

Canon 531

Chapter 531: Nine Heavens Nine Sections, Tens of Millions of Kilograms of Forging Materials (1)

“Our Yangtian Section is mainly responsible for True Fire. This is the Haotian Section. They are responsible for the formation of weapons...”

A humanoid demonic beast named Yao Yi introduced their group to Zhou Shu.

While Zhou Shu was impressed, he was also complaining in his heart. Did Ji Lutian think he was ‘Hui-juk’¹? He even created the Nine Heavens Nine Sections. This was not the Lingjiu Palace!

...

But his admiration for Ji Lutian was also real.

Ji Lutian’s Nine Heavens Nine Sections was similar to his assembly line forging method.

He had also divided the forging process into several stages and handed over the tasks to the different demonic beasts of the Nine Heavens Nine Sections to execute each stage.

The difference between his method and Zhou Shu’s was that the people Zhou Shu used were all forgers that were very familiar with the entire forging process.

In Ji Lutian’s Nine Heavens Nine Sections, each demonic beast only knew the work that they were responsible for.

Strictly speaking, they were not forgers because they didn’t have the ability to forge alone.

Instead, they were more like Forging Apprentices who had only mastered part of the art of forging. Only by piecing it together could they truly forge.

He wondered if Ji Lutian had thought of this method to prevent demonic beasts from truly mastering the art of forging.

“This is our situation. Young Master, we await your instructions,” Yao Yi said respectfully.

“Very good.”

Zhou Shu pondered. Although the Nine Heavens Nine Sections sent by Ji Lutian were nominally Ji Lutian’s disciples, in reality, these demonic beasts should be Yao Qing’s mother’s vassals or even servants.

The hierarchy in the Demon Realm was strict, so it was not surprising that these people treated Yao Qing like this.

After all, Yao Qing’s mother was the number one demon below the Demon Kings in the Demon Realm. It was not surprising that she had hundreds of loyal servants.

Zhou Shu was now considering whether Ji Lutian could be trusted!

From the clues so far, Ji Lutian should still be loyal to the human race.

Otherwise, as soon as he heard that Yao Qing had helped Hu Li break through to the Demon King realm, he should have known that he was fake.

However, not only did he not expose him, but he even sent these 108 demonic beasts.

Although he didn't say it explicitly, Zhou Shu could tell that Ji Lutian had most likely guessed his plan. Otherwise, he wouldn't have sent these 108 demonic beasts with forging knowledge.

From this perspective, the 108 demonic beasts sent by Ji Lutian could be used.

He didn't expose himself now. So at least for the time being, he didn't have to worry about Yao Qing suddenly appearing and exposing him.

Zhou Shu analyzed the situation bit by bit and finally made a decision.

He could use these 108 demonic beasts, but he couldn't trust them. He had to be on guard. If these guys brought his achievement back to Ji Lutian in the end, wouldn't he be working hard for others?

"Demon King Hu Li, with the help of my fellow apprentices, the forging progress of the Demon King Palace will definitely increase greatly."

Zhou Shu pondered as he looked at Hu Li. "But Demon King, I have something to say first. This Demon King Palace will definitely consume more materials than you can imagine.

"If it can be built successfully, the entire palace can float above the clouds. This will be a true paradise."

Zhou Shu described the scene after the successful forging of the Lingxiao Treasure Palace, causing Demon King Hu Li's eyes to glow.

"Build, just build it!" Demon King Hu Li said loudly. "Damn it, this is where I should live. I'm the thirteenth Demon King of the Demon Realm and also the youngest Demon King of the Demon Realm! I want to beat those old things!

"If there aren't enough materials, tell me what you need. I'll find them myself! As long as they're in the Demon Realm, I'll get them for you. If anyone dares to refuse, I'll kill them!"

"Demon King, don't you need to cultivate your divine power in seclusion?" Zhou Shu asked curiously.

"No more cultivation!" Hu Li. "No matter how powerful a divine power is, it can't compare to the Demon King Palace!

"As long as we can successfully build this Demon King Palace, it will be enough to shock those bastards who once looked down on me!"

"You have a point." Zhou Shu laughed. "But Demon King, I don't think the name Demon King Palace is domineering enough, so I gave it another name, Lingxiao Treasure Palace."

"Lingxiao Treasure Palace!" Hu Li was stunned for a moment before he was overjoyed. "Yao Qing, you're indeed talented. This name is good, very good!

"Lingxiao Treasure Palace! We'll call it the Lingxiao Treasure Palace! It sounds worthy of my temperament!"

Zhou Shu curled his lips inwardly. *Be happy while it lasts. The Lingxiao Treasure Palace has nothing to do with you.*

But if you can submit to me someday, I can make you a Curtain-Rolling General¹ or something. It's still possible for you to be a divine beast guarding the Lingxiao Treasure Palace.

"To build the Lingxiao Treasure Palace, we still need..." Zhou Shu said a long list of forging materials and the amount needed.

Hu Li didn't care. He didn't understand these things. As long as Zhou Shu told him, he would get them.

He patted his chest and flew away. Yao Yi and the others were all shocked.

Although they were not true forgers, they still knew some forging techniques.

The forging materials that Zhou Shu had just named exceeded their imagination.

Chapter 532: Nine Heavens Nine Sections, Tens of Millions of Kilograms of Forging Materials (2)

The entire wealth of ordinary Great Demons was far inferior to the amount of forging materials required.

Did he need so many things to build a Demon King Palace?

This was probably enough to build a big city, wasn't it?

...

The demonic beasts were puzzled, but they didn't ask.

Their duty was to assist the young master fully. As for the rest, they didn't ask or care about what they shouldn't. This was what they had been trained to do since they were young.

"Everyone, let's get to work." Zhou Shu clapped his hands. "Yao Yi, Yao Er, you're in charge of refining the ore. There's a lot of raw ore here. It's your responsibility to refine the forging materials from it.

"Yao San, Yao Si, what you have to do is complete the initial composite of the forging materials according to my request..."

...

Zhou Shu distributed the work according to the areas that the Nine Heavens Nine Sections were good at.

With these 108 skilled workers and Zhang Chunlin and the others, Zhou Shu didn't have to worry about the tedious task of handling the forging materials.

Although this step was not very technical, it was the most time-consuming.

After all, it would probably take a few years for a single person to process these countless forging materials.

The 108 skilled demonic beasts sent by Ji Lutian were led by the 12 humanoid demonic beasts, Yao Yi to Yao Shi'Er. They carried the professionalism of soldiers.

After receiving Zhou Shu's orders, they threw themselves into their work.

Their ability to execute made Zhou Shu admire Ji Lutian again.

Zhou Shu had no qualms exploiting the demonic beasts. He threw all the tedious work to them while he focused on the core work.

He wouldn't let anyone come into contact with the core of the Lingxiao Treasure Palace, not even Zhang Chunlin and the others. Even if Li Chengliang and the others were here, he wouldn't let them participate, let alone them.

The Lingxiao Treasure Palace was of great importance. He was already prepared to use it as his headquarters in the Demon Realm.

The cave where the Huaxia Pavilion's Demon Realm branch was located naturally had to continue operating. But the Lingxiao Treasure Palace would be Zhou Shu's palace in the future and the true core of the Huaxia Pavilion's Demon Realm branch.

Therefore, Zhou Shu cared a lot about it.

Seeing that Zhou Shu brought a bunch of demonic beasts and how they began to process the forging materials skillfully, Zhang Chunlin was stunned.

He was extremely curious about Zhou Shu's identity. Who was this person who called himself the King of the South of Great Xia?

Why was he able to transform into a demonic beast?

Why did a Demon King of the Demon Realm listen to him?

Why could he casually summon more than a hundred demonic beasts who were proficient in the art of forging? There were even more than ten first-rank demonic beasts among them!

Zhang Chunlin was really stunned. When he was the grand minister of the Great Xia Forging Division, even the Great Xia Forging Division couldn't find so many first-rank forgers.

Although Martial Dao cultivation had nothing to do with forging ability, he still couldn't accept seeing so many first-grade demonic beasts who were proficient in forging.

He had only been imprisoned by demonic beasts for twenty years, not two hundred years!

Had the Ten Nations changed so much in the past twenty years? Were all young people so perverse these days?

Not only could he not see through the King of the South's cultivation and methods, but even his forging skills far exceeded his imagination.

Zhang Chunlin felt his hair stand on end at the thought of Zhou Shu releasing flames with his bare hands and smelting forging materials.

Forging with his bare hands, what kind of technique was this?

Other than Zhang Chunlin himself, no one could understand the shock in his heart.

Back then, when Great Qin's Grand Craftsman Xu Shi and the others witnessed the Iron Smelting Hands Technique step by step, they were also extremely shocked.

But for Zhang Chunlin, shocking things happened one after another. The shock in his heart had long accumulated to an extreme.

He didn't realize that he was already in awe of Zhou Shu.

In his heart, Zhou Shu was becoming more mysterious and awe-inspiring as time went by.

It wasn't just him. After taking the Essence Cleansing Pills that Zhou Shu had secretly dissolved into the water, the other hundred or so human captives' bodies were recovering day by day. They had seen with their own eyes what he had done, and their admiration for him was endless.

These people had been captured by demonic beasts and lived lives worse than pigs and dogs for many years.

Who would have thought that a single person could actually toy with a Demon King of the Demon Realm and dozens of Great Demons?!

The Demon King and Great Demons were simply fawning over him!

This completely subverted their image of demonic beasts. They never imagined that demonic beasts could be tamed like this.

Zhou Shu didn't consider the psychological changes of these people at all.

After he finished breaking down the forging work of the Lingxiao Treasure Palace, he began to teach the demonic beasts, Zhang Chunlin, and the others step by step. After they grasped their jobs, Zhou Shu busied himself gathering Great Demons.

Although Demon King Hu Li had already personally gone to help him gather forging materials, Zhou Shu didn't intend to let Yao Aotian and the other Great Demons stay idle.

"What orders do you have for us, Nephew Yao Qing?" Yao Aotian said to Yao Qing with a fawning expression. As a Great Demon, he didn't feel ashamed treating a junior whose cultivation was inferior to his in this manner.

Chapter 533: Nine Heavens Nine Sections, Tens of Millions of Kilograms of Forging Materials (3)

The other Great Demons no longer despised Yao Aotian. Instead, they were a little envious.

If they had been as shameless as him, they would probably have been able to break through to the Demon King realm!

...

"I've already troubled all of you to provide some forging materials. I thought it would be enough, but it seems there isn't," Zhou Shu said while cupping his hands. "I invited everyone over this time because I hope to borrow some more."

The Great Demons glanced at him.

"Nephew Yao Qing, since you've asked, we definitely have to help you. But as you know, we usually don't care much about those forging materials, so we don't collect much," a Great Demon said.

He was telling the truth. Apart from some special treasures, why would demonic beasts hoard forging materials? They didn't forge weapons.

"I understand, so I'll have to trouble you to send your demonic beasts to mine." Zhou Shu smiled.

"Our Demon Realm is vast and rich in minerals. As long as you contribute some manpower, you can help me solve the problem.

"Of course. I won't let everyone work for nothing.

Other than the IOUs that Demon King Hu Li will be giving everyone, I will express my gratitude as well.

"To be honest with all of you, I have recently gained some insights and am about to break through to the Great Demon realm. Although this realm is not worth mentioning in your eyes, as the saying goes, 'By other's faults, wise men correct their own.' It might be of help to all of you."

The eyes of the Great Demons lit up. They were about to say something when they suddenly heard Zhou Shu continue.

"If one observes the Way of Heaven, and maintains its doings (as his own), all that he has to do is accomplished.

"To Heaven there belong the five (mutual) foes, and he who sees them (and understands their operation) apprehends how they produce prosperity."

Boom!

As he spoke, Zhou Shu's aura surged. He was about to break through to the Great Demon realm.

The Great Demons felt their heads explode. They didn't quite understand Zhou Shu's words.

But a thought appeared in every Great Demon's mind. This was the principle of the Great Dao!

If they could comprehend it, breaking through to the Demon King realm would no longer be a dream!

"Go on, Nephew Yao Qing." The Great Demons yearned for more of his wise words.

"Everyone, I originally planned to explain this to you during Demon King Hu Li's advancement ceremony. But now, I have something to ask of you, so I'm saying it in advance."

Zhou Shu shook his head. "But as the saying goes, the Dao isn't passed down easily. If it's too easy to obtain, no one will cherish it.

"So, I'm sorry."

Zhou Shu swept his gaze across the Great Demons. "I have set a small threshold. If you want to hear what's next, you have to complete what I've asked of you.

"It doesn't have to be much. As long as each of you brings me five million kilograms of the forging materials I need, you are qualified to continue listening to what I have to say in advance.

"To be able to watch me break through to the Great Demon realm is definitely worth it."

Zhou Shu's voice echoed in the Great Demons' ears, and their eyes turned even redder.

They didn't care about five million kilograms of forging materials at all. If they could hear about the Great Dao, they would do anything!

Previously, Yao Aotian had beaten them to it. This time, they would definitely not miss this opportunity!

"Nephew Yao Qing, what forging materials do you need? Tell me, and I'll immediately send people to dig. Even if I have to dig through the entire Demon Realm, I'll definitely bring back five million kilograms of forging materials for you!"

Chapter 534: Whereabouts Leaked, Ming Hong Unleashed Again (1)

Zhou Shu felt that he was getting further and further along the path of becoming a great hoodwinker.

These demonic beasts were too easy to fool. He couldn't help himself from doing it.

He had only made up a few words that he had seen on the internet in his previous life. He had yet to use the famous saying, "It is the way of heaven to take from what has in excess in order to make good what is deficient."

...

And the demonic beasts already wanted to worship him as a god.

Since they were acting like this, Zhou Shu found it very unchallenging.

But he felt very satisfied that he could make these demons mine for him with just a few words.

Without the help of these Great Demons, even if Demon King Hu Li personally took action, it wouldn't be easy to gather the forging materials for the Lingxiao Treasure Palace.

Watching the Great Demons leave energetically, Zhou Shu noticed that Yao Aotian was still standing here.

"Aotian, you don't have to follow me anymore. There's nothing I need you to do here for the time being. Go with the other lords," Zhou Shu said.

Ever since Yao Aotian had brought all his wealth to offer to Zhou Shu, he had been staying by Zhou Shu's side, working at his beck and call.

This hollowed-out mountainside was Yao Aotian's doing.

If not for Yao Aotian personally taking action, it would have been difficult for him to find a suitable place to forge the Lingxiao Treasure Palace.

Although Yao Aotian was quite handy, it would be a waste to let him do odd jobs here.

A Great Demon should go out to mine.

Yao Aotian looked around mysteriously. Seeing that all the Great Demons had left, he whispered, "Yao Qing, I have something to tell you."

"What is it?" Zhou Shu glanced at him and asked curiously.

"Nephew Yao Qing, I've discovered where the human army that infiltrated the Demon Realm is!" Yao Aotian whispered while looking around, seemingly afraid of being heard.

"Oh?" Zhou Shu's eyebrows shot up.

"Nephew," Yao Aotian whispered. "Demon King Ao personally ordered us to kill this human army. Whoever can complete this mission will be rewarded by Demon King Ao."

"I know that you might not be interested in these rewards, but you're still young. If you can gain more experience, you will hold a higher status in the Demon Realm in the future..."

Zhou Shu narrowed his eyes and looked at Yao Aotian, his expression unchanged. "Aotian, what do you mean?"

"I have a million demonic beasts under my command. I can quietly destroy this human army and give the credit to you..." Yao Aotian said excitedly.

"You're asking me to falsely report military merits," Zhou Shu said coldly. "If Demon King Ao found out, do you think he would let me off?"

"I thought we were already friends. I didn't expect you to want to get me into trouble!"

Zhou Shu's expression turned incomparably cold. He flicked his sleeve and said coldly, "In that case, we'll sever ties from now on."

"Don't!" Yao Aotian said anxiously. "Nephew, you've misunderstood! I didn't mean that!"

"I'm not asking you to report false military merits! I want to lend you my demonic beast army. You can lead the army to kill the human army. How can this be considered reporting false military merits?"

"The credit will belong to you!"

"Back then, on the battlefield, the million-strong demonic beast army returned in defeat. What makes you think that I can succeed just because you lent me your troops?" Zhou Shu's expression was still cold as he spoke. "As far as I know, Lord Yao Lian died at the hands of this human army. I haven't broken through to the Great Demon realm yet. Aren't you sending me to my death?"

"I knew it. A first-rank like me isn't worthy of being your friend, Lord Yao Aotian. In that case, please be kind and let me off."

Yao Aotian was frightened by Zhou Shu's words. He said helplessly, "Nephew, I really didn't mean that! I sincerely want to give you a big gift.

"You allowed me to improve my cultivation and even touch the threshold of the Demon King realm. No matter how I repay you, it's not enough. How could I possibly want to harm you?

"Nephew Yao Qing, I've thought through. I'll follow the army. My cultivation level is higher than Yao Lian's, and there are indeed experts in the human army. With my current strength, unless there's an enemy comparable to a Demon King, he can forget about hurting you!"

Yao Aotian was very confident.

He was a senior Great Demon to begin with. After being enlightened by Zhou Shu, his cultivation base was about to break through to the Demon King realm.

He knew that among those under the Demon King realm, even Yao Wenxin might not be his match.

This was why he was confident that he could help Zhou Shu make a great contribution.

"Aotian, who else knows the whereabouts of this human army?" Zhou Shu asked in a low voice.

"No one else knows." Yao Aotian shook his head. "It was a coincidence. When I went out a few days ago, I accidentally discovered some humans. I followed them for a few days before I confirmed their whereabouts.

"I didn't hurt the humans to avoid alerting them, and I didn't tell anyone."

Yao Aotian was prepared to use this opportunity to please Zhou Shu, so he naturally couldn't leak it to others.

:Chapter 535 Whereabouts Leaked, Ming Hong Unleashed Again (2)

Zhou Shu lowered his head, killing intent flashing in his eyes.

Although a Great Demon could mine countless ores for him, if he really threatened the safety of the Huaxia Pavilion's Demon Realm branch, Zhou Shu wouldn't show any mercy.

"The humans are cunning, Aotian. Are you sure you found the hiding place of the human army? Surely they won't have moved by the time we get there," Zhou Shu asked calmly.

...

"They won't," Yao Aotian said in a low voice. "Nephew Yao Qing, I won't be wrong about this.

"I'm absolutely certain that's where they're hiding. Speaking of which, the human race is indeed full of tricks. Who would have thought that they would hide in a karst cave like ground rats?

"I wonder how they found that place. As a native of the Demon Realm, I didn't even know there was such a place in the Demon Realm."

Yao Aotian felt emotional. Although humans were very weak, he had to admit that they were indeed stronger than demons in some aspects.

For example, Yao Qing—he had learned some human principles from his father and could easily guide demons to break through. It was an enigma how he did it.

As soon as Zhou Shu heard Yao Aotian say the words karst cave, the killing intent in his heart was almost uncontrollable. Yao Aotian had really discovered the location of the Huaxia Pavilion's Demon Realm branch!

In that case, he must not live!

Yao Aotian also sensed Zhou Shu's faint killing intent, but he thought that Zhou Shu's killing intent was directed at the human army.

"Nephew, you don't have to do such a small thing personally." Yao Aotian smiled. "Nephew, you're in charge of the middle army. You just have to give orders. Naturally, just leave the charging and attacking to me and the demonic beast army under my command."

Yao Aotian patted his chest loudly. "Don't worry. If the human army escapes, I'll take the blame!

"My fate is in my hands, not the heavens. As a demon, I should be Yao Aotian. I will definitely not let you down!"

"I believe in your skills, Aotian. But there's another problem." Zhou Shu hesitated. "Killing the human army is the mission Demon King Ao and the others gave Demon King Hu Li. Isn't it a little inappropriate for us to do this? We're stealing Demon King Hu Li's mission."

"Do you think Demon King Hu Li still cares about that bit of credit?" Yao Aotian smiled. "Demon King Hu Li is already a Demon King, the thirteenth Demon King of the Demon Realm! Even Demon King Ao and the others can't order him to do anything anymore.

"Nephew, have you forgotten the rules of our Demon Realm? The Demon Kings will not directly interfere in the battle between the Demon Realm and the human race. Even if we don't do it, Demon King Hu Li will not continue to pursue the human army."

"Instead of letting the other Great Demons benefit, why can't we do it?"

"That makes sense." Zhou Shu nodded. "In that case, I'll do it! I originally wanted to take revenge on those humans, and now it's just as I wish!"

"I have to thank you, Aotian, for giving me this chance!"

"Nephew, you're being too polite. You've given me a new lease on life." Yao Aotian smiled happily.

"Although the Demon Realm is our territory and you're stronger than the other party, to be safe, I think we should investigate first." Zhou Shu pondered. "Why don't we go there and take a look first? Aotian, what do you think?"

"Might as well." Yao Aotian didn't think too much about it and nodded. "Previously, I only observed outside the karst cave for a few days. I really didn't investigate clearly.

“Yao Qing, you’re so thoughtful.” Yao Aotian didn’t forget to flatter Zhou Shu. In fact, he didn’t think much of it.

In his opinion, a human army with only tens of thousands of people could be easily annihilated. There was no need to consider so much.

He could just crush them with his army.

But since Yao Qing wanted to take a look, it was fine.

Wasn’t it just a trip?

“There’s no time to lose. We’ll leave now,” Zhou Shu said solemnly. He couldn’t let Yao Aotian stay here any longer. Otherwise, it was hard to guarantee that he wouldn’t tell anyone.

Yao Aotian didn’t think too much about it. He was currently in a period of expansion, and he felt that he was the strongest existence below the Demon Kings.

He didn’t care about a mere human army.

If not for the fact that he wanted to let Yao Qing earn the credit, Yao Aotian felt that he could sweep through this human army alone.

“Nephew Yao Qing, if we encounter human experts later, you don’t have to make a move. After I subdue them, you can just take their heads.”

Yao Aotian thought that he was being very considerate.

Zhou Shu nodded. He had already sentenced Yao Aotian to death in his heart.

Although it was a pity to kill a Great Demon miner, he was now a threat to the safety of the Ten Nations Alliance, so he could only send him on his way.

Demon King Hu Li had gone somewhere to gather forging materials. In Hu Li’s territory, no one would stop Zhou Shu, who represented Hu Li.

He and Yao Aotian left without a hitch.

In order to flatter him, Yao Aotian even took the initiative to fly with Zhou Shu.

“Yao Qing, that place is not far ahead.” Yao Aotian pointed ahead as he flew.

“We’ll kill this human army later. It’s not bad for you to keep this place as a palace. When the time comes, I’ll send you a hundred and eighty young ladies from our demon clan...” Yao Aotian chuckled.

Zhou Shu snorted but made no comment.

After leaving Hu Li’s territory, the man and the demon gradually entered a desolate forest.

“Aotian!”

Yao Aotian was flying when he suddenly heard Zhou Shu call out.

He turned his head instinctively in response. “Nephew Yao Qing, am I flying too fast?”

"You're not flying too fast. You're narrowing the path," Zhou Shu said something Yao Aotian didn't understand, and then Yao Aotian felt a strong wind blow against his face.

His expression changed, and he exclaimed, "Nephew—"

Before he could finish, he felt a violent force pressing down on him.

He roared, and his spiritual essence surged in his body. But before his powerful spiritual essence could explode, his head buzzed and his eyes darkened. Then he lost consciousness.

Zhou Shu's face was a little pale. Although he hadn't used his divine ability Total Annihilation, he had used his full strength.

In particular, the full-strength attack of his divine sense made him feel as if his head had been emptied.

He held Yao Aotian's neck with one hand. Yao Aotian's eyes had already rolled back, and he had fainted.

Caught off guard, his mind had been attacked by Zhou Shu's divine sense. It was already impressive that he wasn't dead.

"Yao Aotian, if you don't die, the Ten Nations Alliance will be in danger," Zhou Shu said. "If you want to blame someone, blame yourself for knowing too much."

Zhou Shu drew the Ming Hong Saber. With a flash of light, Yao Aotian's head fell to the ground.

Poor Yao Aotian had just seen the threshold of the Demon King realm when he lost his life.

[The Ming Hong Saber you forged effectively completed a kill. Divine ability Myriad Transformations +3!]

A message flashed before his eyes, and his heart skipped a beat.

He glanced at Yao Aotian and raised his hand to take a strand of hair from his head. Then flames shot out from both his hands.

The next moment, Yao Aotian's body turned into ashes in the raging flames and dissipated into the air.

From the moment Zhou Shu attacked until Yao Aotian's corpse completely disappeared, only a few breaths had passed. There was not much commotion at all.

A Great Demon who was infinitely close to the Demon King realm had disappeared from the world forever!

Zhou Shu felt a little emotional. Speaking of which, his cultivation was actually inferior to Yao Aotian's. If they had fought head-on, he might not be Yao Aotian's match unless he used his divine ability Total Annihilation.

The reason he could end the battle so quickly was mainly because Yao Aotian was not on guard against him. A Great Demon had lost his life so easily. This world was ultimately full of danger.

Zhou Shu was secretly vigilant. Although his current cultivation was not low, he was far from invincible. He had to be more careful. Otherwise, he might end up like Yao Aotian and fail miserably.

Zhou Shu turned around and looked in the direction of the tiger demon clan lands. Then he turned around and transformed into a ray of light, instantly disappearing in the direction of the Huaxia Pavilion's Demon Realm branch.

Chapter 536: A Person's Situation, Heaven Sent Divine Weapon (1)

Outside the Huaxia Pavilion's Demon Realm branch, a figure descended from the sky.

Just as the figure landed, a stream of light suddenly shot over.

It was fast, accurate, and ruthless!

...

It was an arrow shooting toward Zhou Shu's head. When the sound of rushing wind came, the arrow was only a foot away from his heart.

With such speed and distance, any ordinary martial artist wouldn't be able to dodge in time.

Zhou Shu's lips curled up. He really didn't know that there was such an archery expert in the Ten Nations Alliance.

This arrow could probably even injure a Grandmaster.

But he was far beyond an ordinary Grandmaster.

Clank!

With a crisp sound, Zhou Shu flicked away the arrow. Almost at the same time, at least four arrows came from all directions. Without even the sound of breaking the wind, they all aimed at Zhou Shu's vital points.

Bang!

Zhou Shu's body flashed with golden light. The four arrows froze in the air and struggled for a moment before falling.

Bows and arrows were a great killing weapon on the Ten Nations Continent, but it was of limited use against the Demon Realm.

This was mainly because demonic beasts had thick skin and flesh. Ordinary bows and arrows couldn't even break through their fur.

Moreover, archery experts were extremely rare. Military experts rarely chose to specialize in archery. Ordinary high-level martial artists mainly cultivated weapons that were more lethal to demonic beasts.

Whoosh!

Seeing that all the arrows had been blocked, the scout who had discovered Zhou Shu let out a sharp whistle.

Amid the sound of rushing wind, several powerful auras suddenly appeared and rushed toward Zhou Shu.

Bang bang bang!

Zhou Shu blocked the few attacks, and his body flashed.

“Stop it, everyone. It’s me,” Zhou Shu said.

The few people who attacked him were stunned. Then they bowed respectfully. “Greetings, Your Highness!”

“You guys are pretty vigilant.”

Zhou Shu nodded. It wasn’t their fault that Yao Aotian had discovered them. They were already very vigilant. But with their cultivation, they couldn’t sense the Great Demon.

There was nothing he could do about this. In the Ten Nations Alliance, the one with the highest cultivation was him, a forger.

The others were at most first-rank martial artists, far inferior to Great Demons.

Yao Aotian wasn’t bragging. Without considering Zhou Shu, a demon like him could annihilate the entire Ten Nations Alliance.

Even with Zhou Shu around, if Yao Aotian led his million-strong Demon Realm army to attack, the Ten Nations Alliance would likely be wiped out.

With Zhou Shu’s current cultivation, if he really wanted to fight a Great Demon head-on, he would have to use his divine ability Total Annihilation. Once he used it, he would only have a limited amount of time. Defeating a Great Demon might not be a problem, but there was definitely not enough time to defeat an army of demons.

“Who was the person who just shot the arrows?” Zhou Shu looked at them. Their faces were familiar, but he really couldn’t remember their names.

After all, Zhou Shu was not really familiar with the 30,000 soldiers of the Ten Nations Alliance.

These people had probably only seen him before. They were not at the level of interacting with Zhou Shu directly.

“It’s me,” said a young man in his twenties. “I thought it was a demonic beast attack. Please forgive me, Your Highness.”

He cupped his hands in apology.

“You did nothing wrong.” Zhou Shu nodded. “Your archery skills are very good.”

Zhou Shu patted his shoulder and walked into the cave.

The young man was stunned for a moment before his face revealed ecstasy.

He looked at his companions and cheered softly. “Did you hear that? His Highness praised me!”

“We heard it,” the others said enviously.

In the hearts of the 30,000 allied forces in the Demon Realm, Zhou Shu was a god-like existence. To be praised by him was enough to make these soldiers excited for a long time.

“His Highness even patted my shoulder.” The young man’s face was full of excitement. It was completely different from his composure when he shot the arrows. He even felt like jumping. “My shoulder was patted by His Highness!”

They all rolled their eyes. Is that so great?

Although they appeared disdainful, they were full of envy.

“Unfortunately, His Highness didn’t ask for your name just now. Otherwise, you would have really caught his eye,” a companion said. “If you catch His Highness’ eye and he casually rewards you with a weapon, you’ll really take off.

“I heard that because of His Highness, the Armament Manual of the Heavenly Mountain Villa has changed drastically. There’s no such thing as heaven-grade or earth-grade weapons anymore. There are only connate weapons and acquired weapons!

“It’s said that connate weapons are even more powerful than heaven-grade weapons. You know Divine Constable Yang Hong, right? He received the connate divine weapon the Crimson Firmament Sword from His Highness and broke through to the third rank of the Martial Dao in one go!”

The more this person spoke, the more excited he became. He said enviously, “When Divine Constable Yang participated in the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, he had just entered the ninth rank of the Martial Dao not long ago. How long has it been? In less than two years, he has become a Grandmaster!”

“A connate divine weapon... If His Highness rewards me with a connate divine weapon one day, I will be able to advance so quickly as well.”

The man sighed.

The young archer looked envious too.

“Unfortunately, His Highness is good at forging sabers and swords. I use a bow—”

Pfft! Everyone all laughed. “You even dared to think about it!

“His Highness just praised you, but you’re already thinking about His Highness’s divine weapon?

“Wash up and go to sleep. You can have everything in your dreams!”

The few of them joked. They, including the young archer, didn’t take the matter of the divine weapon seriously. There were 30,000 people in the Ten Nations Alliance, but how many people were qualified to have a divine weapon personally forged by the king?

Although they were quite skilled, they were only considered average among the Ten Nations Alliance. It wasn’t so easy to obtain a divine weapon personally forged by the king.

Chapter 537: A Person’s Situation, Heaven Sent Divine Weapon (2)

In the Huaxia Pavilion's Demon Realm branch, Yang Hong, whom everyone had just talked about, was looking at Zhou Shu and the rest awkwardly.

After returning to the camp, Zhou Shu immediately gathered Meng Bai, Wang Mu, Bai Qiancheng, and the others.

He still had to hurry back to Hu Li, so he didn't have time to waste and started to deal with the problem right away.

...

After a round of investigation, they discovered that the person who matched the description of the person Yao Aotian followed was Yang Hong!

In other words, Yang Hong was the one who had brought Yao Aotian back to the camp and let him discover them.

"Your Highness, I didn't mean to," Yang Hong said weakly.

"I know you didn't mean it." Zhou Shu waved his hand. "But this matter also gives us a reminder.

"Generals, you must be more careful when you enter and leave the camp in the future.

"This is the Demon Realm. If our whereabouts are exposed, it will be a disaster.

"Thankfully, Yao Aotian told me this time. Next time, we may not be so lucky."

Meng Bai, Wang Mu, and the others nodded with solemn expressions.

Actually, they were already very careful. But this was the Demon Realm after all. No one could guarantee that there wouldn't be any problems.

"By the way, Your Highness, when we went to look for Ji Lutian, he gave us something," Cao Chenyang suddenly said.

"You went to find Ji Lutian?" Zhou Shu was stunned. *No wonder Ji Lutian sent a hundred and eight demonic beasts to help me.*

He didn't care about this but asked, "What did he give you?"

"A Divine Stone." Cao Chenyang took out a colorful crystal stone and handed it to Zhou Shu.

"Divine Stone?" Zhou Shu took it. He had heard this name in his previous life, but this was the first time he had heard it in this life.

The colorful stone was warm to the touch, like jade. It was crystal clear and very exquisite, making one feel reluctant to part with it.

"Did he say what this Divine Stone was for?" Zhou Shu asked casually.

"No." Cao Chenyang shook his head. "After we brought it back, we asked Deputy Pavilion Master Shi and the others to identify it. They don't know what this Divine Stone is.

“We were wondering how to contact you, Your Highness. But you came back just in time.”

“Leave this Divine Stone with me for now. I’ll study it when I have time later,” Zhou Shu said. There was no information about the Divine Stone among the materials he had mastered.

He casually put the Divine Stone into his Cosmic Bangle and didn’t think too much about it for the time being. It wasn’t appropriate for him to stay here for too long. If he left Hu Li for too long, it would easily arouse the suspicion of the demonic beasts.

“I need someone to pretend to be Yao Aotian.” Zhou Shu’s gaze swept across everyone.

After a round of discussion, the final candidate fell on the former Demon Executing Army lieutenant, Yin Chengshan.

Yin Chengshan was an old acquaintance of Zhou Shu. When he was in the Ten Nations Continent, he was a lieutenant of the Demon Executing Army. He had dealt with demonic beasts for many years and was relatively familiar with them.

The only downside was that his cultivation was a little weak.

Ever since the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament began, everyone who could survive had basically made great progress in their cultivation.

Yin Chengshan was no exception. He was already a fourth-rank martial artist. On the Ten Nations Continent, he was worthy of being praised as young and promising.

But a fourth-rank martial artist was definitely not considered outstanding among the current Ten Nations Alliance.

If not for the fact that he had known Zhou Shu for a long time, Yin Chengshan wouldn’t have been qualified to enter Zhou Shu’s line of sight with his current cultivation.

The few people who acted as scouts outside the cave had higher cultivation levels than Yin Chengshan.

Sometimes, human circumstances were like this. Because they had met Zhou Shu earlier, Yin Chengshan, Yang Hong, Chen Ji, and the others’ lives had been changed directly.

It was the same now. Although pretending to be Yao Aotian was very dangerous, it was definitely an opportunity.

If not for his friendship with Zhou Shu, Yin Chengshan would have never gotten this opportunity.

“Your Highness.” Yin Chengshan looked at Zhou Shu gratefully.

Zhou Shu waved his hand. “Don’t get all excited. I’ll say this first. It is quite risky. First of all, you have to survive the first round.

“I will use my divine ability to let you experience what Yao Aotian has experienced in the past fifty years in your dream. You must guard your clarity and not lose yourself. If you lose your mind, then I’m sorry, but I will personally send you on your way. It’s not too late back out now.”

Although Yin Chengshan was a little confused, he still said without hesitation, “Don’t worry, Your Highness. Yin Chengshan will definitely not let you down and will complete the mission with his life!”

Zhou Shu nodded and didn’t waste any time. He raised his head and pointed between Yin Chengshan’s eyebrows.

Buzz—

A dense white light enveloped Yin Chengshan.

Four hours later, Zhou Shu left the Huaxia Pavilion’s Demon Realm branch.

With him was ‘Yao Aotian’!

At this moment, if any demonic beast saw Yao Aotian, they would definitely not find anything wrong with his appearance and aura. But his eyes were confused, as if he had not woken up.

After entering the dream for 50 years and waking up, Yin Chengshan was completely stunned.

Until now, he wasn’t fully awake.

It had to be said that the difference between people was sometimes greater than between humans and monkeys.

Zhou Shu had used the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique on himself and Lu Wenshuang before.

Although they were both affected to a certain extent, they quickly woke up.

It was much worse for Yin Chengshan.

If he hadn’t remembered that he was Yin Chengshan, Zhou Shu would have suspected that he had completely lost himself in the dream. That way, he might really have thought that he was Yao Aotian.

If that really happened, Zhou Shu would have no choice but to be ruthless...

But from the looks of it, Yin Chengshan should be able to make it through. It was just that he would need some time to recover.

Not long after Zhou Shu and Yin Chengshan left, Meng Bai sized up the young man in front of him. Just as the young man felt a little uncomfortable, he finally spoke. “Your name is Zhang San?”

“Yes,” the young man said. “When I was a child, my family was poor and my parents couldn’t read, so they were a little hasty in choosing my name.”

He was nervous. He didn’t know why Great General Meng had summoned him so suddenly. He had a vague feeling that it had something to do with his encounter with the king. He just didn’t know if it was good or bad.

“You came from a poor family. It’s already very impressive that you have your current cultivation.” Meng Bai nodded. Zhang San was a third-rank martial artist. It was unbelievable that he came from a poor family.

Meng Bai sighed in his heart. *His Highness is indeed his Highness*. He hadn't discovered this talent in the Ten Nations Alliance, but the king had casually discovered him.

"I must thank His Highness for his nurturing," Zhang San said gratefully. "If not for the pills given by His Highness, I would never have become a Grandmaster in my life."

"That's because you've made enough military contributions."

Meng Bai nodded. Not all the soldiers in the army had a share of the Breakthrough Pills and Essence Cleansing Pills that Zhou Shu had given. They were also rewarded accordingly.

Since he had taken both pills, it could only mean that he had earned enough military merits.

Meng Bai looked at Zhang San and said seriously, "Zhang San, His Highness asked me to ask you. He wants to forge an intrinsic divine weapon for you. Are you willing?"

Chapter 538: The Prestige of King Zhou, Forging a Bow (1)

Buzz—

Zhang San felt like his head had been hit by a hammer. He felt like he was about to faint.

However, the feeling wasn't pain but joy.

...

Extreme excitement darkened his vision.

Is this what it feels like to have money fall from the sky?

He was about to be knocked unconscious.

The last time he felt this way was when he was rewarded with a pill that could allow people to break through a realm.

Previously, outside the karst cave, Zhang San and his companions had also said that if they could catch the king's eye, they might be rewarded with a divine weapon personally forged by him.

But he and his companions had only been fantasizing. They never thought that they could really obtain a divine weapon personally forged by the king.

They would be lucky if they could obtain a weapon forged by the Huaxia Pavilion.

Their cultivation levels were not bad. Grandmasters could already be conferred nobility on the Ten Nations Continent.

But their third-rank Martial Dao cultivation was thanks to the two medicinal pills given by the army.

There were no less than dozens of people like them in the Ten Nations Alliance. They were really not very outstanding.

After all, with these two heaven-defying pills, as long as people weren't very weak, their cultivation would quickly increase.

Zhang San's aptitude was not bad. When he entered the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament, he was already a sixth-rank martial artist. In two years, his cultivation had increased by three ranks. It was already very impressive. But compared to Yang Hong, who had advanced from the ninth rank to the third rank, he was greatly inferior.

Countless thoughts flashed through Zhang San's mind in an instant. He even recalled all his experiences since he was born, wanting to find out where he caught the king's eye.

"Zhang San?"

Meng Bai's voice brought Zhang San back to his senses.

The name gave Meng Bai a wry feeling. It was... too hasty.

"Are you willing or not?" Meng Bai continued to ask.

"Yes, I am willing!" Zhang San shouted.

Who in the world could refuse a weapon forged by the king himself?

Zhang San had never dreamed that he would have such an opportunity!

"But..." Zhang San said weakly. "Great General, I don't have money..."

"His Highness is not asking for money." Meng Bai smiled bitterly. "Ever since we entered the Demon Realm, all the weapons provided by the Huaxia Pavilion have been free. It's the same for your weapon.

"If you really have the heart, you should pay more attention when you serve His Highness. That will be enough."

"I, Zhang San, pledge my loyalty to His Highness!" Zhang San shouted.

Actually, he was not from Great Xia. He was from Great Chen.

The Great Chen army that had participated in the Ten Nations Martial Arts Tournament had been completely wiped out. Zhang San was one of the few people left from Great Chen.

If the Great Chen emperor heard what he said, who knew how he would think?

Meng Bai thought, *Zhou Shu's prestige in the Ten Nations Alliance is definitely greater than that of the Ten Nations' emperors.*

Meng Bai was not sure if this was a good thing or a bad thing.

But in the Demon Realm, there was no need to worry about this for the time being. Even if he returned to the Ten Nations Continent, Meng Bai felt that there was no need to worry.

Zhou Shu wasn't a general like them, so he didn't have to worry about having achievements so great that it made the emperors uneasy.

“Alright, since you’re willing, leave the camp now and wait for His Highness two thousand kilometers southwest,” Meng Bai said with a deep voice.

...

In Demon King Hu Li’s territory, Zhou Shu returned to the hollowed-out mountainside with Yin Chengshan.

For a long time, Yao Aotian had been fawning over Zhou Shu, so he didn’t arouse the suspicion of the other demonic beasts.

As long as Yin Chengshan didn’t speak, all the demonic beasts wouldn’t be able to tell that he was not the real Yao Aotian.

On the other hand, Zhang Chunlin and the others had mixed feelings when they saw Zhou Shu walking around with this Great Demon.

He was a Great Demon, yet he was being ordered around by Zhou Shu like a servant. Who was he?

“How’s the progress?” Zhou Shu called Zhang Chunlin over and asked.

Zhang Chunlin had once been the grand minister of the Great Xia Forging Division. After Zhou Shu saved him, he made the best use of him and let him manage the matters.

Zhang Chunlin stole a glance at Yao Aotian. Seeing that Zhou Shu didn’t care, he said, “We’re already processing the forging materials according to your instructions.

“But the amount of forging material you requested is enormous. We’ve only processed two to three percent of it.”

According to the current progress, it will take at least six months to process all the forging materials.

“And that’s only all the ore we have so far. If we add in the ore that’s still coming in, it will only take longer.”

Even when he was the grand minister of the Forging Division, he had never seen so many forging materials.

He really couldn’t understand how Zhou Shu could make demonic beasts work so hard to mine ore for him.

If he could bring back so many forging materials to Great Xia, the Great Xia Forging Division would definitely become the strongest and richest forging division in the Ten Nations!

“This is only the initial stage.” Zhang Chunlin sighed in his heart and continued, “According to your arrangements, there will still be a composite refinement. According to my current estimates, it will take at least five years to complete.”

Zhang Chunlin actually didn’t know what Zhou Shu wanted to forge. But just processing the forging materials would take five to six years, and it took so many people. Just thinking about it made Zhang Chunlin feel that what Zhou Shu wanted to do was extraordinary.

Chapter 539: The Prestige of King Zhou, Forging a Bow (2)

"Five years?" Zhou Shu frowned. "That's too long! Is there a way to speed it up?"

"This is already very fast," Zhang Chunlin said. "Yao Yi, Yao Er, and the others are all very good and are of great help. That's why I dare to say that it will take five years. If there are only us, even with double the time, we might not be able to complete the mission you arranged."

"If you want to shorten the time, you'll have to increase our manpower. But this is the Demon Realm..."

...

Zhang Chunlin shook his head. There were no forgers in the Demon Realm. Yao Yi, Yao Er, and the other demonic beasts who knew how to forge were definitely the odd ones out. It was impossible to find more of them.

Increase manpower? Zhou Shu frowned. There were still some forgers in the Huaxia Pavilion's Demon Realm branch, but they all had their own missions. The supply of weapons for the Ten Nations Alliance couldn't stop.

But he definitely didn't have five years. Demon King Hu Li wouldn't give him that long.

"Let me think about it."

Zhou Shu pondered. He would discuss it with Shi Changsheng later. His attainments in forging were extremely deep, and he might be able to come up with a good solution.

"Stop what you're doing first. You, Yao Wu, and Yao Liu, come and help me," Zhou Shu said.

Ji Lutian was a genius. The Nine Heavens Nine Sections that he had specially trained were for forging. Their cultivation levels were extremely high, and their mastery of single forging techniques was even stronger than most Forging Masters.

With their help, Zhou Shu didn't need to worry about processing the materials at all.

When Zhang Chunlin was working with the Nine Heavens Nine Sections, he felt like the world had gone crazy.

Humanoid demonic beasts were still fine. But seeing these demonic beasts waving their huge claws and refining forging materials, Zhang Chunlin felt like he was dreaming.

How did such a dreamlike thing happen?!

In recent days, Zhang Chunlin had seen too many things that shocked him.

Therefore, although he was extremely shocked to see Zhou Shu draw a star path out of thin air and then forge a weapon, he was able to maintain his composure on the surface.

He realized that no matter what the man in front of him did, he felt that it was very normal. If he really did something ordinary, Zhang Chunlin would feel that it was abnormal.

Who could turn into a demonic beast and toy with a group of Great Demons?

Who could be so successful in the Demon Realm that millions of soldiers of the Demon Realm would help him mine?

Who would think of cheating a demonic beast of their forging materials?

In Zhang Chunlin's eyes, Zhou Shu was not a normal person at all!

With the help of Zhang Chunlin and the Nine Heavens Nine Sections, in just seven or so days, a weapon had already taken shape between Zhou Shu's hands.

When the weapon was formed, dark clouds suddenly gathered in the sky, and the faint sound of thunder came from the dark clouds.

Zhou Shu felt a little helpless. This was the bad thing about forging connate weapons. It was completely impossible to hide.

It was impossible to keep a low profile!

The arrival of every connate divine weapon was earth-shattering. Anyone who was not blind could tell.

But this time, there was no need to worry too much.

He could totally say that it was to forge the Demon King Palace. Anyway, Demon King Hu Li had gone out to gather forging materials and wouldn't be back for a while. He was in charge here now.

Boom!

Lightning gathered in the air, ready to strike at any moment. Zhou Shu's figure swayed as he left the cave and threw the weapon out.

The weapon shone brightly, and the lightning in the sky instantly struck down, completely drowning the weapon.

Zhang Chunlin's expression changed. This was the first time he had seen a connate divine weapon descend into the world.

He wasn't the only one. Yao Wu, Yao Liu, and the other demonic beasts also widened their eyes.

"The descent of a connate divine weapon requires the baptism of heavenly lightning. This is similar to a Great Demon breaking through to the Demon King realm. If it can withstand the heavenly lightning, it can achieve success. If it can't, it will die," Zhou Shu said indifferently.

"A connate divine weapon?" Zhang Chunlin muttered to himself. He had never heard of such a divine weapon before. It was an eye-opener.

But he didn't understand why Zhou Shu would suddenly choose to forge a weapon at a time like this.

Shouldn't he hurry up and think of a way to take away the forging materials here?

Was there any point in forging this weapon?

Boom!

Thunder rumbled. Amid the lightning, the weapon suddenly emitted a seven-colored light. Heaven and earth spiritual energy surged and poured into the weapon.

Zhang Chunlin vaguely saw someone's meridian diagram appear in the shadow of the weapon. The spiritual energy of heaven and earth circulated in the weapon.

Swish—

Zhou Shu reached out and held the weapon in his hand. The colorful light gradually converged. Zhang Chunlin, Yao Wu, Yao Liu, and the other demonic beasts all looked at the weapon.

Even though they usually didn't use weapons, there was still a look of amazement in the eyes of Yao Wu and Yao Liu.

At this moment, there was the sound of rushing wind. A few Great Demons appeared not far away.

Such a commotion still attracted the attention of the nearby Great Demons. They rushed over to check. Even Yao Jun came.

"Nephew Yao Qing, what are you..." A Great Demon looked at the weapon in Zhou Shu's hand in confusion.

Yao Jun blinked and looked at the weapon in Zhou Shu's hand. *Didn't Lord Yao Qing say that we demonic beasts shouldn't use human weapons? Why is he learning how to forge weapons like humans?*

To demonic beasts, they didn't consider why there would be such a commotion when forging. They didn't know much about forging to begin with.

"Fishing." Zhou Shu calmly looked at the Great Demons, Yao Jun, and the other first-rank demonic beasts.

"Fishing?"

All the demonic beasts looked at Zhou Shu in confusion. They could understand the word fishing, but what did the weapon in Zhou Shu's hand have to do with fishing?

"I need the help of human forgers to build the Demon King Palace for Demon King Hu Li. Isn't there a hidden human army in the Demon Realm? I want to use this to lure them out," Zhou Shu explained.

The demonic beasts were enlightened. So, it was like this. But what did this have to do with fishing?

They couldn't figure it out.

But it wasn't important. Yao Qing must have his reasons for doing what he did.

"Everyone, disperse. Go about your business!" Yao Jun shouted.

The demonic beasts were simple-minded. They were easily fooled, but Zhang Chunlin was a human and an experienced official. He could naturally tell that Zhou Shu's words were perfunctory.

Using a weapon to lure the human army out? Wouldn't that make them look like fools?

Could anything be related to the forging of the Demon King Palace? Most importantly, the demonic beasts didn't suspect anything!

If he had known that demonic beasts were so easy to deceive, he, Zhang Chunlin, would have escaped long ago.

He had forgotten that demonic beasts wouldn't believe his words so easily.

After the demonic beasts dispersed, Yao Wu, Yao Liu, and the other demonic beasts went to do their work. Zhang Chunlin lowered his voice and whispered, "What exactly do you want to do? Why did you suddenly forge a bow?"

Zhang Chunlin couldn't suppress his curiosity.

Zhou Shu glanced at him and said casually, "Don't ask so many questions."

"Why can't I ask? We're on the same boat now!" Zhang Chunlin whispered. "I have to know your plan! This concerns the lives of more than a hundred of us!"

"I saved your lives. If anyone doesn't want to listen to me, it's simple. I'll just send you back again," Zhou Shu said coldly.

Zhang Chunlin was furious. His expression changed. But in the end, he didn't dare to be too unyielding.

"I didn't mean it that way. I just want to know what you're planning. That way, we can play along. Otherwise, we might ruin your plan." Zhang Chunlin tried his best to speak in a calm tone.

"No need. All you have to do is follow orders," Zhou Shu said indifferently. "Do your job. I'm going out."

With that, he left the cave and instantly disappeared, leaving Zhang Chunlin with a dark expression.

Chapter 540: The Great Destroyer Heavenly Bow, The Former Grand Minister's Invention (1)

Zhou Shu's attitude toward Zhang Chunlin was very unyielding. First, after hearing that Zhang Chunlin was the former grand minister of the Great Xia Forging Division, he felt that Zhang Chunlin wasn't someone important. Second, he had done it on purpose.

He didn't trust Zhang Chunlin yet. There were some things that he wouldn't tell him.

Of course, most importantly, Zhou Shu wasn't afraid that Zhang Chunlin would disobey his orders at all. If he really dared to bring the tricks of the bureaucracy here, Zhou Shu wouldn't mind giving him to the demonic beasts.

...

After leaving the cave, Zhou Shu flew in a direction at a speed that matched Yao Qing's cultivation.

After flying dozens of kilometers and noticing that the gazes observing him had already disappeared, he increased his speed and instantly arrived hundreds of kilometers away.

Zhang San lay in the grass, his spiritual essence fluctuations suppressed to the lowest level. Even if there were demonic beasts passing by, if he couldn't detect them, they likely wouldn't discover him.

Zhang San had mastered this ability when he was a scout in the Ten Nations Continent. This ability had saved his life many times.

Zhang San had been waiting here for several days, but Zhou Shu had never appeared.

Fortunately, he had always been patient. He was just wondering why the king had taken a fancy to him.

What exactly was the divine weapon the king wanted to give him? Could it be a legendary connate divine weapon?

Although he knew he was being delusional, he couldn't control the thoughts in his mind.

He shook his head with a wry smile at the thought.

"What are you thinking about? Why are you shaking your head?"

Suddenly, a voice sounded in his ear.

Zhang San was shocked. He jumped up and subconsciously drew his bow.

"Your Highness!"

Seeing the person behind him, Zhang San heaved a sigh of relief and put down his bow.

"Well hidden." Zhou Shu nodded with admiration. "Try this bow and see if it suits you."

"Thank you, Your Highness!" Zhang San was excited, but he still bowed to Zhou Shu before reaching out to take the bow.

He felt a slight weight on his arm as the bow came into his hand. It was heavy!

Buzz—

Zhang San's arm trembled as he drew his bow. But the longbow was only half drawn!

Zhang San didn't believe it. With his cultivation, he could draw a bow no matter how tight it was!

Activating his spiritual essence, he tried again, but it was still only half open.

"It hasn't recognized its master yet. It can only be drawn open halfway at most." Zhou Shu smiled.

"You're already very capable to be able to draw it open by half."

"I'll tell you how to refine this bow."

Zhou Shu told Zhang San the method to refine the connate divine weapon. Zhang San's face was full of surprise. He followed Zhou Shu's instructions and began to refine the longbow.

Zhou Shu spread his divine sense and personally protected him.

A moment later, the longbow flowed like water from Zhang San's pores into his meridians.

Zhang San let out a painful groan. Then his spiritual essence began to boil, and muffled sounds came from his body.

Bang!

Blood sprayed from all his pores. He opened his mouth and spat out a mouthful of blood. At this moment, his aura began to soar.

Zhou Shu's lips curled up slightly as he raised his hand to suppress the sound of his cultivation breakthrough.

After another two hours, Zhang San's aura gradually stabilized.

Zhang San opened his eyes, and a seemingly tangible light flashed in them. He opened his mouth in surprise. The next moment, he knelt on one knee toward Zhou Shu with a grateful expression. "Your Highness."

"Get up," Zhou Shu said. "Just don't scold me later."

"How is that possible!" Zhang San said seriously. "Your Highness has given me a new life. I will definitely not be disrespectful to Your Highness! Even if Your Highness wants my life, I will definitely not have any complaints!"

"Your name is Zhang San?" Zhou Shu looked at the young man in front of him and smiled. "What a good name."

Zhou Shu continued, "Alright, back to the topic. My Great Destroyer Heavenly Bow isn't so easy to obtain."

"What would you like me to do, Your Highness?" Zhang San said with a serious expression, "I'll do anything!"

He was now very sure that the Great Destroyer Heavenly Bow that the king had given him was a legendary connate divine weapon!

This was a connate divine weapon. It was said that in the Armament Manual of the Heavenly Mountain Villa, there were less than ten connate divine weapons.

This Great Destroyer Heavenly Bow was one of the few connate divine weapons in the world.

His Highness had given me such a precious weapon just like that. I can't repay this immense favor even with ten thousand deaths!

Zhang San only had one thought—the king had treated him as a state soldier, and he would definitely repay him!

"I'm currently hiding among the demonic beasts to do some important things. I need someone to cooperate with me," Zhou Shu said. "You're good at archery and can snipe from afar. You're the best person."

"Your cultivation was a little weak, but the Great Destroyer Heavenly Bow can more or less make up for it."

Zhang San listened attentively to Zhou Shu speaking. "From today onward, I want you to assassinate a Great Demon of the Demon Realm."

"Assassinate a Great Demon?" Zhang San was stunned and puzzled.

"That's right," Zhou Shu said. "This mission is very dangerous. With the cultivation of Great Demons, even if you shoot arrows from dozens of kilometers away, they might be able to catch up to you."

"If you're afraid of danger, you can refuse." Zhou Shu looked at Zhang San.