

## Canon 421

### Chapter 421: Above the First Fank, The Longevity Sword Can Speak (1)

*Boom!*

The two sword lights collided. Zhou Shu took half a step back while the Longevity Sword floated in the air and spun around.

Then Zhou Shu felt a wave of contempt and ridicule.

...

This was absolutely intolerable!

Zhou Shu snorted coldly, and sword light rose again.

Sword lights filled the warehouse and collided with the various forging materials, producing crisp sounds.

A moment later, Zhou Shu stopped moving, and the earth-grade Great Destroyer Sword went back into its sheath.

The Longevity Sword was several feet away from Zhou Shu, floating in the air and spinning.

*Whoosh!*

The Longevity Sword emitted another black light that swept away a pile of forging materials.

The tip of its sword twitched slightly, as if it was beckoning at Zhou Shu.

Come on, try again!

Zhou Shu felt that it was provoking him!

Yes, a sword was provoking him right in front of his face!

It had been a long time since Zhou Shu had encountered such a situation.

"You should be able to understand what I'm saying." Zhou Shu stared at the Longevity Sword coldly.

"Come here obediently, or I'll reforge you!"

"Haha..." A voice suddenly sounded in Zhou Shu's mind. "A greenhorn who is not even at the Awakening realm dares to spout nonsense?"

The voice was a little old, and Zhou Shu automatically imagined an old man with white hair and a beard.

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes and snorted. "You can talk? What are you?"

"I'm not a thing!" the old voice said angrily. "I'm a human being, a real human!"

"So, you're not a thing." Zhou Shu nodded. "Do you want me to give you a mirror so that you can take a look at yourself? Tell me, how do you look human?"

“Hmph. What do you know?!” The old voice snorted coldly. “Kid, on account that you’re also a human, I’ll spare your life—”

“Spare my life?” Zhou Shu interrupted. “You should think about how to beg for mercy later. If you beg for mercy, I might consider sparing your life!”

*Boom!*

Before he finished speaking, Zhou Shu’s aura exploded.

Almost at the same time, he disappeared and suddenly appeared in front of the Longevity Sword.

The Longevity Sword trembled slightly and was about to slash out a sword light.

Before the sword light could be released, Zhou Shu had already punched the Longevity Sword.

The sword light was scattered, and the Longevity Sword let out a clang as Zhou Shu’s punch landed.

“You...” The old voice sounded in Zhou Shu’s ear, anxious and angry.

Zhou Shu snorted and punched the Longevity Sword again.

His entire body flickered with golden light, and every punch carried monstrous strength.

The Longevity Sword kept bouncing on the ground with terrifying clangs. Judging from its shape, it would probably break if it was hit a few more times.

“Stop it! Stop it now!” The old voice sounded in Zhou Shu’s mind.

Zhou Shu sneered without stopping. His fist didn’t stop at all. Some people—swords—if he didn’t teach them a lesson, they wouldn’t understand their status!

“We can talk about this. Just stop it. Stop it,” the old voice said anxiously. “I admit defeat. I admit defeat, okay?”

The Longevity Sword buzzed, giving off a feeling that it was begging for mercy.

Zhou Shu stopped attacking and stepped on the Longevity Sword.

The damage was minor, but it was insulting.

The Longevity Sword struggled indignantly, but it was unable to break free from Zhou Shu’s strength.

Under the divine ability Total Annihilation, Zhou Shu’s strength increased a hundredfold. It was not something the Longevity Sword could compare to.

The Longevity Sword gave up resisting, and Zhou Shu retracted his strength. He continued to step on the Longevity Sword and said coldly, “Tell me what you are first!”

The situation was a little strange. Zhou Shu was stepping on a sword and seemed to be talking to someone.

But if anyone was present, they would only see Zhou Shu speaking to himself.

The Longevity Sword didn't make any sound. Its voice sounded in Zhou Shu's consciousness. This was a spiritual communication.

"I am the master of the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven, Shi Changsheng<sup>1</sup>."

An old man in a Daoist robe suddenly appeared in Zhou Shu's mind. The old man had white hair and a youthful face.

This should be an image formed by the Longevity Sword's mental power.

"Master of the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven?" Zhou Shu frowned. "Do you think I'm blind? You're just a sword!"

"It's not that I look down on you..." The old Daoist priest glanced at Zhou Shu disdainfully. "But you have too little knowledge, so you can't understand an existence at my level."

"At your level?" Zhou Shu sneered. "A level that I can step on?"

"Hmph, back then, I could suppress you with one hand!" The old Daoist priest's face turned green and white. After a while, he gritted his teeth and said, "When the tiger comes down from the mountain to the plains, it is bullied by the dogs<sup>1</sup>."

"I haven't beaten you enough, have I? What are you talking about?" Zhou Shu cursed.

The image formed by the Longevity Sword, the old Daoist who called himself Shi Changsheng, frowned and sighed. "Forget it. Since I've fallen into your hands, I'll give you some face."

"Cut the crap!" Zhou Shu shouted. "If you continue spouting nonsense, I'll throw you into the furnace and reforge you."

"Behave yourself. You'll answer whatever I ask you, understand?"

## **Chapter 422: Above the First Rank, The Longevity Sword Can Speak (2)**

"An ordinary forging furnace won't be able to do anything to me," Shi Changsheng murmured, disdain flashing in his eyes. But he still said tactfully, "If there's anything you don't understand, ask away. I've always liked to support the younger generation..."

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes. "You said this is the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven?"

"Of course. What else could it be?" Shi Changsheng said. "This place, including these forging materials, belongs to me."

...

"Wrong." Zhou Shu shook his head.

"Wrong?" Shi Changsheng was stunned. "Impossible. I'm the master of the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven. How could I be mistaken?"

"I don't care what it was called before. But now, it and these forging materials are no longer yours. They belong to me," Zhou Shu said calmly.

“You...” Shi Changsheng was furious. “Junior, don’t push your luck! I can ignore everything else, but if you want to snatch my grotto-heaven, I won’t let you off!”

“Your grotto-heaven? Will it answer if you call it?”

Zhou Shu felt like a cunning bully. It was just a sword, but it had jumped out and told him that the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament space and the forging materials he had painstakingly dug out belonged to it. It would be strange if Zhou Shu believed it.

Not to mention whether what the Longevity Sword said was true or not, how could he give up what already belonged to him?

“You...” Shi Changsheng was furious. Back then, not to mention calling him, he could easily throw these people in the grotto-heaven out!

But now...

Shi Changsheng sighed.

“Junior, we’re both humans. Why are you being so confrontational?” Shi Changsheng said in a low voice. “We’re all from the same race. Can’t we sit down and talk?”

“Wouldn’t it have been easier to adopt this attitude earlier?” Zhou Shu’s lips curled up into a smile. “You have to be beaten up before you’re willing to speak properly.”

*You’re just a sword, yet you’re so arrogant?*

“Senior Shi, right?” Zhou Shu smiled. “Friends are often made after a fight. Tell me, what’s your background?”

He lifted his foot, picked up the Longevity Sword, and placed it in front of him. He sat down on a pile of forging materials and pretended to talk as an equal.

Shi Changsheng rolled his eyes. *Damn it! Why are young people nowadays so immoral?*

*He’s clearly a first-rank martial artist, but why could he suddenly erupt with such powerful combat strength?*

*If not for the fact that I’m not at my peak, hmph—*

Shi Changsheng snorted in his heart and said, “Everything I’ve said is the truth. I am indeed the master of this Zhuling Grotto-Heaven, Shi Changsheng!”

Zhou Shu shrugged. “Alright, I’ll take it that you are indeed the master of this Zhuling Grotto-Heaven for now. Then, why did you become like this?”

“What do you know?” Shi Changsheng glared at him. *What kind of person are you? Since you’re ignorant, you shouldn’t spout nonsense!*

“This is called becoming one with the weapon!” Shi Changsheng said. “This is the highest realm of forging!”

Zhou Shu was speechless. *Do you think I don’t know how to forge?*

“You won’t understand even if I tell you about this. Your realm is too low.” Shi Changsheng waved his hand. “You just need to know that I’m still alive and well. That’s enough.”

“My realm is too low?” Zhou Shu was speechless. No one in the Ten Nations Continent would dare to say such things to him.

It wasn’t that Zhou Shu was bragging, but with his current strength, the Great Qin emperor wouldn’t have any objections if he said that he was the number one person in the Ten Nations.

Zhou Shu couldn’t be bothered to argue with Shi Changsheng. “By the way, what did you say about the Awakening realm? What realm is that?”

“You’re not exactly weak, but you don’t even know about the Awakening realm?” Shi Changsheng looked at Zhou Shu in confusion. “Has the Martial Dao declined to such an extent?”

Frowning, he asked, “What era is this?”

“What era?” Zhou Shu pondered and casually gave out the reign year of Emperor Yuan Feng

“Great Xia? The Ten Nations?” Shi Changsheng frowned as if he had never heard of this before.

Zhou Shu was also puzzled. *Could this Shi Changsheng be someone from a thousand years ago?*

At the time, Great Xia didn’t exist.

Shi Changsheng looked at Zhou Shu and asked, “You said that the highest cultivation level in your Ten Nations Continent is only first rank?”

“That’s right. There are experts above the first rank of the Martial Dao in the Demon Realm. They’re called Great Demons. It’s said that there are Demon Kings above Great Demons,” Zhou Shu said.

He also looked at Shi Changsheng thoughtfully.

Shi Changsheng’s eyes flickered. After a while, he said, “Above the first rank of the Martial Dao is the Earth Immortal realm. And above that is the Awakening realm, the realm of grotto-heaven masters.

“It corresponds to the Demon King realm.”

“This is the grotto-heaven you are talking about?” Zhou Shu pondered. “You said that you were once the master of the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven. Are you at the Awakening realm? Is the Awakening realm so weak?”

Shi Changsheng was speechless. *I’m weak?*

*I’m not weak at all!*

*Something’s wrong with you, young man!*

“I was at the Awakening realm back then. But now, I don’t have much strength left,” Shi Changsheng said. “If I was at my peak, with your strength, you wouldn’t be my match.

"I see that you're only a first-rank martial artist. How can your combat strength be close to the Awakening realm? Is this a secret martial technique of this era? There was no such domineering secret technique back then." Shi Changsheng took the opportunity to ask.

"Senior, the new generation surpasses the old," Zhou Shu said. "The Martial Dao has always been improving."

"The highest realm is only the first rank of the Martial Dao. You call this progress?" Shi Changsheng sneered. "In my era, Earth Immortals were just ordinary. Only those at the Awakening realm could be considered overlords."

"First-rank martial artist, hehe..."

"Overlords?" Zhou Shu glanced sideways at Shi Changsheng.

Shi Changsheng was a little angry. *I was an overlord back then! If I hadn't met an unreasonable fellow like you, would I have fallen into such a state?*

*A mere first-rank martial artist... Even if I'm not as good as I was back then, I can still kill you with one strike!*

*You are clearly only a first-rank martial artist. Who knew you would be so strong?*

*Ordinary Earth Immortals are probably not your match.*

"Senior Shi, were there many Awakening realm cultivators in your era?" Zhou Shu gave Shi Changsheng some face. After all, he was an old monster from countless years ago.

"How is that possible!" Shi Changsheng said. "The people in the Awakening realm are overlords. Even in our era, there were only thirty-six grotto-heaven masters."

"But they should all be dead by now. Sigh, if they can't live forever, so what if they are in the Thearch realm? They only have ten thousand years to live, right?" Shi Changsheng mentioned another realm.

Thearch realm!

"There's a realm above the Awakening realm?" Zhou Shu asked.

"That has nothing to do with you. Don't try to find out more. There's nothing to be gained by knowing." Shi Changsheng shook his head.

"In your life, it's already a blessing to be able to cultivate to the Awakening realm."

"That's all I can say. You still haven't told me who you are."

"Me?" Zhou Shu smiled. "Great Xia's King of the South, Great Qin's Side-by-side King, Great Liang's Country Protector King, and the owner of the Huaxia Pavilion, Zhou Shu."

Shi Changsheng: "..."

He looked at Zhou Shu with a strange expression. *Do you think I'm a fool? Back then, we also had countries.*

*Great Xia, Great Qin, and Great Liang sound like three nations.*

*How can one man be a king in three nations?*

*Could it be that the world has become unfamiliar to me?*

“Old Shi, you said that you’re the master of this Zhuling Grotto-Heaven. Then if someone dug a hole in your house, shouldn’t you mend it?” Zhou Shu said.

Shi Changsheng: “...”

“Do you think I have that ability now?”

*If I had that ability, the first thing I would do would be to kick you out of the grotto-heaven!*

*The forging materials I’ve worked so hard to accumulate for so many years are almost all dug up by you!*

“So, you’re still lying to me. As the master of the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven, you can’t even do this?” Zhou Shu said in annoyance.

“Even if I could, I wouldn’t bother,” Shi Changsheng said. “It’s already on the verge of death and has no value in repairing it. Why don’t we let nature take its course and let it leave calmly?”

#### **Chapter 423: Zhuling Grotto-Heaven (1)**

“On the verge of death? What do you mean?” Zhou Shu frowned at Shi Changsheng. He was a little sensitive now. The Longevity Sword could speak and become a person in his consciousness. Could the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament space do this too?

A perfectly good space was on the verge of death?

“You don’t understand?” Shi Changsheng glanced at Zhou Shu. “I really don’t know how you cultivated to this point.”

...

Zhou Shu: “...”

*Did I beat you too lightly?*

*The Longevity Sword is really sarcastic!*

“You don’t know what the meaning of being on the verge of death is? It’s dying, understand?” Shi Changsheng said.

“Nonsense!” Zhou Shu was furious. How could he not know what it meant? “I’m asking you about this space, the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven! It’s not human. What do you mean it’s dying?”

“So what if it’s not a human? You’re prejudiced,” Shi Changsheng said. “Everything in the world has life and death. Why can’t the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven die? It’s not good for you to be like this. You can’t discriminate against things.”

Zhou Shu: “...”

*When did I discriminate against it? I was just asking. Can't you talk nicely? Why do you have to talk like that?*

Zhou Shu gritted his teeth. "Alright, let's just assume that the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven is about to die. What will happen if it dies? I mean, what will happen here?"

Shi Changsheng knew when to stop. After all, this wasn't the past. He couldn't provoke this junior too much.

"When people die, everything is gone. It's the same with objects. When they die, there's nothing left," Shi Changsheng said.

"Boom, it will collapse. Do you understand?"

"This whole space will collapse and disappear? How long does it have?" Zhou Shu said.

The passage between here and the Ten Nations wouldn't open for another two years. If this world collapsed, it was obvious that everything inside would die.

"At the minimum a few years, at the maximum a few decades," Shi Changsheng said.

Zhou Shu breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, it was at least still a few years away.

But he had originally planned to treat this place as a branch of the Huaxia Pavilion. Now, it seemed that he couldn't. In that case, before leaving this time, he had to dig up all the mines here. Otherwise, the next time he wanted to enter, there might not be anything left here.

*I have to make them dig faster!* Zhou Shu thought.

"Brother Zhou, look, we've spoken frankly." Shi Changsheng forced a smile. "Can you return the forging materials in this grotto-heaven to me?"

"Forget about the ones you used. I'll take them as a gift for you, Brother Zhou." Shi Changsheng waved his hand generously.

Zhou Shu looked at Shi Changsheng with a faint smile.

Shi Changsheng looked conflicted. "At most, I'll give you thirty percent!"

His face was full of distress, as if he was cutting flesh on his body.

Zhou Shu remained silent, still looking at Shi Changsheng.

Shi Changsheng gritted his teeth. "Fifty percent! No more!"

"I painstakingly gathered these forging materials for many years and spent a lot of effort to migrate them to the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven. They're all my life!"

"Old Shi, don't think too much," Zhou Shu said. "It's impossible for me to give you forging materials. If we get along well, it won't be a problem to let you swallow fifty kilograms of forging materials."

"If we don't get along, Old Shi, don't blame me for being ruthless."

Shi Changsheng's eyes were spitting fire. They were really spitting fire.



In Zhou Shu's mind, Shi Changsheng was so angry that his body turned somewhat ethereal.

"That's outrageous!" Shi Changsheng said angrily. "Don't force me to destroy everything!"

"Old Shi, you're wrong." Zhou Shu shook his head. "Old Shi, put yourself in my shoes. If you found some mines in an ownerless place and painstakingly dug them out, would you give them to anyone who jumped out and said that they belonged to him?"

"Who said this place doesn't have an owner?" Shi Changsheng said angrily.

"Old Shi, I'm trying to reason with you. You'd better calm down," Zhou Shu said calmly. "Otherwise, I won't be reasonable.

"If I'm unreasonable, you won't get any of these forging materials."

"Very well!" Shi Changsheng made a panting gesture and said in a low voice, "The new generation really surpasses the old. Tell me, what do I have to do to be willing to return these forging materials to me?"

"Cultivation techniques, secret forging formulas, what do you want?"

"Or I'll tell you how to break through to the Earth Immortal realm!"

"It's not that I'm bragging, but anything I take out will be extremely beneficial to you. Don't offend me for some forging materials. It's not worth it.

"How old are you this year? You've been stuck at the first rank for many years, right? With my guidance, you can break through to the Earth Immortal realm, and it's not impossible for you to break through to the Awakening realm in the future.

"At that time, you will be the number one person in the world. You can have anything you want. You probably won't even bother to look at the forging materials in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven."

Shi Changsheng spoke confidently. If he failed to threaten him, he would tempt him. He believed that no martial artist could refuse the temptation of breaking through to a higher level.

If it were anyone else, they might really not be able to resist the temptation. As the ruler of a country, Emperor Wei Wu could even do those crazy things in order to break through the first rank of the Martial Dao.

## **Chapter 424: Zhuling Grotto-Heaven (2)**

If someone said that they could help a first-rank martial artist break through to a higher realm, not many first-rank martial artists in the world could withstand this temptation.

But Zhou Shu was not among these people.

"I think I'm twenty. Yup, twenty." Zhou Shu rubbed his chin. "Let me calculate. I was stuck at the first rank of the Martial Dao for a few days..."

...

Shi Changsheng: "..."

*Twenty?*

*A twenty-year-old first-rank martial artist?*

He had seen first-rank martial artists at the age of twenty. There was no lack of geniuses in any era. He, Shi Changsheng, was also a genius when he was young.

When he broke through to the first rank of the Martial Dao back then, he was only in his twenties.

But he was just a twenty-year-old first-rank martial artist who had just broken through to the first rank a few days ago. How could he erupt with strength comparable to an Earth Immortal at their peak?

Shi Changsheng shivered at the thought of Zhou Shu beating up the Longevity Sword.

"I don't lack Martial Dao cultivation techniques or forging formulas," Zhou Shu continued. "As for breaking through to the Earth Immortal realm, I'm not in a hurry.

"How about this, Old Shi? You work for me, and I'll give you whatever you want.

"I have plenty of Martial Dao cultivation techniques and forging formulas." Zhou Shu waved his hand generously. "I also have plenty of forging materials."

He pointed to the mountain of forging materials in the warehouse.

*It's mine. All mine!* Shi Changsheng roared in his heart.

Shi Changsheng stared at Zhou Shu and said solemnly, "Is there really no room for discussion?"

"Aren't we discussing now?" Zhou Shu asked. "Old Shi, you will gain a lot from serving me.

"Although I don't know what happened to you, Old Shi, your main body is the Longevity Sword, right?

"Previously, I saw that the sword qi you slashed out was extremely sharp. It should be easy for you to split mountains and rocks. Thos way, all you have to do is split mountains, and someone else will do the digging."

Zhou Shu continued, "I'll give you ten percent of the ore dug out. How about that?

"This is on account that you're a senior, Old Shi. Otherwise, there would definitely not be such an amount."

Shi Changsheng: "..."

*After all this talk, you want me to go mining?*

*You want my Longevity Sword to split open mountains?*

*Do you know how powerful the Longevity Sword is?*

*There's probably no weapon stronger than my Longevity Sword in the world. You want the number one weapon in the world to split open mountains?*

*Even if you said that you wanted the Longevity Sword to be your personal sword, that would do.*

"Are you serious?" Shi Changsheng glared at him.

"Of course." Zhou Shu shrugged. "Old Shi, ten percent isn't a small amount."

"Do you know the power of the Longevity Sword?" Shi Changsheng said. "The Longevity Sword is the number one weapon in the world. If you hold the Longevity Sword, with your previous strength, killing an Earth Immortal is nothing."

"And?" Zhou Shu asked. "Even without the Longevity Sword, I can kill Great Demons very easily."

"I'm not used to swords forged by others."

Zhou Shu patted the earth-grade Great Destroyer Sword on his body.

If he used the Longevity Sword to kill enemies, the Legendary Armament Canon wouldn't give him any rewards. So what if it was powerful?

Shi Changsheng felt a little confused. *Who exactly did I meet?*

*Does he really not understand, or is he pretending not to?*

*How can an earth-grade weapon compare to the Longevity Sword?*

"I can work with you!" Shi Changsheng said in a deep voice after hesitating for a moment. "But I have a condition!"

"Tell me," Zhou Shu said noncommittally.

Shi Changsheng was extremely mysterious. It was as if he was an ancient mighty figure.

Zhou Shu didn't care about Martial Dao techniques and forging formulas, but the secrets in Shi Changsheng's mind were very valuable.

Therefore, Zhou Shu didn't mind giving him some benefits. Who knew how many secrets this old monster had hidden?

This was the greatest value of Shi Changsheng.

"It's not just the mines in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven," Shi Changsheng said. "After you leave the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven, I want ten percent of all the ores you obtain."

"Not the ores I obtain." Zhou Shu shook his head. "It's only because you helped me dig out the mines that you get ten percent."

"Okay! Deal!" Shi Changsheng said.

As soon as he finished speaking, the old Daoist's image disappeared from Zhou Shu's consciousness.

Zhou Shu opened his eyes and saw the gray Longevity Sword clang and suddenly soar into the sky.

Zhou Shu frowned. *Is the Longevity Sword running away?*

*Boom!*

He'd just had the thought when he heard a distant crash.

Then came a continuous rumbling like a landslide.

Shi Songtao ran in, shouting in a panic, "Pavilion Master, bad news! A sword flew out of nowhere and split the back mountain. Our demonic beast miners were almost buried alive."

"There's no need to make a fuss." Zhou Shu rubbed his eyebrows. "I sent someone to help split open the mountain."

"Have Yao Buqi and his men follow that sword. The sword will split open the mountains with mines. Get them to mine faster."

*This Longevity Sword is really impatient!*

"Pavilion Master, that's your sword?" Shi Songtao was stunned and looked impressed. "Pavilion Master, you can already control a sword from so far away? As expected of the number one person in the world."

"Alright, stop sucking up and go. Inform all the miners to speed up!" Zhou Shu waved his hand angrily.

After sending Shi Songtao away, Zhou Shu fell into deep thought.

He didn't know Shi Changsheng's origin, so what he said was vague.

But he was probably not lying about the fact that the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament space was collapsing.

*Earth Immortal, Awakening, Thearch, and then the Great Thearch realms?*

*The Awakening realm can be the master of a grotto-heaven. If Shi Changsheng didn't lie, there were once thirty-six grotto-heaven masters in their era. Does that mean that there are thirty-six spaces like this?*

*If there are really thirty-six such spaces, won't I be rich if he can find all of them?*

*I'll have to ask Shi Changsheng later.*

*Shi Changsheng is the master of the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven, but it has become the space of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament. What secrets are there?*

Zhou Shu pondered. *And how did he become a sword?*

He didn't ask Shi Changsheng about these things.

Even if he asked, Shi Changsheng might not tell the truth.

In the end, neither of them trusted the other now.

Now that they had plans for each other, they had reached a temporary agreement.

Zhou Shu didn't think that his previous intimidation could really scare Shi Changsheng, who had lived for countless years.

Shi Changsheng's reaction was most likely an act.

*The Longevity Sword can devour forging materials. It's not too safe to leave these forging materials here.* Zhou Shu sized up the storeroom and pondered.

*Shi Songtao can't defend against the Longevity Sword.*

*I have to find a way to forge more Cosmic Bangles and put away these materials.*

*There are still too few forgers.*

Zhou Shu had a headache. It was definitely impossible for him to do it alone.

No matter how fast he could forge, there was still a limit.

If the forgers in the camp split their manpower to forge Cosmic Bangles, the progress of forging other weapons would slow down.

They were not only facing the imminent collapse of the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven but also the threat of the Demon Realm army outside.

He definitely couldn't stop the forging.

*Shi Changsheng seems to be a forger.* Zhou Shu thought of a solution. *I have to think of a way to use him. He's a treasure. I have to squeeze out all the value from him.*

*The forging process can also be optimized. If it's an assembly line, it should increase the efficiency of the forging.*

*Time, of course. What we're most lacking now is time!*

Zhou Shu sighed. There were only two years left until the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament space reopened, and he still had too many preparations to make.

#### **Chapter 425: Sword Control Technique, Yang Hong Makes Another Contribution (1)**

"How did you do it, Master?" Lu Wenshuang asked while looking up at Zhou Shu and helping activate the True Fire in the furnace.

"It's just a sword control technique. It's nothing," Zhou Shu said calmly.

Several days had passed since Zhou Shu brought back the Longevity Sword.

...

Over the past few days, the entire Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament space was brimming with rumbling sounds.

Mountains were constantly being destroyed by a gray sword.

Everyone already knew that it was Zhou Shu's sword.

As for why the sword could split mountains without Zhou Shu appearing, everyone was puzzled. But only Lu Wenshuang took the opportunity to ask.

Zhou Shu didn't tell anyone that the Longevity Sword could speak.

Shi Changsheng didn't communicate with the others. He was probably unwilling to let others know this secret.

“Sword control technique?” Lu Wenshuang’s eyes lit up. “Master, can I learn it?”

“I’ll think about it when you’re on your best behavior,” Zhou Shu said.

How could he know any sword control technique? He was just spouting nonsense.

“I’ll definitely perform well!” Lu Wenshuang said with certainty. She increased the output of her spiritual essence, and the True Fire in the furnace burned fiercely.

These days, she had been doing odd jobs in the forging room almost all the time. Whenever a Forging Master’s spiritual essence couldn’t support the True Fire, she would help them. She never slacked off.

This made Zhou Shu feel embarrassed to take the Abyss Rainbow Sword from her.

But thinking that he didn’t need the Abyss Rainbow Sword for the time being, he pretended not to remember and let Lu Wenshuang keep the Abyss Rainbow Sword for the time being.

*Boom!*

As he spoke, another explosion sounded in the distance.

It was unknown if the Longevity Sword, or Shi Changsheng, had vented all his anger on splitting the mountains, but he hadn’t stopped moving in the past few days.

All the mines in the space were probably going to be split open by him.

Others might have to spend time looking for mines, but Shi Changsheng knew exactly where they were.

Moreover, although Shi Changsheng was just a sword, he was much stronger than Zhou Shu if he didn’t use the divine ability Total Annihilation.

Zhou Shu estimated that even if he encountered a Great Demon, he would probably not be at a disadvantage.

Zhou Shu didn’t even know how a sword had such strength.

*Boom!*

The ground shook violently. Inside the forging room, several furnaces were overturned.

The crowd of forgers ducked.

Zhou Shu frowned. Shi Changsheng was going too far!

He threw a newly forged Cosmic Bangle to Lu Wenshuang and stood up to leave the forging room.

*Swish!*

Zhou Shu had just left the forging room when a light shot over. It was the Longevity Sword, hovering in front of him.

“Zhou Shu, what did you do to the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven!” Shi Changsheng’s voice sounded in Zhou Shu’s mind.

“Look who’s talking,” Zhou Shu replied in his consciousness. “Why did you cause such a huge commotion? Do you know how many weapons you caused me to destroy?”

“I had nothing to do with it!” Shi Changsheng transformed into the old Daoist priest in Zhou Shu’s consciousness and frowned. “It wasn’t because of me. It was the movement of the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven!”

“What happened?” Zhou Shu frowned.

“What happened? I have to ask you!” Shi Changsheng said angrily. “According to normal calculations, the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven should still have a few years left. What did you do to it? Why did it enter the destruction period early?”

“What do you mean? What makes you think it’s my fault? Can’t it be your own miscalculation?” Zhou Shu frowned.

“My miscalculation?” Shi Changsheng said. “Why don’t you ask around who I am! This Zhuling Grotto-Heaven is formed from my dantian. I may be mistaken in other things, but I won’t make this mistake!”

*A martial artist’s dantian becomes a grotto-heaven in the Awakening realm?* Zhou Shu silently noted down a knowledge point.

“What makes you think I caused it?” Zhou Shu said.

He was actually already feeling a little guilty. The reason why the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven was like this was very likely related to him forcefully breaking through the barrier between this place and the Demon Realm and sending the million-strong Demon Realm army back to the Demon Realm.

It was possible that his actions at the time had damaged the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven...

But even if he had known that this would happen, Zhou Shu wouldn’t have hesitated. He would have done it anyway.

The million-strong army of the Demon Realm was always a threat to the Ten Nations Alliance. If he didn’t send them away, who knew how many casualties the Ten Nations’ army would suffer?

“How much longer does the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven have?” Zhou Shu looked at Shi Changsheng. He would definitely not admit to Shi Changsheng that he could have been the one to cause this.

*Boom!*

There was a loud bang. When Zhou Shu looked up, he saw lightning flash across the sky.

“Do you see? The natural disasters have already begun. It’s about to die.” A trace of sadness flashed across Shi Changsheng’s face. “In at most three months, the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven will completely collapse and disappear from the world.”

After the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven disappeared, there would be no trace of Shi Changsheng in the world anymore. In the future, only the Longevity Sword would be left.

Shi Changsheng didn’t argue with Zhou Shu anymore. He was full of sorrow. If not for the fact that he didn’t have a physical body, Zhou Shu felt that he might have cried.

## Chapter 426: Sword Control Technique, Yang Hong Makes Another Contribution (2)

"It was going to collapse anyway. Now it's just a little earlier," Zhou Shu comforted Shi Changsheng.

Shi Changsheng acted as if he didn't hear Zhou Shu.

"Three months at the most. This is going to be troublesome," Zhou Shu muttered.

...

"Old Shi, do you have a way to open the passage to the Ten Nations?" Zhou Shu faced Shi Changsheng and cupped his hands.

Shi Changsheng glanced at him and said, "No. I'm neither human nor ghost. What ways can I have?"

"Old Shi, I apologize if I offended you with my words previously because of my ignorance," Zhou Shu said solemnly.

"Old Shi, although there's some friction between us, we can't be considered mortal enemies. Even if you have any resentment toward me, it has nothing to do with these human soldiers.

"Old Shi, if you have a way, please help on account of these tens of thousands of humans!"

"I'm not angry with you. I really have no way." Shi Changsheng shook his head. "If the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven collapses, everything left here will return to its original state. The same goes for the Longevity Sword.

"Even if I don't save you, I have to save myself. But I already severed my connection with the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven back then. There's nothing I can do now."

Zhou Shu looked at Shi Changsheng for a long time. He was sure that Shi Changsheng wasn't lying.

"If you can't return to the Ten Nations Continent, you can go to the Demon Realm," Shi Changsheng suddenly said. "Isn't the passage to the Demon Realm still open?"

He snorted. *That isn't an ordinary passage!*

Apart from Zhou Shu, he couldn't think of anyone else who could break through such a passageway.

Shi Changsheng wasn't stupid. The Zhuling Grotto-Heaven entering the destruction period early was most likely related to that passage!

But now was not the time to fuss about it. He just played dumb.

"To the Demon Realm?" Zhou Shu frowned.

The Ten Nations Alliance was not ready yet. If they went directly to the Demon Realm, they would be walking right into a trap.

"With your cultivation and my Longevity Sword, even if you encounter a Demon King, you have a thirty percent chance of escaping unscathed," Shi Changsheng continued. "You won't die if you go to the Demon Realm."

"I won't die. But what about the army?" Zhou Shu said.



Of course, he knew he wouldn't die. He wasn't strong enough to fight, but if he wanted to escape, there weren't many people in the world who could stop him.

But while he could escape, the Ten Nations Alliance could not.

If he went to the Demon Realm now, he would most likely encounter the million-strong Demon Realm army that he had sent back there.

In their territory, Zhou Shu wasn't confident that he could survive with the Ten Nations Alliance.

"No gentleman has a petty mind, and no true man is without venom," Shi Changsheng said. "I don't care how many people die as long as you can live."

He looked straight at Zhou Shu. "With your cultivation and my Longevity Sword, you can go anywhere you want. Even if the army dies, it will be easy for you to form a new force."

"Shut up!" Zhou Shu shouted coldly. "Shi Changsheng, I don't care who you were in the past, whether you were from a righteous sect or an evil sect.

"But here with me, put away all your tricks!

"Although I, Zhou Shu, am not a good person, I won't abandon my comrades!"

"How is that abandoning them?" Shi Changsheng said. "On the battlefield, everyone is just fighting for their lives. Do you want to live and die with them? Don't be naive!"

"It's hard to say if I'll die." Zhou Shu looked at the Longevity Sword. "But before the army dies, the Longevity Sword will definitely be destroyed.

"Didn't you say that with my cultivation and the Longevity Sword, I can fight a Demon King? I want to see how many demons I can kill with the Longevity Sword. If I risk destroying the Longevity Sword, will I be able to kill a Demon King?!"

Shi Changsheng: "..."

He wanted to say something else, but Zhou Shu had already flicked his sleeve and put the Longevity Sword into his Cosmic Bangle.

Zhou Shu's expression was solemn as he looked up at the lightning and thunder that occasionally appeared in the sky.

Whether he left the army alone or whether he died with the army, both were not options for Zhou Shu.

Even if he had to take a detour to the Demon Realm, Zhou Shu was prepared to return to the Ten Nations Continent with the Ten Nations Alliance!

*We still have three months. There's still time!* Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes.

"Deputy Pavilion Master!" Zhou Shu shouted.

Shi Songtao emerged from the forging room behind him. "Pavilion Master, you called?"

"From now on, gather all your strength and forge Cosmic Bangles!" Zhou Shu said in a low voice.

“According to the steps I’ve disassembled, everyone will work together. As long as the standards are uniform, there won’t be any problems with the final star fixing.

“I want to see a hundred Cosmic Bangles in two months!”

One Cosmic Bangle only contained five feet square in space. A hundred Cosmic Bangles was actually far from being able to contain all the forging materials in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven.

But in the current situation, there was no other choice. Without the Cosmic Bangles, they couldn’t bring much forging materials with them.

“A hundred Cosmic Bangles in two months?” Shi Songtao said in surprise. “Pavilion Master, this is a little difficult.”

They would have to forge more than one Cosmic Bangle almost every day, but the Cosmic Bangle was a ranked weapon.

“I don’t want to hear any excuses! In the next two months, I’ll allow you to use all the resources in this world, be it things or people. Even if you ask Great General Meng to cooperate with you, there will be no problem.

“In two months, if I don’t see a hundred Cosmic Bangles, you can abdicate as the deputy pavilion master.”

“I—” Shi Songtao gritted his teeth. “I will definitely complete the mission!”

He turned around and went back into the forging room. Without delay, he gathered all the forgers in the camp and began to forge Cosmic Bangles.

In the next two months, even if he didn’t sleep or rest, he had to complete his mission!

If the forgers wanted to learn the secret forging formulas of the Huaxia Pavilion, they would have to cooperate!

Shi Songtao looked like he was about to go to war, and his face was full of killing intent.

“Yang Hong!” Zhou Shu shouted.

“Your Highness!” Yang Hong jumped out.

He had spent the last few days in camp recuperating.

“Take the Mo Mei Sword and follow me.”

With only three months left, even if he forged without rest, how many ranked weapons could he forge?

Forging standard weapons would only increase the combat power of the soldiers to a limited extent.

Therefore, the most practical thing now was the Dark Cloud Armor!

The Dark Cloud Armor was the reward from Mo Mei Sword. It was also easier than forging weapons.

The only thing to worry about was how many demonic beasts were left in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven. Hopefully, they hadn’t been wiped out by the Ten Nations Alliance.

Yang Hong didn't understand, but he still said, "Your Highness, the Mo Mei Sword is always with me."

"Let's go!" Zhou Shu flicked his sleeve, and a force swept Yang Hong into the sky.

Yang Hong was still in a daze when he flew into the sky.

When he came to, he was back on the ground.

*Boom!*

A familiar feeling surged into his heart, and Yang Hong felt that his body was filled with strength.

He was very familiar with this feeling. Previously, when Zhou Shu had sent him out to kill demonic beasts, he had used this secret technique to give him incomparably powerful strength.

"There are more than a dozen demonic beasts ahead. Kill them all." Zhou Shu's voice entered Yang Hong's ears.

Although Yang Hong was still a little puzzled, this wasn't the time to hesitate.

He drew his Mo Mei Sword, and his body glowed golden.

This time, Zhou Shu shared the Golden Bell Shield Technique with him.

"Kill!" Yang Hong roared and charged into the group of demonic beasts.

Zhou Shu didn't interfere in the battle. These dozen or so surviving demonic beasts were not too strong. Yang Hong, who had the Golden Bell Shield to protect him, could handle them.

He had other things to do.

With a flash, Zhou Shu had already arrived in front of a nearby mine that had been split open by the Longevity Sword. His divine sense was like hands as he controlled six Cosmic Bangles to fly out. At the same time, sword light crisscrossed and cut through the scattered ore.

An hour later, Yang Hong finally killed all the demonic beasts.

Before he could catch his breath, he felt himself flying again.

A moment later, he landed in another group of demonic beasts. Around the demonic beasts were some dumbfounded soldiers.

"Leave these demonic beasts to him. Come over and collect the ore!" Zhou Shu shouted as he descended from the sky.

#### **Chapter 427: He Offered Too Much (1)**

Yang Hong placed his hands on his knees and even stabbed his treasured Mo Mei Sword into the ground beside him.

He said with his breathing ragging, "Your Highness, I can't take it anymore. I really can't."

Even though Zhou Shu had shared the Golden Bell Shield Technique with him, he hadn't cultivated it himself. After fighting for an entire day, he was so tired that his entire body was numb.

...

Although he knew that Zhou Shu was giving him a chance to contribute, he didn't want to kill anymore now. He just wanted to lie flat.

"How can a man say he can't?" Zhou Shu said calmly.

On this day, he had brought Yang Hong around the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven. Once they met a demonic beast, he would throw Yang Hong out to kill it.

Sometimes, when there were already human troops surrounding the demonic beasts, Zhou Shu would make them stop and let Yang Hong kill the demonic beasts.

In fact, Zhou Shu would even kick over some of the overly powerful demonic beasts that Yang Hong couldn't deal with and let him kill them with his Mo Mei Sword.

This process was both blissful and painful for Yang Hong.

At the end of the day, he was still in the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament space. After killing so many demonic beasts, Yang Hong didn't know how his military merits would be calculated.

When he went back, he would be promoted by three ranks, right?

But this process was also very painful.

Even with the Golden Bell Shield protecting his body, it was really not that easy to fight demonic beasts. Not only was it tiring, but it also hurt to be hit.

If others knew what Yang Hong was thinking, they would definitely spit in his face.

The king had personally brought him to earn military merits, and he actually dared to complain!

Wasn't he being ungrateful?

"Your Highness, I really can't do it anymore," Yang Hong said, "I'll really die of exhaustion if this continues."

"Forget it. Go back to camp on your own." Before he finished speaking, Zhou Shu had already disappeared.

Yang Hong opened his mouth.

*Where am I, and how far is this place from the camp?*

*I'm so tired that I can barely lift my fingers, and I don't have the strength that His Highness shared. I will die if I encounter a demonic beast.*

Yang Hong looked around helplessly, his hair standing on end.

Zhou Shu naturally didn't leave Yang Hong in a dangerous place. There were no demonic beasts nearby.

There were not many demonic beasts left in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven.

The rest were already harmless.

For example, the demonic beast miners and Yao Qing, who had failed to retreat and had no choice but to continue working with Zhou Shu.

The main force of the million-strong Demon Realm army had already been sent back to the Demon Realm. The demonic beasts still in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven had been wiped out by the human army over the past few days.

Under such circumstances, there was no longer any danger in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven.

Zhou Shu still had things to do, so he naturally wouldn't send Yang Hong back to the camp.

After a few breaths, Zhou Shu arrived at the blood vortex guarded by Meng Bai.

The blood vortex was still ten feet wide. In the middle of the black hole, lightning surrounded it, and the scenery of the Demon Realm was slightly visible inside.

"King of the South!" Meng Bai greeted.

"Great General, things have changed. Our plans are about to change." Zhou Shu went straight to the point.

"Things have changed?" Meng Bai's expression turned solemn. "Tell me about it, Your Highness."

"This world will collapse completely in three months at most. When that happens, everything here will be destroyed. Before that happens, we have to get out of here." Zhou Shu didn't beat around the bush.

"What?" Meng Bai was shocked. He subconsciously looked at the blood vortex.

There were still almost two years before the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament battlefield reopened. If they had to leave this world within three months, they could only pass through the Demon Realm...

In an instant, countless thoughts flashed through Meng Bai's mind.

He even completed a tactical deduction!

The result was the Ten Nations Alliance being completely wiped out!

Behind this passage was the Demon Realm!

Once they went over, they would not only face the million-strong Demon Realm army from before but also the endless reinforcements from the Demon Realm.

Entering the Demon Realm was no different from courting death.

"Yes, that's the only way." Zhou Shu nodded, confirming Meng Bai's thoughts. "Now, we can only take a detour through the Demon Realm to return to the Ten Nations. There's no other way."

Meng Bai was stunned on the spot. It was easier said than done to take a detour to the Demon Realm and return to the Ten Nations.

"Your Highness, there are only a total of ninety thousand people left in this world," Meng Bai said with a heavy expression. "Even though there are ninety thousand people, and they can all fight, it's still only ninety thousand people."

"If we go to the Demon Realm, the enemies we face might be ten times, a hundred times more!"

Meng Bai didn't say the word 'hopeless'.

"So what?" Zhou Shu said. "It's better than staying in this world and waiting for death.

"If we stay here, we'll definitely die in three months. If we go to the Demon Realm, we still have a chance of survival."

Meng Bai smiled bitterly. This chance of survival was too slim.

Even if they went to the Demon Realm, they wouldn't know how to return to the Ten Nations. Would the Demon Realm give them a chance to find their way home?

"Great General, this matter is not negotiable. We have to go to the Demon Realm no matter what," Zhou Shu said solemnly.

"What you have to do now is to get prepared with General Wang Mu and the others! I have some Dark Cloud Armor sets. You'll be in charge of who gets the equipment."

Zhou Shu waved his hand, and countless Dark Cloud Armor sets fell to the ground.

Meng Bai was dumbfounded. Even though he was already used to Zhou Shu creating things from time to time, it was still difficult for him to imagine how Zhou Shu had forged so many Dark Cloud Armor sets.

## **Chapter 428: He Offered Too Much (2)**

There had to be thousands of Dark Cloud Armor sets.

Zhou Shu glanced at the passageway leading to the Demon Realm. Should he go over and use the Mo Mei Sword to kill some more demonic beasts and get more Dark Cloud Armor sets?

Immediately, he smiled bitterly and shook his head.

...

It was easy to kill demons earlier, but one day outside was one year inside.

There were only three months left in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven, which was equivalent to six hours outside.

If he became entangled by the Demon Realm army when he reached the other side, the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven might be gone if he was delayed a little.

Then the army remaining here would be gone.

This would be putting the cart before the horse.

Speaking of which, the changes in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven had disrupted Zhou Shu's previous plans.

Originally, he had almost two years left, and he could have taken his time preparing.

But there were less than three months left. There was no time to do much.

After telling Meng Bai what was going on, Zhou Shu didn't delay at all. He used his divine ability Unstoppable For a Thousand Miles again and returned to the camp of the Huaxia Pavilion's Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament branch.

He went into his room and shut the door behind him.

Zhou Shu took out the Longevity Sword.

He flicked the body of the Longevity Sword and said, "Old Shi, come out. I have something to tell you."

"Are all young people so rude these days? Do you know how hateful it is to disturb someone's sleep?" Shi Changsheng's voice sounded in Zhou Shu's consciousness.

"I'm sorry. It's an emergency. Please forgive me, Old Shi." Zhou Shu didn't mind his tone.

As soon as Zhou Shu gave in, Shi Changsheng felt uncomfortable all over. He even felt a little uneasy.

*The lad doesn't seem like such a polite person.*

*He's not planning anything bad, is he?*

Thinking of this, Shi Changsheng softened his tone. "Forget it. Tell me what you want."

"Old Shi, I want to ask what the relationship between the Ten Nations and the Demon Realm is," Zhou Shu said solemnly. "Why did your Zhuling Grotto-Heaven become the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament space? Also, whose method was it to isolate the Ten Nations from the Demon Realm?"

Originally, Zhou Shu had planned to slowly ask him about these things.

But he didn't have the time.

These things might be related to whether they could return to the Ten Nations from the Demon Realm.

Shi Changsheng was experienced. As soon as he heard Zhou Shu's words, he knew what Zhou Shu wanted to do.

"You haven't given up?" Shi Changsheng said. "It's hopeless. As you said, the human race doesn't even have martial artists above the first rank of the Martial Dao, but there are Demon Kings in the Demon Realm.

"I told you that if you encounter a Demon King, you only have a thirty percent chance of escaping unscathed with the Longevity Sword.

"You can't imagine how powerful Demon Kings are right now.

"A Demon King can easily destroy an army of less than a hundred thousand if he wants to.

"In my opinion, everyone is seeking survival. As long as there's life, there's hope. At worst, when you become stronger in the future, you can avenge them. This is the wisest choice."

"How I choose is my business," Zhou Shu said in a low voice. "Old Shi, you only need to tell me what the relationship between the Demon Realm and the Ten Nations is. What is the barrier between the two worlds?"

“Why don’t you listen to reason?” Shi Changsheng said. “The Longevity Sword is in your hands. We are one. How can I harm you?”

“Even if you find out how the Demon Realm is related to your so-called Ten Nations continent, what can you do?”

Shi Changsheng looked disappointed. “Fine, I’ll tell you. The Demon Realm and the Ten Nations are one. The barrier between them is indeed man-made, but is it useful?”

“You can’t change the fact that demons want to kill humans. Your strength alone can’t protect this human army.”

“In all my years, young man, I’ve seen far more than you have. Take my advice. The best way is for you to stay useful and avenge them later.”

“The Demon Realm and the Ten Nations are actually the same world?” Zhou Shu ignored Shi Changsheng’s persuasion and pondered. “The barrier between the two worlds is man-made. Is it related to the thirty-six grotto-heavens?”

“The Zhuling Grotto-Heaven is one of them. Are there other grotto-heavens in the barrier between the two worlds?”

“If we can find other grotto-heavens, can we use them to return to the Ten Nations?”

Zhou Shu looked straight at Shi Changsheng and asked multiple questions continuously.

He knew that the barrier between the two worlds had already cracked because of the destruction of the imperial cauldron.

But it was impossible to know where the crack was or how many people could pass through it.

Moreover, the Demon Realm must have already controlled such an obvious existence. They might not have a chance to pass.

“You’re letting your imagination run wild.” Shi Changsheng shook his head. “But you’re wrong. The barrier between the two worlds has nothing to do with the grotto-heavens. The Zhuling Grotto-Heaven connecting the two worlds is just a coincidence. It has nothing to do with the barrier itself.”

“Half!” Zhou Shu suddenly interrupted Shi Changsheng.

“What half?” Shi Changsheng was stunned.

“As long as you help me, whether I succeed or not, from now on, half of the forging materials will be yours!”

“If I’m not mistaken, you, or the Longevity Sword, either failed the forging or is flawed. In short, you need to devour a large amount of forging materials to repair and perfect yourself.”

“If you help me find other grotto-heavens, I promise you that I will do my best to help you find the forging materials you need.”

“You should understand that I have the ability to do so!”



Shi Changsheng's eyes narrowed slightly, and his face revealed a struggle.

He should have decisively refused, but Zhou Shu was offering him too much!

Over the past few days, Shi Changsheng had carefully observed that Zhou Shu's identity was indeed as he had said. He was the king of three nations, the number one person in the Ten Nations, and the number one forger in the world...

These identities guaranteed that Zhou Shu could do what he promised him.

He did need a lot of forging materials, and in his current form, he did need to rely on a strong person.

But...

Shi Changsheng struggled for a moment and said with some heartache, "It's not that I don't want to help you, but it's useless.

"Let's not talk about whether those grotto-heavens still exist. Even if they do, it won't be so easy to find them.

"The situation in the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven is relatively special, but it doesn't mean that every grotto-heaven is like this. A grotto-heaven is the personal property of the master of the grotto-heaven. Even back then, I only entered a few grotto-heavens, let alone now.

"I think most of the grotto-heavens back then have already been destroyed like the Zhuling Grotto-Heaven. If the master of a grotto-heaven dies, generally speaking, the grotto-heaven won't exist for long."

Zhou Shu looked at Shi Changsheng. He didn't seem to be lying.

He had already made such an offer, but he still refused. Could it be that the grotto-heaven really had nothing to do with the barrier between the two worlds?

Or was there more to it?

No matter what, it seemed impossible to seek more information from Shi Changsheng.

*Then, I'll have to think of something else.*

Zhou Shu frowned. If possible, he really didn't want to use that method.

The Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique!

The Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique was almost the most magical divine ability Zhou Shu had mastered. But every time he used it, he would feel like he was dying.

Experiencing another person's life in a dream sounded wonderful, but in reality, it was a great challenge for the experimenter.

Just the change of identity was enough to cause a mental breakdown.

Even though Zhou Shu cultivated the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form and his mental strength was extraordinary, the process was still extremely uncomfortable for him.

Zhou Shu's gaze swept across Shi Changsheng. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to use the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique to enter the dream of an object. Otherwise, he might be able to learn many secrets.

Shi Changsheng had lived for countless years.

Now, he could only hope that the dead Great Demon Yao Lian had a high status in the Demon Realm and knew more secrets. Otherwise, it would be a waste of his hard work!

#### **Chapter 429: The Nemesis of the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, Each With Their Own Thoughts (1)**

In a stone house in the Huaxia Pavilion's Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament branch...

Yin Wuyou hugged her knees and sat by the bed, her eyes twinkling.

She looked at Zhou Shu lying on the bed, her face full of smiles.

...

She didn't care if the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament space was dangerous. As long as she could stay by Zhou Shu's side, she didn't care how dangerous it was.

After an unknown period of time, the faint white light on Zhou Shu's body suddenly shattered like glass.

Then Zhou Shu opened his eyes.

The next moment, Yin Wuyou was pressed down by a pair of big hands, and her dress turned into butterflies flying in the air and dancing in the room.

The sound that made one's bones ache echoed throughout the room.

Again and again, Yin Wuyou didn't know how many times she flew into the clouds.

It was as if Zhou Shu would never have enough, and he kept asking for more.

Fortunately, she was already a first-rank martial artist. Otherwise, ordinary women would definitely not be able to withstand it.

Even so, Yin Wuyou felt like her entire body was about to collapse.

She hugged Zhou Shu's neck tightly and tried her best to circulate the God of War Catalog to keep up with him.

The Yin and Yang Qi produced by the God of War Catalog circulated between the two of them, constantly nourishing their bodies.

Be it Yin Wuyou or Zhou Shu, the spiritual essence in their bodies was growing little by little.

It was especially true for Yin Wuyou, who gained even more.

Not only could she feel her spiritual essence growing at a visible speed, but she could also feel her body becoming stronger, and even her skin was more delicate than before.

She almost lost herself in the heady mix of pleasure and growing strength.

She felt that she would never be able to leave Zhou Shu again.

With a moan, Yin Wuyou flew into the clouds again.

Zhou Shu finally stopped. He lay on Yin Wuyou's body and felt her delicate body. His eyes had already regained clarity.

No wonder he always heard that those killers would go to brothels to relax after killing.

Doing the deed did make one feel refreshed and relieved.

Zhou Shu sighed with emotion. In the past, after using the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, it would take him a long time to recover.

This time, he entered the dream for a longer time. Logically speaking, he should have sunk deeper into the dream.

Unexpectedly, after a series of 'battles', he felt that he had completely recovered. The aftereffects of entering the dream had completely disappeared.

His hands brushed across Yin Wuyou's jade-like skin, and he was a little tempted.

Yin Wuyou hesitated for a moment and whispered, "We still have other things to do."

Her face flushed. Although she couldn't bear to reject Zhou, this was still the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament battlefield.

They had been in their rooms for days...

"I'll just touch," Zhou Shu said.

His hands swam between the mountains, but images flashed through his mind.

Zhou Shu's Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique had already reached the lesser mastery stage. The Shadow Sword had also made brilliant achievements in Yin Wuyou's hands.

The Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique at lesser mastery allowed him to go back to 50 years ago!

Zhou Shu had not lived to fifty years in both his lifetimes.

In the end, in his dream, he transformed into a great demon and cultivated for 50 years!

If not for Yin Wuyou, Zhou Shu even doubted if he could wake up from the dream.

If he couldn't wake up, Zhou Shu might become the Great Demon Yao Lian.

He didn't know if he was Zhuang Zhou who had dreamed he was a butterfly, or a butterfly dreaming that he was Zhuang Zhou.

Zhuang Zhou's Butterfly Dream Technique was abnormally magical and dangerous at the same time.

*Thank you, Yin Wuyou!*

Zhou Shu climbed to the peaks with both hands, feeling extremely real.

In his mind, the Five Mountains' True Form suppressed his consciousness. He eliminated all the useless scenes from his mind.

This was also something he had accidentally comprehended when he was circulating the God of War Catalog with Yin Wuyou.

There was too much useless information after spending fifty years in the dream.

Zhou Shu didn't even want to think about the scenes of Yao Lian drinking and eating.

This was also because Zhou Shu's Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form and the God of War Catalog had both reached a certain level. Under the double foundation, he could do this. Without either, he wouldn't be able to do this.

Fifty years was a long time, but to a Great Demon like Yao Lian, fifty years was actually just a small part of his life.

Compared to humans, demonic beasts had very long lifespans.

A thousand-year-old turtle was the most suitable description for a demonic beast.

To human martial artists, even first-rank martial artists only had a lifespan of three to five hundred years. As for first-rank demonic beasts, it was easy for them to live a thousand years.

... Not to mention a Great Demon like Yao Lian.

It would probably not be a problem for a Great Demon like him to live for three to five thousand years.

Fifty years ago, Yao Lian was already a Great Demon!

The lives of demonic beasts were much more boring than Zhou Shu had imagined.

In the past fifty years, Yao Lian had done nothing but fight, drink, or patrol his territory.

The Demon Realm, relative to the Ten Nations, was a barbaric and uncivilized place. Everything exuded a primitive aura.

Zhou Shu looked down on Yao Lian for his debauchery.

*Although the Demon Realm is primitive, they are indeed powerful.*

Apart from what made him speechless, Zhou Shu really realized this.

#### **Chapter 430: The Nemesis of the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, Each With Their Own Thoughts (2)**

Although Yao Lian had died in his hands, it was undeniable that Yao Lian was very strong. In the Ten Nations, other than him, no one was a match for Yao Lian.

But in the Demon Realm, Yao Lian was far from being considered a powerhouse.

In the fifty years that Zhou Shu had been in the dream, he had been defeated dozens of times.

...

Among the Great Demons of the Demon Realm, he could only be considered ordinary.

If the barrier between the Demon Realm and the Ten Nations Continent really shattered, the Ten Nations would definitely not be able to withstand the invasion of the Demon Realm.

The difference in strength between the two sides was too great.

Before Yao Lian came to the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament battlefield, he already knew that Emperor Wei Wu had colluded with the Demon Realm. The reason he came to this space was that he had lost a fight, so he was sent here.

The Demon Realm seemed to have split into two groups. One group used the ladder set up by Emperor Wei Wu to invade the Ten Nations directly.

The other came to the battlefield of the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament to kill all the Ten Nations' troops.

The latter was not a good job, so it fell to Yao Lian.

From this, it could be seen that Yao Lian's status in the Demon Realm was indeed not high.

He didn't get a chance to directly invade the Ten Nations Continent, which would allow one to gain more.

The Demon Realm army split into two groups. One group came to the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament battlefield, and the other gathered near the gap opened by Emperor Wei Wu.

Zhou Shu recalled the information he had obtained in his dream. If they were lucky, they would have to face the million-strong demon beast army after entering the Demon Realm.

If the passage he had opened was far enough from the passage opened by Emperor Wei Wu, they still had a chance to escape before the Demon Realm army came to stop them.

In any case, the Demon Realm was vast. As long as they could survive the first wave, they would be able to enter the Demon Realm. At that time, they would have a lot of room to maneuver.

*Yao Lian has a secret lair in the Demon Realm. It's one of his three dens, and he's the only one who knows about it, Zhou Shu pondered. If we can escape to that place, the Ten Nations Alliance will have some breathing room.*

Yao Lian had also been a thoughtful person. He had been worried that he would encounter some danger one day, so he had specially prepared an escape route.

The secret lairs that only he knew stored the resources he needed to make a comeback.

In the Demon Realm, where the strong preyed on the weak, it was not surprising that Yao Lian would make such preparations.

He probably didn't expect that he would die on the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament battlefield.

*The gap opened by Emperor Wei Wu has been occupied by the Demon Realm army. It's impossible to return to the Ten Nations from there.*

There were two things that made it most difficult to return to the Ten Nations Continent through the Demon Realm.

The first was whether they could survive the first wave of the Demon Realm army when they first entered the Demon Realm.

The second was how to return to the Ten Nations.

If they could survive the first wave of attacks and successfully reach the secret lair left by Yao Lian, then the most difficult thing was how to return to the Ten Nations Continent.

After all, Yao Lian's secret lair could only give them a chance to catch their breath. It was impossible for them to stay for long. The Demon Realm army wouldn't give them much time.

This was the biggest challenge they had to face!

There was indeed a problem with the barrier between the two worlds. But even if there was a spatial rift, it was definitely unstable and couldn't allow the army to pass through normally.

*I have Great Wei's imperial cauldron. If I use it to open another gap...*

Zhou Shu shook his head. Not to mention whether this could be done, even if it could, doing so would cause endless trouble.

The barrier between the two worlds was already cracked and fragile. If he touched it again, it was very likely to cause a large-scale collapse of the barrier.

If that happened, there would be serious trouble.

*Besieging Wei to save Zhao, I didn't expect my passing remark to come true.*

Zhou Shu smiled bitterly in his heart. After he thought about it, the only way back to the Ten Nations was the passage opened by Emperor Wei Wu.

If they wanted to get there, they had to either face the Demon Realm army directly or find a way to lure them away.

Even if Zhou Shu was confident enough, he didn't think that less than 100,000 people could do it.

If he lured the Demon Realm army away, he could only think of a way to attack the enemy and save them.

*What sin did I commit in my previous life? Didn't I just not help an old granny cross the road a few times? Why do I have to face such a predicament? I'm just a forger.*

Zhou Shu sighed.

"Zhou Shu, what's wrong?" Yin Wuyou's voice sounded in Zhou Shu's ear.

Zhou Shu came back to his senses and looked at the pretty face in front of him. He couldn't help but peck her cherry lips.

Zhou Shu only raised his head when Yin Wuyou's face turned red and her breathing quickened.

"I've decided." Zhou Shu looked into Yin Wuyou's eyes. "For the sake of our happy life, I must bring everyone back to the Ten Nations!"

"It's just fighting a war, isn't it? Who says a forger can't fight?"

A determined expression appeared on Zhou Shu's face. "Demonic beasts have claws and teeth. We have sabers. We'll cut off their heads with them."

*Our happy life?* Yin Wuyou blushed, and her eyes shone. She seemed to think of something and was so embarrassed that she couldn't even raise her face.

...

A hundred kilometers away from the camp, near the blood vortex...

Meng Bai, Wang Mu, Tang Chengshi, Cao Chenyang, and the others were all gathered together.

Other than the soldiers who were still busy mining, the surviving generals of the Ten Nations had all arrived.

"Great General Meng, why isn't the King of the South here yet? It has been nearly five days," a middle-aged man said in a deep voice. This person was a general of Great Qi. His surname was Zhang, and his name was Wuyuan.

"Is what you say true?" Zhang Wuyuan said impatiently.

"General Zhang, are you suspecting me or the King of the South?" Meng Bai's face darkened.

"General Zhang," Wang Mu said. "His Highness drove away the million-strong Demon Realm army alone. If it wasn't for His Highness, how many people do you think would still be alive?"

"That's not what I meant." Zhang Wuyuan was embarrassed by the public outrage. He scratched his head and said, "I'm just anxious."

"If this place is about to collapse, shouldn't we hurry up and think of something?"

"I've already told you how," Meng Bai said in a low voice. "From here, we'll pass through the Demon Realm and return to the Ten Nations."

"Wouldn't that be suicide?" Zhang Wuyuan frowned. "It's not that I'm afraid of death. But now that the Demon Realm army has been driven back to the Demon Realm, we only need to wait for the battlefield to reopen before we can go home. Why take this risk?"

"General Zhang, no matter what, you still don't believe in King Zhou." Tang Chengshi sneered. "If you don't want to go, fine. Great Qi can just stay here."

"Hmph." Zhang Wuyuan snorted. "Why? Can't you let me get to the bottom of this? I admire King Zhou for chasing away the Demon Realm army, but I'm not a lackey of Great Xia."

“What are you saying?” Tang Chengshi stood up angrily.

“I’m talking about whoever feels guilty.” Zhang Wuyuan sneered.

Meng Bai and Wang Mu frowned. Apart from Great Xia, Great Qin, and Great Jin, which had fought with them from the beginning, the remaining troops of the other countries all had their own thoughts.

The only one who didn’t have to worry was the original Great Wei soldiers, who were now known as the Criminal Army.

Although it was the Ten Nations Alliance, not everyone shared the same thoughts.

Zhang Wuyuan wasn’t the only one who had doubts. The others just didn’t say them out loud.

“General Zhang, if you’re not convinced, let’s spar!”

“So be it. Do you think I’m afraid of you?”

“Enough!” Meng Bai shouted. “Is this the time to fool around?”

He glared at Zhang Wuyuan and Tang Chengshi before sweeping his gaze across everyone present.

“Why don’t you tell me what everyone is thinking? My Great Xia will never force anyone to travel with us. If anyone is unwilling to travel with us, I will tell His Highness. We will not force anyone!”