

# Legendary Armament Canon

## Chapter 27: Recruitment

“Your Highness, Zhou Shu went to the Ministry of Works to hire craftsmen and has already started construction. This is the blueprint I obtained from the craftsmen.” Inside a palace in Great Xia’s imperial palace, a delicate palace maid was reporting to Yin Wuyou.

“He’s more anxious than I am.” Yin Wuyou took the blueprint and looked at it. “This blueprint was designed by someone from the Ministry of Works?”

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“No, I heard that Zhou Shu designed it himself.”

“He knows construction?” Yin Wuyou asked in surprise. “Did I really discover a talent?”

The palace maid was speechless. “Your Highness, you dared to appoint him as the superintendent of a workshop before you were certain of his abilities?”

“That’s not it.” Yin Wuyou shook her head. “I’m sure he has some talent for forging. This 0th Workshop is just an attempt. It doesn’t matter whether it succeeds or not.

“Just the Huben Saber and the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber are enough for him to be a superintendent.

“Right, how many Forging Apprentices has he recruited now?”

“Not one.” The palace maid said with a strange expression, “These days, he has been eating and sleeping with the craftsmen of the Ministry of Works. He’s been busy with the construction of the workshop all day long and hasn’t gone to recruit any Forging Apprentices!”

“Not a single one?” Yin Wuyou’s brows furrowed slightly. “Great General Meng has already urged us several times. If the Forging Division still can’t

hand over Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers soon, things will get troublesome.”

“Then, Your Highness, should we ask for the secret forging formula for the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber and get the other workshops to start forging first?” the palace maid asked.

“Let me think about it.” Yin Wuyou pondered for a moment. “Ask the Ministry of Public Works to inform Zhou Shu that this month, the 0th Workshop is carrying out large-scale construction, and it’s not necessary to hand over weapons. But starting from next month, the 0th Workshop will have to hand over at least a thousand Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers every month!”

“Isn’t a thousand too little?” The little palace maid was also devious.

“Take it slow.” Yin Wuyou waved her hand. “Do as I say!”

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Zhou Shu didn’t know that a forging task was about to befall him. He was looking at the slowly forming 0th Workshop, his heart filled with joy.

It was undeniable that the craftsmen from the Ministry of Works were indeed a little expensive, but their craftsmanship was unequivocal.

In just a few days, the foundation of the 0th Workshop had been completed, and the workshop was beginning to take shape.

The craftsmanship of this world was limited, so it was impossible to build tall buildings. And Zhou Shu had never thought of developing cement like other transmigrators.

Thus, the buildings of the 0th Workshop were mostly two-story and single-story.

He didn’t build furnaces in the residences of the Forging Apprentices as per normal. Instead, he built a large factory and arranged all the furnaces inside.

As for the residences of the Forging Apprentices, they were arranged elsewhere.

Let's put it this way. He had divided the 0th Workshop into several sections: work area, accommodation area, living area, entertainment area...

Forging beside a furnace was fine in winter. But in summer, it was extremely hot. Zhou Shu had personally experienced it.

His 0th Workshop was not a sweatshop. He didn't want to be bad-mouthed by the Forging Apprentices.

In his opinion, it would be beneficial for their work efficiency if the apprentices had a good rest environment.

And according to his previous experience of forging Huben Sabers, he could command the apprentices at once if he gathered them to forge together.

Otherwise, it would be very difficult for ordinary Forging Apprentices to master the technique of forging the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

For now, the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber was the trademark of the 0th Workshop, and it undoubtedly had to be mass produced.

However, it would take the average Forging Apprentice at least a year to master the forging technique of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

The only way was to use the same method he had used when he completed the Huben Sabers forging mission, which was to break down the movements and unify the command.

This was why he had decided to build a large factory.

The residences of the Forging Apprentices were still detached houses. Although the houses weren't large, the conditions were much better than in other workshops.

A sparrow may be small, but all its vital organs are there. The houses were designed to have two bedrooms and one living room and could accommodate Forging Apprentices and their families. Kitchens and bathrooms were standard, and even the floors were covered with green tiles.

Thus, the cost of building each house was 20 taels of silver!

The territory of the 0th Workshop wasn't large, and Zhou Shu only planned houses for fifty people, but this already cost him a thousand taels!

He had spent almost all of the gifts he received.

The craftsmen couldn't understand why Zhou Shu would do such a thing, but since he was the one paying, they naturally did as he said.

Seeing the workshop grow day by day, Zhou Shu felt like he was watching his child grow up. The joy in his heart didn't need to be said.

Actually, he hadn't been idling around the whole time. He persistently forged Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers every day.

According to his previous experience, after he forged 100 Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers, another weapon would appear in the Legendary Armament Canon.

He wondered if the next weapon would be a ranked one.

Of course, he didn't forget about recruiting Forging Apprentices.

Although the palace maid didn't see Zhou Shu recruiting, this didn't mean that he hadn't done anything.

He was waiting for the 0th Workshop to take shape before he had the terms to negotiate with others.

What is visible is always more convincing than empty words!

"Brother Zhang, Brother Wu, brothers, I know you have a lot of work to do. I called you all over purely because I had a pleasure working together with you. I left the 97th Workshop and wanted to say goodbye to everyone.

"I ordered this banquet from the Drunken Immortal Inn. Today, everyone can eat and drink as much as you want."

Zhang Yibei, Sixth Brother Wu, and the others looked at Zhou Shu with complicated expressions.

Not long ago, Zhou Shu was just like them. They were all poor Forging Apprentices.

At the time, although Zhang Yibei and Sixth Brother Wu had praised Zhou Shu and said that he would be able to become a Forging Master in the future, they were actually doubtful.

After all, the Forging Division had been established for so many years, and there were only a handful of people who had truly grown from a Forging Apprentice to a Forging Master.

Unexpectedly, only a few days had passed, and while Zhou Shu had not become a Forging Master, he had become the superintendent of a workshop!

Regardless of Forging Masters or superintendents, they were all high and mighty figures.

“Congratulations, Superintendent Zhou.”

After all, Zhang Yibei and the others were no longer hot-blooded youngsters. Even though they were a little envious, they knew what they should do on the surface.

“Brother Zhang, you’re too polite—”

“Superintendent Zhou, please don’t call me that. Just call me by my name.” Zhang Yibei bowed.

“Brother Zhang, we have gone through thick and thin together. You’re treating me like an outsider. Let’s sit down and talk while we eat,” Zhou Shu said.

Everyone sat down with complicated feelings, and most of them only dared to sit halfway on their chairs.

Zhou Shu sighed internally. *The hierarchy in this world is too strict. If the relationship between Forging Apprentices and workshop superintendents are already like this, then what about higher up?*

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It appeared that he could converse with Princess Wuyou and Sun Gongping now. But in reality, there was a tremendous gap between them.

It was not time for Zhou Shu to be proud and complacent.

With this warning in mind, he raised his wine cup. "We've all worked together to forge the Huben Sabers, and it was a pleasant cooperation. Let me toast everyone first!"

Zhou Shu drank his cup of wine first.

When Zhang Yibei and the others saw this, they also raised their cups and drank.

After downing the wine cups, the crowd finally calmed down a little.

"Superintendent Zhou, we didn't have the right to congratulate you when you were promoted. Now, I'll use this opportunity to toast you." Zhang Yibei stood up and raised his cup.

This scene of a man in his forties smiling and raising his cup made Zhou Shu think of his previous life, and he couldn't help feeling sad.

He and Zhang Yibei drank a cup of wine, and before anyone else could toast him, Zhou Shu spoke.

"I invited everyone here today to say goodbye and reminisce. I also have something to ask of you," Zhou Shu said in a low voice.

Zhang Yibei and the others were stunned.

"Superintendent, feel free to give us any orders," Zhang Yibei and the others said simultaneously.

"It's not really an order." Zhou Shu shook his head. "Everyone now knows that, thanks to the grand minister, I was promoted to the superintendent of the 0th Workshop. This workshop is being built from scratch.

"We all know that Forging Apprentices are the cornerstones of a workshop. Without them, a workshop is not truly a workshop."

Zhang Yibei and the others looked at each other, vaguely knowing what Zhou Shu wanted to say.

"Superintendent Zhou, honestly speaking, we're willing to work for you." Zhang Yibei was the first to speak. "You've done us a great favor. If you want us to do more things, we won't decline, let alone change workshops.

"It's just that we are bound by contracts with the Forging Division, and we have no choice."

Forging Apprentices had no choice.

Zhang Yibei had never heard of any Forging Apprentice who could casually choose their workshop.

"You don't have to worry about that," Zhou Shu said with a smile. "As long as you are willing, I will handle the contract."

"Let me make myself clear. If everyone is willing to transfer from the 97th Workshop to my 0th Workshop, there won't be any changes to your salaries for the time being."

The salaries of the Forging Division's Forging Apprentices were paid by the Imperial Court.

There was a certain rule, and even Zhou Shu couldn't casually raise their salaries.

Of course, when they arrived at the 0th Workshop, Zhou Shu had ways to improve their treatment gradually.

"That's not a problem. It's the same for us everywhere," Zhang Yibei said. "As long as Superintendent Xiao doesn't stop us, I'm willing to work for you, Superintendent Zhou."

"Me too!"

"Me too!"

The rest chimed in disorderly.

Everyone's reactions warmed Zhou Shu's heart. *It seems I'm quite popular.*

"Everyone, eat and drink!" Zhou Shu laughed. "Tomorrow, I'll go find Xiao Zongshui and negotiate with him. In the future, when everyone comes to the 0th Workshop, we'll be brothers. As long as I have the ability, I won't mistreat anyone."

"I dare not say anything else, but in my 0th Workshop, there will definitely not be any Forging Apprentice who will die from exhaustion!"

## Chapter 28: Open Conspiracy

“Superintendent Zhou, I’m sorry to have kept you waiting.” Xiao Zongshui walked in from outside and spoke with a fake smile. “There are hundreds of Forging Apprentices in the 97th Workshop, and there are issues to solve every day. You’ve been in the 97th Workshop before, so you should know.”

Zhou Shu knew that Xiao Zongshui was mocking him for not having anyone in the 0th Workshop. His expression didn’t change as he said indifferently, “Superintendent Xiao is busy.”

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“Alright, Superintendent Zhou, I still have a lot of work to do. You didn’t come to the 97th Workshop to reminisce about the old place, did you?”

“There’s no need to reminisce,” Zhou Shu said. “I don’t have any good memories of the 97th Workshop.”

“Really? I thought I used to treat you well.” Xiao Zongshui smiled spuriously.

“Let’s not talk about the past anymore,” Zhou Shu said coldly. “I came here to discuss something with you.

“The grand minister has given me permission to select Forging Apprentices from various workshops to join the 0th Workshop—”

“I don’t recall the grand minister saying that,” Xiao Zongshui interrupted.

“They mean the same thing. As long as a Forging Apprentice is willing to come to the 0th Workshop, the superintendent of his current workshop can’t stop him. This is the grand minister’s intention. Superintendent Xiao, don’t you remember?” Zhou Shu said.

“Of course.” A cold glint flashed across Xiao Zongshui’s eyes. “Superintendent Zhou, are you interested in any Forging Apprentices in the 97th Workshop? As long as the Forging Apprentice agrees, I won’t have any objections.”



Zhou Shu was taken aback by Xiao Zongshui's attitude. He had originally thought that Xiao Zongshui would find a way to make things difficult for him, but he hadn't expected him to agree so readily.

"That's good. It saves me the trouble of having to look for the grand minister again," Zhou Shu said.

"Superintendent Zhou, you don't need to use the grand minister to pressure me." Xiao Zongshui sneered. "I wouldn't dare to blatantly defy the orders of the grand minister."

"I've spoken to some of the apprentices, and they've all agreed to come to the 0th Workshop. I hope that you won't stop them, Superintendent Xiao," Zhou Shu said.

"Cut the crap. Just tell me who they are," Xiao Zongshui said.

"Zhang Yibei, Sixth Brother Wu..." Zhou Shu said a series of names. They were all the people who had forged the Huben Sabers with him.

Xiao Zongshui had a half-smile on his face, looking somewhat mocking.

He only spoke after Zhou Shu finished speaking. "Is that all?"

"That's all. There are hundreds of people in the 97th Workshop, so the impact of losing these dozens of people shouldn't be much, right? Superintendent Xiao, can you transfer their contracts to the 0th Workshop?"

"I'd love to do that, but..." Xiao Zongshui spread his hands.

"But what? Superintendent Xiao, do you have any conditions?" Zhou Shu frowned.

"No, I just can't help," Xiao Zongshui said.

"The people you want are no longer in the 97th Workshop."

"What?" Zhou Shu exclaimed in shock.

"Just this morning, a few workshops were short-handed and asked for help from the 97th Workshop. The Forging Division's workshops have always been on the same side. Since they asked for help, I naturally couldn't ignore them," Xiao Zongshui explained in all seriousness.

“Zhang Yibei and the rest are all experts in forging in the 97th Workshop, so I sent them to help out at the other workshops.

“Superintendent Zhou, you’re late. If you want these apprentices, you have to go look for the other superintendents.”

“What about their contracts?” Zhou Shu frowned.

“Naturally, they’ve been transferred to the other workshops,” Xiao Zongshui said.

Zhou Shu glared at Xiao Zongshui. He didn’t believe that this was a coincidence!

Zhang Yibei and the others were all veterans of forging, and they were the only ones who could forge the Huben Sabers now. No rational workshop superintendent would let them go so easily.

Besides, before this, he had never heard of a workshop needing to borrow manpower.

But at this moment, Xiao Zongshui had sent out Zhang Yibei and the others!

No one would believe that he didn’t do it on purpose.

Before Zhou Shu came, he had thought that Xiao Zongshui would give him some trouble, so he had been prepared to pay a certain price.

But he hadn’t expected Xiao Zongshui to use such a method to stop him from poaching Zhang Yibei and the others.

Zhang Yibei and the group of thirty or so apprentices had been assigned to more than ten workshops. In other words, if Zhou Shu wanted to gather all of them, he would have to talk to a dozen or so superintendents.

Although Yin Wuyou had given the order that superintendents were not to stop their apprentices from leaving, nothing was absolute in this world. Even if they didn’t stop the apprentices on the surface, it was easy to play tricks.

A dozen or so workshop superintendents were equivalent to a dozen possible accidents.

Xiao Zongshui had good tactics!

He himself hadn't done anything, but he made dozens of superintendents be at odds with Zhou Shu!

Unless Zhou Shu gave up on recruiting Zhang Yibei and the others, he would definitely become enemies with the other superintendents.

After all, Zhang Yibei and the others had mastered the forging method of the Huben Saber. They were like money trees to the other superintendents, and blocking one's path to wealth was akin to killing their parents.

Zhou Shu didn't believe that these workshop superintendents would be so understanding and righteous as to let Zhou Shu have his way.

"Superintendent Xiao, you have great tactics," Zhou Shu said coldly.

"The feeling is mutual." Xiao Zongshui laughed heartily. "Superintendent Zhou, you are the first Forging Apprentice who forged his own weapon and ascended to become a superintendent in a single bound. As someone who has experience, I will give you a word of advice: not everyone can be the superintendent of a workshop!

"By the way, I heard that from next month onward, the 0th Workshop will have to hand over a thousand Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers every month.

"I wonder if a forging genius like you, Superintendent Zhou, can complete this mission alone without cooperation?"

Xiao Zongshui burst into laughter.

If a workshop couldn't complete the forging tasks of the Forging Division, the superintendent would definitely be punished!

Without Zhang Yibei and the rest, whom he had experience working with, it would take time for Zhou Shu to get another batch of Forging Apprentices to work together cooperatively.

If he wanted to gather Zhang Yibei and the others, he would also need time.

Even if he managed to gather enough manpower in the end, it would be impossible for him to complete the task.

Xiao Zongshui was conspiring openly. Zhou Shu had to accept it no matter what!

“Superintendent Xiao, you don’t need to worry about whether or not I can complete the mission,” Zhou Shu said coldly.

“Superintendent Zhou, I didn’t realize that you were so arrogant before,” Xiao Zongshui said with a smile. “Then let’s wait and see. You are a forging genius. A mere thousand Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers will definitely not stump you.”

“It’s good that you know. I won’t disappoint you,” Zhou Shu said coldly.

Zhou Shu left the 97th Workshop. Even from afar, he could still hear Xiao Zongshui’s loud laughter.

*Xiao Zongshui, oh Xiao Zongshui, you want to see me get punished? That’s not possible in this lifetime.* Zhou Shu snorted coldly and walked towards the 81st Workshop. Zhang Yibei had been sent here.

After staying at the 81st Workshop for a while, Zhou Shu went to the 84th, 86th, 89th, 92nd, 93rd workshops...

He stayed at every workshop for ten minutes. Every time he left a workshop, his expression would become a bit uglier.

Zhang Yibei and the others had worked together with Zhou Shu before, and he had verified their forging skills.

If he brought them over to the 0th Workshop, the workshop could immediately start forging the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers.

If it were any other Forging Apprentices, even if their skill levels were higher than those of Zhang Yibei and the others, Zhou Shu would have to train them again to work cooperatively.

This would be troublesome and a waste of time. The training might not even work.

Xiao Zongshui was well aware of this, so he had taken drastic measures and sent Zhang Yibei and the others to different workshops!

Undeniably, Xiao Zongshui had indeed made a brilliant move.

Zhou Shu couldn't bear to give up on Zhang Yibei and the others, and he wanted to guide and support these people who had worked well with him in the past. Thus, he couldn't avoid provoking the other workshop superintendents.

Even if Zhou Shu had the backing of Yin Wuyou in the Forging Division, he wouldn't have a good life in the future if he offended too many workshop superintendents.

He looked at the door of the 78th Workshop. This was the last workshop. If he still couldn't get anyone, then he would have wasted all his efforts today.

After a moment of silence, Zhou Shu pushed open the door.

"Superintendent Zhou, you wish to get Sixth Brother Wu from me?" The superintendent of the 78th Workshop, Li Hongyuan, looked at Zhou Shu. "No problem.

"But I have a condition."

"Please speak, Superintendent Li," Zhou Shu said happily.

"It's very simple." Li Hongyuan took a sip of tea before continuing, "Superintendent Zhou, I heard that you are a rare weapon forging genius. As a result, you rose from an apprentice to superintendent in a single bound.

"I have been in the Forging Division for almost thirty years, and I have seen a lot of weapon forging geniuses," Li Hongyuan said indifferently. "But most of them are just sailing under false colors.

"I've always disdained in associating with people like this."

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes. Li Hongyuan's words seemed to have a deeper meaning.

"What exactly do you mean, Superintendent Li? Please speak clearly." Zhou Shu cupped his hands.

"I believe in the differences between people, and I believe in the existence of geniuses," Li Hongyuan said calmly. "However, I don't think you could have developed the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber alone."

“So?” Zhou Shu said. After being rejected with all sorts of excuses, his temper was triggered.

He wanted to keep a low profile and not be in conflict with others, but this didn’t mean he was easy to bully!

So what if they were superintendents?

He was also a superintendent!

“There is also a forging genius in my 78th Workshop.”

Li Hongyuan sneered. “Superintendent Zhou, if you want to take an apprentice away, you just need to compete with the forging genius of the 78th Workshop.

“If you win, you can take an apprentice away.

“If you lose, then I’m sorry. I won’t allow anyone skilled to fall into the hands of a liar.”

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Li Hongyuan stared at Zhou Shu, his eyes flashing.

“Superintendent Li, do you want to defy the orders of the grand minister? She has ordered that as long as a Forging Apprentice is willing to join my 0th Workshop, no one can stop him!”

“What if the Forging Apprentice is unwilling?” Li Hongyuan was indifferent.

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes and looked at Li Hongyuan. It was obvious that these superintendents were in cahoots with Xiao Zongshui. Their purpose was to put on airs right at the beginning of Zhou Shu’s office.

“I have no problem with competing,” Zhou Shu said coldly. “But I have a rule: the judge must be someone qualified!

“And I have to change the terms!

“If I win, not only will I take away Sixth Brother Wu, I will also take the other apprentices away!

“All the workshops can send as many people as you want. I, Zhou Shu, will compete with them all!”

Chapter 29: If You Don't Explode In Silence, You'll Die In Silence

Zhou Shu was tired of arguing with Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others.

He had only wanted to keep a low profile, do his job well, and avoid conflicts.

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But these people didn't give him a chance. In that case, he wouldn't keep a low profile!

“If you want to compete with me, you have to follow my rules!” Zhou Shu shouted.

This time, he decided not to hide anything. Weren't these people targeting him?

Then he would show them that some people couldn't be targeted!

Zhou Shu's intention was very clear. Didn't Li Hongyuan want to compete? Fine, let him have a good competition once and for all!

Zhou Shu's demand for the presence of someone of sufficient status was his backup plan.

He planned to go all out this time. By doing so, he would have to find a way to ensure his safety.

Zhou Shu knew that his forging skills were very valuable to the apprentices and even to superintendents like Xiao Zongshui.

But in the eyes of the true big shots, they were nothing.

The true big shots wouldn't harm him just for the forging formula of a standard weapon.

On the other hand, those at Xiao Zongshui's level might kill for the secret forging formula of a standard weapon.

Furthermore, with a big shot present, Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others couldn't deny their loss!

"Hmph, what arrogance." Li Hongyuan snorted. "If you want to compete with so many workshops, I can satisfy you. But if you lose—"

"If I lose, I will give you the secret forging formula of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber!" Zhou Shu interrupted coldly.

"Really?" Li Hongyuan's eyes lit up!

Why did they cooperate with Xiao Zongshui?

It was purely because Xiao Zongshui had agreed to share a portion of the profits obtained from forging the Huben Sabers with them.

The Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber was far more valuable than the Huben Saber!

If they could get the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, the benefits to their workshops would be self-evident!

There were 108 workshops in the Forging Division, and there were different ranks. The higher the ranking, the greater the benefits. As for the ranking, it depended on how many secret forging formulas the workshop had.

"A word spoken is past recalling," Zhou Shu said coldly.

"Great!" Li Hongyuan shouted. "I will discuss this with the other superintendents. Come back here tomorrow at this time!"

Zhou Shu didn't say anything else. He turned around and left.

After leaving the 78th Workshop, Zhou Shu didn't return to the 0th Workshop. Instead, he left the Forging Division and headed for the capital.

The greatest benefit of being a workshop superintendent was that he had the freedom to utilize his time. Previously, when he was a Forging Apprentice, he couldn't leave the Forging Division arbitrarily.



After entering the city gates, Zhou Shu headed straight for his destination.

“Could I trouble you to notify that Zhou Shu of the Forging Division requests an audience with Divine Constable Sun Gongping?” Zhou Shu said to the gatekeeper after arriving at the door of the Divine Constable Bureau.

Unlike the Forging Division, which was located on the outskirts of the city, the Divine Constable Bureau was located at the core of the capital. Its gate was even more imposing than the office of the capital magistrate’s gate.

The constable in the dark green uniform glanced at Zhou Shu. “What do you need Divine Constable Sun for?”

In the Forging Division, only ranked martial artists could be called divine constables. The rest could only be called constables.

“Divine Constable Sun and I are good friends. I have some personal matters to discuss with him,” Zhou Shu said while cupping his hands.

The constable sized him up and said coldly, “Wait.”

Then he walked into the Divine Constable Bureau.

After a while, Sun Gongping’s loud voice came. “What brings you here, Old Zhou? Are you here to send me money?”

Sun Gongping swaggered out of the Divine Constable Bureau.

He came to Zhou Shu’s side and put his arm around Zhou Shu’s shoulders. “Let me tell you something. I’ve changed my mind recently. I no longer like the original weapon. I want a new one now. It’s definitely worthy of me, but the price is a bit higher.”

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes internally. Sun Gongping was always thinking about weapons. Zhou Shu didn’t know why it was so difficult for someone of Sun Gongping’s status to obtain a ranked weapon. He kept thinking of borrowing money!

If Zhou Shu didn’t lend him money, Sun Gongping’s address for him would decline from Brother Zhou to Little Brother Zhou. Now, it had changed to Old Zhou.

“We’ll talk about this later. I need your help with something,” Zhou Shu said.

“Tell me about it, and I’ll see if I can help you,” Sun Gongping said.

When the constable guarding the gate saw Sun Gongping’s and Zhou Shu’s arms around each other, he wiped away his cold sweat. Luckily, he hadn’t deliberately made things difficult for Zhou Shu. He was really Divine Constable Sun’s good friend!

Zhou Shu briefly explained what had happened and then continued, “My status is low, so I can’t see Her Highness the Princess. Thus, I would like to ask Brother Sun to help me invite Her Highness to watch the competition.”

“What’s so interesting about a battle between a bunch of Forging Apprentices?” Sun Gongping pursed his lips.

In the eyes of ranked martial artists, only ranked weapons were real weapons. Standard weapons were just tools...

“However, good brothers are loyal. I will definitely help you...” Sun Gongping looked askance at Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes inwardly. *This fellow Sun Gongping just wants my money. You’re from a rich background. What’s the point of gawking at my money?*

“Don’t look at me like that. I’m not taking advantage of you. I’m borrowing money. I’ll pay you back,” Sun Gongping said.

“I really don’t have any money to lend you now. I don’t even have enough to pay for the construction of the 0th Workshop.” Zhou Shu smiled bitterly. “How about this? After I finish mass producing Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers, I’ll be able to get my dividends. At that time, I’ll lend you as much as you need.”

“I knew you were loyal. I’ll wait a few more days. I’m not in a hurry anyway.” Sun Gongping chuckled. “Don’t worry. Leave it to me. I guarantee that Xiao Zongshui and the rest won’t dare play any tricks!”

“Then, I’ll have to trouble Brother Sun. You must invite Her Highness.” Zhou Shu cupped his hands.

Sun Gongping waved his hand, indicating for Zhou Shu not to worry. He, Sun Gongping, was reliable!

Zhou Shu trusted Sun Gongping.

Although his words were sometimes out of line, and he always wanted to borrow money from Zhou Shu, there was nothing wrong with his character. Otherwise, with his status, he could have gotten as much money as he wanted.

It was too easy to collect dirty money in the Divine Constable Bureau.

In addition, Zhou Shu could tell that Sun Gongping was a hot-blooded youth and a friend worth making.

Even if he couldn't invite Princess Wuyou, he would still be able to intimidate Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others with his presence.

He was a ranked martial artist and a Divine Constable. Both of these statuses were higher than that of superintendents of Forging Division workshops.

Besides, Sun Gongping might have a stronger background.

Ordinary divine constables wouldn't be able to meet a princess of Great Xia casually.

After informing Sun Gongping, Zhou Shu felt a bit more at ease.

The craftsmen were still busy working when Zhou Shu returned to the 0th Workshop.

Zhou Shu had said that each of them would receive a tael of silver for every day they completed the work ahead of schedule.

These craftsmen wished they could work 24 hours a day!

One tael of silver was a considerable income for them.

The main construction of the 0th Workshop was almost completed. In another three to five days, the roof would be sealed.

Zhou Shu's two-story residence had already been built and was undergoing renovation.

There was no way Zhou Shu could stay there for the time being. But he had built a forging shed in his courtyard. It was already usable for forging.

Although he had built a large factory, Zhou Shu felt that some weapons weren't suitable for forging inside the factory, which was why he had built a work shed for himself. When the courtyard doors were closed, the Forging Apprentices wouldn't dare disturb him, and he could then forge whatever he wanted.

With a thought, the Legendary Armament Canon appeared before him.

On the page of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, the number after the title was '37'.

In just a few days, he had forged so many Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers!

*Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others have come with ill intentions. Although I don't know how they want to compete, they already know about the existence of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. It's unlikely that I can win with it.*

*It's best if the Legendary Armament Canon can show me the next weapon. This way, I will have another trump card. I can both attack and defend.*

*This matter has reminded me that the Forging Division's forging tasks are always a knife hanging over my head. If I don't solve this, I will be chased away sooner or later because of the forging tasks. Even if I become a Forging Master, I will still have forging tasks.*

*Unless I become a Grand Craftsman, absolute freedom is just wishful thinking. Even Grand Craftsmen can't have absolute freedom, but it might be possible for Divine Craftsmen.*

*Becoming a Forging Master isn't that easy. What do I have to do to escape the pressure of the Forging Division's forging tasks?*

*What if my 0th Workshop only does research and development and outsources the job of mass production to other workshops?*

Zhou Shu had an idea in his heart, but he still had to consider carefully whether it was feasible or not. At the very least, he had to obtain the approval of the grand minister, Princess Wuyou.

He could only gain approval by proving that he had the ability to develop new weapons.

*Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, I bet you didn't expect that you would create an opportunity for me.*

Zhou Shu rubbed his chin in thought.

*The most important thing now is to get the next weapon from the Legendary Armament Canon.*

*To do that, I have to fill the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber to one hundred. It's at thirty-seven now, so I'm still sixty-three short...*

With Zhou Shu fully focused in his current state, it would take two hours to forge a Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

*If I don't eat or drink, forging ten sabers a day is already the limit. Sixty-three sabers requires at least seven days!*

*It seems like I have to think of a way to delay the competition.*

Zhou Shu pondered. He didn't think any further after making up his mind. He picked up a hammer and began to forge a Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

If he didn't die in silence, he would explode in silence.

Since he couldn't keep a low profile, he might as well amaze the world!

This time, Zhou Shu wanted to use his absolute strength to let the entire Forging Division understand that he, the superintendent of the 0th Workshop, was fully deserving of his title and couldn't be underestimated!

Chapter 30: Is the Status of a Grand Craftsman Enough?

"Brother Li, that boy surnamed Zhou will come, right?" a middle-aged man with a belly asked with a frown in the 78th Workshop.

"What time is it already? A brat who isn't even fully grown is really unreliable!"

...

“Do you think the grand minister saw that he’s a pretty boy, so she...”

“Be careful with your words, Brother Han!” Li Hongyuan said seriously.

No matter how unhappy they were, they couldn’t talk about the princess behind her back!

The fatty surnamed Han gave an embarrassed laugh and didn’t dare to say anything else.

“I think he’s probably scared.” Another workshop superintendent changed the topic. “It’s simply wishful thinking to challenge so many of our workshops alone!”

“That’s right. How could such a brat be on par with us?”

All of the superintendents were brimming with righteous indignation.

Which one of them hadn’t gone through untold hardships to get to where they were today?

A brat who wasn’t even fully grown had suddenly become a superintendent like them. Just thinking about it made them furious.

“I don’t believe that kid developed the Huben Saber and the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber independently. In my opinion, he might have picked up the two secret forging formulas from somewhere and taken them for himself. Who knows if he stole them!”

“Could someone have given the formulas to him?” a workshop superintendent said weakly.

“Who would be so generous? To be able to take out such forging formulas easily, this person would at least be a Forging Master!”

“What if he has a Forging Master behind him?” the workshop superintendent asked.

Everyone fell silent and looked at each other.

Even though they were superintendents, they were still inferior to Forging Masters.

Forging Masters dealt with ranked martial artists. If a ranked martial artist wanted to obtain an official position, they would be at least a seventh-rank official!

Forging Masters also had ranks.

According to the rules of Great Xia, once someone became a Forging Master, he would obtain the seventh rank, just like a ranked martial artist!

Although he might not have actual power, rank was rank.

If Zhou Shu really had a Forging Master behind him, Li Hongyuan and the others would have to consider whether they could really afford to offend him!

The problem was not Zhou Shu being appointed by the grand minister, Princess Wuyou. After all, it was impossible for the princess to pay constant attention to such a minor character.

“You guys are thinking too much,” Xiao Zongshui slowly said. “Zhou Shu’s three generations of ancestors were all Forging Apprentices in the Forging Division. His family background is very clear. If he was valued by a Forging Master, then there would have been no need for him to stay in the 97th Workshop previously.

“If a Forging Master wants to take him in as a disciple, he can bring him to any of the first thirty-six workshops and groom him.”

Xiao Zongshui’s words calmed everyone down slightly.

This made sense. If Zhou Shu really had a Forging Master behind him, there was no need for him to be an apprentice in a workshop previously.

They were well aware of how arduous the conditions of Forging Apprentices were.

Furthermore, if he really had a Forging Master backing him up, why didn’t he get the Forging Master to come forward and help him demand the apprentices from the other superintendents?

Why did he have to compete with them?

“Brother Xiao, Brother Li, didn’t that kid request someone of importance to be the judge?” one of the superintendents asked. “Who exactly did you invite? It can’t be that even that person’s not coming, right?”

“No,” Xiao Zongshui said indifferently. “Since Grandmaster Zhu has agreed, he will definitely come.”

“Grandmaster Zhu?” Everyone exclaimed.

Grandmaster Zhu was one of the few Grand Craftsmen in Great Xia, and his status was incomparably respected. It was unexpected that Superintendent Xiao could actually invite him.

Xiao Zongshui smiled. “I put in a lot of effort to get Grandmaster Zhu to agree.”

“With Grandmaster Zhu here, that kid will be convinced of his defeat!” Li Hongyuan and the others burst into laughter.

Xiao Zongshui was also very pleased. A mere Forging Apprentice wanted to step on his head? Simply delusional!

“Grandmaster Zhu Chuanfeng has arrived!” Just as they were talking, a shout came from outside.

Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others all stood up and walked outside.

Zhu Chuanfeng, who looked to be in his forties, strode in with two boys behind him.

“Grandmaster Zhu!” Xiao Zongshui and the rest greeted.

Zhu Chuanfeng nodded reservedly. “Has everyone arrived?”

“The people on our side have all arrived. Superintendent Zhou Shu is not here yet. Maybe he doesn’t take us seriously.” Xiao Zongshui didn’t forget to smear Zhou Shu.

Expectedly, a flash of displeasure appeared in Zhu Chuanfeng’s eyes.

“He doesn’t seem to have much ability, yet he’s quite arrogant,” Zhu Chuanfeng said coldly.



“He’s already the superintendent of a workshop at such a young age. He’s even a forging genius, recognized by the grand minister. It’s normal for him to be a little arrogant.” Xiao Zongshui sighed.

“Genius?” Zhu Chuanfeng snorted. “Nowadays, anyone can be called a genius. Purely modifying a weapon into the Huben Saber, and he’s a genius?”

“Her Highness was deceived by him because she’s young and ignorant! I’m here to expose his true colors!”

Xiao Zongshui was delighted, but he said with a troubled expression, “Grandmaster Zhu, that’s not a good idea, right? After all, Superintendent Zhou is someone that the grand minister thinks highly of.”

“Then let Her Highness see that she has made a mistake,” Zhu Chuanfeng said nonchalantly.

As one of the few Grand Craftsmen in Great Xia, Zhu Chuanfeng had the confidence to face even a princess of Great Xia!

“Are you talking about me?” A voice suddenly rang out as Zhou Shu’s figure appeared at the door.

Zhou Shu had deliberately changed his clothes today. His white clothes fluttered in the wind, giving him an outstanding appearance.

His appearance in this life was actually quite outstanding. His eyebrows were thick and straight, and his eyes brimmed with radiating vigor.

1

In the past, he had always worn the Forging Apprentice uniform, and his head and face were filthy with grime. Now that he dressed up, his poise was immediately revealed.

Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others all snorted unhappily. *Who is he trying to impress with his attire? Who hasn’t been young before?*

Zhu Chuanfeng glanced at Zhou Shu, his expression extremely cold. “Since everyone is here, let’s begin.”

“Wait!” Zhou Shu said. “I also invited a judge. Let’s wait a little longer before we start.”

*What the heck is Sun Gongping doing? Why isn't Yin Wuyou here yet?!*

"Superintendent Zhou, we agreed on the time yesterday. Grandmaster Zhu is already here. How much longer do you want to delay?" Li Hongyuan snorted. "Do you know how precious Grandmaster Zhu's time is? He can't waste a single minute! Who do you think you are?"

1

"I'm just the superintendent of a small workshop." Zhou Shu glanced at him, then looked at Zhu Chuanfeng and cupped his hands. "May I ask who this Grandmaster Zhu is?"

Coldness flashed through Zhu Chuanfeng's eyes as he snorted.

A boy behind Zhu Chuanfeng took a step forward and shouted proudly, "My master is Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng!"

Those who didn't know would have thought that he was the Grand Craftsman.

"Zhu Chuanfeng? I've never heard of him. I don't know who he is," Zhou Shu said.

*This Grandmaster Zhu, who had his eyebrows raised and eyes narrowed since I entered, is most likely with Xiao Zongshui's gang.*

*In that case, why should I give him face?*

*So what if he's a Grand Craftsman?*

*I'm not begging you, so why should I lower my head?*

Zhu Chuanfeng narrowed his eyes, his gaze icy. "Very good. It's been a long time since I've seen such a hot-tempered youth."

"How dare you! Zhou Shu, if you're waiting for the grand minister, then let me tell you, you don't have to wait anymore. The grand minister isn't in the capital today!" Li Hongyuan said coldly.

Zhou Shu's heart sank.

*Yin Wuyou isn't in the capital?*

*Damn it. Why didn't Sun Gongping inform me beforehand!*

*Yin Wuyou isn't coming, and this judge, Grandmaster Zhu, is with Xiao Zongshui and the others. What should I do?!*

1

If it was a public competition, Zhou Shu wasn't afraid. The problem was that this was his opponent's home ground. Who knew how Grandmaster Zhu would judge the competition?

"Superintendent Zhou, Grandmaster Zhu is a Grand Craftsman. Do you think that his status is not enough?

"Or do you think that the eyes of Grand Craftsmen can't judge a competition between Forging Apprentices?" Xiao Zongshui said with a fake smile.

This was a trap. If Zhou Shu said no, he would be offending Grandmaster Zhu to the core.

A Grand Craftsman was almost at the pinnacle of the Forging Dao.

Without a Divine Craftsman, who could compete with a Grand Craftsman?

The number of Divine Craftsmen on the entire land could be counted with one hand. Ordinary people wouldn't even be able to see their faces.

It was already beyond the standard to invite a Grand Craftsman as the judge for a competition between Forging Apprentices.

"Hmph, let's begin." Zhou Shu's mind raced. *I can't think of any solutions for the time being, so I can only take things one step at a time. This Grandmaster Zhu has to save some face. He can't lie through his teeth, right?*

"Do you want to compete one by one or together?" Zhou Shu saw more than ten people dressed as Forging Apprentices standing behind Xiao Zongshui and the others. These people should have been selected to compete with him.

"How long is it going to take if we compete one by one?" Zhu Chuanfeng said. "I don't have that much time to waste with you.

"Compete together."

“Then, let’s compete together.” Xiao Zongshui smiled obsequiously.

“I have no objections,” Zhou Shu said calmly.

“Tell me. How do you want to compete? Whether it’s forging old weapons, modifying weapons, or developing new weapons, I’ll accompany you to the end.”

Everyone frowned. Develop new weapons?

Was he bluffing, or was he really confident?

1

Surprise flashed across Zhu Chuanfeng’s face, but he quickly regained his composure.

He was a Grand Craftsman. To him, modifying a standard weapon was a piece of cake. In fact, developing a new standard weapon wasn’t too difficult.

However, even a Grand Craftsman would have to put in some effort to develop a decent standard weapon.

After all, the current standard weapons were already more or less perfect. Very few Grand Craftsmen, and even Forging Masters, would put in too much effort on standard weapons.

If they had the time, they would have gone to study ranked weapons.

*Is this Zhou Shu really a genius? He just developed the Huben Saber and the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. Could he possibly develop a new weapon?* Zhu Chuanfeng was a little curious.

“Since you’re so confident, I’ll give you this chance.

“The competition this time is to see who can forge a new standard weapon! If everyone can, then the results will be determined by the power of the weapons!”