

201 WHISKEY WITH WOLFBERRIES

Finally, it was time for the parents meeting to be held again. Previously, daoyuan class announced a 4-day break but no one turned up for classes even after that. This was because the daoyuan class never mentioned when classes would start again. Even without attending the daoyuan class, everyone was training at home.

On the other hand, Lu Shu would allocate a portion of his time to study since he felt that the knowledge of a sophomore student wasn't enough for this world.

Nighttime has fallen and Luo Cheng was busier than usual. This commotion was due to the heavenly network people since Luo Cheng international school had just been invaded by a metahuman.

As of now, they couldn't identify that metahuman's power and couldn't determine his class.

But based on their current judgment, that metahuman seemed to have mastered an advanced transformation technique unique to an elemental type. But without witnessing it with their own eyes, Li Yixiao and the rest couldn't confirm the metahuman's real ability.

Could it be the shadow element? This element hasn't been encountered so far.

But what really puzzled them was that the other party was extremely strong. Being able to jump to such heights was something only a Class E-D strength-type was capable of.

Of course, this wasn't an impossible feat. Everyone knew that a metahuman's physical abilities would level up with training.

As such, the heavenly network categorized the intruder as the following for the time being- Suspected duo identity of practitioner and metahuman.

At a higher level of training, the experts within the heavenly network would start being envious of colleagues that had awakened.

Of course, some felt that effort was much more important than a lucky breakthrough.

Li Yixiao was the representation of such people. In more than one instance, he referred to metahumans as clowns. From his point of view, someone who had never been through tough training to acquire their individual powers was the same as being useless.

His words weren't without a basis. His power had been cultivated bit by bit and his mastery over his own strength was the result of his own hard work. As for those metahumans who awakened, they had never been through the process of discovering and familiarising themselves with their own powers which explained why Li Yixiao never thought highly of them. But others were not convinced- metahumans' powers were ever-changing and what if someone got hold of a power to control time and space, would Li Yixiao still be so arrogant?

There were billions of people in this world with billions of different mindsets. Even within the heavenly network where everyone possessed a similar advanced level of thinking, different opinions about the potentials of training would still arise.

This was a normal occurrence. It would be strange if everyone had the same opinion. Lu Shu flashed his student pass to enter the school, recalling how he and Lu Xiaoyu had just broken into the school that morning. And to think that this ordinary-looking

security personnel was apt in combat, Lu Shu felt a little admiration for them.

If not for practitioners, these people would probably be more successful.

As he passed by the classrooms downstairs, he overheard two security guards, “Was he really laughing?”

“Yeah, his laughter gave me goosebumps and he wasn’t even wearing clothes!”

In fact, Lu Shu received a lot of distress points today and lighting up the sixth star was just a step away... This meeting did not only involve the parents but the students too. If you wished to quit, then both parents and child would have to sign the agreement followed by sealing of the chakras.

If you wished to formally join the heavenly network, the enrollment procedures would take place on the same night and so would the awarding of rank. This was considered a special procedure and it was a quick process.

Lu Shu understood that this was a special treatment for practitioners and also to prevent practitioners from affecting social stability and prosperity, everything had to be fast.

If it was a normal procedure, it would have taken up to a few weeks to process. At this moment, Lu Shu bumped into Xi Fei who asked directly, “Continue or quit?”

“Continue,” Lu Shu answered without hesitation. Xi Fei started laughing, “Then congratulations to you. If you, Jiang Shuyi and Cao Qingci stay, you three would be directly awarded the rank of Lieutenant as a reward for your performance inside the remains.”

Lu Shu was stunned. That's awesome. Doesn't this mean that my pay will be higher than the rest? To be honest, Jiang Shuyi's performance inside the remains wasn't as impressive as his or Cao Qingci's but the catch was his family background. Lu Shu didn't find this unfair and was happy to see Jiang Shuyi rising up the ranks. Wishing the best for his friend, this was a real friendship.

On the other hand, some other people were strange. Addressing each other as brothers but when one was more successful than the other, the other friend would secretly hope for his friend's death.

At this moment, Lu Shu signed the agreement and stood at one side to observe the other parents with their children. This Daoyuan parents meeting had no room for discussion as everyone was only given two options, to stay or to quit.

It was extremely strict. It seemed like about a fifth of the students were quitting and their chakras were about to be sealed, never to be used again.

Lu Shu wasn't sure about the situation in other classes but he reckoned that the number of students quitting wouldn't be too few. After all, a common viewpoint on this issue was that in the face of dangers, parents would lean towards a safer option for their children.

A fifth wasn't too few or many. Lu Shu stood aside to watch the commotion and it turned out that most of the parents had talked about this Lu Shu student with their children. As a result, their impression of Lu Shu had changed for the worse...

Liu Li's father was one of them. After hearing from his son about Lu Shu's disturbance outside the remains, he was fuming mad. In fact, he had spent a fortune on

Liu Li's training and just treating his hair loss cost more than 100k which wasn't even effective!

Liu Jianguo was a businessman and had always been in power. As he walked to the podium to sign the papers, he glanced over to Lu Shu, "Young man, control your teenage energy."

Liu Li was still a child and what most normal students would think of for revenge would be a fight, or to gather a gang to beat him up and would never think about murder. But Liu Jianguo was different. He was from an older generation and the business industry at that point in time was like a battle zone.

Lu Shu replied cheekily, "Uncle, your son's hairstyle is aging. Do buy him some wolfberries on the way home. At this age, drinking whiskey with wolfberries isn't shameful." "From Liu Li's distress, +999." "From Liu Jianguo's distress, +666." Lu Shu was delighted. The distress points he needed to light up the sixth star was finally here!

202 OATH

If Lu Shu could be intimidated by Liu Jianguo, would he still be Lu Shu?

He understood that Liu Jianguo's generation of people had been through all kinds of ordeals in order to survive and it wasn't surprising that they would be rather vicious. But he was still a normal human being.

In fact, Liu Jianguo could hire a hitman to kill him but the problem was, who could Liu Jianguo hire? Frankly speaking, all Class Cs were well-known figures in the country. One example would be Zhong Yutang who was placed in charge of the entire Yuzhou's heavenly network management.

The local Class Cs were difficult to hire and experts outside of the heavenly network were hard to find... If a foreign Class C was brought here, it would definitely alert the heavenly network.

203 OFFICIALLY JOINING THE HEAVENLY NETWORK

Li Yixiao continued, “This world had never experienced peace. The magical era has brought about big changes, changes which you or I could not avoid. Since the establishment of the heavenly network a year and a half ago, 32 practitioners have already been sacrificed. The oldest was just 34 while the youngest, 18. Perhaps you might be the next one to be sacrificed tomorrow, or perhaps even myself.” “The path of training has never been smooth sailing. This path is filled with malice, blood, death, and swords. But in our lives, even if our teammates are sacrificed, we’ll have to step on their corpses to continue the fight.”

“Raise your right hand and repeat after me,” Li Yixiao already had his hand raised, his hand balled up into a fist. The previously unreliable principal in the students’ eyes has never been so reliable, it was as if he turned into a different person overnight. His calm words described a life the direct opposite of calm but everyone listened to it and accepted it.

All the students down below also quietened down and raised their right fists. “I pledge that as part of the heavenly network, I will not fear death or difficulties. From this day, I will defend my country with my life. I will defend my country from dawn till dusk, I will defend the civilians...”

“I will learn military tact, politics, and science diligently. I will train tirelessly and protect my equipment. I will uphold the secrecy of our military and stand by our traditions. I will be courageous and fight against chaos. To fight courageously and not fear death. To protect society and our home country. To protect the peace and prosperity of the citizens and under no circumstances will I betray my homeland...”

“From this day on, I dedicate the life I love to my home country. I will never stop defending my country...”

“I will stand firm and abide by those aforementioned words for life.” The voices of daoyuan students and Li Yixiao echoed around Luo Cheng International School. The atmosphere was energetic. They were no longer students, but warriors who were on the path to battle.

The voices of more than a thousand people were powerful and majestic. Those students waiting in the classrooms to be sealed could not help but go to the corridor and gazed silently at everyone on the field. Some of them started regretting, thinking if their choice was wrong.

Perhaps they shouldn't judge this decision as wrong or right, but this decision should be made in reference to the heart. How could a teenager's energy, passion, and vigor be extinguished at such a young age? In the future, they will be at the back like a bunch of cowards watching others fight for them as they carried on with life, marriage, careers and start their own families in peace. But when they realize that they could have been one of them battling, will they be able to get over their own conscience?

They had no answer. Lu Shu scanned his surroundings. Everyone was agitated and passionate after reciting this pledge as if they had just been brainwashed. Some people might be afraid of death in the future or just drift along in this life they dedicated to their country, but no one could say that they were insincere at this moment.

It wasn't just them reciting the pledge. Lu Shu also saw the class teachers, such as Xi Fei, standing in the corridors watching them and reciting the pledge as well.

They must have taken this pledge before. The moment after the pledge, even Lu Shu who once treated the pledge as just a sort of gimmick, was subconsciously silent.

Sometimes, no one knew when he would succumb to emotions or some sort of force, to feel strongly for a cause.

This wasn't a legitimate pledge and Lu Shu felt that the lines were exaggerated and like a gimmick. But if they were mere words and blatant lies, it would not have attracted so many people to recite with so much pride and in unison. Lu Shu never felt that such a pledge would cause any sort of restriction. After all, things such as pledges... weren't they meant to be broken? They could just say it casually with their mouths, who couldn't pretend to be moved and passionate by clenching their fists and reciting the pledge?

But at this instant, Lu Shu was gravely silent. He felt that there was some sort of energy in his heart that was energetic and agitated. It was just like a ball of fire, burning intently and heating up his blood. Lu Shu still felt that he wasn't someone who would sacrifice his life like that. He still looked forward to the day when he is powerful enough to stop depending on the heavenly network and leave the organization to lead his own peaceful life.

But he thought that if he didn't contribute to this organization before leaving or if he didn't become friends with these people and fight passionately alongside them, there would be some regret in his life in future.

At least... he should do some justice for the resources provided to him. Yes, it's to show his gratitude for the resources and not for some stupid ideology.

But even if he thought this way, Lu Shu was still rather confused as this turn of events

was far too different from his original intentions.

Li Yixiao bellowed, “Military licenses and other stuff will be distributed to everyone half a month later. You may go home now. And always remember what you guys pledged under the flag tonight.”

To Lu Shu, he was still more inclined towards working for his freedom, and this freedom didn’t mean freedom to do whatever he wanted to, but the sort of freedom which will give him the ability to reject and say no.

He really could not tolerate it if he had to stay in the heavenly network for life and listen to the orders of superiors.

Lu Shu entered his house without saying a word and went on to participate in the lottery, eat the chi fruit and then suppress his chi while singing little stars.

At this moment, only training seemed to be able to calm him down. It was just a pledge, who wouldn’t forget a pledge after reciting it? Even if pledges was useful, why were there still so many betrayals?

But once the hot-bloodedness from the pledge died down, Lu Shu returned to being his rational self.

He felt that being rational was what humans required the most. This was the most important quality to achieve improvement, not by being hot-blooded or impulsive. Looking back at humanity’s development, didn’t generations of people used rational thinking to look for ways to bring humanity forward?

The chi was becoming harder to control and Lu Shu trained hard until 3 am in the

morning and he slowly got used to it. It was no longer as hard as it was.

He packed up, washed his face and went out for sword training. Li Xianyi was sitting by his stone table reading a book as Lu Shu trained with his sword quietly in the garden. He had advanced from learning picks to stabs.

Picks had to be intricate and were technical while stabs required speed and precision. Li Yixian mentioned that when the eyes, spirit, arms, handle and the tip of the sword are one, the sword in Lu Shu's hand would be unstoppable.

Li Xianyi was very quiet today and only focused on his math textbook. He had advanced from second year of middle school to the third... and Lu Shu was even more silent as if he had something on his mind.

As to what the problem was, only he had the answer. After he was done training, Li Xianyi put his book down and asked, "Have you joined the heavenly network?"

"Yeah?" "What plans do you have?" "I don't know."

204 CELEBRATION

He went on to sell stinky tofu after his training. During the process of his training, the chi's movement was successfully suppressed by Lu Shu twice. Although Li Xianyi didn't show it, he was silently surprised that Lu Shu's control of his chi far surpassed his when he was at his age.

Just as Lu Shu brought his crates of stinky tofu over, he saw uncle Li and a few other people discussing animatedly over something. When Lu Shu came over, they actually acknowledged Lu Shu with great enthusiasm, "Little Shu is here!"

The atmosphere was warmer than usual, as if something good happened to everyone.

Lu Shu placed his crate down and replied, "Uncle Li, what are you guys so happy about? Could it be that your son is getting married?"

205 HOLIDAY

In reality, hot topics would eventually die down. More than a month later, the discussion on daoyuan class had passed and there weren't any more happenings in the lives of daoyuan students. The normal students would go to school while daoyuan students continued their training. Those with merits were rewarded and they successfully completed the mysterious senses chapter and started on the third chapter—the mysterious dao chapter. On the other hand, those without contributions were stuck at Class E.

The Class D represented by the mysterious dao chapter was clearly something those still at Class E yearned for. They wanted to earn merits but there wasn't much they could do in this peaceful era.

Being stuck on this ladder, training was no longer useful as they could only further stabilize their powers.

This led to everyone regaining their normal school life. Attending the daoyuan class was just a something that they signed up for. As for the content of daoyuan class, it was a continuation of Buddhist and Daoist teachings.

Luo Cheng was still the same and in fact, the incident this time was just a little spark to the people's peaceful lives. It's not like there was really a war and the fuss about it would die down eventually.

The streets were still bustling with activities and once it was the evening peak hours, the roads would still be filled with traffic jams. The vehicles at the back would honk

impatiently, drivers cussing and swearing about the wait.

The most flexible vehicle on road would be the motorbikes as those riding motorbikes would drive freely through gaps between the cars.

The back door of the west courtyard was adjacent to Kaixuan road, and at the intersection of Kaixuan road and Jidong road, there was a small train ticket outlet.

At the ticket outlet, the voice of a teenager could be heard.

“Miss, student ID is half price, so shouldn’t the military officer card have half price too?”

“There’s no such thing. No student ID means no half price,” The lady at the counter sitting behind a computer sounded very firm.

Lu Shu refused to give up, “Miss, can you confirm it again? This is obviously a discrimination against military personnel!”

The lady replied coldly, “Are you buying? If not, please move aside as there are people queuing behind you.” In fact, the sales lady had become extremely skeptical of the validity of this person’s military officer card.

Lu Shu looked back and besides the expressionless Lu Xiaoyu, there was no one else at the outlet. He sighed, “Two tickets to Qingzhou’s capital Xijing city, one would be a child ticket.”

As of now, there wasn’t any half price for military personnel buying train tickets but Lu Xiaoyu satisfied the height requirement of 1.2-1.5m for a child ticket at half price.

One student ticket, one child ticket, and both at half price.

Lu Shu suddenly felt that he should bring Lu Xiaoyu out more often before her graduation as paying for the full ticket price was so not worth it!

Lu Xiaoyu, who was watching Lu Shu waving his officer card, rolled her eyes, “You weren’t like this before. Didn’t you say you were passionate about this? So why are you using such a sacred item to bargain?”

Lu Shu wasn’t pleased, “It’s two separate things. I said that I’m willing to make a contribution to defending my homeland but I never thought of this as something sacred. Fighting for the country and selfless dedication to the country are two different matters and I’m the former.”

At this moment, Lu Shu’s body suddenly froze. His originally pale face turned red in an instant. His chi was surging!

Eating two chi fruits a day for over ten days, the chi outside his mountain of chi was like a thick heavy cloud, The number of times he had to suppress it a day had increased from 24 to 30 times!

And Lu Shu had a stubborn personality. The more it surged, the more Lu Shu wanted to suppress it... Whenever this happened, Lu Shu thought that his Chi had not accumulated into raindrops and it was already so difficult. So how did the old man and the rest achieve an ocean-like chi? Could it be that people from the past had a stronger willpower?

That didn’t make sense. Lu Shu felt that his own willpower was strong too.

As of now, the thick chi was causing him trouble every once in awhile and Lu Xiaoyu asked expressionlessly, “Lu Shu, did you contract Polio?”

After spending 2mins to recover, Lu Shu replied, “You won’t understand!”

The lady at the counter was shocked. Watching Lu Shu twisting in pain, she was worried that this scum wanted to play the pity card to ask for money!

Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu held onto two red train tickets and left the ticket outlet. This was their first time going on a tour and first time buying train tickets.

The tourist season in Qingzhou had arrived as the holidays were starting the next day. The sophomores would start their final year early and they only have less than a month’s time of the break.

As such, Lu Shu wanted to make use of this time to bring Lu Xiaoyu out. Lu Shu looked at the time, “We will be taking the train for 22h...”

“All because you wanted to save money by not taking a plane,” Lu Xiaoyu said coldly, “I’ve never taken a plane.” Lu Shu smiled, “You’ve never taken a green train too, so why not experience this first? We can take a plane next time.”

“From Lu Xiaoyu’s distress, +99!” Although they didn’t have much savings right now, the recent sales of stinky tofu had been bringing a stable income of 6000 dollars every month. As such, their savings would slowly pile up.

With a stable income, Lu Shu was confident that they could take a plane the next time!

Lu Xiaoyu looked at Lu Shu and said in all seriousness, “Lu Shu, you’re so stingy!”

“What do you know? Good steel should be used as the knife’s edge!” Lu Shu replied gleefully and wasn’t ashamed about his stinginess.

“I am the knife’s edge!” Lu Xiaoyu exclaimed seriously.

“Yea yea you are!” Lu Shu chided, “Let’s get home and quickly pack our things. And make sure to not forget anything. Since we have already bought the train tickets, we can’t refund them now. Let’s take the plane the next time!”

“Ok,” Lu Xiaoyu replied. At this point in time, Lu Shu was feeling a little sense of accomplishment. After living independently for so long, he had always wanted to bring Lu Xiaoyu out and it finally came true.

To Lu Shu, there was nothing better than this.

206 SOUND OF DAO

Lu Shu then brought Lu Xiaoyu home to pack their stuff. He looked at the pink luggage bought yesterday and said in annoyance, "Didn't I say to buy a white one? You had to insist on a pink one. How could a man like me be dragging such a girly thing?"

"I am a girl, why can't I think like one?" Lu Xiaoyu was dissatisfied.

"But you're not the one lugging the luggage!" Lu Shu was rather embarrassed, "I am a suave and charismatic daoyuan student! Military official! Why am I pulling a pink luggage around? It's really gay!"

"Lu Shu, from the words you used, do you have some misconceptions about

yourself?"

"No!"

Little Fury was grasping a pencil and scribbling words intently at the side. It was delighted that these two people were going on a holiday. After all, it knew that they would definitely bring him along.

207 THE BIRTH YEAR

Li Xianyi was significantly affected back when he obtained the manual from his master.

But he still read through every single line within the manual...

Li Xianyi thought that the number of people who could achieve chi rain from the clouds was few, if not none. Even he wanted to achieve this but to no avail.

But at this moment, this teenager in front of him is accomplishing this. And it was under his supervision, that he achieved this in almost two months.

Lu Shu turned towards Li Xianyi, "Grandpa, I think I have already managed to turn the clouds into rain..."

Li Xianyi answered calmly, "Mm. Continue training harder."

"Mm," Lu Shu nodded and continued with his practice.

Do not be fooled by Li Xianyi's calm demeanor. His heart was anything but that! This was the rain formed from the chi cloud!

209 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Lu Shu brought Lu Xiaoyu over to platform 2. Didn't the movies always show kids being abducted here? For example, a stranger giving you a bottle of spiked drink.

Or scamming and abducting women to be sold off as wives in a land far away.

Judging from Lu Xiaoyu's face value, she had to be more careful when she's outside. Some people say that being attractive is an innate crime. Why? Lu Shu didn't really agree. How could being attractive be a crime? Who didn't care about looks in the world now?

If there was any mistake, it had to be human nature.

Of course, this sort of matter could not be analyzed just by superficial means. Considering Lu Xiaoyu's current ability, having completed the fourth star of the second nebula, just one behind than Lu Shu, she could already be considered a class D strength type metahuman.

210 THE MILKY WAY

Lu Shu obviously said all these with the intention of annoying them...

But he actually meant to be polite and asked them nicely to get up. But it's alright that they didn't get up. It's alright that they wanted to finish this game. But it seemed apparent that they wanted to continue the game for a much longer time.

If I let you play on comfortably, how could the great name Lu Shu from Luo Cheng International School be still seen highly? What happens to my pride in the name Lu Shu?

If this was to be spread to Luo Cheng, how could I, the great demon lord Lu Shu have

an influential name in the world? Huh?

Coughs, that was thinking way too much...

The guy sitting on the lower bunk suddenly stood up and looked at Lu Shu, "What's wrong bro? Didn't we say you can take a seat, we'll be done soon?"