

Canon 38

Chapter 38: Geniuses Don't Need Reasonability

Great Xia's imperial palace...

In the imperial study, Emperor Yuan Feng and Great General Meng Bai stood up abruptly and simultaneously looked at He Qingdian.

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Being glared at by the two most powerful people in Great Xia, even Head Eunuch He Qingdian, who had rushed here, couldn't help taking half a step back.

"Great companion, are you serious?" Emperor Yuan Feng asked with a deep voice.

"Your Majesty, I have followed you for fifty years. When have I ever lied?" He Qingdian smiled bitterly.

"Zhou Shu has indeed comprehended saber intent in less than seven and a half minutes.

"If I had not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed it either!"

Emperor Yuan Feng looked at Meng Bai and asked, "Great General, is it possible for someone who has never practiced the Martial Dao to comprehend saber intent in such a short time?"

Although he was also a first rank, he was only a false first rank. In terms of the understanding of the Martial Dao, he was far inferior to Meng Bai, who was once a second-rank martial artist.

Meng Bai's cultivation came from cultivating step by step.

"This isn't impossible," Meng Bai said after a moment of thought. "I've even heard of someone with extraordinary talent. As soon as he came into contact with the Martial Dao, he advanced to a ranked martial artist on the same day.

"From the looks of it now, Zhou Shu does indeed have some talent in the Saber Dao," Meng Bai said.

"No wonder he can forge weapons like the Huben Saber, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, and Horse Slaying Saber.

"If you have no knowledge of sabers, how can you forge sabers?"

"Great General, your eyes are as sharp as ever." Emperor Yuan chuckled. "It seems that Zhou Shu is truly a genius."

Emperor Yuan Feng wasn't as shocked as Head Eunuch He Qingdian. As the emperor of Great Xia, he had seen countless geniuses. At least for now, Zhou Shu wasn't the most talented.

"Your Majesty, I have a presumptuous request." Meng Bai's expression was serious as he cupped his hands.

"There is no need for you to treat me like an outsider." Emperor Yuanfeng shook his head with a smile.

"Great General, if there is anything you wish to say, feel free to speak."

“Your Majesty, let’s not talk about the Huben Saber and the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber for now. I brought this Horse Slaying Saber from Zhou Shu. According to the Imperial Court’s rules, developing the Horse Slaying Saber is a great contribution.

“Originally, I thought that Superintendent Zhou Shu didn’t cultivate the Martial Dao, so I shamelessly asked Your Majesty for a chance for him to comprehend the Dao in the Saber Cave. This could be considered a reward for developing the Horse Slaying Saber.

“But from the looks of it, Zhou Shu has an innate sensitivity toward saber techniques. Even if he didn’t enter the Saber Cave, he still might be able to comprehend it himself in the future.

“This way, I have taken great advantage of him,” Meng Bai said with a bitter smile.

Ever since the Imperial Court took over the Saber Cave, Emperor Yuan Feng had set a rule that no one was allowed to enter the Saber Cave unless they had contributed greatly to Great Xia.

Thus, allowing Zhou Shu to enter was truly a reward.

But now, Meng Bai felt like this reward was a bit too small and incompatible with the great accomplishment of developing the Horse Slaying Saber.

“I understand your intentions, Great General.” Emperor Yuan Feng nodded. “My Great Xia has never mistreated those who have accomplished meritorious deeds.”

“I also think so, so I wish to earnestly ask Your Majesty...” Meng Bai said seriously. “Your Majesty, please allow Zhou Shu to participate in Great Xia’s military parade!”

Emperor Yuan Feng couldn’t help laughing. “Great General, have you forgotten that the workshop superintendents of the Forging Division are qualified to observe the military parade?”

“Your Majesty, that’s not what I meant.” Meng Bai shook his head.

Emperor Yuan Feng was startled. “Great General, you mean...”

Meng Bai nodded. “Exactly!”

“Although he is talented, he is still only a Forging Apprentice. Those who are not Forging Masters cannot participate in Great Xia’s military parade. This has been the rule for thousands of years...” Emperor Yuan Feng frowned.

“I know, Your Majesty. Great Xia’s military parade is still ten months away. After ten months, Zhou Shu might advance to Forging Master,” Meng Bai said with a sunken voice.

“But there is a greater possibility that he will still be a Forging Apprentice.” Emperor Yuan Feng’s expression was solemn. “Great General, the military parade is not child’s play! The participants have to be announced to the public in advance. If he cannot advance to a Forging Master by then, we will become a laughing stock!”

“Your Majesty, I have a hunch,” Meng Bai said. “Zhou Shu’s ability might not be limited to what we see. I’m willing to take a gamble. I’ll bet that he can become a Forging Master within ten months!

“If not, I will bear all the responsibility alone. I will be the laughing stock of the world!”

Emperor Yuan Feng looked at Meng Bai. The expression on Meng Bai's face was extremely resolute. Having had a sovereign and minister relationship for several decades, Emperor Yuan Feng understood Meng Bai extremely well.

He sighed. "Great General, you are disregarding personal honor and disgrace for the sake of Great Xia. Forget it. As the master of Great Xia, how can I let you bear this infamy?"

"If Zhou Shu is unable to advance to Forging Master within ten months, then the infamy of having bad perception and cronyism will fall on my head."

"Your Majesty—" Meng Bai was moved.

Just as he was about to say something, Emperor Yuan Feng already waved his hand, indicating that he didn't need to say anything.

"Great General, I will make arrangements for this matter. The most important thing for you now is the borders!" Emperor Yuan Feng said with a serious expression. "The barbarians are invading, and the border army has already lost several times in succession. Apart from you, I truly cannot think of anyone else who can turn the tide!"

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"I will not shirk my duty!" Meng Bai said in a deep voice and then straightened his back, cupped his hands, and bowed.

Right now, he was no longer a vassal but a general.

"I will bring this batch of Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers to the frontlines. In addition, I want to bring another batch of Horse Slaying Sabers!" Meng Bai pointed at the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers forged by Zhou Shu that He Qingdian had brought back.

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"Great General, ask for the sabers from the Forging Division. From now on, all the workshops in the Forging Division will prioritize providing what you need!"

"I accept the order!" Meng Bai knelt on one knee, gave a military salute, then stood up and left the palace in an imposing manner.

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On the other side, after He Qingdian left, Zhou Shu wanted to hitch a ride back to the 0th Workshop. But the coachman rolled his eyes at him and drove off.

He had no choice but to walk back.

He's kicking me to the curb after I've outlived my usefulness. Zhou Shu cursed in his heart.

Before leaving the courtyard where the Saber Cave was located, he subconsciously turned his head to take a look, only to see a figure on the roof slowly returning a saber to its sheath.

This saber was a Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber!

Zhou Shu finally understood why his Heavenly Saber Arts had suddenly progressed and his saber intent had burst forth.

It turned out that someone wanted to break into the Saber Cave and was killed by the guards here.

Who knew where this person came from, but the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber had fallen into his hands.

If Zhou Shu didn't remember wrongly, other than the batch of Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber that He Qingdian had taken away today, he had only given Yin Wuyou one before.

The Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber in this person's hand was definitely the one he had given to Yin Wuyou!

Zhou Shu glanced at this person, and this person happened to look over as well. Their gazes met, and then this person jumped off the roof and disappeared into the darkness.

I'll remember you! I'll beat you up sooner or later! Zhou Shu added another name to his little notebook. If this person hadn't suddenly killed someone, his identity as a Martial Dao genius wouldn't have been exposed...

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The Saber Cave wasn't far from the 0th Workshop. Even if Zhou Shu couldn't fly like He Qingdian, he still managed to return to the workshop an hour later.

The main construction of the 0th Workshop had basically been completed. All that was left was the interior renovation.

Under the influence of Zhou Shu's money, the construction workers of the Ministry of Works were extremely efficient.

Speaking of which, this world was different from his previous life. Even ordinary people here had physical fitness that was actually stronger than that of ordinary people in his previous life. Building a house was basically physical work. Disregarding costs, their speed was naturally fast.

Although they couldn't compare to the infrastructure demons in his previous life, Zhou Shu was already very satisfied with the results achieved in less than a month.

I can get Zhang Yibei and the rest to move in later. This is a natural renovation, so I don't have to worry about formaldehyde...

Looking at his own territory, Zhou Shu felt a sense of accomplishment.

From being a Forging Apprentice who had nothing when he first came to this world, he had now become the superintendent of a workshop. He also had his own territory. He was already very satisfied with the results he had achieved in such a short period.

In his previous life, Zhou Shu was just an ordinary corporate slave. He had never thought of fighting for hegemony immediately after transmigrating. It was quite good now that he was slowly developing.

“Superintendent Zhou, do you see any problems with the job? If you see any problems, just tell me. I’ll get someone to fix it immediately.” An old man approached Zhou Shu with a smile.

“It’s pretty good. There are no problems.”

Zhou Shu looked around and said to the foreman, “I think we should dig another drainage ditch here and direct the well water into the work shed...”

The foreman noted down Zhou Shu’s opinions one by one. If the customer had any requests, he naturally couldn’t refuse.

“These can be resolved in a day,” the foreman said. “Superintendent Zhou, our bill...”

“No problem. Once the job is done, I will give it to you immediately,” Zhou Shu said. This efficiency came from using money. For the sake of this 0th Workshop, he had used up all of his savings.

But this money was worth it. Zhou Shu was willing to spend as much money as he could to see the 0th Workshop built as he imagined.

Besides, he had the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber as a money tree. Furthermore, he would be forging even more weapons in the future. Earning money wasn’t difficult for him!

“Is this the 0th Workshop? Is Superintendent Zhou here?” A voice suddenly rang out while Zhou Shu was talking to the foreman.

The 0th Workshop was built to have the appearance of a three-way courtyard house. The first courtyard had a factory and an open area. The second courtyard was the dormitory area where the Forging Apprentices lived. The third courtyard was Zhou Shu’s own residence.

He passed through the first yard and opened the main door of the 0th Workshop. Outside stood a fully armored soldier.

The soldier’s face was unfamiliar. Zhou Shu didn’t recognize him. He cupped his hands and said politely, “I am Zhou Shu. What can I do for you, General?”

“On the orders of the great general, within a month, the 0th Workshop has to hand over five hundred Horse Slaying Sabers, one thousand Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers, and three thousand Huben Sabers!”

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“What?” Zhou Shu’s eyes widened. *Are you kidding me? In a month, five hundred Horse Slaying Sabers, one thousand Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers, and three thousand Huben Sabers? Why don’t you go rob!?*

“That’s impossible!” Zhou Shu said. “It’s impossible to forge everything within a month. A year is more like it!”

“The great general said that this is an important military matter. If the mission is not completed by the deadline, you will be punished according to military law!” the soldier said expressionlessly.

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“General Meng is being unreasonable. How can this be done?!” Zhou Shu said angrily.

“The great general said that Superintendent Zhou is a genius. Geniuses don’t need reasonability. You will definitely be able to complete the mission.” The soldier’s tone was calm.

“The great general said, the great general said... don’t you have anything to say?” Zhou Shu said angrily.

“The great general said that to ensure the completion of the mission, for this entire month, you can use all of the resources from the 37th to the 108th Workshops in the Forging Division!”

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Chapter 39: A Show of Borrowing Power

The cool soldier left after speaking, leaving Zhou Shu in a mess.

It was almost impossible to complete forging 500 Horse Slaying Sabers, 1000 Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers, and 3000 Huben Sabers in a month.

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Previously, it took three months to forge the Huben Sabers for the Huben Troops.

This was already the result of working tirelessly.

If such a thing happened again, the Forging Apprentices could die from exhaustion at any time.

Not to mention, there were also 500 Horse Slaying Sabers and 1000 Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers!

The difficulty of forging the Horse Slaying Saber and Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber was even greater than that of the Huben Saber.

All the workshops after the 36th Workshop are under my control. But that’s still not possible. Zhou Shu felt helpless.

Forging weapons was not purely physical work. It was technical work!

To forge the Huben Sabers, Zhou Shu, Zhang Yibei, and the others had to work together for half a month before they could barely cooperate.

This is an important military matter. If I don’t complete the mission by the deadline, I will be punished according to military law. If you want to kill me, just say so. Why are you looking for excuses?!

Zhou Shu was indignant. Meng Bai was giving him an enormous problem.

He had already mentioned military law, so Zhou Shu couldn’t reject the mission now.

“I have no freedom, no freedom...” Zhou Shu snorted.

There was nothing he could do. As long as he was still a member of the Forging Division, there was no way he could escape this.

The Forging Division was the military's logistics department. Although it was an independent entity in name, Great General Meng was the commander-in-chief of the three military forces of Great Xia. He had the right to ask about any matters involving the military.

The missions he assigned couldn't be rejected by even the grand minister, Yin Wuyou.

In other words, Zhou Shu had to accept this mission. If he could do it, he had to do it. Even if he couldn't, he still had to do it.

Fortunately, Meng Bai gave him an imperial sword and allowed him to use the resources of other workshops.

Otherwise, he could just wait for death.

It was impossible to complete this mission with just the 0th Workshop!

It seems like I can only start work early!

Zhou Shu sighed and called out to the foreman of the Ministry of Works. "I'll add another five hundred taels. The construction must be completed within three days!"

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In the 97th Workshop, Xiao Zongshui was livid.

"Superintendent Xiao, do you have any other questions?" Zhou Shu said with a formal smile.

"Superintendent Zhou, handing over a thousand Huben Sabers in a month is impossible!" Xiao Zongshui gritted his teeth. He wanted to curse out loud but ultimately endured it.

Xiao Zongshui couldn't disobey Great General Meng Bai's orders, so no matter how aggrieved he felt, he had to endure it. Zhou Shu wasn't only the superintendent of the 0th Workshop, but he also represented Great General Meng.

"Is that so?" Zhou Shu restrained his smile. "If I remember correctly, the 97th Workshop provided three thousand Huben Sabers to the Huben Troops in three months.

"In that case, a thousand Huben Sabers in a month shouldn't be a problem for the 97th Workshop."

It would be a miracle if there were no problems!

Aren't you well aware of whether or not the mission can be completed?

Xiao Zongshui cursed in his heart. Back then, he had forced Zhou Shu to lead the forging mission of the Huben Sabers.

Now, Zhou Shu had been promoted, and the other Forging Apprentices who had participated in forging the Huben Sabers had been sent to the other workshops.

If Xiao Zongshui had known that this would happen, he wouldn't have split the people out in the first place.

Now, retribution had arrived!

Xiao Zongshui suppressed the anger in his heart and said in a low voice, "Superintendent Zhou, it's not good for you to use your position to get even with me for a private grudge, right?"

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes and said coldly, "Superintendent Xiao, you can eat whatever you want, but you can't say whatever you want," Zhou Shu said. "If you don't want to do it, you can just say so. I'll report it truthfully to Great General Meng.

"Our Forging Division has plenty of workshops. Even without the 97th Workshop, we can still operate!"

Xiao Zongshui shivered. The Forging Division could still operate without the 97th Workshop. Then, wouldn't it be even less of a problem if it didn't have him as a superintendent?

If Zhou Shu really reported this to Great General Meng, it was hard to say what other things would happen. But as the workshop's superintendent, he would probably be done for.

"Superintendent Zhou, that's not what I meant." Xiao Zongshui felt a chill run down his spine when he thought about his tragic fate after being dismissed. He lowered his head and said, "But this mission is really difficult.

"Superintendent Zhou, you were from the 97th Workshop. Other people might not know what's going on in the workshop, but how can you not know?"

"I can't even hand over a hundred Huben Sabers in a month, much less a thousand."

Xiao Zongshui had a bitter expression. He knew very well that without those who had participated in forging the Huben Sabers previously, he wouldn't even be able to hand over a single Huben Saber.

"Superintendent Zhou, can you make an exception?" Xiao Zongshui said humbly.

"Superintendent Xiao, I'm not making things difficult for you." Zhou Shu shook his head. "The secret forging formula of the Huben Saber is in the hands of the 97th Workshop. The great general asked me to be in charge of the supply of weapons. If I don't look for you, who should I look for?"

Xiao Zongshui opened his mouth. He really couldn't refute these words.

The secret forging formula of the Huben Saber was indeed the 97th Workshop's, which meant that it was in Xiao Zongshui's hands.

When Zhou Shu was still a Forging Apprentice at the 97th Workshop, Xiao Zongshui didn't take him seriously. At that time, he took the forging formula of the Huben Saber for himself and went to make a deal with Cheng Wanli.

According to the procedures of the Forging Division, the forging formula of the Huben Saber was indeed the 97th Workshop's. According to the rules of the Forging Division, even if the other workshops wanted to forge Huben Sabers, they had to obtain the authorization of the 97th Workshop and pay a certain fee.

To a certain extent, the various workshops of the Forging Division were independent of each other.

Xiao Zongshui wasn't in a position to make known his suffering. He really couldn't say that he could authorize Zhou Shu.

The Huben Saber was originally developed by Zhou Shu. How could Xiao Zongshui turn the tables and ask Zhou Shu for money?

Under other circumstances, Xiao Zongshui was indeed capable of doing so.

But now, Zhou Shu was borrowing Great General Meng's power to coordinate all the workshops' resources. If Xiao Zongshui really dared to say this, he would be dismissed from the position of the workshop's superintendent!

"Superintendent Zhou, can't I return the secret forging formula of the Huben Saber to you?" Xiao Zongshui said almost pleadingly.

"What do you mean, Superintendent Xiao? Am I the sort of person who would acquire something by trickery?" Zhou Shu said coldly with a stern face.

"Superintendent Zhou, I really didn't mean that." Xiao Zongshui was miserable. How could he have imagined that he would have to humbly explain himself to a mere Forging Apprentice one day?

Xiao Zongshui gritted his teeth and said in a deep voice, "Superintendent Zhou, you were the one who developed the Huben Saber. The profits from supplying the Huben Troops should be yours. I'll get someone to deliver it to you later!"

Looking at Xiao Zongshui, Zhou Shu suddenly felt dispirited.

Back then, he had thought that he would teach Xiao Zongshui a lesson after he made a comeback.

But now that Xiao Zongshui was so meek and subservient in front of him, he didn't feel any sense of accomplishment.

To put it bluntly, Xiao Zongshui wasn't a big shot. There was no sense of achievement in bullying him.

"Since Superintendent Xiao has said so, I will reconsider it." Even so, Zhou Shu didn't reject Xiao Zongshui returning the profits from forging the Huben Sabers to him. He deserved it, so why not?

"Many thanks, Superintendent Zhou! Many thanks, Superintendent Zhou!" Xiao Zongshui thanked Zhou Shu profusely.

"Also, Great General Meng's mission has to be completed quickly. My 0th Workshop needs manpower," Zhou Shu continued. "Superintendent Xiao, help me urge Zhang Yibei and the others to transfer to the 0th Workshop as soon as possible."

"I'll do it right away!" Xiao Zongshui had no room to refuse.

Xiao Zongshui couldn't afford to offend Zhou Shu now that he had power in his hands. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to bear the consequences if Zhou Shu said anything to the great general.

"I also need your full cooperation for this mission, Superintendent Xiao. Since you, Superintendent Li Hongyuan, and the others have a good relationship, I'll have to ask you guys to help out this time.

“Don’t worry. After this matter is done, I will definitely report this to the great general and heavily reward you all.”

What else could Xiao Zongshui say?

Zhou Shu was strutting in borrowed plumes, but he was speaking the truth. The great general had indeed allowed him to mobilize the resources of the Forging Division workshops.

No one could refuse!

Therefore, even though they knew that Zhou Shu was taking revenge, Xiao Zongshui and the others still had to bear with it!

This was a major military matter, so they absolutely didn’t dare try and go against Zhou Shu.

“Superintendent Zhou, we will naturally cooperate fully. But you are an expert and should understand that our workshops don’t have the ability to independently forge Huben Sabers, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Sabers, and Horse Slaying Sabers...” Xiao Zongshui said bitterly.

“This isn’t something you should worry about.” Zhou Shu shook his head. “All you need to do is listen to my orders.

“Listen to my orders. If you can’t complete the mission, the responsibility is mine.

“If you don’t listen to me, you will bear the responsibility yourselves if you are unable to complete the mission!

“Go tell Li Hongyuan and the others that from tomorrow morning on, all of you superintendents will come to my 0th Workshop to help out every day!”

Zhou Shu decided to let these superintendents experience the life of a Forging Apprentice!

Can’t forge weapons?

It’s alright. You know how to serve tea and water, right?

If you don’t even know this, you know how to sweep the floor, right?

In short, all of you will get to experience it properly this month!

This is what you get for bullying Forging Apprentices!

“I’ll definitely relay the message.” Xiao Zongshui’s attitude was very proper. He only had one thought now—he would do whatever Zhou Shu said. He couldn’t let Zhou Shu catch his mistake!

“That’s for the best. Hurry up and send the people over.” Zhou Shu turned around and walked out.

“Don’t be late tomorrow morning. I don’t have a good temper.

“I have a small suggestion. Superintendent Xiao, it’s up to you whether or not you want to listen to it. Forging Apprentices are also humans. Treat them slightly better. Give them less pressure and more care.”

With his back to Xiao Zongshui, Zhou Shu walked farther and farther away.. His voice came from afar and entered Xiao Zongshui's ears.

Chapter 40: Do You Know What Labor Reform Is?

Zhang Yibei, Sixth Brother Wu, and the others stood at the entrance of the 0th Workshop, feeling a little nervous.

Ever since the last meal with Zhou Shu, they had never seen him again.

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When they returned to the 97th Workshop that day, they had been reprimanded by Superintendent Xiao before being assigned to different workshops to lead their usual lives.

Every day, they had done nothing apart from work. They didn't even have time to ask about Zhou Shu's situation.

Until today, the superintendents sent them to the 0th Workshop along with their tattered belongings. There wasn't a single word of explanation throughout the entire process.

"Brother Zhang, what do you think happened?" Sixth Brother Wu whispered.

The 0th Workshop looked clean and sturdy, unlike the other workshops.

In everyone's eyes, this place was more like the residence of a rich family than a workshop for forging and working.

No one dared push open the main door first.

"I don't know either." Zhang Yibei was also a little flustered. Although he had more seniority in the Forging Division, it was only because he had been a Forging Apprentice for a long time.

His knowledge in other aspects wasn't better than that of other Forging Apprentices.

"Last time, Brother Zhou said he wanted to take us to the 0th Workshop..." Sixth Brother Wu mumbled.

"Old Sixth! You must refer to him as Superintendent Zhou!" Zhang Yibei chided.

Suddenly, the door creaked open, and Zhou Shu appeared inside. "Old Brother Zhang, Old Brother Wu, you guys are here."

When Zhou Shu saw everyone, a smile appeared on his face. "Sorry, sorry. I was just handling some matters and didn't notice that you came. Sorry for making you wait.

"Everyone, come in. This is the 0th Workshop. It will be your home from now on."

"Superintendent Zhou, have we really been transferred to the 0th Workshop?" Zhang Yibei asked nervously.

"Brother Zhang, didn't I tell you? You don't have to be so polite."

Zhou Shu continued to explain, "Of course it's true. All your contracts have already been transferred to the 0th Workshop. From now on, you are all Forging Apprentices of the 0th Workshop."

"Great!" Zhang Yibei smiled sincerely.

Although it was the same no matter where he went, he felt that he could learn more by following Zhou Shu.

Even if he was a Forging Apprentice, couldn't he have some hope in his heart?

"We will catch up in the future. Now, everyone, follow me. I will show you where you work and where you live." Zhou Shu smiled.

"There's another reason why you were transferred here in a rush. The 0th Workshop received an order from the Imperial Court. We only have a month to hand over a batch of weapons, so we don't have time. After familiarizing yourselves with the environment, we will immediately start work."

"No problem, we'll listen to you, Superintendent." Zhang Yibei was the first to speak, and the others all agreed.

Following Zhou Shu, they stepped through the door. Once they entered, everyone was stunned.

Inside the door, there was a wide open area. Both the length and the width exceeded thirty paces. It was square, and the ground was paved with neat limestone. Around the open area, thick wooden stakes were erected. They were used for testing weapons.

Farther ahead of the open area was a large room that no one had ever seen before!

The room was so big that it was comparable to a palace's main hall.

Everyone thought to themselves that the room would seem empty even with more than thirty people inside.

In the enormous room, smelting furnaces were arranged neatly. Each smelting furnace didn't take up much space, but it was enough for one person to use.

Zhang Yibei and the others had once forged weapons together with Zhou Shu. Upon seeing this scene, they immediately understood that this was the place where everyone would forge weapons together.

"This is where we forge our weapons. I call it the 'factory'." Zhou Shu smiled. "Everyone, follow me. The residential area is at the back."

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He led the way through a doorway to the second entry.

When they entered, they found themselves in another large courtyard. Flowers and plants were growing, bringing about a refreshing look.

On three sides of the courtyard were two-story buildings, which were different from what Zhang Yibei and the others had seen before.

The green bricks and tiles made Zhang Yibei and the others feel a bit uneasy. They were afraid that they would dirty something.

"This is where you will live in the future," Zhou Shu said. "Every house has the same specifications. Everyone has one."

He randomly opened a door. "It's not too big inside, but it should be enough for a family of three."

Zhou Shu called Zhang Yibei and the others in to take a look.

Zhang Yibei, Sixth Brother Wu, and the others hesitated for a while before a few of them gathered their courage and walked in.

As soon as they entered, they were greeted by the sight of a spacious and bright living room, followed by two bedrooms and a bathing room.

This was a mansion.

Zhang Yibei's voice trembled as he said, "Superintendent Zhou, is this place really for us to live in?"

He had been a Forging Apprentice at the Forging Division for more than twenty years and had worked hard. His only thought was to buy a house that belonged to him in the capital one day.

This house in front of him was what he dreamed of.

Although he knew that it belonged to the workshop, he was already satisfied to be able to live here.

Compared to the pigsty-like residences in the past, this place was like heaven.

"Of course." Zhou Shu nodded. "Not only can you live here, but your family members can move in as well. However, there are some secrets in the Forging Division. If your family members move in, you have to be careful."

This was needless to say. The Forging Division had always had this rule. The family members of Forging Apprentices could also live in the workshops. But they had to accept the management of the workshops.

Even the dilapidated workshops had a large number of Forging Apprentices' family members living in them, let alone the environment in front of them.

"As long as you guys are still at this Forging Division workshop, you can live here forever," Zhou Shu said with a smile. "If any of your family members come over and are willing, they can help do some cleaning and cooking. They can also collect wages."

"Can I get my wife to come over?" a young Forging Apprentice shouted.

"Of course." Zhou Shu smiled. "This house's soundproofing is alright, but don't delay your work because of this."

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Everyone burst into laughter.

Not only was the young man not embarrassed, but he was also in high spirits. "No, my body is fine!"

Zhou Shu spat. *I, the superintendent, am still single. These guys really have no sense!*

“Alright, Brother Zhang, please count the number of people and give me a name list. As for the houses, each of you will have one according to the number. As for the layout of the rooms, I will leave it to you.

“I only have one request, and that is to take care of your personal hygiene! There is a place to bathe in each house. Every day after you finish your work, you must bathe when you return home. Also, if anyone dares to urinate and defecate in random places, don’t blame me for being heartless!”

“Don’t worry, Superintendent. If anyone dares to be sloppy, I, Old Zhang, will be the first to kick their balls off!” Zhang Yibei said loudly. If anyone dared to destroy such a clean and tidy place, that person would be their enemy!

The rest of the people were also shouting. They were now full of anticipation for their future lives!

They had originally lived and ate in small work sheds. How could they not cherish it now that they had independent residences?

“The yard in the back is where I live. If there’s nothing, don’t go in,” Zhou Shu added.

Of course, nobody had a problem with this. They had never been allowed to enter the residences of the superintendents without reason.

Just as everyone was discussing the division of houses, Xiao Zongshui, Li Hongyuan, and the others arrived at the 0th Workshop.

Everyone was shocked when they saw the huge factory in the 0th Workshop.

They were even more shocked when they saw the residential area of the Forging Apprentices.

Putting the smelting furnaces together was one thing, but was there a need to give such luxurious residences to Forging Apprentices?

“Isn’t it a waste to let Forging Apprentices live in such a good place?” one of the superintendents muttered softly. “As long as they have a place to sleep, it’s fine. The Forging Division hired them to work, not to enjoy themselves!”

Although the superintendent spoke softly, Zhou Shu could still hear him clearly.

The other superintendents also looked like they agreed. Zhou Shu laughed coldly in his heart. As expected, they were like the capitalists from his previous life. They thought that apprentices were not hard-working enough!

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These fellows wished that Forging Apprentices would work for them without eating, drinking, or sleeping.

Fine, I’ll let you have a taste of it.

Maybe you should learn about labor reform?

“Superintendents, since you have already learned about the mission, I won’t elaborate further.” Zhou Shu said. “Time is of the essence for this mission. The mission is extremely important and requires everyone to work together to complete it.

“If anyone has any questions, it’s best to raise them now.

“If you make any excuses during the mission, don’t blame me for disregarding our relations!”

Zhou Shu’s voice turned cold, and his gaze turned sharp as he stared at Xiao Zongshui and the others.

Xiao Zongshui and the others felt their hair stand on end. They actually felt as if they were facing some big shot.

“Since no one has any problems, if anyone dares to quit later and delay the progress of the mission, don’t blame me for not speaking up for you when Great General Meng blames you.

“I can consider our relations, but the military law will not!”

The superintendents felt a chill in their hearts. Military law did not allow mercy. If that really happened, none of them could bear the responsibility.

“Don’t worry, Superintendent Zhou. We will definitely cooperate fully.” Xiao Zongshui and the others cupped their hands in unison.

“Very well. I know you are all sensible people.” Zhou Shu laughed, revealing his white teeth. “After this matter is done, I will definitely report your contributions to the great general truthfully.”

For some reason, when Xiao Zongshui and the others saw Zhou Shu’s smile, they felt a little scared.

“Now, I’ll distribute the tasks that everyone has to be responsible for.” Zhou Shu looked at Xiao Zongshui and the others.. “I hope that everyone will temporarily forget your positions as superintendents. Do your job well and start anew...”