

Canon 91

Chapter 91: Standard Armament Manual

“Superintendent Zhou, if you have anything to say, just say it. I’m flustered by your behavior.” Yang Hong sat cautiously in his chair.

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Logically speaking, he was a constable of the Divine Constable Bureau and had a chance of becoming a divine constable in the future. When facing a workshop superintendent, even if he wasn’t high and mighty, at least he wouldn’t be so fearful.

Strictly speaking, a constable of the Divine Constable Bureau had a higher rank than a workshop superintendent of the Forging Division.

But once he saw this person in front of him, Yang Hong involuntarily recalled the scene of that day.

The second master of the Mi family, an apprentice whom the emperor had specially allowed to attend the military parade, suspected to have an unclear relationship with the princess...

Any one of these points was enough for Yang Hong to attach importance to Zhou Shu. No matter how much attention he gave Zhou Shu, it was not excessive!

“Constable Yang, we can be considered acquaintances after what happened. There’s no need to be so nervous when old friends meet and chat, right?” Zhou Shu smiled.

“Let me introduce you. This is Lieutenant Cheng Yong of the Huben Troops. He’s also my friend.”

Cheng Yong was a little flattered as he stood up and cupped his hands. “Nice to meet you!”

“Yang Hong.” Yang Hong cupped his hands in return.

He still felt a bit strange. Zhou Shu had invited him to drink for no reason, so he had no choice but to come.

What was the meaning of this?

“Gentlemen, I’m a little short on cash, so I can only treat the two of you to a drink here. Please excuse me if I have been inconsiderate in any way,” Zhou Shu said with a smile.

“No, no. This place is very good,” Yang Hong and Cheng Yong said at the same time.

Yang Hong’s imagination ran wild. Is Superintendent Zhou planning to borrow money from me?

There is no reason for him to do so. Why would the second master of the Mi family lack money?

Everyone knows that the Mi family is the richest family in Great Xia.

“I still have some savings. If Superintendent Zhou needs it urgently—” Yang Hong said.

Zhou Shu was speechless. What is Yang Hong thinking?

Does he think I want to borrow money from him because I said I'm short on cash?

It was true that he didn't have any money on hand now, but he wasn't so poor that he needed to borrow money from others. If he really wanted to borrow money, wouldn't it be better to borrow from Mi Zhifu than to find them?

"Superintendent Zhou, my expenditure is usually a lot. I don't have much savings, but I can still give you one or two hundred taels. I just don't know if it will help..." Cheng Yong chimed in.

Zhou Shu was rendered speechless. Why are you joining in the fun?!

"Misunderstanding! This is a misunderstanding!" Zhou Shu said. "I'm not looking to borrow money from you.

"I'm really just looking for you guys to drink and chat!"

"Really?" Yang Hong looked doubtful.

One who was unaccountably solicitous was hiding evil intentions!

He knew that he didn't have much of a relationship with Zhou Shu, and his last interaction with him was not very positive.

He didn't believe that Zhou Shu would drink with him for no reason.

"Really," Zhou Shu said sincerely. "However, I do have something that I need your help with."

That was right.

Instead, Yang Hong heaved a sigh of relief and said, "If there's anything, please say it. I will definitely help if I can."

Yang Hong didn't reject, but he also didn't over promise.

"How's the investigation of Xiao Zongshui's case going?" Zhou Shu asked.

Although he had used the Spring Embroidered Saber to exchange for some information from Ma Fengzhang, it was impossible for Ma Fengzhang to always be his source of information. The so-called strategic partner was just Zhou Shu fooling Sun Gongping.

Zhou Shu really had no way of knowing about such cases.

"Have you caught the murderer?" Zhou Shu continued asking.

"No." Yang Hong shook his head. This was no secret either. He opened his mouth and said, "Xiao Zongshui and Zhen Cai died because their souls were destroyed by someone. The person who attacked has a cultivation level no lower than the third rank in the Martial Dao!

"According to our deductions, the two of them must have seen something they shouldn't have seen and were killed by an expert. There is no way of investigating a third-rank expert."

Even the boss of the Divine Constable Bureau, Ma Fengzhang, was only a third-rank martial artist.

A third-rank martial artist had already transcended mortality. Ordinary laws could no longer restrain them.

Moreover, if a third-rank martial artist wanted to hide their whereabouts, there was no way the Divine Constable Bureau would be able to find them.

“The case is closed just like that?” Zhou Shu asked, relieved. Although he was sure that he had not left any traces, who could guarantee that the Divine Constable Bureau didn’t have any special methods?

“For now,” Yang Hong said. “There are countless cases like this one in the Divine Constable Bureau. What can we do if we can’t conclude it?”

“What happened last time was a misunderstanding. I apologize for offending you, Superintendent Zhou.” Yang Hong raised his wine cup and downed it in one gulp.

He thought that Zhou Shu had brought up this matter because he wanted to settle scores with him. After all, he had almost tortured Zhou Shu back then. Anyone else would have been furious.

Yang Hong was also an open-minded person. Although he had a clear conscience, when it was time to lower his head, he would do it unequivocally.

A case was a case. But when it didn’t involve a case, there was no need to offend someone like Zhou Shu, who obviously had a powerful background.

“Constable Yang, you are being too polite. You just have public interest at heart.” Zhou Shu shook his head. He raised his cup and drank a cup of wine. “I admire you greatly.”

He changed the topic and continued, “I’m just asking casually. After all, the victim is one of my colleagues. But this isn’t the favor I’d like to ask for your help.”

“Please say it, Superintendent Zhou. I am a boor, but I will not hesitate to help you.” Cheng Yong patted his chest.

He had originally wanted to befriend Zhou Shu. Now that an opportunity had presented itself, why would he hesitate?

“Actually, it’s not a big deal.” Zhou Shu smiled and gestured for the two of them to eat. “As you know, I am the superintendent of a Forging Division workshop. Our workshop has our own tasks.

“I recently developed a new standard weapon. We have to sell this weapon ourselves. However, I don’t know many people in the forces. Can you introduce someone to me?”

Yang Hong and Cheng Yong looked at each other and saw the meaning in each other’s eyes.

Although the two of them could be considered officials, they were about the same as Zhou Shu.

They were completely incapable of reaching out to the higher-ranking officials.

They had absolutely no connections to the people purchasing weapons in the army.

“Superintendent Zhou, it’s not that I don’t want to help. It’s just that... I’m not a soldier.” Yang Hong smiled bitterly.

“The two of you have misunderstood. I don’t want you to help me promote it.” Zhou Shu could tell that the two of them were in a difficult position.

He smiled and said, “I want the two of you to help me advertise the power of my saber.”

“Among your friends, help me publicize this saber and let everyone know about it.”

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“Is this the saber?” Cheng Yong saw the saber in Zhou Shu’s hand.

The Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber!

Yin Wuyou had already instructed the workshop superintendents not to reveal anything about the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber.

But she had forgotten about Zhou Shu.

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Who would have thought that Zhou Shu would be so anxious to promote the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber!

Thankfully, Zhou Shu didn’t recite any poetry this time.

“Yes, this saber is called the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber. Its power is similar to the Divine Constable Bureau’s Spring Embroidered Saber,” Zhou Shu said. “Our grand minister appreciates this saber very much. Even His Majesty says that this saber is very good.”

The last sentence was just Zhou Shu blabbering. In any case, there was no way to verify it. How could they confront the emperor?

However, the emperor really did say it.

“It’s similar to our Spring Embroidered Sabers?” Yang Hong’s interest was piqued.

Not long ago, the Divine Constable Bureau had distributed the first batch of Spring Embroidered Sabers to the constables who had yet to enter the ranks. Yang Hong had also received one. This Spring Embroidered Saber was much better than the sabers they used before.

Not only was it more powerful, but it was also beautiful and suited his temperament.

He sized up the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber with a look of approval. This saber’s appearance was indeed as beautiful as the Spring Embroidered Saber.

“This is a good saber.” Yang Hong nodded. After all, he was a bit more quick-witted than Cheng Yong, so he quickly understood Zhou Shu’s intentions.

“Superintendent Zhou, are you trying to make the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber known to the generals of the Country Protector Army so that they will come buy it?”

“Exactly.” Zhou Shu nodded and gave him a thumbs up.

There were too many types of standard weapons. Deeply buried gold couldn't shine. If not for the fact that there was no advertising industry in this world, Zhou Shu would have gone to advertise it.

"Superintendent Zhou, you've found the wrong people." Yang Hong laughed. "You don't even need us."

"What do you mean?" Zhou Shu asked in confusion.

"Superintendent Zhou, have you forgotten about the Heavenly Mountain Villa's Standard Armament Manual?" Yang Hong answered with a question.

"Heavenly Mountain Villa? Standard Armament Manual?" Zhou Shu felt like he had heard it before, but he didn't have a deep impression of it. He cupped his hands and asked, "I would like to hear the details."

Yang Hong was somewhat puzzled. A workshop superintendent of the Forging Division didn't know about the Standard Armament Manual?

Cheng Yong didn't have this doubt. He knew that Zhou Shu had started out as a Forging Apprentice and didn't know much about these things, so he explained, "The Heavenly Mountain Villa is a mysterious organization. No one knows where they are. However, they release the armament manual ranking every year."

"Does everyone trust the armament manual rankings they release?" Zhou Shu was puzzled.

He could understand the armament manual. Was it similar to his Legendary Armament Canon?

Or was it similar to the Forging Division's armament manual?

The Forging Division also had an armament manual internally that recorded all the armaments of the Forging Division. It could be considered a product introduction.

As for rankings, Zhou Shu had seen quite a few in his previous life, but not many had credibility.

"Of course they do. The armament manual rankings announced by the Heavenly Mountain Villa have never been wrong," Cheng Yong said.

"That powerful?" Zhou Shu exclaimed.

Yang Hong nodded "The Heavenly Mountain Villa could be said to have the most powerful information channels on the continent. There aren't many things that they don't know. The Heavenly Mountain Villa's armament manual is split into the Standard Armament Manual and the Ranked Armament Manual. The Standard Armament Manual records all the standard armaments in the world. In my opinion, this Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber and the Spring Embroidered Saber can be ranked at the top of the Standard Armament Manual.. When the time comes, you won't have to worry that no one will know about them."

Chapter 92: Mysterious, Legendary

"The Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber can also make it onto the rankings?" Zhou Shu said in surprise. "This saber was just forged not too long ago. It doesn't even have any battle achievements."

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“Superintendent Zhou, I’m afraid you underestimate the Heavenly Mountain Villa.” Yang Hong smiled.

“Let’s put it this way. As long as your saber has appeared in front of people, it will not escape the eyes of the Heavenly Mountain Villa. Nobody knows who their spies are. The people around us, even Lieutenant Cheng and me, might be spies from the Heavenly Mountain Villa.”

“That exaggerated?” Zhou Shu said. “Great Xia allows their spies to exist?”

He remembered that when Great Xia mobilized their forces to eliminate the spies of the enemy nation Great Wei, they had caused a bloodbath.

“I don’t know what the authorities are thinking. But according to my understanding, the Heavenly Mountain Villa doesn’t belong to any country. They’ve never done anything more than release the armament manual rankings. So no country is willing to attack them,” Yang Hong said.

“Secondly, no one knows how many spies the Heavenly Mountain Villa has. Targeting them will do more harm than good. Therefore, every country tacitly acknowledges their existence.”

Zhou Shu nodded. Yang Hong’s explanation might not necessarily be the truth, but it sounded reasonable. There was no point in investigating this matter.

However, he was very interested in this Standard Armament Manual. If it was really a ranking with credibility, then if the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber could make it onto the rankings, it would be able to make a name for itself.

At that time, there would be no need to worry about not having the Country Protector Army purchase them.

“The Heavenly Mountain Villa’s armament manual rankings are released once every year?” Zhou Shu asked.

“Yes. The Standard Armament Manual is released in October of every year. The Ranked Armament Manual is released later, usually in February of the following year.” Yang Hong nodded. “It’s the end of September now. In a few days, it’ll be October. At that time, the new Standard Armament Manual will be announced.”

“That’s just a few days away,” Zhou Shu said in a low voice.

It was fine to wait a few days. A few days wouldn’t make a difference.

“This Heavenly Mountain Villa, when they announced the armament manual, did no one think of tracking them?” Zhou Shu asked curiously.

The power of the Great Xia Imperial Court was not weak, and the other countries on the land were also very powerful. It was somewhat strange that these countries didn’t know the origin of the Heavenly Mountain Villa.

“People have tried it before,” Yang Hong said, “But it’s useless. No one has deciphered the Heavenly Rock used by the Heavenly Mountain Villa to announce the armament manuals. No one knows how the words appeared on the stone.

“There were even people guarding the Heavenly Rock day and night to see if anyone approached, but no one discovered anything.”

“Heavenly Rock?” Zhou Shu said.

“The Heavenly Rock is a one hundred feet tall boulder. Every year, when the time comes, words will automatically appear on the Heavenly Rock. These are the armament manuals.”

“In other words, no one has ever seen the people from the Heavenly Mountain Villa? No one even knows if it’s one person or a group of people?” Zhou Shu asked.

Yang Hong nodded.

“Interesting,” Zhou Shu murmured. A mysterious organization, or perhaps a mysterious person, was actually able to announce rankings that everyone acknowledged.

This was not something an ordinary force could do.

However, when he thought about the existence of supernatural powers in this world, it didn’t seem that strange.

Who knew what strange powers existed in this world?

According to what Zhou Shu knew, martial arts experts above the third rank all possessed incredible abilities.

“Constable Yang, where is the Heavenly Rock that you mentioned? How will we know when the armament manual appears on it?” Zhou Shu asked.

“Don’t worry about that. Not only Great Xia, but all the other countries will send people to pay attention to the Heavenly Rock. Once the armament manual is released, it will immediately be spread throughout the world. At that time, it will be hard not to know,” Yang Hong said. “As for the Heavenly Rock, it’s on the shores of the Endless Sea at the edge of the Land of Command.”

The place Yang Hong spoke of was ten thousand miles away from Great Xia. It was probably impossible for Zhou Zhu to see it with his own eyes.

It seemed like he could only wait for the armament manual to be spread around in the world before he knew if the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber could make it onto the rankings.

Speaking of which, although there were many standard weapons in this world, the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber would definitely be able to make it onto the rankings.

Not only the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber, but also the Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, Horse Slaying Saber, and the Spring Embroidered Saber...

Only the Huben Saber was slightly weaker. But even if it was weaker, it was definitely not weak.

“Constable Yang, if the weapons I’ve developed are ranked at the top of the Standard Armament Manual, would that be considered as bringing glory to the country?”

“Will the Imperial Court reward handsomely?”

“This...” Yang Hong opened his mouth. He had never heard of such a reward.

“Forget it. His Majesty is too stingy. I won’t count on it,” Zhou Shu muttered while shaking his head.

If he rewarded them with a bunch of useless books again, it would be a disappointment.

Although Zhou Shu’s voice was quiet, Yang Hong still heard it clearly.

He secretly rolled his eyes and cursed in his heart. In this world, only the second master of the Mi family would dare to say that His Majesty is stingy...

“Many thanks to the two of you. If not for you two, I really wouldn’t know that there are places like the Heavenly Mountain Villa and things like the armament manuals in this world.” Zhou Shu raised his cup and smiled.

“You’re too kind, Superintendent Zhou.” Yang Hong and Cheng Yong raised their glasses at the same time.

These things were no secret. Even if they didn’t say anything, Zhou Shu would find out sooner or later.

“Right, how much do the two of you know about Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng?” Zhou Shu casually asked.

“Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng?” Cheng Yong spoke first.

“Yes.” Zhou Shu nodded.

“Grand Craftsman Zhu is a legendary figure in Great Xia,” Cheng Yong said seriously, a respectful expression on his face. “If we’re talking about Grand Craftsman Zhu, his background is similar to yours, Superintendent Zhou.”

As soon as he said this, he hurriedly explained, “I’m not saying that you have a humble background...”

“You don’t have to explain. I understand. Go on.” Zhou Shu shook his head.

Yang Hong looked at Zhou Shu and Cheng Yong strangely. He thought that Cheng Yong didn’t know Zhou Shu’s true identity.

On the surface, he appeared to be a Forging Apprentice, but his real identity was the second master of the Mi family.

As for why he became a Forging Apprentice, he was probably rich and willful.

Cheng Yong continued, “In the beginning, Grand Craftsman Zhu was a blacksmith among the commoners. He was the kind of blacksmith who helped people forge iron pots, hoes, and kitchen knives.

“Later on, it was said that he happened to save a Forging Master. Then this Forging Master imparted his forging techniques to him. From then on, he started his legendary career.

“In just five years, he became a Forging Master. In another three years, he became a High-level Forging Master. In less than ten years, he successfully forged a heaven-grade weapon and became a Grand Craftsman!

“From the moment he came into contact with true weapon forging techniques, he became a Grand Craftsman in less than twenty years. It is said that his speed is ranked among the top among all Grand Craftsmen.

“Furthermore, most of the Grand Craftsmen of the Forging Division have the support of their families. Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng, on the other hand, is different. He truly advanced without any support.”

As Zhou Shu listened to Cheng Yong’s description, he began to compare himself to the Zhu Chuanfeng he knew.

The Zhu Chuanfeng he had come into contact with was a tyrannical and unreasonable person. He was even somewhat unscrupulous.

However, this didn’t seem to contradict his hard work.

For a person to climb from the lowest level to the position of Grand Craftsman, this was definitely not something determined solely by talent. Without some means, it was impossible to accomplish.

Such a person might not be a good person if he was judged based on conventional morals.

However, it was undeniable that such a person was definitely not simple.

Zhu Chuanfeng is probably more frightening than Cheng Yong’s description. If he took out those heaven-grade weapons in his secret chamber, it would shock the world, Zhou Shu thought. He was not completely ignorant about forging.

Even for Grand Craftsmen, the number of heaven-grade weapons they could forge in their lifetime was extremely limited.

Ordinary Grand Craftsmen could forge three to five heaven-grade weapons in their lifetime, and this was already an achievement.

To be able to forge ten or more heaven-grade weapons, he was definitely a top-notch Grand Craftsman.

Zhu Chuanfeng had seven heaven-grade weapons in his secret chamber. In addition to the ones he had previously made public, it had already surpassed ten.

With such strength, there was probably no one in Great Xia who could compare to him.

Even in the entire continent, there were no more than a handful of people who surpassed him when it came to forging heaven-grade weapons.

But why did Zhu Chuanfeng keep those heaven-grade weapons a secret?

Even if he was unwilling to sell, it didn’t explain why he didn’t announce his forging results.

The more he thought about it, the more suspicious he became. Even if Zhu Chuanfeng wanted to leave some trump cards for himself, one or two heaven-grade weapons would be enough. Seven was too many.

“It is as Lieutenant Cheng said,” Yang Hong added. “Before Grand Craftsman Zhu became a forger, he was a blacksmith in a village. After receiving just a few days of teachings from a Forging Master, he became a Grand Craftsman. Countless Forging Masters view him as their idol. I heard that in a few years, Grand Craftsman Zhu might become the strongest Grand Craftsman in Great Xia.”

“The Forging Master that he saved is also extraordinary. In just a few days, he created a Grand Craftsman,” Zhou Shu said.

Yang Hong and Cheng Yong were stunned. No one had ever thought of this from this angle. It was said that Grand Craftsman Zhu was extremely talented, but very few people mentioned the Forging Master who made him a Grand Craftsman.

“Do you know who that Forging Master is? Is he still alive?” Zhou Shu asked in a low voice.

“I really don’t know.” Yang Hong pondered for a moment and shook his head. “I’ve heard this rumor many times, but I’ve never heard anyone mention the name of this Forging Master.”

“Grand Craftsman Zhu has also mentioned this experience many times in public. But he has never mentioned the name of the Forging Master that he treats as his master, or he just wants to keep the honored one a secret.

“Superintendent Zhou, if you’re interested in Grand Craftsman Zhu’s legend, why don’t you go to the Forging Division’s archives and take a look? Every Grand Craftsman’s details are recorded in the documents of the Forging Division,” Yang Hong added.

Chapter 93: Is This Your New Work?

The Forging Division has records of Grand Craftsmen? Zhou Shu had forgotten about this.

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It was mainly because he didn’t know many people in the Forging Division. Other than the grand minister, Yin Wuyou, and her subordinates, he didn’t know any of the higher-ups of the Forging Division.

The Forging Division still had archives. If Yang Hong hadn’t mentioned it, Zhou Shu wouldn’t have even known.

But when he thought about it, it made sense.

Although not every Grand Craftsman was under the jurisdiction of the Forging Division, the Forging Division definitely had detailed information about them. Grand Craftsmen were already high-ranking officials of the Imperial Court, so how could the Imperial Court not have their records?

Zhou Shu thought, I really have to find a way to take a look at the Forging Division’s archives.

He hadn’t asked about Zhu Chuanfeng on a whim. He was seriously investigating.

Although Zhu Chuanfeng hadn't done anything to him since the monthly workshop examination, he knew that Zhu Chuanfeng wouldn't give up so easily.

As the saying goes, one should not do anything more than three times. The first time, Zhu Chuanfeng had sent Xiao Zongshui and Zhen Cai, but both of them had died.

The second time, Zhu Chuanfeng had incited the four ministers of the Forging Division to attack the 0th Workshop, but they had also returned empty-handed.

If he made a move for the third time, it would probably be like a strike of thunder.

Grand Craftsmen were not ordinary people. Their capability was definitely beyond the imagination of ordinary people.

It could be said that if a Grand Craftsman was willing to go all out, they could even ask a third-rank Grandmaster to help them!

A Grandmaster would be able to solve 99% of problems!

Zhu Chuanfeng might have looked down on Zhou Shu previously because he was just a mere Forging Apprentice. But after two failures, he definitely wouldn't think that way anymore. When he struck again, he would definitely treat it seriously.

This was why Zhou Shu was trying his best to investigate Zhu Chuanfeng.

If he didn't deal with this knife hanging above his head, he would never be able to rest at ease.

To be honest, if not for the fact that killing a Grand Craftsman would affect him too much, Zhou Shu would have already killed Zhu Chuanfeng.

To assassinate Zhu Chuanfeng wasn't too difficult for Zhou Shu.

The difficult part of this matter was how he would escape after killing Zhu Chuanfeng!

Even though Zhou Shu could be considered someone whose name was already known to Emperor Yuan Feng, he was still incomparable to a Grand Craftsman.

If others found out that he had killed Zhu Chuanfeng, there would only be one outcome waiting for him—to pay with his life.

Zhou Shu raised his wine cup and said to Yang Hong and Cheng Yong, "Thank you for today. Come, let's drink."

He didn't ask any more questions about Zhu Chuanfeng. If he asked too much, it would easily arouse suspicion.

Moreover, with Yang Hong's and Cheng Yong's positions, they probably wouldn't know too much.

Subsequently, under Zhou Shu's deliberate guidance, the atmosphere became more and more relaxed. In the end, Yang Hong and Cheng Yong were both a little drunk.

After calling for a sedan chair to send them away, Zhou Shu staggered out of the restaurant.

After walking two streets away, a white mist steamed from his body, and he reeked of alcohol.

A moment later, Zhou Shu no longer looked drunk, and his eyes were frighteningly bright.

He looked in the direction of the Zhu residence, then in another direction. After a moment of hesitation, he walked in another direction.

He had already investigated the Zhu residence. If he went there again, he probably wouldn't be able to find anything new.

Based on what he had found inside the Zhu residence alone, Zhou Shu was unable to deduce what evidence he could use against Zhu Chuanfeng.

There were too many heaven-grade weapons in the secret chamber?

Even if this was made public, Zhu Chuanfeng could always explain that he was just hiding his strength. No one had a rule that every weapon forged by a Grand Craftsman had to be made known to the public.

In the end, Zhu Chuanfeng's collection of heaven-grade weapons wasn't actually a problem. It was just that Zhou Shu's intuition told him that this didn't make sense, so he decided to investigate further.

If not for the fact that he was at odds with Zhu Chuanfeng, Zhou Shu wouldn't even spend time investigating him.

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"Your Highness, Superintendent Zhou is requesting an audience."

In the princess's residence, Yin Wuyou was sitting in front of a window and reading a book with her hair down. The candlelight shone on her flawless side profile, giving her a tranquil beauty.

"Now?" Yin Wuyou raised an eyebrow. "What time is it?"

"Seven in the evening," Haitang replied.

"It's already so late. What's so urgent?" Yin Wuyou frowned.

Seven o'clock in the evening was naturally not too late in Zhou Shu's previous world.

But this world was similar to the ancient times on Earth. People worked when the sun rose and rested when the sun set. Seven in the evening was indeed not considered early.

"Superintendent Zhou didn't say." Haitang shook her head.

"Where is he now?" Yin Wuyou asked.

"He's waiting in the front hall."

"Let's go and meet him." Yin Wuyou put down the book in her hand and stood up.

Just as she lifted her foot, she paused for a moment and asked Haitang to get her a golden hairpin. She tied her hair up simply before continuing to walk.

Zhou Shu was sitting in the front hall of the princess's residence, sipping some tea. From the corner of his eye, he saw Yin Wuyou walking in.

It wasn't Zhou Shu's first time seeing Yin Wuyou, but every time he saw her, he would be stunned.

Yin Wuyou was dressed differently today. Perhaps it was because she was in her residence, but she was dressed very casually.

She was wearing a simple white dress, and her hair was casually tied up behind her head, revealing her slender neck.

"The night is quiet; they flourish like light, saturated with the cold moonlight," Zhou Shu couldn't help saying, lost in thought.

"What did you say?" Yin Wuyou was already three feet away from Zhou Shu. A delicate fragrance entered Zhou Shu's nostrils.

"Nothing." Zhou Shu shook his head. He had seen the world in his previous life. What kind of beauty had he not seen? She was just a little girl!

Even so, Zhou Shu couldn't help but take a few more glances at Yin Wuyou.

Yin Wuyou didn't continue probing and instead asked, "Why are you here so late at night? Has the 0th Workshop developed a new weapon?"

"It's not that easy to develop new weapons." Zhou Shu wanted to roll his eyes. A standard weapon didn't require much skill, but this was only relative to a ranked weapon. However, from a certain point of view, it also required skill.

It wasn't something that could be developed in one day.

"The 0th Workshop just produced the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber. Grand Minister, do you have to rush me like this?" Zhou Shu said.

"In that case, why are you here?" Yin Wuyou asked.

"There's a small matter that I would like to trouble you with," Zhou Shu said while cupping his hands.

"Speak." Yin Wuyou walked to a chair in the hall and sat down. Following her movements, a graceful silhouette flashed past.

"It's like this. I want to take a look at the relevant information regarding the Grand Craftsmen of our Forging Division." Zhou Shu went straight to the point.

If he only wanted to see Zhu Chuanfeng's, it might be a bit suspicious. But Zhu Chuanfeng wasn't the only Grand Craftsman in Great Xia.

"Information about the Grand Craftsmen? What for?" Yin Wuyou didn't suspect anything.

"Although I'm only a Forging Apprentice now, I have my dreams. I also dream of becoming a Grand Craftsman one day," Zhou Shu said.

“As the saying goes, seeing the talents makes one think twice. I want to see the experiences of all the Grand Craftsmen so that I can learn from them.”

This was an excuse that Zhou Shu had come up with. Although it sounded a bit fake, it also made sense.

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“I see,” Yin Wuyou said lightly.

It was a good thing that Zhou Shu wanted to improve. If he could really become a Grand Craftsman, it would be a blessing for Great Xia.

As for looking through the experiences of Grand Craftsmen, it was hard to say if they would be of any use.

Yin Wuyou didn't doubt Zhou Shu's intentions. Although the information regarding Grand Craftsmen was considered confidential, Zhou Shu belonged to the Forging Division, so there was no harm in taking a look.

“Ever since Great Xia was established, there have been a total of 1,398 Grand Craftsmen. Each one of them has experienced enough to write a thick book. Do you want to read all their information?” Yin Wuyou solemnly said.

There are actually so many Grand Craftsmen in the history of Great Xia? Zhou Shu was slightly surprised.

But after he thought about it, it was normal. Great Xia had existed for nearly a thousand years. Even if there was only one Grand Craftsman every year, there would be at least a thousand of them. A thousand of them were scattered throughout the long river of history. This wasn't a lot.

One had to know that in Zhou Shu's previous life, China had been founded several decades ago, and there were thousands of academicians in both the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Grand Craftsmen were more valuable than the academicians of the two academies.

“There are so many. I'm sure I won't be able to finish them all in a while,” Zhou Shu said.

The information of more than a thousand Grand Craftsmen was equivalent to more than a thousand books. One year might not even be enough if he read all of them once.

“I'll pick a few to read first.”

“Tell me who you want to read about. I'll get someone to bring the information over.”

In the Forging Division, Zhou Shu was the only person under her direct control. She naturally wouldn't reject such a small request.

This was nothing to her.

Zhou Shu pondered for a moment. He didn't know much about Great Xia's Grand Craftsmen. There weren't many names that he could name.

“Grand Minister, are there any Grand Craftsmen who came from ordinary backgrounds?” Zhou Shu asked.

Yin Wuyou glanced at Zhou Shu and understood.

Zhou Shu himself was a Forging Apprentice and from a humble background. He wanted to find some Grand Craftsmen who had started out similar to him and see how they became Grand Craftsmen.

He had put in a lot of effort.

Yin Wuyou fell into deep thought. After becoming the grand minister of the Forging Division, Yin Wuyou had done some homework. Even if she didn’t know all of the Grand Craftsmen in the history of Great Xia, she knew those that were still alive.

“There are only a few people who came from ordinary backgrounds and relied solely on their own hard work to advance to Grand Craftsman. Although there aren’t many, there are still a few,” Yin Wuyou said. “For example, Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng, Grand Craftsman Zhang Tingyuan from decades ago, and Grand Craftsman Mo Han, who was famous a hundred years ago.”

Yin Wuyou said a few names. Other than Zhu Chuanfeng, Zhou Shu had never heard of anyone else.

But as long as Zhu Chuanfeng was among them, he didn’t care about anyone else.

“Just the few of them first. Thank you, Grand Minister!” Zhou Shu cupped his hands and expressed his gratitude.

“Alright, I’ll get someone to send their information to the 0th Workshop. Be careful not to let anyone see it. Return it after reading it,” Yin Wuyou said.

Zhou Shu agreed and left.

He was about to step out of the princess’s residence when he suddenly heard Yin Wuyou’s voice coming from behind him.

“The night is quiet; they flourish like light, saturated with the cold moonlight. Is this your new poem?”

Chapter 94: Pretending to be a Cultured Person!

Zhou Shu staggered and almost fell.

...

I spoke so softly, yet you still heard it?

So be it if you heard me. Can’t you pretend you didn’t?

I’m embarrassed by your question, okay?

“Grand Minister, you’ve heard wrongly! It wasn’t me. I didn’t say it!” Zhou Shu shook his head.

“Is that so?” Yin Wuyou’s voice was calm as she casually said, “Haitang, did I hear wrongly?”

“No!” Haitang said with certainty. “I also heard it. When Your Highness entered, this was what Superintendent Zhou said!”

Zhou Shu: “...”

“Superintendent Zhou, Are you looking down on me?” Yin Wuyou said coldly. “Do you think that I’m just in charge of the Forging Division and know nothing about poetry?”

“No, absolutely not.” Of course, Zhou Shu had to deny it. “I’ve never thought that way. Grand Minister, I’m just a blacksmith. It should be used to describe me. I don’t even recognize many words. I know nothing about poetry.”

“Is that so? Do you want to say that you heard it from the storyteller again?” Yin Wuyou said. “I remember that you haven’t given me the poems I asked you to write last time, right?”

“No!” Haitang echoed.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes at her. We’re comrades who spent some time together. Can’t you help me out here?

“Grand Minister, there’s no such thing as composing poetry in the responsibilities of the 0th Workshop,” Zhou Shu said, bracing himself. “You can’t just abuse your authority—”

“So what if I abuse it?” Yin Wuyou said. “I’ll give you two choices. One is to make it up by completing this new poem, and the other is to complete the previous two poems.”

Zhou Shu: “...”

Is this a choice?

I have no choice.

“Grand Minister, what if I say I can’t complete them? Are you going to remove me from my position as the superintendent of the 0th Workshop?” Zhou Shu asked.

“It’s not to that extent,” Yin Wuyou said. “You’re a talent after all. I won’t go to that extent—”

“That’s good,” Zhou Shu mumbled.

“However, I can’t do what you asked me to just now either,” Yin Wuyou replied, “As the grand minister, my duties don’t include providing information to my subordinates.”

Zhou Shu: “...”

Women and villains are indeed hard to deal with.

Is being unreasonable really a woman’s talent?

What a bully.

I, Zhou Shu, will definitely not give in just for this!

...

Fifteen minutes later, Zhou Shu valiantly left the princess' residence.

In the princess's residence, Yin Wuyou held a piece of paper in her hand with a disdainful expression.

"What lousy calligraphy. Even three-year-olds can write better than him!" Yin Wuyou grumbled, endured the disdain, and read the words.

"Spring is at its prime; It is around the Cold Food Festival, the season of pear blossoms; Like crease free white silk fabric, but pervasively fragrant, their petals gather on trees like snow-flakes; The night is quiet, they flourish like light, saturated with the cold moonlight; On earth and in heaven, the world is brightened by their silver white."

While Yin Wuyou softly recited, her eyes grew brighter and brighter. Her cheeks were slightly red, and they even felt a little hot.

"Just like Gushe Immortal, they are ethereal and graceful, and otherworldly and unsullied; With myriad flowers in array, who believe in the Dao? The blossoms have been aloof from other flowers; But their nobleness, elegance, and extraordinariness have not been perceived by the earthly world; Only when they return to the Jade Pavilion, can their uniqueness be perceived."

When Yin Wuyou finished reciting the last sentence, her pretty face had already turned as red as an apple. Her delicate and alluring appearance made one want to bite her.

Am I that good? she thought.

Who is this Gushe Immortal?

Yin Wuyou was a little puzzled. She had read a lot of books since she was young, but she had really never seen the name 'Gushe Immortal' before.

She had never heard of this Jade Pavilion before either, but she could vaguely guess its meaning.

"Your Highness, Superintendent Zhou wrote this poem to you. He's really too bold!" Haitang exclaimed.

"Shut up!" Yin Wuyou lightly chided. "You didn't see anything today, understand?"

Haitang rolled her eyes and whispered, "Got it."

"Go to the 0th Workshop tomorrow and send the information of those Grand Craftsmen over. Also, ask him who this Gushe Immortal is."

Haitang really wanted to ask, Didn't you say I didn't see anything today? Why are you making me ask about Gushe Immortal?

Of course, she didn't dare to ask. If she did, the princess would be furious.

Haitang left the room. When she closed the door, she saw Yin Wuyou carefully folding up the piece of paper and placing it into a book. While she was doing this, her face was dazzlingly red...

...

Zhou Shu went all the way back to the 0th Workshop. He really felt like slapping himself a few times. Couldn't he just concentrate on forging? Why did he have to pretend to be a cultured person...

When he stepped through the door of the 0th Workshop, his heart suddenly trembled. He stopped and looked around.

A moment later, he frowned and entered the door.

After the doors of the 0th Workshop closed, a faint sigh of relief sounded from a tree in the distance.

What this person didn't know was that behind the doors of the 0th Workshop, the corners of Zhou Shu's mouth curled up into a cold smile.

...

As the red sun rose, Zhou Shu woke up early as usual. He first inspected the cultivation progress of Zhang Yibei, Sixth Brother Wu, and the others, then gave them some pointers on how to forge. Just as he was about to return to begin his forging, Haitang arrived.

She didn't come alone. She brought a couple of handymen from the Forging Division with her. These handymen were carrying a couple of two-foot square boxes.

Haitang asked the handymen to place the boxes on the table, then waved them to wait outside before she said, "These are the things you wanted. Her Highness asked me to deliver them.

"These are all secrets of the Forging Division. Her Highness has specially instructed that we must not let outsiders see them. Superintendent Zhou, after you finish reading them, inform me. I will bring them back."

Zhou Shu nodded. "Don't worry. Nothing will go wrong."

This was a Forging Division workshop. It was heavily guarded, and ordinary people couldn't enter.

Even if someone could sneak into the workshop through the guards outside, did they think he was a pushover?

Unless an expert above the third rank sneaked in, no matter who came, they would be finished.

"If there's nothing else, you can go now." Zhou Shu wanted to quickly look through Zhu Chuanfeng's information and rudely waved his hand at Haitang.

Haitang's feet seemed to have grown roots. She didn't even move, causing Zhou Shu's hand reaching for the box to stop.

"Anything else?" Zhou Shu couldn't help asking.

"Her Highness asked me to ask you, who is the Gushe Immortal?" Haitang said.

Zhou Shu: "..."

He was speechless. He had never been more speechless in the past two days than in the past one year.

He deserved it. Why did he pretend to be a cultured person for no reason? Here came the trouble.

"Her Highness said that it's fine if you don't say anything. She won't hold a grudge," Haitang continued.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes in his head. One had to listen to the opposite of what a woman said. If she said she wouldn't hold a grudge, then she definitely would.

You're a princess, yet you're holding a grudge against a small fry like me. What's the point?

Also, no matter what, you're the grand minister of the Forging Division. Can't you pay more attention to forging if you have nothing better to do? Why do you keep asking about poetry instead of doing your job?

He would rather offend a gentleman than a villain. He would rather offend a villain than a woman...

Zhou Shu sighed. "There are immortals living on faraway Gushe Mountain, with skin like ice or snow, and gentle and shy like young girls. They do not eat the five grains. Instead, they take in the wind, drink dew, ride on the clouds, mist, and flying dragons, wandering beyond the four seas."

...

"There are immortals living on faraway Gushe Mountain, with skin like ice or snow, and gentle and shy like young girls," Yin Wuyou mumbled to herself, her pretty face getting redder and redder. She turned her head away, afraid that her maid would see her.

This Zhou Shu is really detestable!

...

Achoo—

Zhou Shu sneezed and rubbed his nose. Who is scolding me!

The next moment, he flipped through Zhu Chuanfeng's information.

Among the information Yin Wuyou had Haitang send over, there were several books on Zhu Chuanfeng. In total, there were probably hundreds of thousands of words.

This made Zhou Shu once again realize the power of the Imperial Court.

Although this was a world of high martial arts, the Imperial Court was not weak at all. They had such control over Grand Craftsmen.

This information recorded almost everything about the life of the Grand Craftsmen, including what weapons they had forged, what they were good at, and what their weaknesses were.

Yin Wuyou really trusts me.

If this information was leaked to enemies, then the enemies would be able to deal with the Grand Craftsmen.

The consequences would be unimaginable.

Zhou Shu carefully flipped through Zhu Chuanfeng's information, not missing a single word.

The more he looked, the more shocked he became.

Although he had seen Zhu Chuanfeng several times, he never imagined that Zhu Chuanfeng was so powerful!

This fellow had simply grown up with the protagonist halo.

Before he was twenty years old, he was just a blacksmith in a village. He was not even comparable to a Forging Apprentice. When he was twenty years old, he coincidentally saved a Forging Master. Then the Forging Master accepted him as his disciple.

From then on, Zhu Chuanfeng seemed to have a cheat.

Just as Yang Hong had said, he had used five years to become a Forging Master. Ordinary Forging Masters would need at least seven to eight years before they could become a Forging Master.

If using five years wasn't shocking enough, he had only used three years to become a High-level Forging Master. Most people needed ten years.

Afterward, he had only used ten years to cross the threshold that countless Forging Masters couldn't cross in their lifetime and became a Grand Craftsman.

That year, he wasn't even forty yet!

He had directly broken the record of being the youngest Grand Craftsman. Before him, the youngest Grand Craftsman in Great Xia had advanced successfully at the age of forty.

Not only that, according to the details, Zhu Chuanfeng had lost both his parents. He himself had no children nor wife. Even the information from the Forging Division said that he had no weaknesses!

According to the information, not only was Zhu Chuanfeng a genius, but he was also a perfect person with almost no flaws!

Chapter 95: No Flaws

A person without flaws was either a saint or a hypocrite!

...

Was Zhu Chuanfeng a saint?

Zhou Shu would rather die than believe it!

At the very least, in Zhou Shu's interactions with him, Zhu Chuanfeng was not in the least bit like a saint!

Was there a problem with the information on the Forging Division?

Not necessarily.

Although the Forging Division's information was detailed, it wasn't exhaustive. Perhaps there were things that the Forging Division didn't feel the need to record.

After all, even in the information age of his previous life, officials couldn't achieve this, let alone this world.

No matter how strong the Great Xia Imperial Court was, it was impossible for it to find out everything about Zhu Chuanfeng.

This could only mean that Zhu Chuanfeng had hidden himself well.

Just because he doesn't have any known weaknesses, it doesn't mean he doesn't have any, Zhou Shu thought. But so what if I know his weaknesses? It's useless.

He didn't really want to understand Zhu Chuanfeng. He wanted to take Zhu Chuanfeng down so that he wouldn't always cause trouble for him!

There must be something I overlooked.

Zhou Shu's intuition told him that there was something wrong with Zhu Chuanfeng. Although he didn't know what the problem was, he trusted his intuition.

He flipped to the first page of Zhu Chuanfeng's information and began to read it word by word.

Four hours later, Zhou Shu suddenly raised his head from the pile of paper.

He quickly turned the book to the front, then quickly turned to one of the pages.

After reading for a while, he quickly flipped through the pages again. After he read several pages in a row, his brows furrowed even more tightly.

Ever since Zhu Chuanfeng made his debut, he has mentioned his master nine times. But in these nine times, he has never really mentioned his master's name!

He said at first that he didn't mention his master's name because he was afraid of embarrassing his master. But after he became the youngest Grand Craftsmen, he should definitely bring honor to his master. There's no way he would embarrass his master!

Why didn't he mention his master's name then?

Is there something wrong with his master?

But if there's something wrong with his master, can the Great Xia Imperial Court not find out?

He thought about whether the Forging Master whom Zhu Chuanfeng had saved was a Forging Master from an enemy nation, but the possibility was almost zero.

If he was a Forging Master from an enemy nation, then the Great Xia Imperial Court would have already found out when Zhu Chuanfeng just made his debut. In that case, they wouldn't allow him to mature.

The fact that the Imperial Court didn't care meant that there was no problem with the Forging Master whom Zhu Chuanfeng had saved.

But why was it that the name of the Forging Master was not mentioned in the information?

This didn't make sense.

... Unless someone deliberately concealed the name of the Forging Master.

Could Zhu Chuanfeng do this?

He could prevent himself from mentioning his master's name. But it was unlikely that he would be able to tamper with the Forging Division's information, especially his own.

If someone was covering up Zhu Chuanfeng's master's name, then this person might be...

The emperor?

But why would the emperor do that? Unless there's something wrong with this Forging Master!

The problem returned to the original point. If there was something wrong with this Forging Master, why did the Great Xia Imperial Court allow his successor to grow?

Wait!

If there was something wrong with this Forging Master, it might not necessarily mean that he was a Forging Master from an enemy nation!

If he was a Forging Master of Great Xia and had angered the emperor for some reason, the emperor might not want to see his name, but he wouldn't suspect that his successor was a spy. This would explain why the Imperial Court didn't kill Zhu Chuanfeng before he grew up.

If so, it would explain why the name of the Forging Master whom Zhu Chuanfeng had saved wasn't recorded.

So, there's no problem with that? Zhou Shu frowned. He had always felt that something was off here. What's the problem?

Zhou Shu kept flipping through the information.

If the Forging Master didn't commit a heinous crime, why would the emperor be unwilling to see his name?

The problem is, although the Forging Master has some status, what kind of heinous crime could he commit?

Logically speaking, a Forging Master isn't at the level of angering an emperor.

It might be possible if the person was a Grand Craftsman.

Could the person Zhu Chuanfeng had saved be a Grand Craftsman?

But in that case, the information should be clearly recorded.

Zhou Shu analyzed the situation meticulously. Finally, he discovered a suspicious point!

After his master died, Zhu Chuanfeng helped bring his master's coffin back to the capital and buried it in the Western Hills.

Something's wrong. If my previous speculation is true, and Zhu Chuanfeng's master had offended the emperor, would he still dare to bring the coffin back to the capital?

In addition, the Western Hills should be the location of the imperial mausoleum.

Was Zhu Chuanfeng's master a member of the imperial family?

Zhou Shu immediately pieced together a story in his mind. Within the imperial family, there was a prince with unparalleled talent. This prince not only had a high cultivation level, but he was also a Forging Master.

When he was fighting for the throne, he was unfortunately defeated. When he escaped, he was saved by a village blacksmith and accepted him as his disciple. However, his injuries were too severe, and he died soon after accepting a disciple.

After that, the disciple he had taken in before his death was exceptionally talented in forging. He had made great progress.

On account of him, the current emperor secretly took care of his disciple, which resulted in his disciple becoming the youngest Forging Master.

Everything seems logical so far. Zhou Shu shook his head with a bitter smile. This seemed to explain everything.

The problem was that this wasn't the outcome he wanted.

He had spent half a day to prove there was nothing he could use against Zhu Chuanfeng?

No, that's not right. If his master really died fighting for the throne, then Zhu Chuanfeng must have hidden so many weapons to avenge his master.

But he immediately shook his head. It might not be impossible, but the possibility was low.

No matter how powerful a weapon was, it depended on the user.

Seven heaven-grade weapons were indeed impressive, but Zhu Chuanfeng had to gather seven people who could use them.

Even if there were seven experts, it was not an easy matter to assassinate Emperor Yuan Feng.

Moreover, Zhu Chuanfeng didn't seem like the kind of person who would do anything to avenge someone.

What a headache. Is Zhu Chuanfeng really so hypocritical that he has no flaws at all? Zhou Shu pinched between his brows.

But he really couldn't analyze anything from this information. It was just as the information said. Zhu Chuanfeng had no weaknesses.

Perhaps his only weakness was that his Martial Dao cultivation was too low.

Of course, this was only relative.

Unless it was an expert above the third rank, it was impossible to approach Zhu Chuanfeng. Zhu Chuanfeng's younger brother had a fourth-rank Martial Dao cultivation.

In his residence, there were a few guards at the fourth or fifth rank.

A Grand Craftsman didn't rely on their own Martial Dao cultivation. Their foundation lay in forging and their connections through forging!

Do I really have to use that method?

Zhou Shu raised his head and glanced outside the window. His original intention was to use the information he obtained from the Forging Division to see if he could find Zhu Chuanfeng's weakness.

It would be best if he could take him down. Even if he couldn't, he had to make sure he wouldn't pester him anymore.

But from the looks of it now, it was impossible to do either of these with just this information.

If he couldn't strike first to prevail, did it mean he could only strike later to fail?

How could Zhou Shu sit and wait for death!

Zhou Shu looked at the night sky. There are some risks, but not much.

Once trouble comes knocking, it will be even more troublesome.

Zhou Shu frowned. Since I can't avoid it, I might as well take the initiative!

After pondering for a moment, he stood up and took out an Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber. He casually hung it on his waist and walked out.

As the superintendent of the 0th Workshop, Zhou Shu naturally had the right to freely enter and exit the workshop.

Just as he left the workshop, he felt a gaze on him.

As if he didn't notice, Zhou Shu continued forward.

Only when he was far away did a black figure silently slide down from a tree.

There was a flash of doubt in this person's eyes. But very quickly, he disappeared like smoke as he chased after him.

Throughout the entire process, the guards at the entrance of the workshop didn't notice this figure at all.

Actually, when Zhou Shu returned earlier, he had already sensed that someone was spying on him.

At first, he thought it was an illusion. But after repeatedly entering and exiting the workshop, he finally confirmed that someone was indeed spying on him!

If not for the fact that he cultivated the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form, and his spiritual sense had improved significantly, he might not have been able to discover this person with his five senses alone.

Once he found out, he quickly confirmed the other party's identity!

It was Zhu Chuanfeng's younger brother!

A fourth-rank martial artist!

He actually came personally to monitor him!

Zhu Chuanfeng was serious!

The more this was the case, the more Zhou Shu felt that there was something wrong with Zhu Chuanfeng!

Otherwise, if he just wanted to accept a Forging Apprentice as his disciple, even if this Forging Apprentice was a workshop superintendent, there was no need to do so!

Zhou Shu had encountered a fourth-rank martial artist before. Not only had he encountered one, but he had also fought one!

In the end, Zhou Shu won.

Compared to that time, Zhou Shu's Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique hadn't leveled up. But his Golden Bell Shield had broken through to the seventh level.

1

Furthermore, he had also cultivated the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form.

His overall strength was more than 30% stronger than before!

If they fought again, Zhou Shu was completely confident that he could kill the assassin without getting injured.

Zhu Chuanfeng's younger brother's cultivation might not be stronger than the fourth-rank assassin's. Even if he was stronger, his strength was limited.

If they really fought, Zhou Shu felt that his chances of victory would be higher.

The night was still like water as Zhou Shu walked along the quiet road. He could faintly see the distant city walls of Chang'an, like a long dragon in the darkness.

He counted his steps one step at a time. Suddenly, his ears twitched.

He's here! He smirked.

Zhu Chuanzhi crept like a ghost, his feet hardly touching the ground, as he appeared not too far behind Zhou Shu. As he watched Zhou Shu's back, he was a bit puzzled. What is he going to do so late at night?

Zhu Chuanzhi immediately recalled his elder brother's instructions.

The night was dark, and there was no one around. This was the best opportunity to strike.

Without any hesitation, he appeared in front of Zhou Shu.

Chapter 96: Good Acting, Bad Luck

"Who are you? Are you from Great Wei?" Zhou Shu took a step back and drew his saber, his arm trembling slightly. He pretended to be calm, but a hint of fear flashed across his eyes.

...

He's indeed an apprentice who hasn't seen much of the world, Zhu Chuanzhi thought.

In his eyes, Zhou Shu's performance looked completely like a frightened brat pretending not to be afraid.

"It doesn't matter who I am. But I advise you to be obedient. Otherwise..." Zhu Chuanzhi snorted coldly and raised his hand. A beam of light flashed, and a large tree a few feet away snapped with a crack. Then it fell to the ground with a rumble, kicking up a cloud of dust.

Zhou Shu seemed to be startled, his face filled with fear. He gripped the hilt of his saber with both hands and pointed it at Zhu Chuanzhi as he shouted in a trembling voice, "What are you trying to do!

"I'm the superintendent of a Forging Division workshop. If you dare to mess around, the Forging Division won't let you off!"

In Zhu Chuanzhi's eyes, Zhou Shu was just putting up a brave front.

Trying to scare me with the Forging Division? Too naive.

"If you dare to shout again, do you believe that I will cut you into pieces before anyone comes?"

Zhu Chuanzhi snorted coldly as wind blades seemed to appear around him. With a series of crackling sounds, gashes several inches deep appeared on the ground between him and Zhou Shu, as if they were cut by blades.

Zhou Shu opened his mouth, but no sound came out, as if he was frightened by Zhu Chuanzhi.

"I'll give you all my money. Let me go," Zhou Shu said quietly, seemingly afraid that his voice would anger the other party.

"Do you think I'm doing this for money?" Zhu Chuanzhi sneered. "Follow me!"

1

He extended his arm and placed his hand on Zhou Shu's shoulder.

Zhou Shu's shoulders trembled slightly. Zhu Chuanfeng thought that Zhou Shu was frightened.

What he didn't know was that he had nearly walked through the gates of hell. Just now, Zhou Shu had used a lot of strength to control his instinctive reaction.

Otherwise, with his instinctive reaction, he would have killed Zhu Chuanzhi when he came so close to him.

Zhu Chuanzhi grabbed Zhou Shu and quickly shuttled through the forest as fast as lightning.

Although a fourth-rank martial artist couldn't fly, Zhu Chuanzhi's full strength was not far from flying. With a single step, he could cover several meters.

With a little leverage on trees, he could glide tens of meters away.

In terms of lightness skills, Zhou Shu might not be able to compare to Zhu Chuanzhi.

Holding Zhou Shu, Zhu Chuanzhi traveled for an hour before arriving at a mountain village on the outskirts of the capital.

During this time, Zhu Chuanzhi did not restrain Zhou Shu.

Based on the information he had, although Zhou Shu cultivated the Martial Dao, he had only just begun. Zhu Chuanzhi didn't care about his cultivation at all.

Bang!

Zhu Chuanzhi threw Zhou Shu to the ground. Zhou Shu staggered and almost fell to the ground.

He steadied himself and looked around frantically.

"Where are we? Who are you? What do you want?" Zhou Shu shouted. "I'm telling you. I'm not an ordinary person. If you dare hurt me, the Imperial Court won't let you off!"

"Stop screaming. Here, no one will hear you no matter how loud you scream," Zhu Chuanzhi said coldly.

"If you listen to me, I won't hurt you. But if you dare to go against me, then today next year will be your death anniversary.

"Oh, I almost forgot. You don't have a descendant yet. Even if you die, no one will mourn for you." Zhu Chuanzhi sneered.

"Anything can be discussed." Zhou Shu seemed to be frightened. "Don't do anything rash. I'm timid. Don't scare me."

"You're timid?" Zhu Chuanzhi was expressionless. "If you're so timid, how did you dare to refuse the solicitation of a Grand Craftsman to his face?"

"What?" Zhou Shu appeared completely confused. His acting was at its peak.

"I'm not going to waste my breath on you," Zhu Chuanzhi said impatiently. "I'll give you two choices. One, obediently acknowledge Grandmaster Zhu as your master. Two, become the fertilizer for the plants in the backyard!"

"Huh?" Zhou Shu said in surprise. "You brought me here just so I would agree to become Grand Craftsman Zhu's disciple?"

"Why are you doing this?"

Zhou Shu forced a smile. "Why didn't you just tell me directly? Grand Craftsman Zhu Chuanfeng is the idol of countless forgers. To be able to become his disciple is something many people can only wish for!"

"Then, why did you reject Grand Craftsman Zhu?" Zhu Chuanzhi frowned.

"That's because I feel that I'm not capable enough. If I take Grand Craftsman Zhu as my master, I will embarrass him." Zhou Shu smiled bitterly.

"Otherwise, why would I, a mere Forging Apprentice, reject Grand Craftsman Zhu?"

"Wouldn't it be great for me if a Grand Craftsman becomes my master?"

“Big Brother, this is really like a flood crashing into the Dragon King Temple¹. We are on the same side,” Zhou Shu sincerely said.

“Big Brother, did you receive a favor from Grand Craftsman Zhu? Is that why you can’t bear to see Grand Craftsman Zhu being humiliated? I never thought that I would cause him to be humiliated by rejecting his offer due to my inferiority.

“It’s all my fault.”

Zhou Shu slapped his right cheek lightly.

Zhu Chuanzhi had a strange expression on his face. He coughed and said, “I have indeed received Grand Craftsman Zhu’s favor. So when I heard that you dared to reject him, I decided to teach you a lesson.

“Since it’s a misunderstanding, I’m sorry.” Zhu Chuanzhi returned the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber to Zhou Shu and cupped his hands.

Although the development of the situation was different from what he had expected, the result was the same.

Originally, he had wanted to use some methods to make Zhou Shu agree. Now, although he had misunderstood, as long as he agreed, nothing else mattered.

“It’s okay.” Zhou Shu put the Autumn Anatidae Plume Saber back into the scabbard at his waist and shook his head repeatedly. “Big Brother, are you close to Grand Craftsman Zhu. Can I ask you something? What does Grand Craftsman Zhu see in me? I feel like I’m not worthy of being his disciple.”

“Grand Craftsman Zhu has his reasons for taking a fancy to you. As long as you become his disciple, who would dare say that you are not worthy?” Zhu Chuanzhi said coldly.

“But I am not confident. Many Forging Masters are unable to become Grand Craftsman Zhu’s disciple. But I, a mere Forging Apprentice, managed to do it?” Zhou Shu smiled bitterly. “Big Brother, why don’t you tell me why so that I can feel more at ease?”

“Cut the crap!” Zhu Chuanzhi said impatiently. He was never good at dealing with people, so he wasn’t willing to waste his breath on Zhou Shu.

Moreover, Zhu Chuanfeng wasn’t really planning on taking him in as a disciple. Was there a need to be so polite with him?

“Take this pill, then follow me to Grandmaster Craftsman Zhu’s residence to become his disciple.” Zhu Chuanzhi took out a porcelain bottle from his chest and poured out a red pill. He said coldly, “From now on, Grandmaster Craftsman Zhu is your master. You must obey every word he says unconditionally!”

Zhou Shu looked at the red pill and asked curiously, “This is?”

“Tonic,” Zhu Chuanzhi said.

“Tonic?” Zhou Shu sized up the red pill. Just as he was about to say something, his expression suddenly froze.

Immediately after, a powerful aura erupted from his body.

Boom!

Zhu Chuanzhi only felt an incomparably fierce aura rush at him. Even with his cultivation level, he couldn't help continuously retreating until he was outside the door before stopping.

He looked at Zhou Shu in the room with a bewildered expression.

A visible cyclone formed by the spiritual qi of heaven and earth appeared around Zhou Shu.

This spiritual qi surged into Zhou Shu's body, and the aura erupting from Zhou Shu's body gave Zhu Chuanzhi a shock.

Zhou Shu forced a smile. He really didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Earlier, his acting skills had been award-winning, and he had wanted to see if he could trick Zhu Chuanfeng's younger brother into revealing some secrets. He had even wanted to pretend to become Zhu Chuanfeng's disciple and see what tricks he had up his sleeve.

In the end, there was nothing wrong with his acting. But the Legendary Armament Canon gave him a wave of benefits, causing him to let the cat out of the bag.

Speaking of which, this wasn't the first time Zhou Shu had encountered something like this.

Previously, Meng Bai had recommended him to Emperor Yuan Feng and gave him a chance to comprehend in the Saber Cave. Originally, Zhou Shu had only been casually strolling around. But in the Saber Cave, he had suddenly received a wave of benefits. As a result, his saber intent had erupted, and he didn't even get the chance to hide it.

It was the same this time. Originally, Zhu Chuanzhi had believed him. But now that his Martial Dao aura erupted, even a fool like Zhu Chuanzhi knew that he was no ordinary person.

Strength surged forth, and Zhou Shu felt his strength continue to rise.

In front of him, a barrage of messages flashed past.

[You receive a reward of two years of cultivation because the Huben Saber you forged effectively completed a kill!]

[You receive a reward of five years of cultivation because the Huben Saber you forged effectively completed a kill!]

...

[You receive a reward of ten years of cultivation because the Huben Saber you forged effectively completed a kill!]

[The Spring Embroidered Saber you forged effectively completed a kill. The Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form Technique has improved by 30%!]

...

Crack!

There was a sound like chains breaking within Zhou Shu's body. The powerful aura even caused a storm vortex to erupt around him.

Boom!

His violent aura smashed the tables and chairs in the room into pieces.

Zhu Chuanzhi's eyelids twitched. What kind of strength is this?

Is Zhou Shu really just a Forging Apprentice?

Even he wouldn't be able to unleash such aura.

He stared at Zhou Shu, somewhat bewildered. Suddenly, Zhou Shu raised his head and looked directly into his eyes. A seemingly tangible light flashed in his pupils.

Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique, tenth level!

Zhou Shu felt an endless stream of energy flowing from his body. He was helpless, but at the same time, he was pleasantly surprised.

He didn't expect this wave of benefits to be so powerful. It actually allowed his Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique to break through to the tenth level!

He looked at Zhu Chuanzhi, and the corners of his lips curled up slightly. "I wanted to put on a show with you guys, but I didn't expect this to happen. I've been exposed.

"Since I can't continue acting, I won't act anymore. It's better to be straightforward."

Zhou Shu said, "Tell me, why is Zhu Chuanfeng trying so hard to make me his disciple?"

Chapter 97: Madness

"Who are you? Are you from Great Wei?" Zhu Chuanzhi exclaimed in shock.

...

The situation had completely reversed.

Not long ago, Zhou Shu had been the one asking who Zhu Chuanzhi was. Now, it was Zhu Chuanzhi asking Zhou Shu.

"Me?" Zhou Shu took a step forward. "Forging Division, 0th Workshop, Zhou Shu."

Zhu Chuanzhi felt the air in front of him freeze. He couldn't breathe properly, and he couldn't help taking a step back.

"Impossible! You're definitely not Zhou Shu!" Zhu Chuanzhi yelled. "Zhou Shu is a Forging Apprentice and has only been cultivating martial arts for a few days. How can he have such a cultivation level!

"Who are you! Why are you pretending to be Zhou Shu?"

Zhu Chuanzhi's face was full of fear. His fear didn't seem to be because of Zhou Shu's strength but because he thought of something terrifying.

Zhou Shu was also a bit confused. Zhu Chuanzhi was a fourth-rank martial artist after all. There was no way he would be so weak as to be so frightened by him.

"Don't you know what I want to do?" Zhou Shu faintly smiled. "The Zhu brothers, you guys are in trouble!"

As he spoke, he used the Visualization of the Five Mountains' True Form. His entire being seemed to become a towering mountain, bringing with it endless pressure.

He only knew that Zhu Chuanzhi was Zhu Chuanfeng's younger brother, but he didn't know his name. Thus, he could only say the Zhu brothers. Otherwise, calling out Zhu Chuanzhi's name at this time might have had a better effect.

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But Zhu Chuanzhi clearly didn't care about this. When Zhou Shu said these words, his face paled, and his eyes were full of terror.

Boom!

Zhu Chuanzhi's body suddenly erupted with a bloody light.

Zhou Shu thought that Zhu Chuanzhi was going to fight to his death. But as soon as he raised his hand, he saw Zhu Chuanzhi's back. Zhu Chuanzhi had transformed into a ball of blood-red light and disappeared from his sight.

He disappeared so quickly that Zhou Shu couldn't stop him in time.

There was a faint scent of blood in the air. It was obvious that Zhu Chuanzhi had used a self-harming secret technique to unleash such terrifying speed.

Is he scared silly? Zhou Shu was somewhat speechless. What a surprise.

He hadn't even made a move, but Zhu Chuanzhi was already so frightened?

The Zhu brothers were indeed problematic!

He had only said that they were in trouble, and he was already so frightened. It seemed that this wasn't a small matter.

This fellow ran too fast. Otherwise, I could have interrogated him. Zhou Shu sighed helplessly.

He had already broken through in his cultivation, and his Dragon Elephant Prajna Technique had already broken through to the tenth level. It shouldn't be a problem for him to subdue Zhu Chuanzhi.

This place seems to be Zhu Chuanfeng's other lair. Will there be any clues here?

With this thought in mind, Zhou Shu walked out of the room.

Two hours later, Zhou Shu looked at a book in front of him, filled with shock.

“What the f*ck—” Zhou Shu’s current mood was completely indescribable. Only this curse could let him vent a little.

Old Zhu is really daring!

Zhou Shu had searched through the entire mountain villa to find this book. While sighing with emotion, he was also full of admiration for Zhu Chuanfeng.

This villa was indeed Zhu Chuanfeng’s other lair.

Zhu Chuanzhi had caused a huge commotion in his escape, so more than half of the guards in the villa had run away. The rest had been knocked unconscious by Zhou Shu before they could even see him.

It was unknown whether Zhu Chuanfeng or Zhu Chuanzhi had memorized this book.

The events recorded on it were simply shocking.

“Yongguang Year 23, I killed Li Ziyuan and his family in Yongzhou and obtained the earth-grade Green Jade Saber.”

“Yongguang Year 25, I obtained the heaven-grade Cold Moon Saber from the Liu clan of Youzhou. I killed 37 people.”

...

“Yuanfeng Year 6, Mu Yuhang forged the heaven-grade Wind Bronze Saber. I snatched it before anyone saw it.”

...

There were dozens of them, causing Zhou Shu’s eyelids to twitch.

Initially, he had some doubts about what these records meant. But after seeing one of them, he thought of the information from the Forging Division and instantly figured out many things.

Cloud-Splitting Saber! Zhou Shu’s expression was grave. Zhu Chuanfeng advanced to Grand Craftsman when he forged the heaven-grade Cloud-Splitting Saber!

But according to the records here, the Cloud-Splitting Saber was forged by a Forging Master named Jiang Shan!

Among the Grand Craftsmen of the Forging Division, there doesn’t seem to be anyone called Jiang Shan. It seems like it’s as the records say. Jiang Shan has already been silenced!

Zhu Chuanfeng took the Cloud-Splitting Saber that Jiang Shan forged and used it to advance to Grand Craftsman. Jiang Shan has already been silenced by Zhu Chuanfeng, so it’s naturally impossible for him to come out and accuse him.

He relied on other people’s heaven-grade weapons to become a Forging Grandmaster. Zhu Chuanfeng hasn’t actually been exposed after so many years! Impressive!

Even though they were enemies, Zhou Shu couldn’t help praising him.

He carefully compared the book in front of him and the information on Zhu Chuanfeng from the Forging Division based on his memory. All of the heaven-grade weapons recorded in the Forging Division that were supposedly forged by Zhu Chuanfeng were not actually forged by him!

In other words, the idol of countless forgers, the record holder of the Great Xia's youngest Grand Craftsman, Zhu Chuanfeng, isn't a true Grand Craftsman?

He got all those heaven-grade weapons through illegal means?

Zhou Shu sucked in a breath of cold air. Even with his rich imagination, he had never thought of this possibility.

No wonder Zhu Chuanzhi reacted like that when he heard that the matter had been exposed. He had even injured himself and escaped.

If others were to find out about this, even if the Zhu brothers had a few lives, it would not be enough!

In the past few years, Zhu Chuanfeng had forged quite a few heaven-grade weapons in his name. In addition to the seven heaven-grade weapons in his secret chamber, it meant that at least ten genuine Grand Craftsmen had died at the hands of this pair of brothers!

If the family and friends of these Grand Craftsmen knew the truth, how could they let the Zhu brothers off?

"How did they do it?"

Zhou Shu couldn't understand how the Zhu brothers had done this.

If they wanted to steal other people's heaven-grade weapons, they would have to wait until someone else had just created them.

Otherwise, even if they managed to obtain a heaven-grade weapon, they would not be able to claim it for themselves.

However, for a Forging Master, forging weapons was usually their own matter. How would outsiders know?

Not only did the Zhu brothers manage to accomplish such a difficult task, they had even managed to accomplish it many times.

Even Zhou Shu couldn't help admiring them.

Right now, he couldn't even find the right opportunity to kill a Grand Craftsman. Zhu Chuanfeng and his brother had killed at least ten Grand Craftsmen without exposing themselves.

That's not right! Zhu Chuanfeng's brother thought that something had happened, so he probably didn't escape alone. Most likely, he escaped back to the Zhu residence in the capital! Zhou Shu suddenly remembered.

The two of them did such a crazy thing. It's impossible for them not to prepare a backup plan for themselves.

They are probably already preparing to escape!

I can't let them escape!

Zhou Shu stuffed the book into his clothes. Power erupted from beneath his feet, and the green tiles beneath his feet exploded as his entire body flew out like a cannonball.

Chang'an of Great Xia was a city that never slept. Usually, the city gates would never close.

This also showed how confident Great Xia was.

Even though the city gates were wide open, who could attack?

The city gates weren't closed, which saved Zhou Shu a lot of trouble. Otherwise, he would have had to think of a way to climb over the city walls.

As he approached the capital's gates, Zhou Shu slowed down and slowly entered the city like everyone else.

After entering the city, he first went to his residence in the capital. After a simple disguise, he concealed himself and ran all the way to Zhu Chuanfeng's residence.

Inside the Zhu residence, it was quiet. Other than the patrolling guards, there was no other movement. It was as if everyone had fallen asleep, and there was nothing unusual.

Zhou Shu had visited the Zhu residence several times in the past, so he knew this place like the back of his hand.

Without much effort, he found Zhu Chuanfeng's bedroom.

Too late!

In Zhu Chuanfeng's bedroom, he could hear someone breathing. It wasn't Zhu Chuanfeng himself, but a woman!

Zhou Shu didn't hesitate. He immediately changed directions and charged toward Zhu Chuanfeng's brother's courtyard, which was also the secret chamber where he had discovered the heaven-grade weapons!

A moment later, Zhou Shu arrived.

They moved really fast!

As Zhou Shu expected, the secret chamber was already empty. Not only were the Zhu brothers gone, but the seven heaven-grade weapons had also disappeared.

However, the weapons below heaven-grade were still in the storeroom.

There were not many heaven-grade weapons, and they could carry them with them. It was unrealistic to take away all the weapons in the warehouse.

Zhou Shu frowned slightly. When he had entered the city, he had paid special attention to his surroundings. There was nothing unusual at the city gates, including the city itself.

This meant that the Zhu brothers had left quietly.

Thinking about it, Zhou Shu found it normal. They didn't know how many people knew about the matter, so they didn't dare to make too much noise.

This is troublesome. If they've already left the city, it won't be easy to find them. Who knows which city gates they escaped from?

Zhou Shu frowned in thought. He wasn't good at tracking people down, and if the Zhu brothers had already left the city, he wouldn't be able to continue chasing them. After all, he still had to take responsibility for the matters at the 0th Workshop.

Damn it. I was careless and let them escape! Zhou Shu cursed. He had been too careless. Otherwise, he would have immediately chased after Zhu Chuanzhi the moment he ran away!

The Zhu brothers aren't ordinary people. They've already planned their escape route in advance. It won't be easy to catch them again.

It seems that I can only rely on the Imperial Court's strength. Zhu Chuanfeng has done such a crazy thing. Once this matter is made public, who knows how many people will want to kill him. When the time comes, I won't have to worry about him anymore.

As long as Zhu Chuanfeng's actions were made public, he would be a street rat for the rest of his life. Not only would he not be able to find trouble with Zhou Shu, but he would probably be beaten to death the moment he appeared.

Zhou Shu no longer had to worry about him causing trouble for himself. As for whether or not he could personally kill him, this wasn't important.

I'll send the evidence to Ma Fengzhang. Yang Hong probably can't handle such a big matter.

Zhou Shu leaped onto the roof and jumped toward the Divine Constable Bureau.

Chapter 98: Lock Down the City

In the Divine Constable Bureau, Ma Fengzhang held a book in his hand and sat in front of the window. He used the candle on the table to read carefully.

...

Suddenly, his ears twitched. Without any movement, his figure had already arrived at the courtyard outside the window.

"Which expert is visiting?" Ma Fengzhang's left hand, holding the book, was behind his back. He raised his right hand to form a sword finger. In the room, the sheathed longsword on the weapon rack trembled slightly, as if it was about to take off at any time.

Before Ma Fengzhang could finish his sentence, a tall figure appeared on the roof of the house.

Just as he was about to speak, his pupils suddenly contracted.

In an instant, he seemed to see five mountain peaks towering into the clouds. Of the five mountain peaks, four were illusory. The one at the very front was slightly solid, and it bore a boundless pressure that caused his breathing to become slightly hurried.

The vital qi in Ma Fengzhang's body surged as his third-rank Martial Dao cultivation erupted, contending against the towering force.

Suddenly, the towering presence disappeared, and a sharp saber intent soared into the sky.

It was as if Ma Fengzhang saw a heaven-shaking saber cleaving out from the mountain. This saber seemed to be able to split the heavens and earth apart. The mountain peak reaching into the clouds seemed to split apart.

Ma Fengzhang couldn't help taking half a step back. He could no longer conceal his shock.

"It's you?" Ma Fengzhang cried out.

The figure on the roof didn't speak. He raised his hand, and a black object flew toward Ma Fengzhang.

Ma Fengzhang didn't dare to be negligent. Just as he was about to receive the blow, the black object was already three feet in front of him. Then its speed suddenly slowed down, and it landed gently.

Ma Fengzhang quickly retracted his strength. He felt so uncomfortable that he almost vomited blood.

He caught the object. When he looked up again, the figure on the roof was gone.

Ma Fengzhang furrowed his brows and hesitated for a while. In the end, he didn't chase after him.

Whether it was the towering mountain or the soaring saber intent, Ma Fengzhang didn't have the confidence to win.

Furthermore, he had already recognized the saber intent.

The person who came was the mysterious expert who had left saber intent in the Saber Cave!

This mysterious expert had helped Great Xia get rid of traitors several times. From his actions, he had no enmity toward Great Xia.

In this situation, Ma Fengzhang felt that it was best not to do too many things to avoid angering the other party.

After all, it seemed that he had good intentions toward Great Xia.

This is? Ma Fengzhang retracted his gaze and looked at the thing he had just received. It seems to be a book?

Ma Fengzhang subconsciously flipped through it. The next moment, his pupils suddenly contracted.

Thump!

The book in Ma Fengzhang's hand fell to the ground. It was a rare ancient book. But now, Ma Fengzhang had no intention of picking it up.

He held the book the mysterious expert just sent over with his left hand and quickly flipped through it with his right hand. Very soon, he finished flipping through the book.

The light in his eyes kept shrinking, and the expression on his face kept changing.

Ma Fengzhang was the great commander of the Divine Constable Bureau, a genuine third-rank Grandmaster!

What he understood was definitely not something that Zhou Shu could compare to.

The moment he saw the contents of the book, Ma Fengzhang completely understood.

He didn't even need anyone to explain to him to guess who had written the contents of the book!

After all, heaven-grade weapons were extremely rare in Great Xia.

If even Ma Fengzhang couldn't understand such an obvious matter, then he wouldn't be fit to be the Divine Constable Bureau's commander!

Ma Fengzhang sucked in a breath of cold air as his expression turned extremely grave.

He didn't doubt the authenticity of the content recorded in the book.

Based on the strength displayed by that mysterious expert earlier, there was absolutely no need for him to make such a joke.

Besides, he could tell more from the book.

Many unsolved murder cases of the Divine Constable Bureau seemed to have been answered here.

Who would have thought that Zhu Chuanfeng was such a person! Ma Fengzhang thought. Since Zhou Shu had spotted the Cloud-Splitting Saber, Ma Fengzhang naturally saw it as well.

The Forging Division is about to change. Ma Fengzhang could already sense a bloodbath ahead.

Zhu Chuanfeng had done such a crazy thing, yet it hadn't been exposed even after so many years. It was impossible that he had no accomplices.

Ma Fengzhang waved his hand, and the long sword on the weapon rack in the room flew up with a whoosh.

Ma Fengzhang raised his hand and used the long sword to support his back. Clouds rose under his feet, and he flew toward the palace.

He had hidden the book that recorded Zhu Chuanfeng's evil deeds between his chest and his clothes.

Worried that an expert was colluding with Zhu Chuanfeng, Ma Fengzhang even brought his own weapon, a heaven-grade weapon!

...

Within the imperial study of the imperial palace of Great Xia...

Emperor Yuan Feng looked at Ma Fengzhang gravely.

“Is this true?” Emperor Yuan Feng asked with a deep voice.

He had no choice but to be cautious. If this matter was real, it would definitely be a heavy blow to Great Xia!

“Most likely!” Ma Fengzhang said in a low voice. He didn’t make a definite conclusion. “This book was sent by the mysterious expert who left behind the saber intent in the Saber Cave. There seems to be no need for him to make such a joke.”

“This isn’t a joke!” A rare look of anger flashed across Emperor Yuan Feng’s face.

“Where is Zhu Chuanfeng?” he asked in a deep voice.

“I don’t know.” Ma Fengzhang shook his head. “After I received this book, I came immediately to you, Your Majesty.

“I don’t know how that expert obtained this book. If Zhu Chuanfeng already knows, then even if I act immediately, I may not be able to capture him. If Zhu Chuanfeng doesn’t know, then I’m afraid I’ll alert the enemy.”

“I don’t care if Zhu Chuanfeng knows about this. Bring him to me immediately!” Emperor Yuan Feng said angrily.

If the contents of the book were true, it meant that at least ten Grand Craftsmen of Great Xia had been killed!

To Great Xia, this was an unbearable loss!

“I would like to request a decree to lock down the entire city!” Ma Fengzhang asked in a low voice.

“Permission granted!” Emperor Yuan Feng said.

“I would also like to request a decree to seal off the city gates for another reason,” Ma Fengzhang continued. “This case may have many implications. To avoid alerting the enemy, it is best to keep the matter regarding Zhu Chuanfeng a secret.”

“Alright.” Emperor Yuan Feng hesitated for a moment, then said, “I will send a squad from the Fiend Eradication Army to listen to your orders. I only have one request—Zhu Chuanfeng must be captured and brought to justice. We cannot let anyone involved in this case go!”

Emperor Yuan Feng was extremely furious. A Grand Craftsman was an important weapon of the nation, and any one of them was the foundation of the Great Xia Imperial Court.

Zhu Chuanfeng had plotted against Great Xia’s Grand Craftsmen. This was destroying Great Xia’s foundation. How could Emperor Yuan Feng endure this?

“Yes!” Ma Fengzhang said with a heavy heart.

He felt helpless. Why did the mysterious expert send this book to him?

Couldn’t he send it to the Fiend Eradication Army or the Demon Executing Army?

Now that he had seen it, he couldn’t get out of it.

But was this matter so easy to handle?

Not to mention how many people had colluded with Zhu Chuanfeng, just Zhu Chuanfeng alone was not easy to deal with.

It wasn't to say that Zhu Chuanfeng's cultivation in the Martial Dao was high. But rather, he had been a Grand Craftsman for over twenty years and had all sorts of complicated relationships.

Countless martial artists had taken his weapons.

Although these martial artists might not all help him, as long as a portion of them turned a blind eye to his evil deeds, it would increase the difficulty of the case.

Moreover, the fact that Zhu Chuanfeng had committed such a grave crime, how could his subordinates be weak?

Thinking of this, Ma Fengzhang felt a headache coming on.

But could he refuse?

He couldn't.

He knew all too well what this meant to Emperor Yuan Feng.

Previously, when a Grand Craftsman was assassinated, Emperor Yuan Feng had flown into a rage. But now, more than one Grand Craftsman had been killed?

No matter how great of a price he had to pay, Emperor Yuan Feng would investigate this matter to the end. He would let the world know that the Grand Craftsmen of Great Xia couldn't be killed!

"Commander Ma!"

Ma Fengzhang was about to leave when he suddenly heard Emperor Yuan Feng speak.

"Exactly what is the intention of that mysterious expert?" Emperor Yuan Feng frowned.

"I don't know." Ma Fengzhang shook his head. "He has helped us three times, including this time, all to help Great Xia. I saw him with my own eyes today. His cultivation is unfathomable. I don't have the confidence to win."

"Does this mean his cultivation is at least above the third rank?" Emperor Yuan Feng asked in a deep voice.

"Yes." Ma Fengzhang nodded. "I think he has good intentions toward Great Xia. The reason why he has never shown his face might be because he has something he can't say..."

"I understand." Emperor Yuan nodded. "You may go. You are fully responsible for this case. No matter how much manpower you mobilize, I do not wish to see any accidents occur!"

"If possible, you can ask that expert to help. I can promise not to investigate his true identity."

Ma Fengzhang didn't expect Emperor Yuan Feng to say such words. Great Xia didn't lack experts. There were even some experts whose cultivations were above the third rank.

Although the cultivation of this mysterious expert was high, he was not indispensable to Great Xia.

Although the emperor said that he wouldn't investigate his true identity, he was still suspicious and wanted to take the opportunity to find out more.

But it was no wonder the emperor was curious. The Imperial Court was not aware that such an expert was in the capital. This was something that Emperor Yuan Feng couldn't accept.

Moreover, strictly speaking, this was the Divine Constable Bureau's negligence. It was just that Emperor Yuan Feng's character was magnanimous, so he didn't pursue this matter.

"I'll try my best to get in touch with that expert," Ma Fengzhang said in a low voice. "But I can't guarantee..."

"It's fine. Go ahead." Emperor Yuan Feng waved his hand.

Ma Fengzhang bowed and left.

An hour later, the four gates of Chang'an closed almost simultaneously.

In the Divine Constable Bureau, divine constables woke up from their dreams and came out armed.

Outside the Zhu residence, a group of elite warriors dressed in embroidered clothes appeared silently. They spread out and surrounded the entire Zhu residence without missing any blind spots.. Ma Fengzhang appeared at the entrance of the Zhu residence, pushed the door open with a palm, and then strode in.

Chapter 99: Desperate

"Steward Mi, why are you here?"

...

As soon as Zhou Shu woke up, someone came to inform him. He came to the front hall and spoke to Mi Zhifu, who was sitting here.

It had been a while since Mi Zhifu appeared before Zhou Shu.

It wasn't that he was looking down on Zhou Shu. But as the head steward of the Mi family, he knew his limits very well. He knew that if he appeared in front of Zhou Shu often, it would only cause Zhou Shu to have negative thoughts.

"I'm relieved that you're fine, Second Master." Mi Zhifu smiled. "Do you like these people? If anyone is disobedient, you can teach them a lesson."

"They're all pretty good." Zhou Shu shook his head.

He vaguely guessed something, but he pretended not to know anything and asked, "What do you mean by that? What do you mean I'm fine? Why would I not be fine?"

Mi Zhifu didn't hide anything. "Second Master, something big has happened in the capital.

“Zhu Chuanfeng, a Grand Craftsman of the Forging Division, colluded with an enemy nation and sold the secrets of Great Xia. Last night, the Divine Constable Bureau’s grand commander directly raided the Zhu residence, but Zhu Chuanfeng escaped.

“Currently, the four gates of Chang’an are sealed. The Divine Constable Bureau and the Fiend Eradication Army are conducting a large-scale search. Right now, everyone in the capital is panicking. I was worried that you would be shocked, so I rushed over early in the morning.”

“Really? I didn’t hear anything at all. I slept until dawn,” Zhou Shu said in surprise. “Grand Craftsman Zhu colluded with the enemy? Is that true?”

“The Divine Constable Bureau’s Grand Commander Ma Fengzhang personally led the operation, and Zhu Chuanfeng even escaped. This matter can’t be fake,” Mi Zhifu said in a low voice. He was the head steward of the Mi family, so he naturally knew a lot of information. “I really didn’t expect this. Fortunately, our Ma family didn’t have any dealings with Zhu Chuanfeng.”

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Mi Zhifu gloated at the thought. The Mi family and Zhu Chuanfeng didn’t have much of a relationship, but the enemies of the Mi family did have some close ties with Zhu Chuanfeng. This time, they would be implicated.

“The Divine Constable Bureau has made their move, and the city has been locked down. Can Grand Craftsman Zhu still escape?” Zhou Shu asked.

He wasn’t interested in what excuse Ma Fengzhang had come up with to capture Zhu Chuanfeng. He had already expected this. Whether it was Ma Fengzhang or Emperor Yuan Feng, neither of them would easily expose the truth.

The truth was too shocking. Once it was announced, no one knew what the consequences would be.

Finding a reason to arrest Zhu Chuanfeng was a normal reaction.

Zhou Shu was more interested in whether or not Zhu Chuanfeng had been successfully captured.

“When Commander Ma arrived at the Zhu residence, Zhu Chuanfeng was no longer there. As for whether he escaped from the capital or not, no one knows,” Mi Zhifu said. “Zhu Chuanfeng is not an ordinary person. Even with the Divine Constable Bureau making a move, it won’t be easy to catch him.”

“Second Master, Zhu Chuanfeng might be hiding somewhere in the city. Chang’an City is currently sealed off, and not even a fly can fly out. In order to prevent Zhu Chuanfeng from taking desperate measures, it’s best if you stay in the residence and don’t go out.

“I will arrange for some guards to come over. Although the possibility of Zhu Chuanfeng targeting you is not high, it’s better to be safe.”

It wasn’t that Mi Zhifu was thinking too much, but this was basically what all the residences in the capital did. They strengthened their defenses so that they wouldn’t be implicated.

“I still need to return to the 0th Workshop.” Zhou Shu shook his head. Stay in the manor and be a coward?

How was that possible!

Would he be afraid that Zhu Chuanfeng would do something desperate?

Zhu Chuanfeng might have a chance of survival if he didn't come looking for him.

If he really thought that Zhou Shu was a pushover, then Zhou Shu would definitely give him a surprise.

Of course, Zhou Shu felt that the possibility that Zhu Chuanfeng would come looking for him again was very low. After all, he had scared Zhu Chuanzhi away.

"The workshop's tasks can't be delayed. Moreover, I don't have any grudges with Zhu Chuanfeng. Even if he wants to do anything, it probably has nothing to do with me," Zhou Shu said.

"Second Master, it's not like that. As the saying goes, a gentleman does not stand under a dangerous wall. Second Master, you have a noble status. It's really not appropriate for you to take risks," Mi Zhifu persuaded.

"What kind of noble status do I have?" Zhou Shu couldn't help laughing. He shook his head and said, "Steward Mi, you don't need to say anything more. Since I am the superintendent of the 0th Workshop of the Forging Division, I have to do my job well. This is the most basic thing.

"The Divine Constable Bureau wanting to capture Zhu Chuanfeng has nothing to do with me. If I skip work because of such a small matter, how will I manage the workshop in the future?"

Seeing that he couldn't persuade Zhou Shu, Mi Zhifu could only take a step back and say, "Since you have made up your mind, Second Master, I will arrange a few more experts to accompany you. Don't reject me, Second Master. If something really happens to you, how will I answer to Master?"

Although Zhou Shu felt somewhat helpless, he couldn't refuse. If he refused again, it would seem pretentious.

"Alright, just send some random people, but don't compromise the defense of the Mi residence," Zhou Shu said.

...

In a secret location in Beijing, Zhu Chuanzhi's face was pale as he kept coughing.

Opposite him, Zhu Chuanfeng's expression was dark, a cold light flickering in his eyes.

Last night, after Zhu Chuanzhi escaped from outside the city, they had immediately moved from the Zhu residence to this secret lair.

As the saying goes, a cunning rabbit has three burrows. With Zhu Chuanfeng's previous status, buying a residence in Chang'an was no problem at all.

They originally planned to directly escape from this place, but they never expected the Divine Constable Bureau to act so quickly. Before they could escape, the city gates had already been sealed.

"Chuanzhi, tell me again. What did Zhou Shu say last night?" Zhu Chuanfeng icily said.

"Big Brother, that person can't be Zhou Shu! His cultivation is far above mine..."

“Regardless of who he is, tell me what he said first!” Zhu Chuanfeng interrupted.

“He said, Zhu brothers, you guys are in trouble!” Zhu Chuanzhi recalled.

Zhu Chuanfeng’s brows were tightly furrowed. With just these words alone, he was unable to determine whether the other party was trying to trick him or not.

However, it was useless to think about all this now. Even if the words he said back then were to trick Zhu Chuanzhi, it was already true now.

If he had known earlier, he would have destroyed the secret manual in the villa in the suburbs!

Unfortunately, it was too late for regrets.

“No, I can’t die here!” Zhu Chuanfeng clenched his fists. He still had seven heaven-grade weapons and a huge amount of wealth. As long as he escaped from Chang’an, he would have many good days ahead of him. How could he allow himself to be captured?

“Big Brother, what should we do now? The city gates are sealed, and the Divine Constable Bureau and the Fiend Eradication Army are searching every house. It won’t be long before they find us,” Zhu Chuanzhi said in a low voice. If he was found, even a third-rank martial artist wouldn’t be able to escape, let alone him, a fourth-rank martial artist.

“There’s always a way out!” Zhu Chuanfeng gnashed his teeth. “I, Zhu Chuanfeng, have encountered countless desperate situations in my life, but I’ve always been the one to break through them. This time is no exception!

“Let me think about it.” Zhu Chuanfeng paced back and forth. “For Chang’an to operate normally, it’s impossible that all the city gates are sealed off. Some people will still have to enter and exit the city gates!

“The southern region is in the midst of a great war, and the supply of weapons won’t be cut off. Some of the superintendents of the Forging Division live in the city, so they must return to the workshop.

“Chuanzhi, go take a look at these places immediately and see which superintendents stayed in the city last night. We might be able to sneak out of the city with their identity.”

There were many people entering and exiting the city gates, but Zhu Chuanfeng was most familiar with the people from the Forging Division.

The Forging Division’s workshops were transporting weapons back and forth. There might be a chance.

Zhu Chuanzhi didn’t hesitate at all. He memorized the few places that his elder brother had mentioned and then carefully left this courtyard.

There were dangers everywhere in the city. Even though he was a fourth-rank martial artist, he had to be extra careful. If he was not careful, he might not be able to catch them.

The constables of the Divine Constable Bureau and the Fiend Eradication Army might be searching the entire city, but their numbers were limited. This was an opportunity for Zhu Chuanzhi to take action.

He went to several places in a row, but he didn't find a single workshop superintendent. It was obvious that these people didn't stay in the capital last night.

The last one. Zhu Chuanzhi thought that if none of them were around, he could only think of other ways. However, they really didn't have much time left.

Zhu Chuanzhi was a little anxious. He hurriedly headed toward the last place.

At this moment, he naturally didn't dare to take the main road and could only cross over the courtyards.

Every time before he climbed over a wall, he would carefully observe for a while before taking action, fearing that he would encounter an expert.

Just as he climbed over a high wall like before, his expression suddenly changed.

Because not far from him, someone was staring at him with wide eyes.

"It's you?" Zhu Chuanzhi's pupils suddenly contracted. A few dozen feet away, who else could it be but Zhou Shu?

Zhu Chuanzhi didn't have time to think about why he had not sensed the presence of a cultivator behind the wall before he had climbed over it. All he could think about now was how Zhou Shu's aura had exploded last night.

The other party was an expert, an expert even stronger than him!

Zhu Chuanzhi only had one thought—he was a goner. He might not be able to escape this time!

Even if he couldn't escape, he couldn't allow himself to be captured!

He would give it his all. At the very least, he would create a commotion and alert his elder brother!

With this thought in mind, Zhu Chuanzhi didn't hesitate at all as his aura suddenly exploded.

Boom!

Fierce energy surged out from Zhu Chuanzhi, smashing the flowers and trees in the courtyard into smithereens and even riddling the walls with holes.

Zhu Chuanzhi suddenly stomped on the ground. The ground beneath his feet cracked as he charged toward Zhou Shu at an incredible speed.

Zhou Shu seemed to be scared silly.. He didn't react at all, allowing Zhu Chuanzhi to continue to close in on him.

Chapter 100: Isn't It Just Acting?

Zhu Chuanzhi was like a rabid dog released from its cage. His entire body transformed into a sharp blade light about to strike Zhou Shu.

...

Zhu Chuanzhi was confident that even a third-rank martial artist wouldn't be able to take this attack head-on easily!

If a martial artist of the same rank didn't die, they would be severely injured!

With this move, he unleashed 120% of his potential. He even felt that the power of his move had already surpassed the fourth rank of the Martial Dao!

Zhu Chuanzhi even felt a sliver of hope rise in his heart. If he could break through now, not only would he have a chance of escaping from Zhou Shu, but he would also have a chance of escaping the city with his elder brother!

As Zhu Chuanzhi thought this, he suddenly realized that something was amiss.

On the other side, Zhou Shu seemed to be scared silly, and he neither dodged nor blocked.

Is he so confident?

Impossible. Even a third-rank Grandmaster wouldn't disregard my move!

In this split second, a thought suddenly flashed through Zhu Chuanzhi's mind. Could this Zhou Shu be the real one? And the one last night was fake?

At this point, he suddenly thought of his elder brother's idea.

In the blink of an eye, Zhu Chuanzhi's hand shifted slightly to the right.

With a loud boom, a deep fissure appeared on the ground beside Zhou Shu.

Zhu Chuanzhi was slightly out of breath, but he didn't have time to rest. With a flash, he appeared beside Zhou Shu.

His hands grabbed Zhou Shu's shoulders like eagle claws.

A stream of spiritual essence rushed into Zhou Shu's body.

Indeed! Zhu Chuanzhi let out a sigh of relief. Zhou Shu's body didn't have the slightest trace of spiritual essence.

He knew it. How could a mere Forging Apprentice, who had only contacted the Martial Dao for a few days, have higher cultivation than him?

The Zhou Shu last night was indeed someone else in disguise.

This person with no cultivation was the real superintendent of the 0th Workshop!

"W-who are you?" Zhou Shu said with a trembling voice.

He admired his own acting skills. At this moment, countless thoughts flashed through his mind. In the end, he decided to take a gamble!

If Zhu Chuanzhi wasn't a fool, he would definitely suspect the identity of the Zhou Shu he met last night.

If he suspected that the one last night was fake, he wouldn't kill him. At least, he wouldn't kill him right away.

Since Zhu Chuanzhi was still in the city, it meant that Zhu Chuanfeng was definitely still in the city. Perhaps he would be able to capture him through Zhu Chuanzhi!

Zhou Shu decided to display his acting skills again. In any case, with his current cultivation in the Golden Bell Shield Technique, even if he had taken Zhu Chuanzhi's attack head-on, he would have at most been injured and wouldn't have died.

If he managed to catch Zhu Chuanfeng, he would make a killing.

Zhou Shu hadn't forgotten that Zhu Chuanfeng still had seven heaven-grade weapons.

As Zhou Shu had expected, Zhu Chuanzhi really stopped.

"So you are Zhou Shu!"

Zhou Shu didn't answer but instead mumbled to himself.

Whoosh—

The sound of the wind echoed as a few figures rushed over from all directions.

Zhu Chuanzhi's figure flickered as he appeared behind Zhou Shu. He pressed his hand against Zhou Shu's back, ready to kill him at any moment.

At this moment, a few figures landed in the courtyard.

"Who is it!" a voice shouted.

Without waiting for Zhu Chuanzhi to speak, Zhou Shu said, "Brother Zhao, it's alright. It's my friend. We just sparred a bit and caused some commotion. All of you can leave."

Just as he opened his mouth, Zhu Chuanzhi's body tensed up. He was just about to attack when he heard Zhou Shu's words, so he withdrew his strength.

The few people who had rushed over were a bit puzzled. But after hearing Zhou Shu's words, they didn't say anything and cupped their hands.

"Second Master, we'll stand guard outside. If there's anything, just call us," the leader said.

Zhou Shu nodded and gestured for them to leave.

These people were all guards arranged by Mi Zhifu. Their cultivation levels varied from the fifth to the seventh rank of the Martial Dao. They could be considered experts.

Only the Mi family was wealthy enough to easily send out a few ranked martial artists as guards. Mi Ziwen really treated Zhou Shu as a brother. Otherwise, the Mi family wouldn't have put in so much effort.

Even if it was the Mi family, ranked martial artists weren't aplenty.

"Great Sir, let's talk it over. How much do you want? Name a price. I won't bargain," Zhou Shu said.

“Look, I’ve already dismissed all the guards. Relax a little. Everyone has times when they’re short on money. I should help out if I can. There’s really no need to fight and kill.”

Zhu Chuanzhi sighed in relief. When he heard Zhou Shu’s words, he didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

Does he think I’m a thief? That I’m here to steal money?

Are you blind? Can’t you see the marks on the ground?

Would such an expert need to be a thief?

Zhu Chuanzhi couldn’t be bothered to explain. He said coldly, “Do you want to die or live?”

“Of course I want to live!” Zhou Shu said without hesitation.

“Very good!” Zhu Chuanzhi said coldly, “If you want to live, then listen to my orders!”

“Sir, tell me. As long as you don’t make me commit treason, I’ll do anything!” Zhou Shu said.

“Commit treason? You?” Zhu Chuanzhi sneered sarcastically. “Do you have a carriage in your residence?”

“There’s one,” Zhou Shu answered. Mi Zhifu had left it for him.

“Get someone to bring the carriage over,” Zhu Chuanzhi said.

“Why?” Zhou Shu blurted out.

“Cut the crap! If you want to live, don’t ask so much!” Zhu Chuanzhi growled.

Zhou Shu seemed to be frightened and quickly said, “Alright, alright, I won’t ask!”

He raised his voice and ordered the people outside to prepare the carriage. Then he turned around and whispered, “Great Sir, is this okay? Can you let me go now?”

“When the time comes, I’ll let you go.” Zhu Chuanzhi pushed him forward. “Go!”

“Ah...” Zhou Shu staggered a step and cried out in surprise, “Sir, you’re being unreasonable! I’ve already prepared a carriage for you—”

“I didn’t say I would release you now!” Zhu Chuanzhi sneered. “Be good and listen to me. I’ll let you go when we get there.

“Don’t try to call for help. Your guards won’t be able to save you.”

“No, I won’t,” Zhou Shu hurriedly said. “Sir, you must be careful. My body is weak, and I can’t withstand any torture.”

Zhu Chuanzhi laughed coldly. He grabbed Zhou Shu’s arm with one hand and pressed the other on the back of Zhou Shu’s heart. Just like that, they boarded the carriage outside.

“There’s no need for a carriage driver. You can drive!” Zhu Chuanzhi growled.

“I don’t know how,” Zhou Shu said.

“Argh.”

“I’ll do it!”

Zhu Chuanzhi exerted strength in his hands, causing Zhou Shu to yell loudly.

He felt Zhu Chuanzhi exerting his strength and hurriedly controlled his body. The Golden Bell Shield Technique would reflect attacks. He was afraid that if he didn’t control it, he would injure Zhu Chuanzhi.

He hurriedly drove the carriage forward.

Zhou Shu wasn’t lying. He really didn’t know how to drive a carriage. But fortunately, it wasn’t too difficult. With Zhu Chuanzhi leading the way, he was finally able to force the carriage forward.

The carriage had the insignia of the Mi family on it, and Zhou Shu was also a workshop superintendent. Along the way, although they encountered a few constables from the Divine Constable Bureau patrolling the area, they managed to pass through them safely.

This surprised Zhu Chuanzhi.

They arrived at the Zhu brothers’ secret hideout. The carriage stopped at the entrance. Zhou Shu could already hear Zhu Chuanfeng’s breathing through the wall.

Zhu Chuanfeng’s breathing quickened as if he had heard something outside.

Zhu Chuanzhi came to the door and knocked with a special rhythm.

“Big Brother, it’s me,” Zhu Chuanzhi whispered.

Creak!

The door opened slightly, and Zhu Chuanfeng’s head popped out.

Bang! Almost immediately, the door slammed shut again.

“Big Brother—”

“Chuanzhi! Are you trying to get me killed?” Zhu Chuanfeng said angrily.

Zhu Chuanzhi turned around and glanced at Zhou Shu. He understood what was going on and said with a bitter smile, “Big Brother, you’ve misunderstood. This Zhou Shu is the real one. He doesn’t have any cultivation at all! The man I met last night was an impostor!”

“Really?” Zhu Chuanfeng sounded a little doubtful as the door opened a little more.

After confirming that his brother wasn’t being held hostage by force, he opened the door and urged Zhu Chuanzhi to drive the carriage in.

“The carriage belongs to the Mi family?” Zhu Chuanfeng was pleasantly surprised. The Mi family was extraordinary. Ordinary people wouldn’t dare to check the carriage.

“I almost forgot this brat is Mi Ziwen’s sworn brother!”

Although the matter of Mi Ziwen and Zhou Shu becoming sworn siblings was not widely publicized, it was not deliberately kept secret either. People could still find out if they wanted to.

Zhu Chuanfeng looked at Zhou Shu, a strange feeling in his eyes.

Zhou Shu felt a bit embarrassed by his stare. He shrank back a bit and said, "Grand... Grand Craftsman Zhu, although I rejected you before, there shouldn't be any deep hatred between us, right? Don't tell me you want to kill me?"

"Kill you?" Zhu Chuanfeng laughed. "Killing you would be too wasteful. I wanted to take you in as my disciple, but there's no need for that now. I'll use you however I can. Say, if I use the Huben Saber, Hundred Refinements Ring Pommel Saber, Horse Slaying Saber, and Spring Embroidered Saber as my pledge of allegiance, what benefits will Great Wei give me?"

"You're a Grand Craftsman. Even if you join Great Wei, you're still a Grand Craftsman. Is there a need for you to use standard weapons as a pledge of allegiance?" Zhou Shu asked in confusion. He didn't sense the aura of the seven heaven-grade weapons on Zhu Chuanfeng's body, so he was in no hurry to make a move.

Zhu Chuanfeng sneered, but he didn't say anything. He turned to look at Zhu Chuanzhi.

"We have the carriage of the Mi family. With Zhou Shu, we have a good chance of getting out of the city!" Zhu Chuanfeng said in a low voice. "Chuanzhi, get ready. We'll leave immediately. We don't want anything to happen if we delay!"

Zhu Chuanzhi nodded and forcefully pushed Zhou Shu. "You drive the carriage. Go! After we leave the city, I'll let you go!"

"No!" Zhou Shu didn't move. "Grand Craftsman Zhu just said that he'll use me as a pledge of allegiance. I'll die either way. I won't leave!"

He sat on the ground and stuck out his neck, looking like he would rather die than submit.