving?

In that case, why did the Qin emperor still sign the imperial decree?

Now, even Wang Mu had come to personally block the path. Even though Meng Bai had broken through to the first rank of the Martial Dao, it might be difficult for them to leave.

"Calm down. I'll go and see what he wants," Zhou Shu said as he urged his horse forward.

Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang hurriedly followed him. They were facing fully armed soldiers, so they had to be on guard against sudden attacks.

"Greetings, You Marquis." Wang Mu looked to be in his forties. He had a square face and looked dignified. He had an air of authority about him.

He cupped his hands slightly on his horse.

“Greetings, Great General.” Zhou Shu also cupped his hands. “Great General, why is your army blocking our path?” “I’m here to send you off,” Wang Mu said as he glanced at the carriages in the diplomatic mission. He raised his voice. “Brother Meng, we have been friends for decades. After this farewell, we might never meet again. I’m here to send you off. Please meet me.”

Zhou Shu frowned. Are they still suspicious?

“Brother Wang, why are you doing this? It’s better to miss each other than to see each other. It’s really quite embarrassing for me to meet you like this.” Meng Bai’s voice sounded from within the carriage.

“Brother Meng, are you unwilling to meet me?” Wang Mu said.

“Great General Wang, is this how you send him off?” Zhou Shu suddenly said. “Our great general is not feeling well. Must he come out to see you?”

“It doesn’t seem like you’re here to send him off. Instead, it seems like you’re here to send him to his death.”

“You Marquis, are you doubting me?” Wang Mu glanced at Zhou Shu indifferently. “I’ve heard that your forging skills are unparalleled. I wonder if you will be able to comment on my sword?”

With a clang, Wang Mu unsheathed his sword.

“How dare you!” Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang attacked at the same time.

Boom!

With a loud bang, the two women and their horses retreated several steps.

Wang Mu casually brandished his sword. “If I want to attack, you won’t be able to stop me,” Wang Mu said. “You Marquis, what do you think of this sword?”

He had forced back Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang with a single strike of his sword, but he didn’t continue to attack. He held his sword horizontally in front of him as if he really wanted Zhou Shu to comment on the sword in his hand.

Zhou Shu’s eyes narrowed slightly. Wang Mu truly had the style of someone from Great Qin.

You keep saying that you’re here to send him off. But you drew your sword without saying a word once I disagreed. Is that how you send someone off?

But then again, Wang Mu sure is tough.

First-rank martial artist?

Great Qin was truly worthy of being the strongest nation among the ten nations. He had only been in Great Qin for a short period of time, yet he had already seen several first-rank martial artists.

The Qin emperor, Xu Shi, and Wang Mu...

Zhou Shu had been in the Grand Xia for so long. But other than the false first-rank martial Emperor Yuan Feng, he had only seen one true first-rank martial artist, Yin Changhao.

Clang! Behind Zhou Shu, the sound of weapons being unsheathed rang out. After Yin Wuyou and Lu Wenshuang were forced back, Chen Ji and the others all drew their weapons.

Wang Mu smiled faintly as the soldiers behind him placed their hands on their saber hilts.

The atmosphere became tense.

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes.

“Great General, your sword is ordinary,” Zhou Shu said. “It’s not worthy of your status, General.”

“Is that so?” Wang Mu said with a smile, “This sword of mine is a heaven-grade weapon. It once killed five third-rank martial artists and one second-rank martial artist.

“Yet it’s only an ordinary weapon in your eyes, You Marquis?”

“I’m just telling the truth.” Zhou Shu shrugged, unmoved. “Weapons that are not heaven-grade can kill martial artists too.

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“My Great Destroyer Sword is only a yellow-grade weapon.” Zhou Shu patted the Great Destroyer Sword on his back.

“It doesn’t have many battle achievements. All it did was cut off Great Wei’s Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi’s arm.

“Also, Grand Minister, show General Wang your Shadow Sword.”

Yin Wuyou raised her right hand with a cold expression.

Under the sunlight, he could vaguely see a shadow.

Wang Mu’s smile stiffened.

“This Shadow Sword is only a yellow-grade weapon. It is slightly stronger than the Great Destroyer Sword and killed Great Wei’s Imperial Preceptor Xiao Shunzhi.”

The smile on Wang Mu’s face vanished, and his expression darkened slightly.

His heaven-grade sword had only killed five third-rank martial artists and one second-rank martial artist.

Zhou Shu casually took out two yellow-grade weapons. One had cut off the arm of a first-rank martial artist, and the other had killed a first-rank martial artist.

To say that his sword was ordinary was an understatement!

Wang Mu was at a loss for words.

Using my sword to trade for the cultivation method of the Iron Smelting Hands Technique?

How can such a lousy thing be used for this trade?



Wang Mu suddenly felt that his heaven-grade sword, which he had treated as a treasure for more than ten years, seemed weak and useless.

Damn it! What's going on! Wang Mu cursed inwardly. This is a heaven-grade weapon. It is one of the top ten swords in the Heaven-grade Armament Manual. Why does it feel so inferior in front of this junior?

"Great General Wang, if you have something to say, just say it." Meng Bai's light laughter sounded from the carriage. "Beating around the bush isn't something you're good at."

"Hmph!" Wang Mu snorted coldly. "You Marquis, my sword is ranked ninth in the Heaven-grade Armament Manual. I'll use it and my Wang family's sword technique to exchange for your Iron Smelting Hands Technique!"

"The sword technique passed down in my Wang family is one of the strongest sword techniques in the world!"

"Strongest? Not necessarily!" Lu Wenshuang snorted.

She was still indignant after being repelled by Wang Mu's strike. It wasn't easy for her to find an opportunity to interject. Her eyes were full of fighting spirit as she stared at Wang Mu. "If we were at the same rank, it's still not certain who would win!"

"Even your master wouldn't dare to say such words before me," Wang Mu said indifferently.

"The sword is average, and the swordsmanship is not necessarily good," Zhou Shu said. "Great General Wang, do you think I lack a sword or sword technique?"