

## Legendary Armament Canon

Chapter 31: My Forging Is No Weaker Than Others'

Before Zhu Chuanfeng could finish his sentence, Xiao Zongshui's and the others' expressions changed.

Their initial plan was not to do this.

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Develop a new standard weapon?

They didn't know if Zhou Shu could do it, but the Forging Apprentices under them definitely couldn't!

What a joke. If their Forging Apprentices could develop new standard weapons, why would they fight with Zhou Shu?

They were jealous of Zhou Shu reaching the heavens in a single bound. But ultimately, they were coveting the secret forging formula of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

After all, the Huben Saber had already been taken over by the Huben Troops, so the benefits were limited. But the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber could be supplied to the entire Country Protector Army!

Because of Zhu Chuanfeng, it was almost impossible for them to win.

"What? Are you all questioning my decision?" Zhu Chuanfeng said coldly.

Xiao Zongshui cupped his hands and said with a bitter smile, "Grandmaster Zhu, if neither side can forge a new standard weapon, what should we do to determine who wins and who loses?"

"If nobody can forge one, then consider it my loss," Zhou Shu said before Zhu Chuanfeng could say anything.

“However, Grandmaster Zhu, Superintendent Xiao and the others do not know this, but you are an expert. You should know that it is not easy to develop a new standard weapon. It will not be accomplished in a few hours.

“Even having a few days is still a little tight. Therefore, should we not extend the time for this competition?”

Zhou Shu had been worried that he wouldn't be able to find an opportunity to stall for time, but now, he had been given an excuse.

“I naturally know this.” Zhu Chuanfeng nodded. Forging a weapon was not as simple as hammering metals. It was normal to spend even several years developing a new weapon.

Right now, it was just a competition, and there weren't many requirements. Even so, developing a new weapon wasn't something doable in a short period.

“But since this is a competition, it cannot be delayed indefinitely. The limit is ten days. Do you have any objections?”

“Ten days?” Zhou Shu calculated in his heart. In ten days, he should be able to complete the limit of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

“Alright, ten days is the limit then!” Zhou Shu said.

Seeing that Zhou Shu and Grandmaster Zhu had settled the matter, Xiao Zongshui and Li Hongyuan felt bitter.

However, they didn't have the courage to refute Grandmaster Zhu directly.

Zhu Chuanfeng stared at Zhou Shu and said coldly, “This competition is between you guys. To prevent all of you from seeking help from outsiders, nobody is to leave this place for the next ten days. Do you have any problems?”

*The older, the wiser.* Xiao Zongshui and the rest thought. They hadn't thought of this just now.

That's right. They could ask for external help, right?

Xiao Zongshui's eyes lit up. He had already come up with a series of plans. He wanted to find a way to develop a new standard weapon. Whether it was

good or bad, this wasn't important. Then he would pass the forging formula to his own apprentices...

He didn't believe that Zhou Shu, a mere Forging Apprentice, could develop a new standard weapon in ten days!

Therefore, as long as they could forge one, they would definitely win...

Xiao Zongshui and Li Hongyuan looked at each other and saw the smile on each other's lips. They felt certain of winning!

"There is no problem with not leaving this place," Zhou Shu said in a low voice. "But I need enough metal materials for testing!"

"Of course." Zhu Chuanfeng nodded. "If there are no other questions, prepare the contract, Superintendent Xiao."

"Great!" Xiao Zongshui loudly said. Once they signed in black and white, it would be useless even if Zhou Shu wanted to go back on his word. The Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber would be theirs!

"Old Zhou, I'm here!"

Xiao Zongshui went to draw up the contract when the door suddenly opened and Sun Gongping rushed in.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes. *You're only here now. Don't you think you're a little late?*

"Old Zhou, you can't blame me this time. Her Highness has gone on a mission under a decree. I can't do anything about it."

Sun Gongping ignored everyone and said loudly, "But don't worry, I'll hold the fort for you. I'm sure they won't dare play any tricks!"

Sun Gongping's gaze swept across Xiao Zongshui and the others, stopping briefly on Zhu Chuanfeng. But it was obvious that he didn't know Zhu Chuanfeng.

Come to think of it, even if Sun Gongping came from an extraordinary family, he was still too young.

As a Grand Craftsman, Zhu Chuanfeng rarely interacted with youngsters like Sun Gongping.

Sun Gongping's elders might know Zhu Chuanfeng.

Zhu Chuanfeng also didn't take Sun Gongping seriously. He was only a ninth-rank martial artist. In his life, Zhu Chuanfeng had seen countless ranked martial artists. Now, he would only take ranked martial artists seriously if they were at least at the sixth rank. The rest...

"You two stay here and watch. Don't let anyone cheat. I will return ten days later."

The contract was signed. Naturally, Zhu Chuanfeng wouldn't wait here for ten days. He left the two boys behind to supervise and left the 78th Workshop.

"Who is this guy? He seems awesome," Sun Gongping said unhappily as he watched Zhu Chuanfeng disappear.

"Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng." Zhou Shu gave him a thumbs up. *You're awesome to say that about a Grand Craftsman.*

"What? Grand Craftsman?" Sun Gongping stared at him. "Why didn't you say so earlier!"

"Grandmaster Zhu, wait for me!" Sun Gongping sprang up and chased after him. "Grandmaster Zhu, could you help me forge a weapon..."

Sun Gongping shouted while chasing after Zhu Chuanfeng. Zhou Shu was speechless. *What happened to holding the fort for me?*

"Superintendent Zhou, the contract was witnessed by Grandmaster Zhu. It's definitely effective." Xiao Zongshui put away the contract that both parties had signed and smiled. "Our competition will begin now."

"Didn't it start long ago?" Zhou Shu snorted. "Smelting furnaces, forging hammers, metal materials, I hope you won't play any tricks!"

"Don't worry. We aren't so despicable," Li Hongyuan said. "We have enough materials. Superintendent Zhou, if you can't forge a new standard weapon by then, don't blame the 78th Workshop for not providing good materials."

"Quoting you, I, Zhou Shu, am not so despicable," Zhou Shu said coldly.

“Haha...” Li Hongyuan laughed. “In that case, we won’t delay you from developing your new weapon. We’ll come back in ten days. Hopefully, we’ll hear good news.”

After he finished speaking, he, Xiao Zongshui, and the others looked at each other, and everyone laughed loudly.

*Laugh, laugh. I hope you can still laugh when the time comes.* Zhou Shu pursed his lips. From the corner of his eye, he saw Sun Gongping return dejectedly.

“Did you get snubbed?” Zhou Shu said. He knew that Zhu Chuanfeng wouldn’t help Sun Guangping forge a weapon. It was obvious that Grandmaster Zhu wasn’t an easy person to deal with.

No matter what, he was a Grand Craftsman. Forging a weapon used by a mere ninth-rank martial artist was not worth his time.

“Hmph, so what if he’s a Grand Craftsman? Sooner or later, I will become a third-rank Grandmaster! At that time, he will have to beg me to use his weapon!” Sun Gongping said unhappily.

“Alright, you will succeed.” Zhou Shu replied perfunctorily. Although a Grand Craftsman was not as strong as a third-rank Grandmaster, it was impossible for a Grand Craftsman to bow down to a third-rank Grandmaster.

There was a slight possibility that a Grand Craftsman would suck up to a second rank. Being a first rank would increase the possibility.

However, it was obvious that Sun Gongping was more rational. He didn’t dream of becoming a first rank.

“Our competition will last for ten days. Do you want to stay here, or do you want to return after ten days like those people?”

Zhou Shu looked around. The two boys Zhu Chuanfeng had left behind obviously had no intention of talking to him. The other Forging Apprentices would also not talk to Zhou Shu.

They were now rivals.

Sun Gongping also looked at the people around him. “Am I such a disloyal person? I said I would help you hold the fort. Of course I’ll stay here!

“If I leave, who’s going to protect you? These guys don’t look nice. It’s not safe for you to be alone.

“I will reluctantly stay here for ten days.”

The apprentices were angry but didn’t dare to speak. But Zhu Chuanfeng’s boys were not afraid of Sun Gongping and glared at him.

“Is it alright with the Divine Constable Bureau?” Zhou Shu asked.

This was not just a day or two. This competition would last for ten days.

Zhou Shu didn’t want Sun Gongping to be punished because of him.

Sun Gongping waved his hand and said casually, “It’s fine. I’m going out to investigate a case. It’s fine if I don’t go back for half a month.”

*This works? Zhou Shu felt a wave of envy after hearing this. He was the superintendent of a workshop, yet he couldn’t have so much freedom. Is a divine constable’s life so good?*

They didn’t even have to stay in a place to work and had such a high salary. They didn’t even seem busy. This job was simply too awesome.

“Is the Divine Constable Bureau still recruiting people?” Zhou Shu asked.

“What? Are you thinking of coming to the Divine Constable Bureau? No way! You should just obediently forge weapons. Our Divine Constable Bureau only wants ranked martial artists. If you go to the Divine Constable Bureau with your scrawny arms and legs, are you going to capture people, or will people capture you instead?” Sun Gongping looked at Zhou Shu with contempt.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes. *If I don’t hold back, I can beat you to the ground with a single slap. How dare you look down on me?*

*If the Divine Constable Bureau doesn’t want me, I don’t want to go. What’s the big deal!*

Zhou Shu was only asking. He was doing quite well in the Forging Division, and he had no intention of job-hopping.

“Do as you please. I’m going to get to work.” Zhou Shu rolled up his sleeves.

“Old Zhou, you’ve played big this time. If you lose, you have to hand over the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. Do you know the value of the secret forging formula of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber?”

“I’m a professional. Do you think I don’t know?” Zhou Shu was well aware of how profitable it was to own a patent.

“You know it, yet still dared to do this. Are you sure you can forge a new standard weapon?” Sun Gongping said.

Even if he didn’t know how to forge weapons, he knew how difficult it was to develop a new standard weapon.

“Great Divine Constable Sun, I’ve just said that I’m a professional!

“Professionals never do anything they’re unsure of.

“I, Zhou Shu, am never weaker than others in forging!”

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Chapter 32: Time to Show Real Skills

In the 78th Workshop of the Forging Division, Superintendent Li Hongyuan’s courtyard had now become the place of Zhou Shu’s competition.

Ever since the competition began, Li Hongyuan, Xiao Zongshui, and the others had never shown their faces again.

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But Zhou Shu knew that his every move here would be reported to them at any time.

He could sense that there were no less than five people around the courtyard monitoring the situation.

Zhou Shu didn't care too much about this. As long as the other party didn't lack the materials he needed, they could see for all they wanted. After all, they couldn't see the Legendary Armament Canon.

In addition to Zhou Shu and the group of distressed apprentices, there were also the two boys Zhu Chuanfeng had left behind and Sun Gongping!

The three of them were probably the most relaxed people in the courtyard. In particular, Sun Gongping treated this place like a resort!

It was unknown where he had found a rocking chair. He sat not too far from Zhou Shu's furnace. Every day, besides eating and sleeping, he would tease Zhu Chuanfeng's two boys. His life was quite enjoyable.

Zhou Shu was the busiest of them all. He was constantly forging weapons from morning until night. Of course, what he forged was the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

The Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers he had forged already filled a huge box. Sun Gongping's eyes were red with envy.

Zhou Shu even suspected that he wanted to steal the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers to exchange for money!

But thinking about it, it was probably not that serious. Selling the country's strategic resources was a serious crime of treason.

On the other side, the apprentices all had bitter looks on their faces. They were not constantly forging weapons like Zhou Shu, nor were they as relaxed as Sun Gongping and the two boys.

They felt bitter. How could they have the ability to develop new standard weapons?

But if they didn't develop new weapons, after this matter blew over, their superintendents wouldn't let them off.

They didn't know where to start developing.

Every day, they didn't know what else to do except to comfort themselves.



“Old Zhou, is it useful for you to forge these Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers all day long?” Sun Gongping opened his mouth and spat out a grape seed into a trash bin.

He said lazily, “I remember you guys are competing to see who can forge the better new standard weapon, right?”

“If you don’t forge a new weapon, what’s the point of forging so many Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers?”

Half of the ten days had already passed. Sun Gongping couldn’t understand why Zhou Shu was working so hard to forge Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers.

If he couldn’t win, he might as well admit defeat.

“You don’t understand,” Zhou Shu said without even raising his head. As his hammer descended, another Hundred Refinements Ring Saber gradually took shape.

“I don’t understand?” Sun Gongping didn’t know how many times he had heard such words. He couldn’t even be bothered to retort. He was a genius martial artist, so how could he not know about weapons?

“As long as you’re happy. What a pity, my ranked weapon,” Sun Gongping said.

Originally, Zhou Shu had ownership of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. In the future, he would become a tycoon, and Sun Gongping would also benefit a little. Unfortunately, now, if Zhou Shu lost, the ownership of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber would change...

The corners of Zhou Shu’s mouth curled up slightly. He completely ignored Sun Gongping’s words. *What a joke. Me losing?*

*Ding Dang!*

As Zhou Shu threw the last Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber into the box, the Legendary Armament Canon appeared in front of him.

The page flipped without any wind. On the page of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, the number had changed to 100.

The page continued to flip. After flipping through countless pages, words and drawings began to appear on a blank page as if an invisible hand was writing something.

Although this wasn't Zhou Shu's first time seeing this scene, he was still slightly excited.

As expected, after reaching the limit of the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, the next weapon appeared in the Legendary Armament Canon.

With this weapon, he wanted to see how Xiao Zongshui and the others could win!

*With my own efforts, I finally did it!*

Zhou Shu threw his hammer down and walked over to Sun Gongping. He grabbed a chair and sat down.

Sun Gongping looked at him in surprise. "You've thought it through?"

"Thought what through?" Zhou Shu asked.

"Didn't you decide to admit defeat because you felt that forging Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers is useless?" Sun Gongping asked.

"You shouldn't have said that it's considered your loss if both parties can't forge anything. Look at what's happened now. They won without doing anything..."

"Who said I wanted to admit defeat?" Zhou Shu glanced at the Forging Apprentices. "Someone who can make me admit defeat probably hasn't even been born yet."

"How arrogant. I like it!" Sun Gongping burst out laughing.

"I'm taking a nap. Don't let anyone disturb me!" Then Zhou Shu entered Li Hongyuan's residence and found a random bed. A moment later, he fell asleep.

Sun Gongping was dumbfounded. This brother of his was even more carefree than he was!

They didn't notice that when the drudger delivered the food to the apprentices, he also handed them a piece of paper filled with words.

For the next few days, Zhou Shu didn't forge any more weapons. He didn't leave the residence and caught up on his sleep.

On the other hand, the Forging Apprentices who had been slacking became diligent. Like Zhou Shu previously, they began to forge day and night.

In Sun Gongping's eyes, they were constantly trying and failing. After a few days, the pieces of metals hammered by a few apprentices had already begun to take shape.

No matter how slow Sun Gongping's reaction was, he realized that something was amiss. Did these apprentices really develop a new standard weapon?

Thinking of this, Sun Gongping could no longer sit still. He jumped up and somersaulted into the residence.

"Old Zhou, don't sleep anymore. This is bad!"

Being woken up by Sun Gongping, Zhou Shu was annoyed. "Did the sky collapse?"

"You're still in the mood to sleep! Your opponents are really forging a new standard weapon!" Sun Gongping said loudly.

"I expected it," Zhou Shu said calmly.

"But you still have the mood to sleep! If they succeed, you will lose!" Sun Gongping said.

"Didn't you think I lost long ago?" Zhou Shu smiled indifferently.

"That's different! If everyone can't forge one, then it's not really considered a loss!" Sun Gongping shouted. "Now that the other party has forged theirs but you haven't, then you'll really lose!"

"If you lose, Her Highness will be affected. Won't it be telling everyone that Her Highness made a mistake?"

“Turns out you weren’t worried about me.” Zhou Shu shook his head.

“Of course I’m also worried about you!” Sun Gongping said. “When the time comes, others will also think of you as a cheat. How can you still be the superintendent of your workshop?”

“Alright, Divine Constable Sun, I appreciate your kindness.” Zhou Shu laughed. “I’ve told you. I won’t lose.

“However, I’m curious about Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others are up to.”

Not only would Zhou Shu not believe that the Forging Apprentices had developed a new standard weapon, but even the apprentices themselves also wouldn’t believe it.

Needless to say, Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others must have obtained a secret weapon forging formula from somewhere and secretly sent it to these apprentices.

This was their territory, and it would be as easy as flipping their hands if they wanted to do this.

Zhou Shu didn’t doubt that Xiao Zongshui and the others had the ability to obtain the secret forging formula for a new standard weapon.

They could even invite Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng over. Asking a Forging Master to help develop the secret forging formula of a new standard weapon shouldn’t be a problem.

In any case, they didn’t require this new standard weapon to be powerful.

It wasn’t easy to create a weapon stronger than the Huben Saber or the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. But creating a decent standard weapon wasn’t too difficult for a Forging Master.

But Zhou Shu believed that even a Forging Master wouldn’t be able to create a good standard weapon in a short period.

It was only possible to beat Zhou Shu if Zhu Chuanfeng personally did it.

But even if Zhu Chuanfeng personally did it, it was only a possibility to win. Even a Grand Craftsman wouldn't be able to forge a strong weapon from ordinary metals.

It wasn't that easy to be stronger than the Huben Saber and Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

In the past, there were also Forging Masters who had tried to increase the strength of standard weapons. But due to the limitations of ordinary metals, the results were never satisfactory. Gradually, no Forging Masters were willing to waste their energy on this.

To Forging Masters, only ranked weapons were worth their efforts. Some precious materials could only be used to forge ranked weapons. Standard weapons had reached their limit, and there was nothing left to develop!

"Great Divine Constable Sun, let's go take a look. Let's see what sort of trash these fellows have forged." Zhou Shu jumped up from the bed and walked outside.

Sun Gongping frowned. It was already the ninth day. He didn't understand how Zhou Shu, who had already slept for around three days, had the confidence to win.

There was only one day left. Could he really create a new standard weapon?

How could creating a weapon be so easy?

Seeing that Zhou Shu had already walked out, Sun Gongping frowned and hurriedly followed.

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"Look, they're really going to forge weapons. What do you say we do now?" Sun Gongping pointed at the Forging Apprentices. "We will lose a lot of face this time!"

"After all this fuss, you're just afraid of losing face? This has nothing to do with you. You won't lose face even if I lose," Zhou Shu said. "Moreover, if they want to beat me with this kind of trash, they're underestimating me!"

"What do you mean?" Sun Gongping asked in confusion.

“It means that I’m getting to work.” Zhou Shu shrugged his shoulders and grabbed a hammer. “It’s time to show them what real skills are!”

“You mean?” Sun Gongping said in disbelief.

“Great Divine Constable Sun, are you ready to witness a miracle?”

Zhou Shu swung his arm, and the hammer flew through the air in a profound arc before landing heavily on the anvil.. Sparks flew in all directions, and a crisp clang rang out.

Chapter 33: Standard Weapons Have Reached Their Limit

“Old Zhou, they’ve really succeeded!”

The Forging Apprentices under Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the other superintendents cheered. Sun Gongping glanced at Zhou Shu still swinging his hammer and couldn’t help shouting.

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It was as if Zhou Shu did not hear his voice. His expression was calm and collected, and his hammering was rhythmic and orderly.

*Ding Ding Dang Dang!*

The crisp sound of hammering echoed in the courtyard.

The Forging Apprentices all looked at Zhou Shu with pity.

*We’ve all cheated. How can you win?*

*Creak!*

The door to the courtyard opened, and Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the other workshop superintendents filed in.

The moment they entered the door, they looked at the Forging Apprentices. When they saw the weapons the Forging Apprentices had successfully forged, the corners of everyone’s mouths curled up slightly.

When they saw that Zhou Shu was still forging, they smiled even more happily.

“The time is up. Superintendent Zhou hasn’t finished forging yet. This competition—”

“Cut the crap! Zhu Chuanfeng isn’t here yet. Are you the judge?” Sun Gongping interrupted angrily.

Xiao Zongshui’s expression froze, and he swallowed the words about to come out of his mouth while his face turned red.

If not for the fact that he was afraid of Sun Gongping’s identity, he really wanted to scold his eighteen generations of ancestors!

“Grandmaster Zhu will be here soon. So what if we wait a while longer?” Li Hongyuan sneered. “The result is obvious.”

All the superintendents burst into laughter.

They were already calculating how they should split the benefits after obtaining the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber.

The number of cavalry in the Great Xia’s County Protector Army exceeded ten thousand. Including the potentially damaged weapons, they would require no less than ten thousand Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers each year.

Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers were even more expensive than Huben Sabers. In a year, each of them would be able to get at least a few thousand taels of silver.

The superintendents were overjoyed. Some of them were even considering whether they should look for another mistress.

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Sun Gongping was so angry that he was about to explode. The competition wasn’t even over, but these guys already thought that they had won? *I’ll put them in a sack and beat them up!*

*Ding Dang!*

Zhou Shu hammered down and then swung the hammer out gracefully. The hammer fell, and he flicked his wrist. Before anyone could see clearly, he had already stabbed the weapon in his hand into the tank of cold oil he had prepared.

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*Whoosh!*

There was an ear-piercing sound, followed by the fragrance of hot oil...

Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others looked at one another. For some reason, they had a bad feeling.

Could Zhou Shu have really forged a new standard weapon again?

How was this possible?

Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng had said that standard weapons were almost developed to perfection. Even they could only add in some things here and there.

Unless they used even more precious materials, standard weapons had reached their limit.

Even if this kid surnamed Zhou had some talent, it was already a blessing for him to be able to develop the Huben Saber and Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. It was impossible for him to forge a better standard weapon.

And this time, they had paid a huge price to obtain a secret forging formula. Although the power of the weapon was not comparable to that of the Huben Saber and Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, it was still stronger than ordinary standard long sabers.

Unless Zhou Shu created a new weapon that was no weaker than the Huben Saber and the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, he would never win!

“Don’t worry. Standard weapons made of ordinary metals have reached their limit. Zhou Shu can’t possibly beat us!” Xiao Zongshui whispered.

“Grandmaster Zhu has arrived!”



Just as Li Hongyuan and the others nodded, they heard a loud shout from outside the gate.

Ten days had passed, and Zhu Chuanfeng arrived on time.

“Time’s up. Has everyone finished forging? Bring the items up—” Zhu Chuanfeng said coldly after taking his seat.

“Haha...” Laughter sounded before he could finish his speaking.

Accompanying the laughter, a person dressed as a general walked in majestically from outside the gate.

“I was passing by the Forging Division and happened to hear that there’s a forging competition here. Grandmaster Zhu, do you mind if I come and watch?” The general entered with a smile.

Zhou Shu raised his head and sized up the general.

The general didn’t look young. He was at least fifty years old. His sideburns were already gray, and there were signs of age on his forehead.

His appearance was ordinary, but his eyes were abnormally bright, and his pupils were deep. He appeared to have experienced many vicissitudes of life.

This aura alone made Zhou Shu feel that this person wasn’t simple.

But the strange thing was that he felt that this general wasn’t a powerful martial artist. Instead, he seemed more like an ordinary person.

Although Great Xia also had a troop of ordinary people in the Country Protector Army, ‘ordinary’ only meant that they were not ranked martial artists, not that they were genuinely ordinary people.

In fact, the soldiers of the Country Protector Army also knew how to cultivate martial arts. It was just that, due to their limited aptitudes, they didn’t become ranked martial artists.

Compared to ordinary people, they were still much stronger. For example, Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and others, as well as Cheng Wanli before he entered the ranks.

Although they were not ranked martial artists, they were definitely not weak.

But the general in front of Zhou Shu didn't seem to have any martial cultivation at all.

While Zhou Shu was deep in thought, Zhu Chuanfeng stood up and cupped his hands respectfully.

"Great General, I didn't expect you to come. I apologize for not welcoming you." Zhu Chuanfeng's tone was very polite, with a trace of reverence.

Xiao Zongshui and the others stood up as well, not daring to utter a single word.

Even Sun Gongping, who was never serious, stood there obediently without interrupting.

Zhou Shu was a little surprised. It seemed that this old general had an extraordinary status.

"Great General, since you have such an interest, I naturally have no objections. Great General, please have a seat," Zhu Chuanfeng said.

The old general smiled as his gaze fell on Zhou Shu. "You must be Superintendent Zhou, the person who developed the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, right? You're indeed a promising youth."

Zhou Shu didn't expect the general to speak to him. He said in surprise, "Old General, you flatter me."

The old general's words made Xiao Zongshui and the others look at each other. Their hearts thumped.

*Can anyone tell us what is going on?*

*Why would Great General Meng come? He even said that Zhou Shu was young and promising. If we beat him later, wouldn't we be slapping Great General Meng's face?*

All the superintendents felt bitter in their hearts. First, it was the grand minister, and now it was Great General Meng. Did these important figures have nothing better to do?

Why did everyone pay attention to such a small matter?

Normally, even superintendents of workshops were not qualified to see them.

“Originally, Her Highness the Princess invited me to come to the Forging Division to take a look at the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. In the end, Her Highness received an imperial decree to handle some errands. I was also busy with mundane matters and only had the time to come today.

“But coincidentally, I ran into such a wonderful situation.

“How many years has it been since a new standard weapon has appeared in the Forging Division? Superintendent Zhou is impressive. The Huben Saber and the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber are both very good. I heard that the competition today is to see who can forge a new standard weapon. If another good weapon can be produced, it will be a great thing for the three military forces of Great Xia,” Meng Bai explained to everyone why he came with a smile.

But his words also indicated that he understood this competition very well.

“It’s just a small competition between Forging Apprentices. I didn’t expect it to alarm you, Great General Meng.” Zhu Chuanfeng smiled.

“The standard weapons of Great Xia have been developed to almost perfection. Ordinary metals can no longer be forged into better standard weapons. Zhou Shu is indeed talented enough to forge the Huben Saber and the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. However, if he wants to have greater achievements...”

Zhu Chuanfeng shook his head. “Great General, it’s best if you don’t have any expectations for standard weapons. In the Forging Dao, ranked weapons are the true Dao. No matter how good a standard weapon is, it’s still nothing more than scrap metal when compared to ranked weapons.”

“Grandmaster Zhu, you are an expert in the Forging Dao.” Meng Bai’s smile didn’t change. “Ranked weapons are naturally the country’s most important weapons, but standard weapons are also the country’s cornerstone.

“I think the Huben Saber and the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber are pretty good, especially the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. If

the cavalry of the Country Protector Army can be equipped with it, it won't be a problem for their strength to increase by another 10%."

Sun Gongping nudged Zhou Shu with his shoulder, his face filled with joy. He used his eyes to transmit the message. *Did you hear that? After Grand General Meng said that, it doesn't matter if you lose this competition. No one will question your contributions!*

Zhou Shu replied with his eyes. *Me, lose?*

"Great General, your words are reasonable. What I mean is that you shouldn't have any expectations for this competition," Zhu Chuanfeng said. "It's normal for youngsters to have flashes of inspiration and obtain insignificant results in the Forging Dao. However, whether or not they can become Forging Masters is hard to say.

"Which Forging Master isn't a stunningly talented genius?" Meng Bai smiled noncommittally. "Let's take a look and see if these young men can give the arsenal of Great Xia some more brilliance."

Zhu Chuanfeng nodded. "Bring all your weapons up."

When the Forging Apprentices heard this, they all nervously brought their forged weapons up to Meng Bai and Zhu Chuanfeng.

To them, workshop superintendents were already great figures. They had never thought that they would be able to stand in front of a great general and a Grand Craftsman.

When Meng Bai saw the weapons the Forging Apprentices handed over, his brows furrowed imperceptibly.

Although his movement was slight, Xiao Zongshui and the others had been paying attention to him and still noticed it. Their hearts instantly rose nervously.

"Grand General, Superintendent Zhou is a famous genius. Forging Apprentices like us naturally can't compare to him. That's why everyone—"

Meng Bai waved his hand, indicating that he didn't need to say anything.

The dozen or so apprentices handed over identical weapons. It was obvious that they had forged them together.

“In a short ten days, you were able to modify and obtain a new standard weapon. The Forging Division is truly filled with talents,” Meng Bai said with a half-smile, immediately pointing out that the weapons they forged weren’t truly new but rather a modified version of existing weapons.

This could be considered a trick, it could truly be called a new weapon.

“Superintendent Zhou, what about yours?” Meng Bai looked at Zhou Shu, his eyes filled with anticipation.