

Canon 36

Chapter 36: Great General Meng's Kindness

"Old Zhou, not bad. I couldn't tell that you were so capable!" Sun Gongping stepped forward, put his arm around Zhou Shu's shoulders, and praised him after Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the other superintendents left in a sorry state.

"There's a lot that you can't tell." Zhou Shu shrugged.

...

Although he had gotten the contracts of Zhang Yibei, Wu Laoliu, and the others, he didn't plan to ask them to come here immediately.

It would take a few more days to complete the construction of the 0th Workshop. They wouldn't even have a place to stay if they came right away.

Most Forging Apprentices didn't have other residences in the capital city. If they left their original workshops, they could only sleep on the streets.

Since this was the case, he might as well let them stay in the workshops for a few more days. After all, Xiao Zongshui and the other superintendents wouldn't dare play any tricks for the time being.

1

"Great Divine Constable Sun, what is the background of Great General Meng?" Zhou Shu couldn't help asking the question in his heart when only he and Sun Gongping were left.

In this world, those who could hold high positions were definitely Martial Dao experts.

Even Zhu Chuanfeng respected General Meng. But Great General Meng seemed like an ordinary person, so it was very strange.

It wasn't that ordinary people couldn't become officials. But even if ordinary people became officials, they would think of ways to cultivate the Martial Dao.

Cultivating the Martial Dao wasn't only for battle but also to strengthen one's body and prolong one's life!

Ranked martial artists could easily live to a hundred years old, but what about ordinary people? Men seldom lived to be seventy years old.

"You don't know?" Sun Gongping looked at Zhou Shu in surprise. "There's actually someone in Great Xia who doesn't know of Great General Meng?"

Is it strange? Zhou Shu thought but didn't dare to say so. After all, he was an outsider and wasn't sure if not knowing Great General Meng was normal.

"You know as well as I do that I've been burying my head in the workshop, forging. I don't know much about what's going on out there," Zhou Shu said in a low voice.

“Even so, it shouldn’t be to the extent where you don’t even know Great General Meng,” Sun Gongping said.

Although he complained, he continued, “Great General Meng, Meng Bai, is the commander-in-chief of the three military forces of Great Xia, the only God of War in Great Xia!”

4

After hearing what Sun Gongping said, Zhou Shu finally realized how powerful that seemingly ordinary old general was.

Meng Bai was Great Xia’s most talented martial artist and also Great Xia’s most talented military general.

When he was thirty years old, he was already a second-rank martial artist. Furthermore, he had led troops to defeat enemy armies and saved Great Xia from danger many times.

Meng Bai had stayed in the Country Protector Army, the Demon Executing Army, and the Fiend Eradication Army before, and he had climbed up from the bottom step by step to reach the position of commander-in-chief.

Now, he was the commander-in-chief of the three military forces of Great Xia and the number one person in the military!

Even though Zhu Chuanfeng was a Grand Craftsman, he was nothing compared to such a legendary figure.

“He’s a second-rank martial artist?” Zhou Shu said. “I couldn’t tell.”

He couldn’t sense any martial artist aura from Meng Bai’s body. Was the difference in cultivation between the two too great, so Zhou Shu couldn’t tell?

But Zhu Chuanfeng was a fifth-rank martial artist, and Zhou Shu could feel the pressuring aura of a martial artist from him. *Is it possible that Meng Bai has already returned to his origin state?*

“Ten years ago, during the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, the great general fought against the experts of the Ten Nations alone and was severely injured.”

Sun Gongping said sadly, “Ever since then, the great general’s realm has been constantly dropping. In recent years, he has become an ordinary person...”

“I see.” Zhou Shu nodded.

This was someone who had done great service to the country, and he wasn’t just a martial artist. He was also a great general who led the army. This was why he had his current status.

“With Great General Meng’s evaluation of you, you can do whatever you want in Great Xia in the future.” Sun Gongping patted Zhou Shu on the shoulder. “In the future, who will dare say that the princess doesn’t know how to read people?”

“Even without Great General Meng’s evaluation, I’m still me,” Zhou Shu said nonchalantly.

“You...” Sun Gongping was speechless. He thought that he was arrogant enough, but he didn’t expect Zhou Shu to be even more arrogant than him.

“Right, Old Zhou, if His Majesty allows you to comprehend the saber intent, ask if you can bring me in as well!”

Zhou Shu, “...”

...

As it turned out, when a big shot wanted to do something, the efficiency of the matter was frighteningly high.

Otherwise, things could drag on forever!

Meng Bai was an out-and-out big shot. In a sense, his authority was even greater than Princess Yin Wuyou’s.

Before sunset on the same day, the imperial decree was delivered to Zhou Shu.

What a scam! This was the first time Zhou Shu received an imperial decree, and it was even a reward. But he wasn’t happy at all.

Meng Bai really did do something bad out of good intentions.

The reward is a chance to comprehend saber intent. Wouldn’t it be better if it was gold?

If that doesn’t work, I will accept jewelry or jade.

Don’t some people say that in feudal society, the emperor will sometimes reward ministers with palace maids?

Which of these rewards isn’t better than this lousy opportunity?

I don’t care about comprehending saber intent at all!

Great General Meng even invited an imperial decree. If I don’t go, I’ll be going against the imperial decree!

How about I sell the opportunity to Sun Gongping?

After being depressed for a while, Zhou Shu still hadn’t decided whether or not to challenge the emperor’s dignity.

“Superintendent Zhou, the great general said that after the decree is passed down, I am to bring you over.” The eunuch who came to read the imperial decree to Zhou Shu didn’t leave, and his expression was calm as he spoke.

“Where are we going?” Zhou Shu asked casually.

“To the Saber Cave to comprehend the saber intent,” the eunuch said. “The Saber Cave isn’t far from here. The great general said that to allow you to gain some comprehension as soon as possible. I am to

send you to the Saber Cave and supervise you. Unless you comprehend something, you can stay in the Saber Cave forever.”

Forever?

I can't leave until I comprehend something?

Can you first tell me what kind of place the Saber Cave is?

You're not going to let me put on a show of walking on a mountain of knives, are you?

Zhou Shu cursed in his heart. *Looking at this eunuch's attitude, he won't stop until he brings me to that cave.*

Meng Bai really wants to turn me into a saber expert!

Although he was doing this out of goodwill, Zhou Shu still felt a deep sense of helplessness. But for some reason, his heart felt warm.

“Eunuch, I have no problem with going to the Saber Cave, but I have something to do first.” Zhou Shu cupped his hands at the eunuch.

“Sure, we're not in a hurry,” the eunuch said.

“Eunuch, I still need to ask you for a favor!” Zhou Shu said. “During this period, I've forged a batch of Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber. I want to give them to Great General Meng first before going to the Saber Cave.

“To tell you the truth, I've been stupid since I was young. I don't even know when I'll be able to comprehend saber intent once I go to the Saber Cave. The earlier these Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers are delivered to the hands of the soldiers, the earlier I'll be at ease.”

Zhou Shu now had a total of 100 Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers in his hands. If these sabers were not sent to the military, how could they bring him any benefits?

If he didn't make use of this opportunity thanks to General Meng, was he supposed to leave these sabers in the 0th Workshop to rot?

“Superintendent Zhou is indeed a talent who cares about the country.” The eunuch was very gratified.

“Leave this matter to me. I will naturally get someone to deliver these Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers to Great General Meng, and I will definitely not let you suffer any loss.”

Although the Forging Division was also an organization of the Imperial Court, the workshops in the Forging Division had their own operating mechanism.

The weapons they forged were for the three military forces, which needed to buy the weapons with money.

After all, the operations of the Forging Division required a large amount of funds.

Thus, even if they were comrades, the three military forces of Great Xia couldn't just pick up weapons from the Forging Division. They had to use their own funds to purchase them.

Similarly, Zhou Shu didn't have the authority to give away the weapons he forged. Unless he used his own forging materials, the weapons he forged would still have to go through the workshop's official accounts.

Another way to see it would be that the workshops of the Forging Division were like the military factories or state-owned enterprises of Earth in Zhou Shu's previous life. They also had to trade with the military forces.

It wasn't as if the forging materials used by the Forging Division didn't cost money. The materials were also not the personal properties of the workshop superintendents.

"Thank you, Eunuch." Zhou Shu cupped his hands.

He didn't care how much money the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers could be exchanged for. After all, he didn't intend to embezzle.

To him, the most precious thing was the benefits from the Legendary Armament Canon if the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers could complete kills.

While speaking, Zhou Shu recalled the military generals who had previously given him gifts. *The border army generals should have more opportunities to kill enemies. Should I give the next weapon to the border troops?*

"Superintendent Zhou, please." The eunuch was already urging Zhou Shu to leave.

At the same time, some of the guards he brought had already lifted the two large wooden chests. They would deliver the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers in the chests to Meng Bai.

Meng Bai would decide on which troops to assign the sabers to.

Zhou Shu didn't care how Meng Bai distributed them. It was fine as long as the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers had the chance to kill.

"Eunuch, is the Saber Cave far?" Zhou Shu asked while boarding the eunuch's carriage.

"Not far. Just a few steps away." The eunuch's attitude was extremely polite, and it was unknown if this was because of Meng Bai. Logically, there was no need for him to be this polite toward a mere workshop superintendent.

"So close? Why haven't I seen it before?" Zhou Shu said strangely.

"The Saber Cave is a forbidden area of the Imperial Court. No one is allowed to enter without His Majesty's permission," the eunuch said. "Only young talents like you, Superintendent Zhou, have the chance to enter the Saber Cave to comprehend the saber intent. You must treasure this opportunity."

"Is this opportunity very rare?" Zhou Shu asked. "Eunuch, can you tell me what's going on with this Saber Cave? This way, I'll be prepared and won't be unable to comprehend anything."

"There's nothing I can't say." The eunuch's lips curled up. "The Saber Cave was left behind by a mysterious grand master of the Saber Dao in Great Xia. It contains a high-grade saber intent. If an

ordinary martial artist can comprehend a thing or two, it won't be a problem for them to advance into the ranks. General Cheng Wanli benefited from it."

Zhou Shu didn't know why, but the more he listened to the eunuch's introduction, the more he felt that this place was somewhat familiar. *Could my predecessor have gone there before?*

Chapter 37: A Martial Dao Genius Stifled by Forging

Zhou Shu suspected that his predecessor had been to the Saber Cave, but after thinking about it, it seemed unlikely.

His predecessor was just a small Forging Apprentice of the Forging Division. The Saber Cave was a restricted area of Great Xia. Based on what this eunuch had said, those who weren't elites wouldn't even have a chance to enter.

...

No matter how Zhou Shu thought about it, it was impossible for his predecessor to have the chance to go.

My predecessor has never been there, so where does this damn sense of familiarity come from?

In less than fifteen minutes, the carriage stopped.

"So close?" Zhou Shu was surprised. He contemplated for a moment. *We've been on the carriage for fifteen minutes, so we should have just entered the city. Is the Saber Cave here?*

"Superintendent Zhou, please." The eunuch got off the carriage first.

Zhou Shu didn't hesitate and jumped off the carriage.

"Here?" Zhou Shu's eyes widened.

"The Saber Cave is in this underground secret chamber." The eunuch didn't notice Zhou Shu's reaction and introduced, "Don't look at how ordinary this place is. I can tell you that there is an entire one-hundred-man team of Huben Troops stationed here.

"No one is allowed to approach this place without permission. Otherwise, they will face the fierce attack of the Huben Troops! Furthermore, there is a squad from the Fiend Eradication Army on standby. Even if someone is a ranked martial artist, it won't be that easy for them to enter the Saber Cave."

Zhou Shu was in a daze and didn't hear what the eunuch said.

Like a block of wood, he was led into the underground secret chamber by the eunuch.

The secret chamber wasn't big. It was several square meters, and a few people were already here.

When they heard Zhou Shu and the eunuch enter, these people only raised their heads and then turned their heads back. They stared at the messy marks on the wall, their faces filled with deep thought.

Zhou Shu was a little confused. He scratched his head, not daring to believe what had happened.

The eunuch looked at him strangely. "Superintendent Zhou, you should stay here and comprehend. His Majesty decrees that you can stay here indefinitely. You can leave whenever you comprehend something.

"Don't worry about food. Someone will deliver it to you."

With that, the eunuch turned and left.

Zhou Shu felt a few fiery gazes land on him. When he turned around, he saw the few people who came here before him looking at him enviously.

"Hello, everyone." Zhou Shu was puzzled, but he still waved his hand and greeted.

These people rolled their eyes at him and then turned their heads away. No one bothered with him!

They had painstakingly defeated countless people before obtaining the opportunity to enter the Saber Cave to comprehend for a day, yet this pretty boy had no time limit!

If not for how precious their time was here, they would definitely give him a good beating! Their thoughts were almost all the same.

Zhou Shu didn't know what they were thinking. He scratched his head again, making his hair a mess.

Right now, he wanted to rush in front of Meng Bai and loudly tell him that the saber marks on the wall were left by him!

Are you serious about wanting me to comprehend the saber marks I slashed? Zhou Shu felt that he had dug a hole and jumped into it. He had even buried himself!

But he had nowhere to complain!

Meng Bai had good intentions!

A Forging Apprentice who didn't understand the Martial Dao couldn't become a Forging Master.

If Zhou Shu was an ordinary Forging Apprentice, this would definitely be a great opportunity.

2

But he wasn't an ordinary Forging Apprentice. He was a genius, okay?

Even if you beat Zhou Shu to death, he would never have imagined that the saber marks he had casually carved would actually be protected by Great Xia's Imperial Court like a treasure.

This shouldn't be the case. My cultivation base is only slightly stronger than Sun Gongping's. Great Xia even has first-rank experts. With my current strength, why would Great Xia's Imperial Court care so much?

The Heavenly Saber Arts was indeed an extremely impressive technique, but Zhou Shu knew very well that his attainments in it were only at the elementary level.

What Zhou Shu didn't know was that Great Xia's Imperial Court didn't value the saber marks he had left behind because of how powerful the saber intent contained within them was.

On the contrary, it was because the saber intent was only at the elementary level!

If the saber intent was too powerful, ordinary martial artists wouldn't be able to comprehend it.

It was precisely because this saber intent, which looked like it had been left behind by a martial artist who had just crossed the threshold, could be comprehended by even unranked martial artists.

It wasn't easy to leave such marks.

If an expert came to leave saber marks, the saber intent might very well be too strong. It was impossible for someone who had just crossed the threshold and grasped saber intent to leave these marks.

This was why Meng Bai and the others thought that these saber marks were deliberately left behind by a Saber Dao grandmaster to help the young martial artists of Great Xia cultivate.

Zhou Shu hadn't thought of these twists and turns. He was thinking... *What should I do now?*

Go out now and tell them that I comprehended saber intent?

Wouldn't that be too shocking?

What if they treat me like a Martial Dao genius stifled by forging?

2

Meng Bai wouldn't forcefully cultivate me as a Martial Dao genius, right?

4

I don't want to give up on forging. This is my foundation.

Why don't I stay here for a few days before leaving?

Ahh, being too outstanding is also troublesome.

Zhou Shu sighed to himself. He watched the people in the secret chamber sitting cross-legged in front of the wall, their fingers constantly pointing and imitating the saber marks on the wall.

Zhou Shu imitated them and walked over to an empty wall. He sat down and prepared to put on an act.

Just as he sat down, he suddenly froze.

Immediately, a sharp aura emanated from his body. In an instant, his entire person seemed to have become a saber, revealing his power.

Everyone's attention was drawn to him.

"What's going on? He has comprehended saber intent!"

Everyone was going crazy. This pretty boy just came in not long ago, right?

How did he comprehend it?

The crowd exchanged glances with one another. They had been here for almost an entire day. Even though they had learned something, they had yet to comprehend saber intent!

“Seven and a half minutes...” one of them whispered. “It’s only been seven and a half minutes since he came in...”

2

“Before this, the one who comprehended saber intent the fastest was Sun Gongping from the Divine Constable Bureau. He spent half an hour... Furthermore, the saber intent he comprehended doesn’t seem to be as strong as that of this person before us.”

Everyone gasped.

The Divine Constable Bureau’s Sun Gongping was a famous genius among the younger generation!

Who was this young man?

He was stronger than Sun Gongping?

Zhou Shu was a little dumbfounded. He hadn’t expected this.

He wanted to keep a low profile!

What the heck is going on! Zhou Shu didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

Just as he sat down, he suddenly saw a line.

[The profoundness of the Heavenly Saber Arts has improved by two years because the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber you forged effectively completed a kill!]

The sudden increase in the profoundness of the Heavenly Saber Arts caused Zhou Shu to lose control momentarily, and his saber intent leaked out.

4

It might have been better if they were outdoors.

But in this small secret chamber, everyone was focused on comprehending saber intent. They could sense even the slightest saber intent!

There was no way to hide it now.

Zhou Shu sighed in his heart. He was glad that the Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique focused on cultivating the body. Even an ordinary martial artist much stronger than him wouldn’t be able to see through him easily.

1

Otherwise, he would have no trump cards left.

Being in a world full of dangers, Zhou Shu always believed that if he wanted to live for a long time, he had to keep some trump cards that others didn’t know about.

This was the only way. If someone wanted to deal with him, his chances of survival would be much greater if this person didn’t know his trump cards.

Now that his saber intent had been exposed, unless he was willing to silence everyone in the secret chamber, he couldn't hide it anymore.

The problem was that even if he wanted to silence them, he couldn't do it.

It was easy to kill these people, but there was still the 100-man team of Huben Troops outside, as well as the squad from the Fiend Eradication Army. They were not people he could deal with at the moment.

"Brothers, please continue. I'll take my leave first." Zhou Shu cupped his hands at these people who had yet to recover from their shock.

Before they could react, Zhou Shu had already left the secret chamber.

"I—"

"Who in the world is he! Why did he come in? Did he come in just to sit for a while and then leave? Did he come here for a tour?"

"He has comprehended saber intent!"

"..."

The secret chamber immediately became deathly silent.

Zhou Shu pushed open the tunnel door and climbed up. Just as he revealed his head, he felt several gazes land on him.

Although the Huben Troops were hiding in unknown places, it was obvious that they were paying attention to this place.

"Why did you come back up?"

He Qingdian had just stepped onto the carriage and was about to return to the palace to report when he turned around and saw Zhou Shu emerge from the underground secret chamber.

I haven't even left, yet this kid wants to sneak away?

Does he really want me to stay here and keep an eye on him?

Head Eunuch He Qingdian was already somewhat unhappy. It was no wonder that Great General Meng had specially instructed him to send Zhou Shu to the Saber Cave.

This Superintendent Zhou... This is a dream opportunity for others, but he doesn't take it seriously. Does he hate the Martial Dao that much?

"Superintendent Zhou, this is His Majesty's decree. If you haven't comprehended saber intent, you are not allowed to leave the Saber Cave," He Qingdian said unhappily. "To disobey the decree is a severe crime!"

"I didn't disobey." Zhou Shu jumped out of the tunnel.

"You're still denying it!" He Qingdian originally had a good impression of Zhou Shu. But now, he felt that Zhou Shu might just appear good on the surface!

Before he could finish speaking, he saw Zhou Shu take a step forward. The aura around him changed, as if he had become a saber revealing his power!

“You...” He Qingdian’s pupils suddenly contracted.

“I’ve already comprehended saber intent, and I’ve also comprehended a saber art...”

Before Zhou Shu could finish speaking, he felt a gust of wind blow past his eyes.

Head Eunuch He Qingdian had already turned into a blur and disappeared into the distance.

Zhou Shu was dumbfounded. *This is an expert. This speed should have reached two hundred kilometers per hour.*

Eunuchs have been experts since ancient times. This is indeed not a lie. Zhou Shu praised in his heart.

7

He looked around, and his gaze landed on He Qingdian’s carriage. “Erm, Big Brother Coachman, please send me back to the Forging Division...”