

Re: God of Formation.

#Chapter 31: Shutting Up Everyone. - Read Re: God of Formation. Chapter 31: Shutting Up Everyone.

Chapter 31: Shutting Up Everyone.

"For this last round, each apprentice will try to set up a formation," Elder Feng announced, shocking everyone.

How could an apprentice set a formation? If they could set up an array formation, they would no longer be apprentices but bona fide Array Formation Masters.

"This is insane!"

"It's impossible! This is a test that only applies to Grade 1 Array Formation Masters. How could they ask them to do this?"

"Even Ma Long and Yuan Lan will fail. How could the association do this?"

The arena descended into a cacophony of noise. Everyone voiced their annoyance and discontentment with the last round.

Inside the VIP area, the elders sat calmly, waiting for Elder Feng to complete his announcement. They knew there was more to it.

Standing on the podium, Elder Feng's expression did not change. He waited for the crowd to voice their thoughts before he continued calmly.

"We are not asking them to set up a complete working array formation. Of course, we know they can't do that yet. This is a competition, and we want to see their level in setting up an array formation."

"The closer the array formation is to completion, the higher their points and ranks."

When the audience heard his explanation, they smiled, and a look of realization appeared on their faces.

So, they only wanted to see their level in setting up an array formation. They did not want a complete array formation but to assess their skill level.

Quickly, the atmosphere inside the arena changed as the people began to praise the Array Formation Association for its ingenuity.

From this test, they could all see the person who was closest to becoming a Grade 1 Array Formation Master.

An array formation master who could not set up an array formation was no array master. Thus, this was the best test.

Inside the VIP area, the Yuan clan elder looked at Elder Kai, who had a confident smile on his face.

"Elder Kai, what do you think of this round?" one of the elders asked.

"Hahaha. Do you need to ask? My disciples will come out first." Elder Kai turned and looked at them.

In the last round, he had lost a lot of face, but that did not deter him from bragging about his disciples.

This was no mere bragging. His disciple lacked only experience, and soon, he would become a Grade 1 Array Formation Master.

What could their little Miss compare to his disciple?

"Really?!" The only woman among the Yuan elders sneered. "Last time, you do remember what happened?"

"That means nothing. I'm too lazy to speak with you. Open your eyes and see the level of my disciple." Elder Kai smirked and averted his gaze.

Everyone inside the room looked at the two groups, and a light smile crept up their faces.

As for the Mystic Academy elders, they were enjoying the show. No matter who won, as long as they could join their academy, they had won.

In the Mystic Academy, there were many associate professors teaching without being official members of the academy.

Coming to this competition was to find any talented apprentices to join them and increase the prestige of their academy.

And among the apprentices, one person had already caught their eye.

With a look of anticipation, they gazed at the field, waiting for the last round to start.

Back on the field, Elder Feng looked at the few remaining apprentices and said, "You will come out according to your position in the last test."

"At this side, anything you need for the formation can be found here."

Beside the entrance, a big box had been placed, filled with all the materials needed for setting up an array formation.

"You can start," he declared.

Instantly, all eyes fell on Jun Wu. In the last round, he had come first, barely spending a minute in the Illusory Array Formation.

With such a feat, his presence had garnered many people's interest. Many believed he was just lucky to find the flaw in the Illusory Array Formation.

But the five supervising elders knew better.

This wasn't luck but something much more.

"What do you think his performance will be?"

"I don't know, but I don't expect anything extraordinary."

"Don't forget, he is the only dark horse in this competition."

"So what?! Look at how young he is; do you think he has a solid foundation to set up a formation?"

While the audience debated, Jun Wu approached the box and began picking all the materials he needed to set up an array formation.

Watching him, Ma Long couldn't help but sneer.

"Humph! Now, you have nowhere to hide. Everyone will know your little trick!"

Although his voice was not loud, all the apprentices could hear him. A slight frown appeared on Yuan Lan's face, but she chose to remain quiet.

She was not as delusional as him to believe a person who could reach the last round was relying on a little trick.

Meanwhile, Jun Wu was already back on the field and had begun setting up the array formation.

Watching him work, the arena fell silent. Even a fool could see something was different about the way he set up the formation.

His movements were fast and decisive. He did not pause to think before acting. Many even had the illusion he was not an apprentice but an Array Formation Master.

On the podium, Elder Feng could not hide his disbelief.

'This means nothing. This might all be a show,' he thought, shaking his head.

Elder Shen thought differently. 'Why do I have a feeling he is a Grade 1 Array Formation Master already?'

Inside the VIP section, the Mystic Academy elders looked at Elder Kai and the Yuan clan elders and asked,

"What do you think of this boy?"

"Humph! What's there? It's nothing. The boy is only putting on a show," Elder Kai snorted in disdain. "I can bet everything he's doing is full of flaws."

They did not respond and turned to look at the Yuan clan elders, waiting for their thoughts.

"He seems to know what he's doing... but we can only wait for the final result to know," the woman responded.

They nodded, accepting the explanation, which displeased Elder Kai.

'Humph! You just wait...'

Back on the field, Jun Wu had already completed setting up the formation and was merely connecting the nodes.

This was where many apprentices failed.

Done with connecting the nodes, he activated it and left the array formation.

"Are you done?" Elder Feng asked, unable to hide his disdain.

He had barely spent five minutes setting up the array formation. What did this mean?

That he knew nothing about Array Formation. Even a Grade 1 Array Formation Master wouldn't complete it in five minutes.

"Stay to the side and let us evaluate it," he said and left the podium.

Behind him, Elder Shen and Elder Kang looked at Jun Wu with puzzled expressions.

Still, they followed Elder Feng to evaluate the formation.

"Hahaha. I knew it!" Ma Long laughed in mockery. "What could a kid know about setting up an array formation?"

Inside the VIP section, Elder Kai looked at the Mystic Academy elders and the Yuan clan elders with a look that said, 'I told you so...'

Just as he opened his mouth to speak, a voice shouted,

"What is that?"

Over the field, a sudden black cloud gathered, shocking everyone. The weather was clear and the sun was shining brightly. How could a black cloud gather over the field?

More so, the black cloud did not spread anywhere; it was only at the center of the field.

The phenomenon shocked everyone. However, Mao Yun and Zhang Wei had bright smiles on their faces.

This was the work of their young master.

Before anyone could react, a drop of rain fell from the sky. Quickly, soft rain began to pour, leaving everyone flabbergasted.

Jun Wu, with his calm and indifferent expression, walked to the edge of the field and touched the rain.

"With this, I don't think you need to evaluate my work."

Chapter 32: Questioning His Talent.

Huh!

Everyone was stunned.

What did he mean his work did not need any evaluation?

Everyone had their eyes locked on the short rain falling in a specific area of the field. With how large the field was, why did it only fall on that particular spot?

To be precise, this was the area where Jun Wu had just finished setting up his Array Formation.

The more the people thought about it, the more absurd it became.

Elder Feng's jaw dropped to the ground. His eyes filled with disbelief.

'Impossible! Impossible!' he screamed in his mind.

He knew the implication of what just happened. The boy he so much looked down upon was not some unknown Array Formation Apprentice but something else...

A Grade 1 Array Formation Master.

A boy who was not even 20 yet. How could that be?

He was not the only one with that thought. All the elders had the same thought. To become a Grade 1 Array Formation Master, someone would need years of studying before moving to setting up the array formation.

Setting up Array Formation was a complicated process with many patterns and nodes. For some advanced Array Formations, special materials needed to be used.

The simplest Grade 1 Array Formation would have over 20 nodes and hundreds of interconnected patterns.

Thus, for anyone to become a Grade 1 Array Formation Master, they needed to master these patterns and nodes, which would take many years of learning.

And this was why every Grade 1 Array Formation Master was middle-aged.

Yet...

Ma Long froze and the condescending smile on his face had long vanished.

His pride came from the number of patterns and nodes he had mastered, which made him believe this competition was already in his pocket.

But now...

Yuan Lan's expression was as shocked as his. To her, her talent was unmatched in the whole Soaring Cloud Region. She planned in two to three years, she might have the chance to break through and become a Grade 1 Array Formation Master.

For this competition, she believed she would win with no one fighting for first place with her.

But she was wrong...

A boy, a lot younger than her, had done the unimaginable.

As for the apprentices behind her, their expressions varied. Some were old enough to be Jun Wu's father and yet they were still stuck as apprentice Array Formation Masters.

While he had become a Grade 1 Array Formation Master.

Many began to question their lives. Did they waste the past half of their lives in pursuit of the wrong thing?

Most especially the middle-aged man who had tried to have Jun Wu sent out of the competition.

'I must have been a dog in my last life.' He cursed his shitty luck.

Of everyone, why must he pick on such a monster?

Now, all he wanted was to disappear from the arena.

Inside the VIP area, everyone was already on their feet, looking at the light rain in amazement.

Elder Kai felt like he had lost his soul just staring at the rain. 'This must be an illusion.'

"It must be! It must!" He was on the brink of a mental breakdown.

A few feet from him, the Yuan clan elders had an unsightly expression on their faces.

Their clan boasted of a deep inheritance in Array Formation, but they never had such a practical formation.

Their Yuan clan was known for their protective formations. Anything relating to protective array formations, their clan knew a thing or two about it.

But an Array Formation to make short rain—none.

Even the Array Formation Association did not have such a rare array formation diagram.

For the Mystic Academy elders, they were stunned for a moment before a deep smile appeared on their faces.

The elders exchanged subtle glances and a knowing look appeared on their faces.

Such a monster must be recruited into their academy.

While they were already planning how to recruit Jun Wu, others were already doing the same.

With such talent, his future was limitless. Who knew, he might be the first person to become a Grade 2 Array Formation Master in the Soaring Cloud Region.

How could they miss such a rare chance to associate with such a talent?

Suddenly, the light rain stopped and the dark cloud over the arena dissipated. It was then everyone began to slowly recover from their shock.

Elder Shen turned and looked at the calm boy beside them and opened her mouth to speak, but the words failed to come out.

She had noticed Jun Wu from the beginning. His composure and everything else made him stand out.

From the first round to the second round, none of the tests posed any challenge to him.

Of course, they wouldn't pose a threat to him when he was already a Grade 1 Master.

Finally, she found her voice and said, "S-So... you're a Grade 1 Array Formation Master already."

"Yes," Jun Wu nodded.

Huh!

Elder Shen sighed, still finding it difficult to believe. All the elders looked at him with various emotions flashing through their eyes.

Most were shocked, some envious, and others... something dark.

"So did I pass?" Jun Wu asked.

Before Elder Shen could respond, Elder Feng beat her to it.

"Since you're already a Grade 1 Array Formation Master, why did you participate in the competition in the first place?"

When everyone heard his question, they frowned before others nodded.

Is he here to show off or what?

Ma Long also nodded with the other apprentices. "What's so great about his talent? The elders must cancel his participation in the competition. This is cheating," he shouted.

With him taking the lead, many began to join him, voicing their complaints due to jealousy.

Unbothered by the rising complaints around him, Jun Wu looked at Elder Feng and asked,

"How do you become an Array Formation Master?"

Hmm?

Everyone was shocked and confused. Why would he ask such a meaningless question?

To Elder Feng, that was blatant disrespect to his name and prestige. Before he could lash out at him, Jun Wu continued.

"With such a narrow mind, I believe this is the best you can attain in this life. I pity every disciple under you..."

Since the elder was adamant about making things difficult for him, he wouldn't mind showing him his place. Did he think he was a soft target he could bully?

Elder Feng was furious. A boy so young that could be his grandson dared berate him in the presence of everyone.

"What? Did I lie? Since the start of this competition, you have been going against me. It's not like I stole your wife."

"Just because you can't do it and your inflated ego thinks that no one can do it makes you question my talent. Tsk."

"With my age, if I claimed I was a Grade 1 Array Formation Master, would you have believed me?"

Chapter 33: No One Came Close.

Listening to his question, everyone was stunned.

Indeed, with his age, if he had claimed he was a Grade 1 Array Formation Master, no one would have believed him.

Elder Feng opened his mouth to refute his claim and once again, Jun Wu did not let him speak as he continued.

"Besides, I've not taken the Grade 1 Array Formation Master exam. So, I'm not a Grade 1 Array Formation Master... yet."

Jun Wu locked his gaze with Elder Feng, waiting for him to speak. His journey to the Mystic City was not for some old narrow-minded man to hinder his growth.

He wouldn't allow what happened in the Silver Star City to repeat itself. Anyone that dares to stand in his way would be put in their place.

This included the Array Formation Association Elders.

Looking at the calm and confident Jun Wu, both Elder Shen and Elder Kang exchanged subtle glances.

Before Elder Shen could speak, a loud voice came from the back.

"So what?!" Ma Long shouted. "You cheated and you must be removed from the competition."

Jun Wu turned and looked at him from head to toe, disdain playing on his lips.

"Idiot!"

Too lazy to exchange words with such a fool, he turned and looked at the elders, waiting for their decision.

Being called an idiot irked Ma Long to no end. He gritted his teeth and thick veins protruded from his forehead.

He opened his mouth to refute him, but when he saw the look on the other apprentices' faces, he closed his mouth. His mind boiled in rage.

'You just wait... I will make your life hell.'

Now, everyone in the arena was quiet. Although most of them were fans of Ma Long and Yuan Lan, they could not deny the obvious.

Everything Jun Wu said was on point. Since he had not taken the Grade 1 Array Formation Master examination, he was nothing but an Array Formation apprentice.

Besides, his age spoke volumes. Who would believe such a boy was already a Grade 1 Array Formation Master without seeing his badge?

Many, even seeing his badge, would not believe him. This spoke of how young he was compared to others.

Additionally, he did not cheat throughout the test. Everything depended on his capability.

With all this, the audience quietly waited for the decision of the Association.

Hmm! Hmm!

Elder Shen cleared her throat, unbothered by the unsightly expression on Elder Feng's face.

"You're right. You did not break any rules. Your array points will be added to your score," she announced.

Beside her, Elder Kang smiled at Jun Wu. "Hahaha. Congratulations. After this competition, don't hesitate to come to the association to take the promotional exam."

"Thank you," Jun Wu responded humbly with a light smile on his face.

Quickly, the other two elders congratulated him for his success in setting up a complete Grade 1 Array Formation.

Watching the elders smiling and greeting Jun Wu, Elder Feng could not contain his rage and left the field in large strides.

However, no one cared about him.

Anyone with a bit of sense knew going against such a talent was not the right decision.

After the greetings, Jun Wu returned to his spot without caring about all the various gazes directed at him.

Yuan Lan looked at him with a conflicted expression.

This was supposed to be her time, the chance for her clan to prove to the world their clan was more superior to the association. Yet...

Shaking her head, she moved forward to set up her formation.

The audience watched her and some couldn't help but pity her. Many people believed she would have become the top winner of this competition, but against such a monster...

She and all the apprentices stood no chance.

Thirty minutes later, she was done setting up her array formation and the elders came forward to evaluate her.

"Well done!" Elder Shen said with an encouraging smile. "You got five nodes wrong."

Yuan Lan nodded, not surprised by the result. This was the best she could do at her current stage. She still had a long way to go to connect all the nodes without an error.

After her, the apprentices stepped forward one after the other to show their level in setting up array formations.

No one came close to Yuan Lan's level. Most of them had over 10 errors in their array formations.

When it was time for Ma Long to set up his array formation, the arena was charged with anticipation.

"How many errors do you think he will have?"

"Three at most."

"Impossible. Are you saying he will beat Yuan Lan?"

While the audience debated the number Ma Long would have in his array, Elder Kai sat with a pensive expression inside the VIP Section.

The prideful smile on his face had long vanished. He stared at Ma Long with a sharp gaze, monitoring his movements.

He might have lost to that monster — that could still be accepted. But he must not lose to the Yuan clan.

Watching his behaviour, no one made fun of him. Everyone realized how important the situation was.

Back on the field, Ma Long's hands were sweaty, feeling all the gazes on his body. From the corner of his eyes, he could faintly see his master's eyes.

All this put a lot of pressure on him.

Taking a deep breath, he began to set up the formation. Gone was his pride and confidence. Right now, all he could think of was not disappointing his master.

Forty minutes later, he wiped off the bead of sweat from his forehead and declared he was done.

The elders came forward and began to check his work. At first, Elder Feng had an encouraging smile on his face, but slowly it faded and turned into a frown.

Five minutes later, all the elders had completed their evaluation and turned to Elder Feng to make the announcement.

Ma Long held his breath as he looked at Elder Feng.

With a cold, expressionless face, Elder Feng declared,

"There are five node errors."

Chapter 34: Making His Name Known

For a moment, the arena was quiet.

Everyone was trying to let the result sink in. Ma Long looked at Elder Feng with shock etched on his face as he could not believe his ears.

He had been careful not to make any mistake and that was the reason it took him a longer time to complete setting up the array formation.

Inside the VIP Section, Elder Kai froze and his face slowly contorted in disbelief. Slowly, it shifted into disappointment.

He had poured a lot of resources into nurturing Ma Long, hoping he would make him proud. Yet... he was nothing but a bag of disappointment.

Before anyone could realize what was happening to him, he rose and left the room in annoyance.

Everyone looked at his departing back but did not utter any comment. One of the Mystic Academy elders shook his head.

Pride leads to downfall.

In the arena, the audience were discussing Ma Long's result. Many were disappointed; they expected him to be much better but his result was lackluster.

Although his result was the same as Yuan Lan's, when they compared it with the second-round result, he was subpar.

Even though everyone was disappointed at Ma Long's result, the competition still had to continue.

However, the result was nothing extraordinary. The remaining had errors above 10 while some even had 20 errors.

With the last person's score announced, the final round came to a stop.

Standing on the podium, Elder Feng addressed the crowd.

"We have now come to the end of the competition. Now, I'll announce the top ten winners."

The chatter among the audience reduced as they moved to the edge of their seats for the top ten winners.

"For the Tenth Spot: Luo Jian."

A middle-aged man stepped forward among the apprentices, his face etched with pride.

"Ninth spot: Gao Nuo."

"..."

Slowly, the names were called and when Elder Feng reached the fifth spot, he paused for a moment and knitted his brow.

"For the fifth spot: Ma Long."

What!

Various gasps echoed inside the arena. Even inside the VIP room, many were stunned.

Fifth Spot!

What happened?!

This was the question on everyone's mind. The Yuan clan elders' subtle glances and slow bright smiles tugged at the corners of their lips.

With this, they could prove to the world they were more superior to the Array Formation Association.

How could a mere fifth-spot ranker compare to their young miss, who ranked second?

As for the first spot, that was out of reach.

Back on the field, Ma Long had a lifeless expression on his face. He could not believe everything that was happening.

Fifth Spot!

How was that possible?

He looked at the elders and wanted to question them, but when his eyes locked on Elder Feng's cold, piercing gaze, he swallowed whatever he wanted to say and dragged his body to join the top ten winners.

Clicking his tongue in disdain, Elder Feng averted his gaze and continued calling the names.

"Second Spot: Yuan Lan."

Yuan Lan stepped forward elegantly and took her position with grace. Her beauty captivated everyone, and with her score, she won everyone's mind.

For the last spot, everyone held their breath and subconsciously rose to their feet.

Such a monster deserved such respect.

Mao Yun and Zhang Wei were also on their feet, their faces filled with pride and joy.

"Ha! The young master did it!"

"The young master did it!" Zhang Wei mumbled continuously, unable to hide his joy.

They'd seen how the Jun clan treated Jun Wu unfairly.

For 18 years, he was nothing but a plaything for the other young master.

Even when he knew nothing that was going on around him, he did not escape the clan's ridicule.

He had been subjected to poisoning and countless assassinations. Many had written him off, and yet— here he was, proving everyone wrong.

Elder Feng looked hatefully at Jun Wu and wished he would not call his name, but he knew it was impossible.

"For the first spot belongs to none other than Jun Wu."

Cheers!

The audience erupted in cheers and jubilation.

Although many did not know him, his talent was something that had never appeared in the Soaring Cloud Region.

An eighteen-year Grade 1 Array Formation Master. This was history in the making, and they were part of it.

If nothing happened to him, they all knew it was only a matter of time before his name resounded throughout the Soaring Cloud Region and beyond.

No one knew who started it, but everyone in the stadium began to chant his name.

"JUN WU!"

"JUN WU!"

Watching this, even the elders and those in the VIP section were stunned.

One of the Mystic Academy elders blurted:

"Is that not THE Jun clan aristocrat?"

In the whole Soaring Cloud Region, there was one Jun, and they are the Jun aristocrat clan—the uncrowned king of the region.

Instantly, everyone woke up from the crowd's chants and widened their eyes in disbelief.

"How is that possible?!" one of the Yuan clan elders shouted.

"When did the Jun clan produce such a monster?"

Fear, shock, and disbelief etched on their faces. Everything the Jun clan did concerned everyone in the region.

Every time they breathed, every inhabitant of the region felt their breath.

And now, everyone inside the VIP room could feel their cold breath, and they couldn't help but shiver.

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On the field, Jun Wu walked gracefully, exuding the nobility born of the Jun's.

Feeling his sudden change in aura, the apprentices and elders were stupefied.

Elder Feng's cold expression faltered for a moment before it returned.

He cleared his voice and continued, pretending he was not affected by Jun Wu's aura.

"For the top seven, you will be rewarded to enter the Association repository to learn for a day."

When the top seven heard this, their faces turned to joy, unable to hide their bright smiles.

This was a golden opportunity that fell into their laps.

"For the third position, you can enter the Association Repository for a day, and you will also be given a complete diagram of a Grade 1 Array Formation."

"For the second position, you will be given all the rewards of the third position with an additional array diagram."

Although only a single diagram separated the third and second spot, that was enough to prove how important an array diagram was.

Every array diagram was precious to every clan or association.

A complete array diagram was very rare, and it could only be found in ruins, depending on luck.

People could enter a hundred ruins and might not encounter a complete array formation diagram.

Thus, every complete array diagram was a treasure that everyone safeguarded with their lives.

As for buying with gold or silver, that was nearly impossible.

No chamber or hall was selling it. Most of those on the market were incomplete ones, and those claimed to be complete were full of flaws.

Only the Array Formation Association could reward people with such a rare diagram.

With the second-spot reward announced, everyone was waiting for Jun Wu's reward.

"For the first spot, he will receive all the rewards of the second spot and get one more additional array diagram with one thousand gold coins."

"JUN WU!"

"JUN WU!"

The crowd shouted, chanting his name in excitement.

The atmosphere inside the stadium was electrifying and today, a name would spread throughout the Soaring Cloud Region.

AN: Please support this book with your golden tickets and power stones. I will deeply appreciate it. It means a lot.

Chapter 35: Everyone Speak of Him.

The Mystic City was in an uproar with the conclusion of the Array Formation competition.

Taverns and tea houses discussed the shocking appearance of the Grade-1 Array Formation Master not older than 20 years.

"Can you believe it? An 18-year Grade-1 Array Master!"

"I don't believe it!" A young man shook his head. "My father has been trying to become a Grade-1 Array Formation Master for many years, yet he is still stuck as an apprentice."

"Hahaha. Don't compare your father's talent with such a monster."

"If you were at the competition, you would know how freaking talented Young Master Wu was. Did you know he made rain fall with array formation?"

"Really?!"

"Yes. I heard many array masters will be trying to learn such an important array formation."

The news spread like wildfire, and students of Mystic Path Academy learned of the news.

"Impossible! This news must be fake." A beautiful girl said, shaking her head.

"It's not fake. This news has spread throughout the city, and even some of our teachers could testify to it."

"Yet, you said he's only 18 years old. I don't believe it." The girl shook her head adamantly and sauntered off. "I'll go and ask my master. I believe she won't fall for all this propaganda."

Looking at her departing back, her friend couldn't help but shake her head.

They knew she had been trying to become an Array Formation Master, but her talent was lacking.

And now, when she found a boy a lot younger doing what she failed to achieve, she was in self-denial.

Inside a beautiful courtyard, a young man was practicing his fist technique.

His brow was covered in sweat and his robes drenched. Yet, that did not diminish his handsomeness.

Suddenly, the door of the courtyard was pushed open and a young man dressed in a blue robe embroidered with the insignia of the Gong clan entered.

"Young Master..." Gong Rui shouted, his voice filled with impatience.

The young man practicing his fist technique creased his brow as his concentration was broken.

He turned and looked at his fellow clansman and demanded in a chilling voice.

"You better have a genuine reason for shouting like that," Gong Tao demanded coldly.

Gong Rui nodded. "Young Master, I came with important news, and it's about the Jun clan."

Gong Tao's interest was piqued. As the leader of the Gong clan's younger generation, his role was to control and lead their clan against their arch-rival – the Jun clan.

Since he broke through and became a First-Rated Martial Artist, staying back at the academy had little effect on him.

His presence was to hold back the reign of the Jun clan. Even though they were weaker than the Jun, they couldn't let the gap widen.

"Quick, tell me," Gong Tao demanded impatiently.

Without holding anything back, Gong Rui narrated the result of the Apprentice Array Formation competition.

Listening to it, Gong Tao knitted his brow, and he couldn't help but ask,

"Is this news confirmed?"

"Yes." Gong Rui nodded. "Our clan elder in the association has already confirmed it."

Gong Tao was shocked inwardly. An eighteen-year-old Array Formation Master! How was that possible?

Where did he come from?

Had the Jun clan been hiding all this while?

Various thoughts flashed through his mind, but he did not have an answer to any of them.

Suddenly, he asked, "What is his name?"

"Jun Wu."

"Jun Wu?" Gong Tao was confused. Among the top talents of the Jun clan, there wasn't anyone named Jun Wu.

"Who's that?"

"I heard he's the trash of the Jun clan, the stain on their name." Gong Rui responded, but he even found it hard to believe.

If an 18-year-old Grade-1 Array Formation Master was trash, then what about the others?

"Trash!?" Gong Tao sneered. "This must be the Jun clan's scheme."

Only an idiot would believe such a talent was called trash.

"Leave. I need to think," he commanded and returned to his room. He had lost every trace of training.

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Inside another beautiful courtyard, a serious discussion was going on.

"Are you sure?" Jun Zhenya asked, staring at Jun Jiahao.

Jun Jiahao nodded with a solemn gaze. The trash of the clan had somehow become a talented Array Formation Master.

How was that even possible?

Jun Hui and Jun Wuhan still wore a look of disbelief. They could still remember how they toyed with that retarded fool.

And now, he had become famous, and his talent was being praised.

As a Jun, they should be happy for a fellow clansman, but they were not. Their shock turned into a deep frown.

"Senior brother, Senior sister, we can't allow him to continue like this. We must do something," Jun Wuhan said in an aggrieved voice, unable to hide his anger and jealousy.

Jun Zhenya, the strongest among them, tapped her armrest gently, her expression unreadable.

Now that Jun Wu's fame has spread throughout the city and even the entire region,

They could not openly attack him like they usually did.

"We do nothing for now. Have some people watch him while we wait for a response from the clan," she said after a moment.

Jun Hui and Jun Wuhan exchanged subtle glances and were not content with the response, but there was nothing they could do.

While the Jun clan and Gong clan younger generations were deliberating how to handle Jun Wu's sudden rise,

Jun Wu was meeting the Array Formation Association president.

"Hahaha. I never believed I'd have the chance to meet such a young talent in this life," the president said with an amicable smile.

"President, you flatter me. I believe there are many like me out there," Jun Wu responded humbly.

The president nodded, finding him more likable. Achieving such a feat at such a young age, many youngsters would be filled with pride.

But he could see Jun Wu did not let the pride get in his head.

"I learned you made rain fall during the competition with your array formation. I'm interested in that array formation," the president said directly.

Jun Wu's expression did not change as he continued to look at the president.

"Sell the array diagram to the association, and the association will be indebted to you," the president added as he saw Jun Wu's calmness.

"President, you should know how precious an array diagram is. So, I'll need to refuse your offer," Jun Wu said calmly.

The president did not change his expression. He was merely trying his luck.

"But I can work with the association," he added.

When the president heard this, a bright smile appeared on his face, and he nodded, liking Jun Wu even more.

"Good. Good. Since you've decided to give this old man some face, I won't mistreat you."

Jun Wu smiled without responding. He had his reason for collaborating with the association.

"Why don't we keep this hidden for a moment? I need to put something in place," the president asked.

"No problem. I'll follow your decision."

Outside the president's office, some old elders stood with a look of anticipation on their faces.

"Do you think the president will succeed?" an elder asked.

"Of course, the president will succeed."

"Hahaha. That will be good. Everyone will have a chance to learn such an important array diagram."

Unknown to them, they would never have the chance of learning the Quick Rain Array Formation in their lifetime.

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Chapter 36: Xinyue Transformation

Seated inside the upper floor of the inn, Jun Wu watched the ever-grinning Mao Yun and Zhang Wei.

"Will you stop this already..." Jun Wu said with a faint smile on his face.

"Hahaha. Young Master, how can we stop smiling?" Zhang Wei said, shaking his head.

"With your fame, everyone is trying to get on your good side. We, as your retainers, have already had our lives changed. Now, they can't wait to flatter us just to get to you."

Jun Wu shook his head. "All this is just for the moment; with time, everything will return to normal."

The quiet Mao Yun shook his head. "Young Master, that will be impossible as long as ruins keep appearing. Why are Array Formation Masters treated differently?"

Jun Wu did not respond as he waited for him to continue.

"The reason is simple. In some ruins, there are barriers only an Array Formation Master can break. Tier-0 ruins might not have such protective formations, but from Tier-1 upward, the chance of encountering a protective formation is very high."

"Therefore, to explore these ruins, apart from powerful martial artists, a much more experienced Array Formation Master is needed. Now, you can see why everyone is excited about your talent."

"This gives them hope that you can unravel many ruins protected by powerful array formations."

Listening to the explanation, Jun Wu wore a look of realization. Apart from setting defensive formations and other types of formations.

The most important aspect was that they could unlock all the legacies hidden in the ruins that appeared in the void.

"I see..." he muttered, looking out of the window. "But they all made one mistake..."

Mao Yun and Zhang Wei were confused, and they looked at him.

"Which is?" Zhang Wei asked.

"I have no intention of working for anyone else. I plan to explore every ruin on my own without depending on anyone," he declared.

Mao Yun and Zhang Wei were stunned for a moment but recovered quickly. Previously, they would have tried to convince him to focus on his path of array formation, but they knew better.

Unlike any traditional Array Formation Master, Jun Wu was an anomaly. He could fight and instantly cast deadly array formations that would render anyone helpless.

Fighting against him demanded utmost concentration, with how tricky he was. Every one of his actions might be him setting up a trap.

Thus, a battle against such a foe was deadly, with unpredictable outcomes. This had been proven at his first ruin exploitation at Bright Pearl Village.

Apart from array formation, he was also a talented blacksmith. Many were still using ordinary weapons, while he was equipped with mortal-grade weapons.

Thinking of the strange weapons hoisted at their waists, they firmly believed Jun Wu's decision was not wrong.

Creak!

The door to the VIP room was pushed open, and Elder Peng and Xinyue entered.

Jun Wu raised his head, and when his gaze locked on Xinyue's beautiful face, he was stunned for a moment.

Not only him, but both Mao Yun and Zhang Wei were stunned by her transformation.

Who would have thought the seemingly helpless girl would be this beautiful?

It was then they realized why everyone was trying to get under her skirt.

Previously, she was dressed in dirty clothes and looked unkempt, but now—

draped in a flowing gown of deep blue silk, the fabric clung and swayed to reveal the delicate curve of her slender waist, while the gentle swell of her bosom rose like a promise beneath its folds.

Her long, midnight-black hair, loosened yet gathered in a careless knot, spilled over one shoulder in waves that shimmered when caught by the light.

Above, her phoenix-shaped brows framed eyes of jade-green depth — eyes that seemed to hold both storms and serenity.

Her lips, small and rosy, curved with an unspoken charm. She did not need to speak; her very presence compelled the world to turn and look again.

Feeling all the gazes on her, Xinyue was shy and lowered her head. She was not new to such a gaze.

Previously, she had been proud of her beauty, but with the little experience she had at the academy in Mystic City,

she did not feel that way any longer. Right now, her priority was to keep her little brother safe.

Elder Peng watched the scene with an amused smile, took a seat beside Mao Yun, and picked up a wine jar to take a sip.

"You're beautiful," Jun Wu said calmly and averted his gaze.

He was indeed captivated by her beauty, but that was all. He wouldn't lose his common sense because of it.

"Miss Xinyue, you're really beautiful. We didn't see that coming," Zhang Wei chuckled.

"Thank you..." Xinyue responded in a low voice, filled with shyness.

From her experience, she could feel none of the men had any ulterior motive in their gazes. They only admired her beauty with nothing else.

To her, this was the first time this had ever happened. Everyone that saw her almost wished to devour her.

"Come and take a seat." Jun Wu invited her to sit beside him.

"Y-yes, Young Master..." She nodded with her bow.

She took her seat beside him, her head lowered, too nervous to raise her head to look at him.

With the news flying around, she had learned how talented Jun Wu was, and that he was also from the Jun aristocrat clan.

How could she not be nervous?

Against such a noble clan, her beauty meant nothing against such a titan.

Unknown to her thoughts, Jun Wu looked at Elder Peng and asked,

"Have you found our new home?"

"Yes, Young Master," Elder Peng responded with a bright smile. "When they learned you were the one buying the mansion, they gave us a huge discount, and the papers were done quickly."

"Tomorrow, we can move in."

"Good. From tomorrow, we can begin the plan."

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Thanks.

Chapter 37: The Evil Plot.

Inside the Jun aristocrat clan archipelago, the news of Jun Wu's fame had spread to every corner, people gathered in twos and threes to discuss the sudden fame.

On a particular island surrounded by tall ancient trees, inside a magnificent building, three were discussing with solemn expressions on their faces.

"Elder Brother, how could this happen?" Jun Huang asked, looking at her brother, the clan master.

As a Jun, every woman was forbidden to marry out. They could only marry their husbands into the Jun aristocrat clan and take Jun's name.

Therefore, most of the Jun's descendants lived in the Jun archipelago and this made the thirst for power frightening.

With only two children both with average talent, Jun Huang would not allow the clan's power to leave their faction.

This was the only way for her children to have an easy life in the clan.

The trash who they thought could be easily disposed of before they got rid of his father had miraculously recovered.

While they were thinking of how to handle Jun Wu's sudden recovery, they received another shocking piece of news.

How could they keep calm?

Jun Qiqang could understand how his younger sister was feeling. Things had just gone from bad to worse and if those old fogies learned of the news.

Their previously curated plan might all go to waste. Apart from that, their firm grip on the clan's resources might loosen.

And this cannot happen.

Jun Qiqang turned and looked at the last person in the room— Jun Tan An. "What do you think?"

With Jun Wu no longer a retarded fool, they needed to handle the situation carefully. The clan might be filled with internal strife but killing fellow clansmen was a great taboo that must not be crossed.

Jun Tan An's viper-like eyes squinted. He tapped his armrest, looked at Jun Qiqang, and responded.

"The only thing we can do right now is to get rid of him before he is allowed to return to meet the supreme elders."

His voice was cold, detached from any emotion.

Jun Qiqang creased his brow but Jun Huang nodded and added.

"Elder Tan An is right. We must dispose of him quickly. With such talent, if he is allowed to return to the clan. All our children can forget their lavish lifestyle." Her gaze moved from her elder brother to Elder Tan An.

"Do you think it is as easy as that?" Jun Qiqang shook his head.

As the clan master, he was privy to many secrets unknown to ordinary elders of the clan.

"Of course, it wouldn't be easy. But we must do it." Elder Tan An responded, his voice laced with cold sharp determination.

"Our two factions had already burned the bridge against his father. Now that his father is not at home looking for a cure for his son. This is the best time to act. Else..." His voice trailed off but Jun Qiqang and Jun Huang knew the implication.

Jun Wu's father, Jun Chang, had been passive all these years because of his son's sickness. But now that his son had miraculously recovered, they could all imagine his action against them.

Thus, this was the best time to nip the bud while it was still young.

Of course, Jun Qiqang was aware of all these but he was careful of the watchful eyes of the supreme elders.

They might be behind closed doors all day but they were aware of everything happening in the clan.

After thinking for a moment, he decided. "Elder Tan An, you will be responsible for this job. Make sure the boy does not return to the clan." He paused to arrange his thoughts.

"But don't act immediately, let's wait for how the Gong clan reacts to this news. If they show any move of attacking him, you can support them from the shadows."

Elder Tan An had an evil smile creep up his face. He grinned and nodded.

"Clan Master, you can rest assured. Everything will be done without leaving a trace."

Listening to the plan, Jun Huang could finally breathe a sigh of relief. A smile tugged at the corner of her lips as she imagined Jun Wu's death.

Jun Qiqang however did not share their thoughts.

'18 years old Grade 1 Array Formation Master!? How did he do it?' He thought deeply.

Ever since Jun Wu was born, he had been keeping an eye on him. With Jun's condition, there was no way he would learn Array Formation.

'Did he learn when he recovered?'

'Impossible!' He denied the thought immediately.

Jun Wu's recovery was barely over a month. How could anyone become an Array Formation Master in a month?

Compared to Jun Wu's death, the reason behind him becoming a Grade 1 Array Formation Master was more important and he would have to take it to his father.

Inside the Gong aristocrat clan mansion, the clan master and the elders were having an urgent meeting.

"We need to act immediately." An elder said decisively.

"Agreed, we need to act immediately. If we allow the Jun clan to continue to develop, it is only a matter of time before our clan is suppressed completely." A female elder added.

Although they were weaker than the Jun aristocrat clan, they were not yet suppressed completely.

But at the rate at which the Jun clan produced many terrifying talents, it was only a matter of time before the Soaring Cloud Region took the Jun clan's name.

Seated on the main seat, the Gong clan master— a woman with a commanding presence— stared at the elders with an unreadable expression.

Under her rule, the Gong clan had managed to gain many advantages against the Jun clan.

But the sudden appearance of a young talented Grade 1 Array Master had disrupted her plan.

With a cold expression, she declared.

"Send our spies to kill him immediately. They have a week to complete the mission."

"Yes, Clan Master." A thin old man responded and vanished from the room.

If the Jun clan thought, they could develop such a rare talent under their watch.

They were wrong.

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Chapter 38: The Academy Tries to Recruit Him.

It had been two days since Jun Wu's fame spread throughout the Mystic City and the Soaring Cloud Region.

Everyone was speaking of him, and many who did not know him wanted to know.

Merchants and Ruin Adventurers trooped to his mansion. Mao Yun and Zhang Wei were having headaches stopping the never-ending flow of people.

For Jun Wu's protection, they took shifts guarding the gate.

Jun Wu had already expected the flow of people, and this did not bother him. He focused on his goal.

First, he would level up and become a Grade-1 Blacksmith and then find talented people to join his team.

"Elder Peng, how long before the smith is complete?" He asked, staring at Elder Peng working seriously on their new forge.

With Jun Wu's fame, it would be impossible for him to return to the Silver Star City without risking his life.

Therefore, they decided to stay in the Mystic City for the time being.

Elder Peng averted his gaze from the half-finished forge and looked at Jun Wu.

"Young Master, the forge should be completed today," he responded. "If we could hire more hands, the forge would already be completed."

Unfortunately, they could not hire people. For now, Jun Wu wanted to keep it a secret until Elder Peng would become a Grade-1 Blacksmith.

Compared to Array Formation Masters, Blacksmiths were a lot rarer.

In the whole Soaring Cloud Region, there was not a single Grade-1 Blacksmith, only Half-Step Grade-1 Blacksmiths.

This showed how rare the legacy of Blacksmithing was. In most ruins, what was common were Alchemy and Array Formation.

Blacksmiths like Elder Peng were everywhere, trying their luck just to break through and become a Grade-1 Blacksmith.

With Jun Wu already a Half-Step Blacksmith, he only needed to forge a Mortal Grade weapon and he would become a real Grade-1 Blacksmith.

As for Elder Peng, he could easily teach him the intricacies of runic inscription.

When Elder Peng became a Grade-1 Blacksmith, their organization would have a solid hold in the Soaring Cloud Region.

With the forge not yet completed, Jun Wu nodded and prepared to return to his room when he saw Xinyue approaching him.

With a light smile on her beautiful lips, she raised her head. "Young Master, elders from the academy are here to see you."

"Elders from the Mystic Path Academy?" He asked, knitting his brow.

"Yes."

He nodded and walked toward the main hall with Xinyue walking beside him.

"Since you're part of the academy before, do you have any idea why they are here?" He asked, looking at her.

She thought for a moment before she responded. "I can only think of one thing..."

"What?"

"They are here to recruit you."

"Recruit me?" Jun Wu was puzzled.

He believed such a powerful academy would have Grade-1 Array Masters in their academy. Why would they come to recruit him?

"Yes. With your talent, everyone is trying to rope you in, and I believe the academy is no different." Xinyue replied with certainty.

She had seen her share of how the academy works. Students with talent would be treated and worshiped, but if those students ever lost their talent...

They would be discarded like a piece of trash.

Both the students and teachers were selfish and would only smile at you when there was something for them to gain.

Within a few meters of the main hall, Xinyue opened her mouth to speak but decided to close it back.

It was not her place to decide for him.

Jun Wu could sense her conflicted thoughts and stopped. He looked at her and asked, "What? You can say whatever is in your mind."

Xinyue raised her head and looked into his eyes. They were pure without any hidden plot. He was not testing her.

With this, she saw he genuinely wanted to listen to her opinion.

Her heart skipped a beat with a rush of happiness. Since she left the academy, this was the first time someone had genuinely wanted to listen to her without any evil schemes.

Taking a deep breath, she replied. "Young Master, I hope you wouldn't agree with them."

Completing her statement, she lowered her head, unsure of how he would respond.

'So cute!' Jun Wu thought inwardly.

"Why?" He asked.

Without raising her head, "B-Because the academy is not a good place for you."

At the end of her statement, her voice was barely audible.

"Alright..." Jun Wu chuckled and left.

Looking at his departing back, Xinyue raised her head and exhaled deeply. Saying all those words took all her courage, and if he hadn't left...

She wouldn't have known how to react.

Watching his back, her cheeks reddened, and she shook her head as if trying to get some bad thought out of her head.

Meanwhile, inside the main hall, the two elders from the Mystic Path Academy sat patiently for the arrival of Jun Wu.

Creak!

When they heard the sound of footsteps, they turned their heads and looked at the entrance.

Jun Wu entered with a calm expression. "Elders, sorry for keeping you waiting."

"Hahaha. There's nothing to be sorry about. We're the ones that came unannounced," one of the elders said with a bright smile.

Jun Wu sat on the main seat and looked at the elders.

"Sorry for not serving you any tea. I'm yet to hire the servants."

"Young Master, it's nothing. Besides, we did not come here for that," the second elder responded with a smile.

"Alright. So, what brings you to my home? I don't believe I have anything that might interest such prestigious Mystic Path Academy elders," Jun Wu asked, going straight to the point.

The elders exchanged subtle glances, and one of them looked at Jun Wu with a serious expression.

"Young Master, the academy values your talent, and we hope you can join us as a professor," he explained.

Quickly, the second elder added, "This wouldn't disturb your pursuit of Array Formation. If you like, you can be an associate professor. This will not make you stay in the academy every time."

Jun Wu stared and listened to them without any change in his expression. He did not respond immediately, giving the elders false hope as if he was considering it.

"Thank you for the offer, but I will have to reject it," he said calmly.

What!

The elders widened their eyes in disbelief. This was a great offer, and they did not think Jun Wu would reject them.

Just as they prepared to persuade him, a blaring sound came from the distance.

When the elders heard this, their countenance changed immediately, and they rose to their feet.

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Chapter 39: Ruin Beast Tide Attack.

A thick tension hung over the Mystic City. Fear and panic gripped everyone's mind like a vice.

Guards raced through the now quiet street with grave expressions.

Stores and restaurants had their doors closed. Ordinary people hid behind closed doors.

From the distance, the frightening sound of Ruin Beasts echoed in the air, sending shivers down the spine of everyone who heard it.

On the city wall, guards were fighting with their lives on the line. Each wore a grave expression.

Outside the city were tens of thousands of Ruin Beasts rushing toward the city. Each beast was more fearsome than the last.

Most of the Ruin Beasts were Grade-0 and Grade-1.

Against the Grade-0 Ruin Beasts, most of the guards could easily handle them, but against Grade-1 Ruin Beasts.

Only an Intermediate Second-Rated Martial and above could handle them.

Moreover, each Grade-1 Ruin Beast's strength was different. Some were weaker while some were a lot stronger.

This made killing a Grade-1 Ruin Beast a lot more difficult.

Thanks to the Mystic City Protection Array Formation, none of the guards were killed yet.

However, the situation was not looking good.

Against the tens of thousands of Ruin Beasts, the thousand humans were too few to pose a threat to them.

"Go! Hurry! The southeast array is about to break!" The guard commander shouted, commanding a team to rush to the southeast of the city wall.

Just as the team was rushing to the southeast to provide support, a guard clad in metal armor rushed over.

"Commander, the western region has been breached."

"What!"

Everyone widened their eyes in disbelief. The battle had barely lasted ten minutes and their protection formation had already been broken.

'This is bad!' The commander gripped his weapon tightly.

He looked at his men and commanded. "Hold the line, I'll provide support for the western region."

"Go commander, we will make sure this place is secured." An old man reported confidently.

The commander nodded and rushed toward the western region, his face etched with urgency.

In the western region, various miserable screams echoed in the air. The air was filled with the stench of blood.

On the wall, soldiers scattered on the cold hard ground, covered in blood with various deadly wounds – dead. Claw marks and teeth ripping off chunks of their flesh.

Everywhere reeked the stench of death.

But against the never-ending pouring of the Ruin Beasts, the soldiers did not have time to care about their fallen comrades.

Each person was trying desperately to keep their lives.

With each death, the line thinned out and a crack appeared in the defense.

Ahhh!

A young man's head was ripped off by a Ruin Beast that looked like a lizard. The Ruin Beast-like lizard stood over three meters with its head as wide as a tree trunk.

It raised its head declaring its presence and jumped forward, entering the city.

With the defense broken, more beasts poured like a broken dam. The guards tried to hold back the Ruin Beasts but they were helpless against such an overwhelming force.

Panic and fear spread throughout the city.

Screams and cries for help echoed in the air. The roar of the beasts filled the air with the sound of buildings collapsing frequently.

Ordinary people were trembling, despair gnawing at their hearts.

The realization that the Ruin Beasts had entered the city, bypassing the protective formation, made them cower in despair.

All the clans with protective formations instantly activated them. The situation was turning dire with each passing moment.

Unlike the previous beast tide, this beast tide was different and was more aggressive.

Inside the City Lord's mansion, the City Lord wore a solemn expression. He paced back and forth in nervousness and fear.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open and his butler rushed in.

"How is it?" The City Lord asked impatiently.

"My Lord, it is not good." The butler responded, panic etched on his face. "The city protection array formation has been breached and the Ruin Beasts are running rampant inside the city as we speak."

"What!" The City Lord widened his eyes.

This... quick!

"My Lord, we must report to the academy immediately." The butler suggested.

The situation was too dire for what the city could handle alone.

"Yes. Yes. You're right. Send me to report the situation to the academy."

Although he was City Lord, the real control of the city lay in the hands of the Mystic Path Academy.

"Also, send a message to the Array Formation Association. They should send some men to repair the array. Without the array, we will be finished."

"Yes, My Lord." The butler responded and rushed out of the city.

...

"How is the situation?" The president asked, creasing his brow.

The sudden attack from the Ruin Beasts caught everyone off guard. For many years, they had not experienced a Ruin Beast tide.

All the ruins around the Mystic city had been explored, posing no threat to the city. Many had even disappeared over time while those still available were empty.

But now, such an overwhelming Ruin Beast tide appeared out of nowhere and attacked the city.

Also, this beast tide was fiercer than the previous ones. The city had never faced such a magnitude before.

Therefore, everyone began to worry. Against such a beast tide, their Grade-1 Protection Array Formation might not protect them.

With all this, the president couldn't help but worry.

"President, the situation does not look good at all." An elder reported, shaking his head.

Boom!

The Array Formation Association building shook vehemently to its core. Everyone was shocked and their expressions changed.

"What was that?" An elder asked, fear etched on their faces.

Instantly, a tense atmosphere hung in the air, everyone panicking.

They might be Grade-1 Array Formation Masters but each of them had little to none in battle experience.

Against a powerful Ruin Beast.

They would be nothing but a food to the Ruin Beasts.

"President, we need to do something." An elder said urgently.

"Send some men to strengthen the association's protection array formation. They must not leave the core formation without my command."

"Yes, President." An elder responded and rushed to complete the order.

...

Standing at the balcony of his mansion, Jun Wu watched the chaos caused by the Ruin Beasts without any change in his expression.

"A new ruin has appeared." He whispered with a hint of anticipation on his face.

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Chapter 40: Jun Wu Arrival.

The Mystic City had turned into a battlefield with ruin beasts everywhere, killing and destroying the buildings.

The once magnificent city had lost its brilliance. Clouds of smoke rose to the sky with screams and cries for help coming every now and then.

On the street, various people formed small teams to fight against the ruin beasts. Every clan in the city dispatched their best warriors to defend the city.

In the beginning, they thought the city guards could defend against the ruin beast tide, but they were wrong.

This was beyond anything anyone had ever seen. And if they couldn't hold them back, it was only a matter of time before the ruin beasts turned their city into ruins.

The Array Formation Association deployed half of their Grade-1 Array Formation Masters to help the city repair the protective formation, while the Alchemy Association deployed some alchemists to help treat the injured soldiers.

Each clan contributed to the safety of the city. This was not the time to plot against each other.

Standing before Jun Wu's mansion, a tense guard team knocked on the entrance gate with urgency.

The team captain wore a solemn expression. If this was any ordinary mansion, he would have barged in immediately without knocking.

Unfortunately, the owner of the house was someone he dared not offend.

After a few knocks, the entrance gate was pushed open and Zhang Wei appeared.

"How may I help you?" he asked.

"Please, the city needs the assistance of an Array Master to repair the city protection array." The team captain replied respectfully.

"Why? There are many array formation masters in the association. Besides, there is the Yuan clan. Why would they need my Young Master?" Zhang Wei questioned.

The captain opened his mouth but words failed to come out. How would he know why they requested such a young talent?

He was merely following orders.

Although he found it odd, he didn't dwell on it too much.

Looking at the quiet guards, Zhang Wei knew asking them was like asking a wall.

Bang!

He closed the gate and returned to report the situation to Jun Wu. Everything was suspicious but he couldn't make the decision.

Standing outside the mansion, the guards trembled listening to the ruin beasts' howls coming toward their direction.

"C-Captain... what should we do?" a guard asked with a trembling voice.

Instantly, all the guards looked at their captain, waiting for his decision.

With Zhang Wei closing the gate without responding to them, should they continue to stay outside the gate while risking their lives?

The captain knew what was going on in his men's minds and was conflicted. Should he wait or abandon the mission?

The situation was dire, and he needed to make a decision immediately.

"L-Let's..."

Creak!

Before he could complete his statement, the gate was opened and Jun Wu and his two retainers appeared.

Looking at Jun Wu, the captain and his men were stunned. They had already given up on him appearing and were prepared to return.

"Captain, my safety is in your hands." Jun Wu said calmly.

"Ah!" The captain recovered from his shock and responded quickly. "Young Master, don't worry, I'll protect you with my life."

"Good. Please lead the way."

"Yes."

With Jun Wu agreeing to come with them, the team formed a defensive formation around him.

Looking at this, Mao Yun and Zhang Wei couldn't help but chuckle. Against a powerful ruin beast, their weak defense formation would be destroyed in seconds.

Apart from the captain, who was a First-Rated Martial Artist, the others were Second-Rated Martial Artists.

...

At the city wall, the situation was fierce and deadly. Men confronted the rampaging ruin beasts with their lives.

Corpses of both humans and beasts scattered everywhere. Broken weapons, shattered armor, severed claws, and beast fangs.

It was frightening.

On the city wall, men dragged their exhausted bodies to defend the wall with all their might.

"Where is the academy reinforcement?" the guard commander shouted, veins protruding from his forehead.

He had lost count of how many times he had swung his blade. His once pristine armor was covered in dried blood and cracks.

His men were dying both left and right, while the academy reinforcement had yet to arrive.

He was furious and gritted his teeth, but there was nothing he could do. His only option was to continue fighting with his life.

"Commander!" A young soldier rushed toward the commander. His face was covered in exhaustion, and his helmet covered in fresh blood.

Looking at the young soldier, the commander did not respond. He evaded the deadly claw of a ferocious ruin beast and severed its head in a single slash.

"Boy, speak." The commander turned to look at him.

Swallowing the lump in his throat, the young soldier responded quickly. "The academy reinforcement has arrived."

When the commander heard this, a sigh of relief escaped his mouth. "Where are they?"

"There!" He pointed to the northern part of the wall.

From the north, students from the Mystic Path Academy walked toward the battlefield with confidence and pride.

Along the way to the city wall, they encountered many ruin beasts, and each was easily handled by them.

This increased their confidence.

Most of them were Second-Rated Martial Artists, while a few were First-Rated Martial Artists.

Among them, the most conspicuous people were from the Jun aristocrat clan and the Gong clan.

Leading the Jun clan was Jun Zhanye, and leading the Gong clan was Gong Tao.

Behind the students were ten teachers, each at the Peak of First-Rated Martial Artists.

With their arrival, all the soldiers and martial artists could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

"Thank you for your timely arrival." The commander approached them and said quickly.

"The western region is in dire need of your support."

"Commander, you can relax. My academy will handle it." One of the teachers said confidently.

After the short conversation, the Mystic Path students rushed to the western region to provide support.

Compared to other regions, the western region battle was deadly with men falling every minute.

With the arrival of the students, the pressure reduced immediately as they began to push back the ruin beasts.

Meanwhile, another squad had just escorted a young man to the city wall.

Below the city were the Array Formation Masters trying to repair the protective formation as soon as possible.

When they saw Jun Wu arrive, various expressions flashed through their eyes.

Among them, one of the elders had a sinister grin on his face.

'Finally...'

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