

491 I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE

Late at night, Bunndai and Lu Shu sat together, facing each other. Lu Shu was silent, while Bunndai was stating the latest information.

She had realized the sudden increase in her access to intelligence ever since Lu Shu's arrival. More precisely speaking, though, it was through Lu Shu's access.

It felt like a giant, covert web had just set into operation in Japan, serving Lu Shu alone.

Bunndai was in shock. She knew how great the cost must be to plant a web here. What was even scarier was the fact that the entire system was meant for only one person.

The number of intelligence agents used was not even as many when Heavenly King Nie himself came last time.

Moreover, the open accessibility could not be done without Nie Ting's authorization. But why did Heavenly King Nie think so highly of this young man?

"The Collection of Gods has come to a conclusion regarding Nogiwa Hakushun's death. They deduced that the Heavenly Network is behind it and seem to believe that an earth-type Class B Metahuman from the Network is somewhere in Nishinokyo. They call him the suspected 9th Heavenly King..." Then, Bunndai looked at Lu Shu, awaiting his reply.

Lu Shu drew a startled breath. He did not expect the story to unfold this way!

"Er, why did they think so?" Lu Shu asked in curiosity.

"They believe that an earth-type Class B Metahuman joined forces with Heavenly King Li in Pattaya to kill Johnson. It has also been verified by a few individual Practitioners that this Metahuman has deep sea white sand in his possession, which is in line with the fact that Anthony lost his deep sea white sand in the Salt Lake remains. In any case, deep sea white sand has only appeared in Japan before," Bunndai explained.

Lu Shu took a while to gather his thoughts. Though unexpected, he had to admit that their analysis was rather reasonable...

"Er, please continue..."

"Currently the Collection of Gods has activated the top alert operation procedures due to the incident. In any case, they are deeply scared by Heavenly King Nie's action the previous time. Although he did not cause any actual damage on the Collection of Gods, it has dealt a deadly blow to their morale seeing how Heavenly King Nie could come, kill and leave as he pleased..."

Lu Shu was glad to hear that. "When they wanted to do the same, Nie Ting had ascended to Class A. By then, those who wanted to cause trouble in our country might not have even left in one piece..."

In fact, it would have been a different story if Nie Ting had remained at Class B. With Chen Baili far away guarding the national border, the Collection of Gods could easily come and leave when their job was done. It was unrealistic for people of the same Class to hunt one another down relentlessly.

"His ascension happened at just the right time," Lu Shu exclaimed...

Thus, Nie Ting's overemphasis on the Collection of Gods could probably be due to his concern over the emergence of a Class A there.

Lu Shu asked, "Is there any sign of a newly ascended Class A in the Collection of Gods?"

"No. But according to the information released long ago, the higher-ups are researching on a ceremony and symbols related to sacrifice. But they have yet to achieve satisfactory results," Bunndai replied.

Her words reminded Lu Shu of the scene below the cavern in the Beimang remains. Could that be their so-called sacrifice? Were they trying to artificially create a Class A through distorted methods like that?

Now, Nogiwa Takenobu, one of the top three Class B experts of the Jingoists was dead. Coupled with the recent power awakening like that of the Saint and pressure from the Heavenly Network, the Collection of God's worries were completely justifiable.

"Wait a moment." Lu Shu was confused. "Is that Kitamura Hirono free from suspicion?"

Despite his unprofessional approach and mediocre scheming, it should at least result in some confusion, shouldn't it?

"After the conclusion had been reached, the discussion over Kitamura Hirono has subsided. It's mainly because Kitamura's teacher is one of the Class B pros of the Collection of Gods. Certainly there are voices suspecting that it was all by Kitamura's

hand, but such views cannot be raised openly," Bunndai explained.

Lu Shu was disappointed. He had inadvertently planted blame on others in the past, but now he put in effort and he had failed!

What the heck!

There was a long silence. Then, Lu Shu said, "No. I can't take it anymore! I deserve better!"

"From Bunndai's distress, +166..."

Bunndai started to wonder Heavenly King Nie's purpose of sending Lu Shu there. Was it to give him the freedom to do whatever he wanted?

"Get ready the intelligence for me. I need to make some preparations," Lu Shu said in a firm voice.

...

Before the dawn of the day, Sakurai was awoken by sharp sounds of air. She put on the clothes prepared by Bunndai... Indeed, it was a bit tight at her bust area.

It was only 3am in the morning. With an overcoat draped over her shoulders, Sakurai pulled open the door to see Lu Shu practicing his swordplay in the yard. Does he train this early everyday? She wondered to herself, I'm not even half as diligent as him.

What she did not know was that Lu Shu had been singing Twinkle Twinkle Little Stars for hours before his sword practice...

Without stopping his training, Lu Shu smiled at her and asked, "Up so early?"

"Yea." Sakurai sat on the edge of the corridor and watched Lu Shu train, her hands supporting her head. Lu Shu felt something different about Sakurai, as if she was... more at ease.

As a secret Practitioner who acted with purposes and missions, Sakurai Yaeko had to put on a disguise anytime, anywhere. Yet, just the night before, she seemed to have let go something in her heart.

It was not because of Kitamura's words, nor anybody, but a sudden venting of her pent-up dissatisfaction of her present situation. Then, her wall of pretense was breached, like a collapsed dam.

Having infiltrated through the cracks of the dam, water gushed out and, eventually, flooded everything.

"Kiriharakun," Sakurai called his name, smiling.

Lu Shu paused his movement. "Yea?"

"Will you remember me?"

"Probably. You are so pretty."

"Thank you."

For the first time Sakurai Yaeko sensed honesty and simplicity in a praise regarding her attractiveness...

492 LU SHU'S CLASS B AMBITIONS

During the day, Lu Shu appeared to be an attentive student in class, while actually he was thinking about the execution of his plan at night.

But when he happened to catch a glimpse of Sakurai, he realized she seemed to be in deep thought. Lu Shu was curious, because she had never looked so worried before.

Lu Shu asked, "Are you thinking about your keys and wallet?"

Hesitant, she replied, "Not at all, sensei... Are you concerned about me?"

"Err..." Lu Shu was at a loss over what to say. Then, he chose to give up and continue sleeping instead.

A smile suddenly appeared on Yaeko's face. Maybe Kiriharaku was not as complicated as expected, she thought, my teacher could have over-read things.

The speculation grew stronger in Lu Shu's heart, that something might have happened to Sakurai. Please don't affect your teaching at this weekend's martial art lessons...

At the moment, however, there was no time to care that much. Lu Shu had understood that the best thing this Japan trip had to offer was neither the inheritance nor the mission, but distress points that could be taken freely from the Collection of Gods.

He was in the final stage of igniting the entire third nebula with only two stars left. Lu Shu was also curious about the appearance and function of the third dagger, and how he would be after his eventual ascension to Class B.

And he believed the last bits of distress points could be gained from the Collection of Gods.

At night, Lu Shu waited until 10pm before leaving his house, while Bunndai went out quietly from the back door at the same time. He had specifically told her not to come back until his safe return, so that she would not be brought into trouble should anything bad happened on Lu Shu's side.

There were inherent uncertainties in his plan. Thus, Lu Shu hoped to minimize the risk for others. As a result, he did not even use the most crucial information provided by the intelligence network, so as not to leave behind any suspicious traces pointing to anyone else.

In other words, Lu Shu was not a cold-blooded person and he could not bring himself to think that other people's lives could be sacrificed for him.

Besides, with no intention to pursue any noble cause, he would suffer from a guilty conscience should innocent people be landed in trouble.

In silence, Lu Shu leaped over the wall and blended into the darkness. Standing high on the rooftop of a building, he gazed at the Collection of Gods headquarters in the distance. Some lights were still on in the mansion.

Lu Shu wondered, as a Practitioner organization, what they were doing so late at night.

On second thoughts, it was understandable though. Pure cultivation alone would be sufficient to guarantee one's survival in the mountains, but not in this dirty world.

Speaking of which, was it alright for the Heavenly Network to have their Heavenly King Nie Ting running around killing people everyday? Didn't he have administrative stuff to do? Ever since Lu Shu found out that the inheritance was nothing but a scam, he had been complaining about Nie Ting daily...

At 12am, most lights in the mansion had been turned off. Lu Shu jumped down from the top of the building and walked towards the mansion in a casual manner. He was not scared, because most of the pro guys had gone home for cultivation at this hour. The mansion solely served work purposes and was definitely not a place for residence.

This was because there was not enough Spirit Qi accumulated in the mansion, the same logic as that in school.

Thus, the function of the mansion was more of as a symbol rather than practicality. Otherwise, Lu Shu would not have chosen here anyway...

Outside the mansion entrance stood twelve security guards, each with powerful energy waves.

In one glance, Lu Shu was certain that all of them were of Class D and above. They stood in silence, with a stern look and a long sword hanging under their waist.

But one of them caught Lu Shu's attention. A Class C!

Upon Lu Shu's approach, one of them saluted him. "Minister Kitamura!"

All twelve of them made a bow. Lu Shu grinned. "Very well."

In the next instant, however, all of them aimed their long swords at Lu Shu. Their

action was so in-sync that they seemed to have specifically practiced that for many times.

"Okay, fine. I'll never succeed when I purposely want to plant it on others... Bloody hell..." Lu Shu sighed in distress.

Honestly speaking, he had not come with high expectations either, as he could be easily exposed through his attire, schedule and behavior. Moreover, Kitamura Hirono had his private driver for transport.

Thus, Kitamura's mask was more useful in concealing Lu Shu's true face. Although he could have used anybody else's face, Lu Shu still had a glint of hope in his heart...

All of a sudden, the situation descended into chaos. In a split second, blades clanged out of their sheaths all at once.

Yet, they chose the wrong enemy.

At lightning speed, Lu Shu's figure retreated out of the encirclement and dashed forward again!

At that instant, two katanas thrust towards him simultaneously, but Lu Shu caught the blades effortlessly between his fingers. Before the security guards could react, they were immediately hurled outwards as Lu Shu exerted force on the blades.

Without any hesitation, Lu Shu cast out the two katanas back-handedly, pinning two security guards on the walls before they were even able to dodge the attack. At that moment, the sword hilts had yet to stop shaking!

Now, the other security guards understood that they were no match for this stranger. One of them slid a black, car-key looking item into his palm. But Lu Shu had arrived before he could press the button.

Then, the man could only stare as his chest caved in under Lu Shu's fist. In the next second, his blood gushed out uncontrollably, and he had not managed to press the button!

The remaining few were red-eyed due to bloodlust. They darted towards Lu Shu without any consideration of their chances of winning. After a soft sigh, Lu Shu finished up all of them neatly and quickly. Now he had another twelve magical weapons in his pocket...

He decided to leave, for stronger opponents like Collection of Gods Class B experts would surely be attracted to the site by his blatant killing.

In Bunndai's calculation earlier, it would take at most five minutes for one of the Class B's to reach the mansion from his cultivation residence. But Lu Shu was not done yet.

Casually he took out a bucket of red paint and a brush from his Seal of Lands. He had bought them in the afternoon just to earn distress points.

493 BRAVE MAN

Numerous Practitioners swarmed towards the mansion in less than two minutes after Lu Shu had left.

Actually, he had taken advantage of them. The previous time, even Nie Ting himself did not visit the Collection of Gods Mansion, because everyone knew that it was merely a meaningless shell.

Even so, a Class C had been stationed in their security forces. This was extremely rare, at a time when there were fewer than ten Class A's and Class B's could also be considered as the cream of Practitioners. After all, how many Class C's would be content with the job of a security guard?

In any case, they could not possibly hire a Class B for this position. Besides, it was almost impossible that any Class B's would make trouble there, even knowing that there was nothing to gain.

All important information was safely kept in Class B superiors' houses. So which Class B would be so free and bored to target the mansion?

However, Lu Shu was. And the key thing was, he had a lot to gain from it, distress points, which remained a secret to the rest of the world.

Those people were already seething with rage at the sight of the corpses. Their men were slain right in front of their headquarter. How shameful!

Silently a Class B superior stood in front of the entrance. His face was expressionless despite the fury inside.

"From Takashima Tairatsu's distress, +499!"

"From..."

"From..."

A man reported, "Sir, there is no trace left by the enemy. Our earth-type Metahumans

have chased from underground, but they have yet to notice any signs of his escape through earth."

"11 Class D's and one Class C were killed bare-handedly in such a short period of time." Takashima sighed in grief. "And he did not even use his flying dagger. No doubt, it's him, the ninth Heavenly King. He is probably furious about the Daoyuan student's being wanted."

The revenge from the Heavenly Network was within their expectation, but not its efficiency. Just two days ago, the news had come from the Darkness Kingdom regarding the verification of Lu Shu's death and the claiming of deep sea white sand by a killer code-named You.

"Our situation is not very hopeful. Earth-type Metahumans have always been an effective assassination tool via infiltration. And now, the Heavenly Network has actually produced a Class B of them."

Back in the early ages after Spirit Qi regeneration, the potential and capabilities of earth-type had been underrated. It was not until Anthony, who traversed thousands of miles just to kill Chen Baili, did the world finally see their incredible strengths in infiltration.

As compared to the unparalleled mobility of the earth-type, the fire-type were the most competent direct attackers.

"Close all exits of the city and investigate every suspect one by one. He can't possibly hide underground all the time," Takashima commanded.

Earlier, their attention was drawn to the bodies, which caused them to ignore the door.

Upon inspection, they saw a giant circle in red with an English word "remove" written inside.

"What does it mean?"

"Building removal..."

"What?"

"That word, means this building is to be removed..."

A person with general knowledge of China quickly made an explanation, that it was a symbol for house-dismantling in China. Buildings painted with that were to be pulled down in a certain period of time. Thus, the Heavenly Network must be behind it...

Everyone was shocked. Who the heck was that? So brave?!

Besides, why the need to defame other English-speaking organizations with something so characteristic of your country?!

"From Takashima Tairatsu's distress, +999!"

"From..."

"From..."

They were aghast at Lu Shu's logic. Probably no one from other countries would paint such graffiti!

What kind of genius was so talented in disgusting people like this? And what was he up to?!

Soon, information regarding the incident spread out, even to those not present at the scene.

As a result, Lu Shu's sixth star went from half-filled to almost complete overnight. Its full ignition was well within his reach with a little more contributions from the Collection of Gods afterwards...

And he believed it would not be tough. I am such a genius! Lu Shu thought to himself.

It was said that the most difficult part about high-wire walking lay in the last three steps before the acrobat reached the platform.

It was because the less mature minds might let up towards the end of the performance, leading to fatal mistakes.

And to Lu Shu, the last thing on his list was to finish the last three steps cautiously and safely.

Meanwhile, as all superiors were called to the Mansion, Lu Shu had to seize this opportunity to paint a building removal symbol on every Collection of Gods aces' homes...

With neither inheritance nor any treasures obtainable, Lu Shu's only aim this time was his cultivation power. Therefore, he had to rely on fellow Collection of Gods members for his promotion to Class B.

When he reached Kitamura's doorstep, a dagger suddenly shot towards him from the shadow ahead. Lu Shu was surprised by its impressive speed.

Retreating to the side at the top of his speed, Lu Shu narrowly escaped this murderous attack!

Before he could recover from his shock, he saw the attacker slowly pacing out of the shadow. She was stunning, and sakura's were blossoming on her kimono... Wait! Isn't that Sakurai Yaeko?!

Yaeko's voice was as cold as the winter snow. "Kitamura Hirono, today will be the last day you live."

"???"

Turns out this was the reason you were so emotional?!

That you came to kill me today! Hey! Sis, I'm not the one you are looking for!

Lu Shu was at a loss over what to do, because it would be unwise to change back to his own face right in front of Yaeko. Despite the inconsistency in his supposed persona, he could not risk revealing his true identity...

Lu Shu was cursing silently inside. Now, he had to take the blame for Kitamura Hirono! It was all karma!

And the issue was, he could not explain himself clearly at the moment! Sakurai! Please!

494 WHAT IS HAPPENING?!

That night, Kitamura brought a bunch of people to Sakurai's house, only to realize that there was indeed no one at home.

Yaeko was determined to take Kitamura's life, though she was not sure whether it was due to his insulting comments or his threat to kill Kirihara. But it did not seem to matter anymore.

Instead of making an ambush near her apartment, she chose the street in front of Kitamura's house. And then, she happened to meet Lu Shu.

At this moment, Yaeko's sleeves and trouser legs suddenly gathered together, and her loose kimono instantly transformed into a set of professional training attire. Her sakura kimono was actually a piece of changeable magical weapon.

In a split second, the smell of murder permeated the magnificent night view. Yaeko's dagger was a synergistic match to her new outfit, endowing her with an air of danger.

Lu Shu racked his brains but was unable to think of a solution.

Moreover, he was unwilling to kill her, after knowing her kind nature over the past few days.

And most importantly, it was all a mistake!

At that instant, the sakura petals on her kimono had actually fallen to the ground, leaving behind a patch of blackness as dark as the abyss.

It was elegant, and murderous at the same time. With no prior warnings, the petals suddenly sprang towards Lu Shu like dozens of blades, swirling into a pink flood.

Not only a magical weapon, her kimono was a deadly one!

"Wait!" Lu Shu screamed, "Wait a second!"

Shocked, Yaeko's movement paused for a brief second, wondering what Kitamura was up to. He... seemed different from the man in the information given. Shouldn't Kitamura Hirono be a serious fighter during any combats?

But she had no intention to stop. Her determination could never be swayed by a few verbal distractions.

As a result, despite being chased by a wave of sakura petals, Lu Shu carried the bucket of red paint and wrote a Chinese character "拆" enclosed by a big circle. This time, he had no time to slander others and wrote it in Chinese instead.

This made Yaeko even more confused. What's going on? Why did you draw that on your own door while I am about to kill you? Is it another magical symbol created by the Jingoists? But what does it mean?

In Japanese, the kanji "拆" had a different meaning from its Chinese counterpart.

Suddenly, a thought struck Yaeko and she was immediately on full alert. What if the symbol could release some deadly forces?

Yet, in the next instant, Lu Shu threw away his bucket and took to his heels. It seemed that he had no interest in the battle at all!

"From Sakurai Yaeko's distress, +199!"

What?! So what did you just draw?!

Why did that fellow run away?!

"Kitamura Hirono! Stop!" A murderous look crept onto Yaeko's face, her thin eyebrows as sharp as lancets.

...

Before Kitamura went to Yaeko's apartment that night, he had conducted a complete investigation on Sakurai Yaeko's background, which was available on the market, of course.

Despite her clean-looking profile, Kitamura was experienced enough to notice the flaws therein. For example, there were no records on the accident that took away her parents' lives. Furthermore, without any source of income or caregivers, how did Sakurai survive and lead such a decent life in her school years?

There were too many questionable points that could support Kitamura's speculation. But actually, his aim was simple. He wanted Sakurai Yaeko, and to use her to wipe out the remaining Conservative forces. That would play a significant part in his future path in the organization.

But it was completely unexpected that he would be fooled by her.

Before he could quell his anger, the news had come that someone disguised as him and went on a killing spree in front of the Mansion.

Yet, Kitamura did not have to worry this time, for there were enough witnesses around him to prove his innocence. Furthermore, the symbol that the attacker left behind was very representative...

Now, it had been confirmed that the culprit was from the Heavenly Network. There were no two ways about it.

Thus, any voices that were unfavorable to Kitamura would soon subside.

Kitamura felt relieved for the cracking of the case. The man had really not put in much thought into the slander...

Currently, the war machine, the Collection of Gods, was in full operation. Every earth-type Metahuman was sent underground in search of any potential traces left by the intruder, while all vital traffic lines on the surface had been closed for a city-wide investigation.

Having settled his duties, Kitamura decided to return home for some rest. There was a clear hierarchy in the Collection of Gods, and he knew his only obligation in this case was to answer promptly to his superiors' calls when necessary.

More importantly, his teacher had warned him that he was no match for their Class B opponent. After all, the man had killed the Class C security guard in the blink of an eye.

Since his teacher was the current leader of the Collection of Gods, there was no need for Kitamura to take the risk.

But, to show his concern and sincerity, Kitamura dispatched all his men for various

purposes. On his way home, just when he had parked his car and was about to cover the last distance on foot, he heard Sakurai's shouting, "Kitamura Hirono! Stop!"

Kitamura glanced around, but Sakurai was nowhere to be found.

Then, Sakurai dashed across the crossroads. Her slender body looked attractive in her adjusted kimono, but apparently she was surrounded by a murderous air. However... it seemed that she had not even seem him!

"From Kitamura Hirono's distress, +666!"

495 MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Once Lu Shu was out of Yaeko's vision, he started to accelerate to the top of his speed. With his remarkable speed comparable to that of Class B's, it was impossible for Yaeko, a mere Class C, to catch up with him...

Yaeko was slightly resigned. Nothing in her information said that Hirono possessed such speed.

It was at this moment that she suddenly heard a shout behind her. "Ms Sakurai, are you looking for me?"

Yaeko abruptly looked back. To her consternation, she realised that Hirono had ran behind her and was walking over from a crossroad.

At this very instant, Hirono and Yaeko saw in each other's eyes a tinge of... uncertainty...

Yaeko thought silently. How did this idiot run behind me? It couldn't be that his speed has progressed to such an extent?

Hirono wondered to himself. Wasn't it her who ferociously allowed herself to stand still? Why does she look like she shouldn't be here instead?

Lu Shu had already escaped far away, lest he be tracked down by them. He had ran off, leaving Yaeko and Kitamura at a loss.

"From Sakurai Yaeko's distress, +666!"

"From Kitamura Hirono's distress, +666!"

The misunderstanding was because of Lu Shu, so the distress points were all Lu Shu's fault!

Hirono chuckled. "Ms Sakurai, you are really using me to find joy, huh? When I tried to find you last night, there certainly wasn't anyone at home. So why have you come to my house on your own initiative today?"

Yaeko coldly stared at Hirono. She said, "After tonight, there will be no more Kitamura Hirono from the Collection of Gods on this Earth."

"Oh?" Hirono adjusted his non-prescription glasses. "Just because you were taught by that Oda Tokuma. I'm afraid that you still can't kill me. I doubt he himself would be able to do so."

Yaeko was uncertain where his courage came from. Was he really saying that even a Class B could not kill him?

However, she had no intention of talking nonsense. As soon as Hirono finished speaking, she prepared to strike. Yet at that moment, a long sword fell from an electric

pole. Oda Tokuma's figure suddenly appeared, the sword ready to split Kitamura into halves.

Yaeko was dumbfounded. Why would her teacher be hiding there? It was as if he was planning to murder the presumptuous Hirono!

But at that split second, an invisible figure pushed Kitamura from behind him. It took the opportunity to draw his sword from his waist. The massive momentum pushed Oda Tokuma, who was leaping from the sky, in an instant.

An enormous blast billowed outwards with a jingling sound. The surrounding houses had starting shaking under the force of the two swords clashing. This was a battle between two powerful Class B's!

The middle-aged man called Kitamura Kijitori slowly sheathed his sword. He chuckled, "I spent so much effort in trying to find you, you Gray Rat. After today, you no longer have to continue hiding. You might as well stay behind."

At this very moment, the situation became unpredictable. Oda Tokuma personally came to observe, as he had felt the change in Yaeko and was worried that she would yield.

On the other hand, the reason why Hirono dared to talk wildly then was to incite his teacher. His teacher realised that out of the four present, his energy was most in line with that of Oda Tokuma's! He had only planned to ask and enrage, but never had he expected that he would actually lure out Oda Tokuma.

Kijitori laughed. "You really have a long way to go if you want to catch up with Kirihara Kuraki. If he were here, needless to say my words would not anger him at all.

In terms of strength, I'm afraid you would have to give way and join hands with others before you stand a chance. No wonder those families in hiding no longer trust you. If it were me, it would also be hard for me to trust your leadership. What future is there for the Conservatives? But... beside me is a mouse who makes people disturbed. The natural instinct is to simply get rid of you."

When Oda Tokuma heard that he was described as a mouse by Kijitori, his veins seemed ready to burst. How could the self-proclaimed genius bear such humiliation?

Yet at the very next instant, Kijitori unsheathed his sword from his waist and pointed it at Yaeko!

Without even waiting for Oda Tokuma to react, Kijitori had already approached Yaeko. One slice and the night was broken.

The sakura flowers on Yaeko's kimono each resisted the force of the blade, before leaving remains of dust on the blade.

There was a ring as the blade and the kimono clashed. Yaeko was sent flying by the force of the blade, yet her kimono was still intact!

Kijitori gasped in admiration and laughed. "It was that mythical object! So it's been in the hands of you, the Conservatives."

Yet as he once again prepared for the chase to kill her, Oda Tokuma suddenly fled far away. He did not even care whether his student would come out alive or dead, as to him, he was not yet worthy of being Kijitori's opponent!

Kijitori said with a sense of pity, "What a coward. Hirono, I'll leave this to you."

Just as he finished speaking, Kijitori quickly withdrew and chased after Oda Tokuma.

Yaeko coughed up fresh blood and once again stood up. She looked towards the direction her teacher had fled towards, seemingly heaving a sigh. Some questions and answers she did not want to know about had always troubled her, and now everything was proven.

Not to mention her sakura kimono was indeed magical. There was no trace of damage even after resisting a first-class attack from a Class B. Although she had received rather severe internal injuries, she still had the energy to move around!

Yaeko suddenly turned around and fled. She headed towards the dojo. She knew that if she had not received any support, there was no doubt that she would be dead. After all, Hirono may not be much weaker than her when she was at full power.

On top of that, Yaeko suddenly wanted to know, if her teacher had abandoned her, then... would that young man help her?

This world was still really cold, huh? Yaeko silently heaved a sigh.

For some reason, Yaeko felt that the young man in the dojo would definitely help her, although they had not known each other for long.

As the two vied with each other towards the dojo, Hirono laughed behind Yaeko. "Why are you escaping in that direction? Do you really think he will save you, you spy? How will he see you when he knows about your identity? Do you think you can stay by his side?"

His words stabbed hard into Yaeko's heart. She was very clear that what Hirono said was right. From the very beginning her intention to interact with Lu Shu was wrong. How could there be a right conclusion?

If Kirihara knew that she had approached him as his spy, how could she justify herself?

496 KITAMURA HIRONO'S TWIN BROTHER

The battle between Oda Tokuma and Kitamura Kijitori jolted the entire Nishinokyo from their sleep.

A flash of a blade and a neighbouring house was split in half. Yet neither of them bothered to care whether anyone was injured in that residence. The two figures shuttled back and forth in the forest of steel and cement, leaving everywhere they passed in ruins.

The Collection of Gods was alerted and immediately hurried to the battlefield. Most of them were unsure about Kitamura Kijitori's plan, hence they did not expect that the strong Class B Conservatives had been lured out, before the people from the Heavenly Network had even been captured.

Yaeko felt her chest heat up. Although the wounds on a practitioner's body could heal quickly, the attack from Kijitori was rather severe.

The only thing that kept her going forth was her curiosity, whether that young man would be willing to save her.

She was like the Little Match Girl, who greatly treasured the warmth every matchstick brought.

It was right ahead! Yaeko could already see the dojo signboard!

But it was at this very moment that she suddenly saw Hirono at the doors of the dojo, about to enter. Yaeko was dumbfounded and so was Hirono. Yaeko finally realised that the Hirono she saw was wearing different clothes from just now.

As Yaeko recalled the details of what had happened, she realised that she had bumped into two different Kitamura Hironos tonight!

What was happening? And why would this Hirono be by the dojo?

Hirono, who had been behind Yaeko all this time, had just arrived. This Hirono was also shocked. He exclaimed, "Who are you?!"

Lu Shu was annoyed. How was it possible that they met by coincidence here?!

He spent so long running around in fear of being stopped by the Collection of Gods, yet in the end these two idiots did not bolt behind him, instead, they directly came to stop him!

This is bad. Lu Shu felt that his identity could not waver. He could still attempt to save himself.

Lu Shu thought for two seconds, before suddenly bursting into pleasantly surprised smile. "Hirono, I am your twin brother from different parents!"

Hirono was silent with shock.

Twin brother... from different parents? Do you not have any general biological

knowledge?

"From Kitamura Hirono's distress, +999!"

For some reason, Yaeko suddenly blurted out, "Kiriharakun?"

Lu Shu stood at the quiet street, looking melancholic. "My identity... has been shattered..."

Somehow, Yaeko managed to figure out Lu Shu was Kirihara Yousuke when Lu Shu gave off an unnatural atmosphere as he stood by the doors of the dojo.

The instant Hirono saw his exact replica, he recalled the Heavenly Network who had passed off as him, killing people and writing the character "chai".

Hirono was not stupid. Although he did not know the relationship between this Heavenly King and Kirihara Yousuke, but if they could perfectly replicate his physical appearance, then replacing Kirihara Yousuke was not impossible.

It was just that everyone had been left in the dark and assumed that Kirihara was highly temperamental. They never thought that his physical appearance could be ever-changing!

If it were only Kirihara, Hirono would not even care in the slightest. But if his opponent was the Ninth Heavenly King, that would be frightening. He was aware of the massacre that happened at the gates of the Collection of Gods mansion. 11 Class D's and one Class C participated in the fight, but they were all killed in just 30 seconds.

This was not an opponent that Hirono could face. He had to get the help of his uncle, Teacher Jian!

Yaeko was now the most confused about the situation. She had thought that Kirihara could not defeat Hirono, but now even if that were the case, their abilities would not differ much.

So what was happening now? Are you saying that Hirono does not even have the courage for one battle?

What did Hirono say just now? The Ninth Heavenly King!!

The Conservatives were not blind. They certainly knew about his existence. Previously when Nogiwa Hakushun was killed, Oda Tokuma had seriously discussed with the key members whether they wanted to cooperate with the Ninth Heavenly King to battle the Jingoists. The problem was, if the Jingoists could not find him, the Conservatives did not even stand a chance of doing so.

At first Oda Tokuma was worried that they would lead the wolf into the house, but eventually they could not even find said wolf, let alone lead it in!

But it was precisely this person that confused Oda Tokuma who had been by her side this whole time! Yaeko was very certain that this Kirihara was not the Kirihara she once knew. It was highly possible that the replacement happened during the highly temperamental period.

But... if you were to replace such an important person, are you not even in the slightest worried about carelessly breaking down others and creating yourself a new personality?

Suddenly, a gigantic golden dragon soared from Lu Shu's body and rushed forward. Lu Shu himself also charged towards Hirono. Lu Shu's murderous intent suddenly rose, ready for the kill!

Hirono was momentarily shocked. He realised that there was too much of a difference between his speed and that of Lu Shu's!

He grabbed the shuriken in his sleeves and turned to throw them in Lu Shu's direction. However, the two shuriken were swallowed by the golden dragon before they could reach Lu Shu. The small snakes in the dragon bit off one of the shurikens.

"They didn't kill you?!" Hirono said in astonishment. The divine water had become Lu Shu's symbol after the battle at Koh Chang Island. As for the two shuriken, Lu Shu had not yet displayed it in front of outsiders before. Even Li Xianyi did not know about this. He had all along thought that his disciple could not even unlock his sea of chi.

Hirono never thought that he would meet Lu Shu here. Didn't the Darkness Kingdom confirm the news of his death? Was it Lu Shu himself or someone in the Heavenly Network who had inherited Lu Shu's divine water?

Wasn't the Ninth Heavenly King an earth element metahuman? False information!

Yaeko, seeing that Hirono was not Lu Shu's opponent, finally heaved a sigh. She slumped to the ground with fatigue, not knowing what she was thinking.

At the very next moment, Lu Shu had rushed before Hirono. He threw a punch and a storm brew!

The air before his fist warped under the pressure, followed by the sudden sound of an explosion!

Hirono drew his long sword from his waist, but it was too late. Hirono felt that his entire body had shattered in an instant from just a single punch. It was as if the punch was the epicenter of an earthquake. His body was easily crushed and destroyed. He took his last breath.

497 ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME?

Lu Shu stood still in the street. He was no longer the weak, poor boy who made a living as a vendor selling boiled eggs. Now, he was one of the strongest Practitioners in the world, able to defeat a Class C pro like Kitamura Hirono almost effortlessly.

Yaeko gazed at Lu Shu's silhouette with a smile. The world had faded away, and Lu Shu was the only person left in her eyes. He... suddenly squatted to pick up Kitamura's katana, and then continued searching for other magical weapons...

It felt like, she was looking at two lovely smurfs dancing and running against a beautiful background...

Oh man! She was losing her sanity!

By the time Lu Shu returned, his face had changed back to Kirihara's. At this moment, the door of the dojo was opened. Bunndai asked curiously as she eyed Lu Shu, unscathed, and Yaeko, who was leaning on the wall feebly, "Are you done with the fight? Do we need to shift our base?"

Then, she helped Yaeko up and supported her into the dojo, while Lu Shu, following behind, looked at the quiet yard and asked, "Sakurai, who else knows your identity?"

There is no need for any more secrets, she thought. "I'm afraid the Jingoists will soon come after me. His teacher, Kitamura Kijitori, is engaging in a fight with Oda Tokuma at the moment. All the Collection of Gods masters are probably busy rushing there now."

Lu Shu nodded his head. "What a pity."

His fingers rubbed the fine bamboos in the yard, feeling sorry that they would soon perish. In fact, Lu Shu liked the place, despite not yet being used to the style of its architecture. Lu Shu planned to build a yard in Luo Cheng too, though a more modernized version. It was time to give Lu Xiaoyu a better house with the money he had now.

Lu Shu made a bow to Bunndai. "I appreciate your efforts and hard work for the past days. Please get ready to retreat."

"What about her?" Bunndai asked, wondering what Lu Shu would do with Yaeko.

Lu Shu looked over, only to see Yaeko's mournful smile. She asked, "Heavenly King, My Lord, are you going to kill me?"

If she were Lu Shu, Yaeko knew she would do the same.

But there would be no more regrets then, since she had come so far, bearing her excruciating pain, just to see whether this "Kirihara Yousuke" would save her.

Even though he was no longer the original Yousuke, the one she loved was the man beside her right now. She did not even know Kirihara Yousuke himself.

Now, he had shown her that he cared, and her teacher had abandoned her. That was enough. She had found the answers she wanted, while lost she had received what she did not deserve, it was all she had asked for. Her life was complete. Smiling, Yaeko begged him, "Before I die, can I have a look of your own face, Mr Heavenly King?"

Yaeko had no idea about Lu Shu's original face. Yet, since Lu Shu's death had been verified by the Darkness Kingdom, it was possible that his divine water had been passed to another person in the Heavenly Network.

But Yaeko was more inclined to believe that this man was Lu Shu, because the first person killed was Nogiwa Takenobu's son, Nogiwa Hakushun.

"Then, should I address you as Lu Shu from now onwards?" Yaeko tested him. As soon as she finished her sentence, she coughed up fresh blood. Earlier Kijitori had injured her heart and lungs with the blow. Thus, it needed time for her full recovery, though her life would not be threatened.

Lu Shu's heart softened. "Take some rest. Don't worry too much about meaningless stuff like that."

Bunndai said from inside her room, "Please cover Yaeko's eyes."

Lu Shu did as told. Yaeko felt comfortable under the warmth from Lu Shu's palm.

At this moment, Bunndai walked out of her room. Her waist-length long hair had been cut short, and she was dressed in a professional office wear with a pair of high heels on her feet. Instantly, she had changed from a gentle, graceful Yamato nadeshiko to a resolute, competent white-collar female worker. Lu Shu almost could not recognize her!

Bunndai made a deep bow to Lu Shu. "It has been my honor to work with you. Goodbye."

Lu Shu smiled. "Thank you."

Then, with a roll of burning newspaper, Bunndai set the entire yard on fire. She walked out first and disappeared into the dark streets, ready to commence her new mission under her new identity.

Meanwhile, Lu Shu finally lifted his palm from Yaeko's eyes. To his surprise, she had fallen asleep.

Or had she fainted? Lu Shu was unsure.

But they should not stay any longer at the dojo. Regret welled up in Lu Shu's heart. How good would it be if he could live on with his old identity and continue earning money with this dojo? Life was full of unpredictabilities...

Wait a minute!

Something was not right...

His recent income had been given to Bunndai for their living expenses. And now, Bunndai had left!

What the heck! He had put in so much work and effort into gathering that money! Including so many leaflets!

Nie Ting must be behind all of this. There was no other explanation!

Lu Shu felt his heart bleeding.

With a heavy heart, Lu Shu carried Yaeko on his shoulder and walked out of the yard. Once he was out, he saw a flash of light growing brighter right in front of him. Blasts of energy were exploding here and there, with houses being pulled to the ground.

He was reminded of Yaeko's words. It was a fight between Oda and Kitamura!

"What? They've come here?!" Lu Shu was shocked and confused. No way. He immediately ran towards the other direction. But soon, he turned to see the main battlefield shifting towards him.

Can you please choose another place?!

Many residents were awoken by the commotion and ran outside for a look. When they saw the fighting, some pulled over their overcoats and ran out, while the rest hid in their own homes, shivering and praying for safety.

This was the current situation where Practitioners and commoners co-existed. During wartime, the latter did not even have the means to protect themselves.

There were a few high-rise buildings in the region. They were mostly individual houses of two to three floors.

At this moment, someone shouted from on top, trying to suppress her voice, "Kiriharakun?"

Lu Shu froze. Chiba?!

498 THE WRATH OF THE COLLECTION OF GODS

The encounter with Chiba was unexpected. But thinking about it, Lu Shu had gone home with Chiba before, which meant her house was near the dojo.

No, I can't enter her house, Lu Shu thought. Both he and Yaeko were wanted by the Collection of Gods and he certainly did not want to get Chiba into trouble too.

Before Chiba opened the door, Lu Shu had run away with Yaeko. In fact, he had considered killing her, but could not bring himself to do it. Despite knowing her unfriendly intentions when she approached him, Lu Shu saw sincerity in her eyes in the past few days.

Human expressions were never as complicated as comprehension passages... But in the end Lu Shu chose to follow his gut feeling.

Besides, what he had exposed was nothing serious. First off, Lu Shu would recover his own identity after the completion of this mission. So it was not a big deal to let Yaeko know that he was Lu Shu.

Secondly, the divine water had long since been an open secret. As for the mask, however, the only two witnesses, the blood devil and the Puppet Master, who was still on the run. Thus, the knowledge of the Network's possession of the mask could have spread through other means.

Therefore, he would be safe so long as his celestial map and two flying daggers were kept secret.

Well, it seemed like an appropriate excuse...

But before Lu Shu could run far, he heard Chiba shouting behind, "Kiriharakun! Where are you Kiriharakun!"

Was she try to call back the bloody spirits?! Resigned, Lu Shu ran back at once. "Don't shout! You are attracting people here!"

Chiba pulled him into the house and said, "My parents are long-term workers in Okayama. So you don't need to worry about that. What happened to Sakurai? Is she hurt?"

But Lu Shu refused to enter the house. He explained, "She'll be fine if you stop shouting. We can't go in because it may get you into trouble. Alright, stay here. I guess they are not going to fight here."

"I'll continue shouting if you don't come in," Chiba said stubbornly.

Then, Lu Shu hit a spot on her neck, knocking her unconscious. He did it properly so that the temporary hypoxia caused by disruption of blood flow in her carotid artery would not hurt her. Then, Lu Shu put Chiba back in her house, before he closed the door and left. The little girl was being willful at the wrong time!

At the current moment, the Collection of Gods' forces were everywhere in the vicinity. Following Kitamura Hirono's death and the many house-dismantling signs he had drawn, it would have been stranger had they not been looking for Lu Shu.

Thus, he could not afford to let Chiba give in to her personal feelings now. When the Collection of Gods found them, how could Chiba escape, even if Yaeko and himself could? Even if she could, what about her parents?

Lu Shu continued running, carrying Yaeko with him. But where could he go then?

At this moment, Chiba's door was open again. She started shouting, "Kiriharakun! Kiriharak..."

Her mouth was covered by Lu Shu before she could finish the last syllable. Lu Shu was both shocked and confused.

How did she recover so fast? And my friend can you not be so stubborn?

Most importantly, now is not the right time for jokes! Lu Shu lowered his voice and asked softly, "How come you woke up so soon?"

After he lifted his hand from Chiba's mouth, Chiba replied carefully, "Don't hit me. There's an attic upstairs and no one can discover it. I think I have... awoken to my powers just now when you hit me."

By right, commoners can never wake up so soon after being hit on the carotid artery. But she was a Metahuman now... What the heck had happened?!

"???"

Don't fool me. Why is your power awakening even smoother than mine?!

An indistinct feeling emerged from deep in his heart. Maybe her power had awakened due to her intense concern about Yousuke's safety, together with her anxiety about her inability to offer any help...

Too impulsive...

"Come in. Quick!" Chiba pulled Lu Shu inside as she saw a group of people approaching in this direction.

Then, they heard someone giving orders outside loudly, "Seal the place. Lord Kitamura Hirono was murdered nearby. Search for clues!"

That was followed by a flurry of footsteps. Meanwhile, there was no sign of Oda and Kitamura's fight ending. Lu Shu suspected that luck might not be on Oda's side, because the other Class B master, Takashima Tairatsu, not a humanist, would eventually arrive to assist Kitamura. Oda's demise was only a matter of time.

Chiba pulled Lu Shu upstairs, but soon tripped over herself and fell. This was because she had yet to get used to her new strength. Back then, Lu Shu had practiced his sword vigorously with Li Xianyi so as to accelerate the familiarity process with his power gained from the celestial map.

Therefore, Kirihara's dojo had actually benefited him through accretion of his powers, which was vital to his rapid growth in strength.

Proficient mastery of one's strength came from familiarity and Lu Shu knew it all too well.

For exactly the same reason, many Practitioners looked down on Metahumans, although in reality they had to work equally hard. Li Xianyi once said that many Metahumans were actively involved in cultivation too. Not to further their strength, but to fully master their powers and develop new ways to use them.

Take for example, Howard had gradually found the easy connection between his fire-type powers and the creation of blazing phoenixes through cultivation and practice. Otherwise, he would not have spent so much energy on summoning phoenixes.

Actually, power awakening takes a lot of learning too.

After Chiba had finally stumbled to the second floor, she pulled down a hidden door in the ceiling and moved a ladder over. Then, she said to Lu Shu, "The attic is up there. It's very difficult to see it from below. Now, go and hide there first."

Immediately afterwards, there were rapid knocks on the door. Chiba urged nervously, "Hurry up! I'm going down to let them in."

Before she could finish her words, they heard a man's voice outside, shouting impatiently, "We are going to break in if there is no one inside!"

Chiba shouted immediately, "Coming!"

Lu Shu frowned. It seemed that the Collection of Gods were really in a rage, what with all the consecutive murders of their key members. Not to mention Nogiwa Hakushun, whose Class B father was already dead anyway, Kitamura Kijitori was a man of high position in the organization. Who knew how many people he would vent his anger on following Hirono's death?

499 NIE TING'S INTENTION

To the Collection of Gods, Hirono's death was not Lu Shu's fault, but was instead the responsibility of the Conservatives. Except the distress points said otherwise. In reality, Lu Shu had done it, so it was really, Lu Shu's fault...

Tonight, Lu Shu had not appeared in the case of Hirono's death. The battle between the Conservatives and the Jingoists, as well as the 'Ninth Heavenly King' causing

havoc were two independent events in the eyes of the Collection of Gods. But they did not expect that Yaeko would stubbornly connect the two cases together. Even Lu Shu himself was very surprised. He had planned on packing up...

With Yaeko on his back, Lu Shu climbed up into the attic. He made sure to hide all the ladders in the attic. This was to prevent the Collection of Gods from discovering the attic after associating it with the ladders they would find otherwise.

Lu Shu's prudence was out of genuine concern over getting Chiba involved. It was all good if he were acting alone, he could simply change his appearance and lay low after killing someone.

The Collection of Gods had now arrived. When they saw Chiba alone at home, they asked with some uncertainty. "Where is your family?"

Chiba, slightly fearful, replied, "My father is working in Okayama."

The person who had initiated the search glanced over and got someone to do a background check. Within two minutes a confirmation came. "She is speaking the truth."

The leader nodded his head and said, "Was there anyone who walked by just now? And was there anyone who came in to hide?"

Chiba replied cautiously, "There was some large movement just now that woke me up and I looked out of the window. Other than that I didn't notice anything."

The first half was correct, but the second half was fake. Chiba felt that her words were flawless.

But the Collection of Gods still had to do a search. The four people split up to check. Even the wardrobes, cupboards and beneath the bed were not left unchecked. This was likely not the first time the Collection of Gods had done such a thing. Their search was very thorough, normally one could not escape by simply hiding.

However, Chiba's attic was well-concealed. Meanwhile, Lu Shu took a look around the attic and spotted piles of cash...

When Lu Shu saw the cash, he gasped in shock. It took everything he had before he could finally resist the temptation of stuffing all the money into the Seal of Lands... Damn it, what were Chiba's parents working as? Did they intentionally create a hidden attic to conceal all this cash?

The largest Japanese yen bill was 10,000 yen. There was a portrait of a male on the note, and Lu Shu had the impression that he was a teacher.

The piles of cash in front of Lu Shu now, all had the face of the teacher whose name Lu Shu could not recall...

In reality, Lu Shu felt that there was no point being polite as they left, since they had conducted a house search without any credentials.

Was the Collection of Gods crazy enough to do such a thing? No wonder there were rumours that the Collection of Gods was going mad. Lu Shu sighed. It was not unusual for the Heavenly Network to aggressively probe the Collection of Gods. Anyone with this kind of neighbour would be cautious too.

Chiba waited for everyone to leave before very cautiously coming to the second floor.

She said, "Kiriharakun, it's all right now. You can come down."

Lu Shu carried Yaeko and went down. As he calmed down he suddenly realised... it seemed like there was nothing in Yaeko's clothes...

Chiba curiously asked, "What happened to Sakurai? Was the Collection of Gods looking for you?"

There was nothing to hide from Chiba. Since he now had Chiba involved, she had the right to know what was happening. After some thought, Lu Shu said, "I killed the higher management of the Collection of Gods, while Yaeko was injured by them. They are certainly looking for us."

Chiba hesitated before asking, "So you and Sakurai are both practitioners?"

"That's right," Lu Shu nodded in affirmation. "Just now you said that you had awakened. What ability did you awaken?"

"When I was in that heavy sleep, it felt like I had fallen into a pit of lava. But the lava could not burn me. Instead, I felt that it was very kind." As Chiba finished speaking, her palm burst into flames.

Lu Shu nodded his head. So this was a fire element metahuman. He said, "You'd better not casually use your abilities. After awakening, there is the process of adapting. We will go after waiting a little longer. Never, ever tell anyone that you helped us hide."

"I'm afraid you can't leave... Look outside" said Chiba.

Lu Shu drew the curtains and looked out. He realised that after they had finished the search, the Collection of Gods never left, they had assigned people to be on guard, completely blocking them off.

Outside, the sounds of Oda Tokuma and Kitamura Kijitori battling gradually grew distant. Then Lu Shu felt his phone vibrate. He lay Yaeko on the sofa and stepped aside to check.

After coming here Lu Shu had three phones, one was his smartphone, the other was given to him by You Mingyu specially to transmit information, and the last was Kirihara Yousuke's.

He had placed his own smartphone in the Seal of Lands, as he could not use his SIM card here. The information he had now received was from the Heavenly Network.

Lu Shu took a glance and felt a chill down his spine. He did not think that the Heavenly Network would know about this situation so quickly, and they had even prepared a retreat route for him. A new identity, or retreat.

It looked like either Taniguchi Bunndai or a spy in the Collection of Gods had successfully connected with the Heavenly Network. This retreat route was quite timely.

Lu Shu had been given two choices. One was to change his appearance and continue about his affairs.

The other was to withdraw, since it would make no difference even if he wanted to give up.

For some reason, Lu Shu felt that this trip was not as dangerous as he had originally thought. Without any specific task allocated to him, he could do anything he wanted. If any trouble occurred, he could simply withdraw.

In reality killing two Class C's and writing the character "chai" would not deal serious damage to the Collection of Gods. But Nie Ting did not seem to care.

This feeling... it felt as if they were letting him build a false reputation by sending him to the Collection of Gods. He had been assigned tasks and deeds, and was sent to the target of common hatred among the Heavenly Network: the Collection of Gods. He could withdraw as long as he made use of this reputation. Of course, if he wanted to continue about his affairs, he could certainly do so.

What exactly was Nie Ting's intention?

Since the Koh Chang Island remains, when the Heavenly Network had only sent him and Li Yixiao he had felt that something was not right. Up till this assignment, Lu Shu had felt this feeling grow stronger.

Lu Shu had not thought through on his decision. His natural instinct was to not think about it and just settle the problem in front of him.

500 A NEW IDENTITY

The atmosphere in the room quickly became quite awkward. Yaeko was still unconscious. Chiba suddenly did not know what to say. The person she liked had almost been killed, and she had somehow awakened. She was very bewildered, but at the same time she was also somewhat happy.

After Lu Shu had beat up seven of his classmates, Chiba had guessed that 'Kiri-hara Yousuke' was a practitioner. Every time she harboured such a thought, she would feel that the distance between them had widened. But today had proven that she, too, had

become a special existence in the eyes of her classmates...

From Chiba's perspective, the distance between them seemed to have narrowed now.

Lu Shu was reflecting on his decision to come to Japan. To speak the truth, he now felt that it was right of him to come here, even though there was no inheritance to receive. As Li Yixiao had said, domestic affairs had their own constraints. But when it came to foreign affairs, things were different. It was the same no matter who you tricked but on the flip side, the others were planning to trick you as well.

Let alone an organisation like the Collection of Gods. Lu Shu would not have an ounce of emotional burden if he were to trick them.

The Heavenly Network suddenly provided a retreat route just as he was about to unlock the third nebula. Lu Shu found himself not wanting to go back just yet. Distress points were so easy to earn here, he decided to leave only after he had unlocked it.

As for Yaeko, he would wait until her wounds healed and she regained her movement before letting her go. Right now, there was no safe place in Japan where she could take shelter. Perhaps Oda Tokuma would die tonight.

If not, a Class B called Takashima Tairatsu had yet to make his move. Lu Shu definitely wanted to pick fights, but there were too many Class B's gathering. Even if it were just Lu Shu, he would not do something that would incur losses for both parties, only to benefit another.

Just as Lu Shu had found a suitable place for Yaeko and prepared to carefully analyse the new identity provided by the Heavenly Network, Chiba suddenly said,

"Kiriharakun, you can be rest assured staying here. My parents are only coming back at the end of next week, so there is no need to worry."

Lu Shu had not been concerned about this at all. He suddenly became curious as he recalled the money concealed in the attic. He asked Chiba, "What do your parents do for a living?"

"I'm not sure either..." Chiba shook her head. "They never let me ask them that sort of question. They only want me to focus on studying and get into the University of Nishinokyo."

Lu Shu had wanted to ask whether her family had a business that made quick cash, as he was very interested... But from her answer, even Chiba was not sure what her parents did for a living.

They did not talk much for the rest of the night. It was as if Chiba was somewhat flustered, while Lu Shu had still not figured out how to explain his situation to Chiba.

Lu Shu only had the time to properly analyse his new identity once before he settled in the guest room.

His new identity was Yamada Akira, a Class C, key driver and an assistant. One week ago it was suspected that he was related to a deceased Conservative member, and was thus marginalised from society. Now he was in charge of a warehouse in Nishinokyo. This warehouse was not that important. It only stored some common chemical reagents and ingredients like sodium-potassium alloys. It was a job that anyone could do. But just like the security guard at the Collection of Gods Mansion, the Collection of Gods and the Phoenix Society were different. The former took all the Practitioners in their organisation to be spare parts of a machine.

There were valuable spare parts, and there were spare parts that were not as important. As for Yamada Akira, he most likely played the role of a screw...

He only had Class D training, low credentials, and no good friends. Previously he had been promoted for his serious work attitude, yet now he was being marginalised.

Lu Shu took a look at his physical appearance, build and height, as well as the amount of time he had spent interacting with the Conservatives. He suddenly felt as if Nie Ting had specifically prepared this identity for him. After coming to Japan, he could immediately take on the identity reserved for him.

In any case, Lu Shu could only change his physical appearance, but not completely become another person. He believed that Nie Ting was also very clear of this fact. Hence, the identity Lu Shu needed was not to be an important intelligence personnel. In terms of gathering intelligence, even a Class D could do a better job than Lu Shu could.

What Lu Shu needed, was a position that protected and reduced the chances of others exposing his true identity.

Lu Shu suddenly realised how frightening it was for the Heavenly Network, a large Practitioners organisation, to provide services for someone.

This kind of resource was not available to just any organisation. This was true heritage.

The information emphasised that after Lu Shu had taken on this identity, Yamada would be sent back in secret to work in the Heavenly Network.

Lu Shu thought about it. This identity was not bad, and could even allow an intelligence agent to return to his native land. This seemed like a very good decision. For some reason he suddenly thought about Taniguchi Bunndai. Although she did not want to return to her country, he could not help but hold great respect for them.

This group... they must be suffering a lot on the inside.

That night, Lu Shu ate the celestial fruit which promoted levels, and successfully illuminated the sixth star. The seventh star was still far from being lit. Lu Shu had to do something big.

Lu Shu felt that the Collection of Gods could not blame him. The seventh star was worth 3.2 million distress points, which was a huge number. He could not progress by doing nothing!

If the Collection of Gods knew the truth, they would definitely empathise with him!

Lu Shu once again renewed his thirst for distress points.

Lu Shu awoke before dawn. He knocked on Chiba's door and heard her voice coming from inside. "Who is it? Kiriharakun, is that you?"

"Um, it's me. I just want to say, it's now 3am. You can sleep for a while more."

"From Chiba's distress, +666..."

Lu Shu returned to his room. He silently whispered to himself, "What other ways are there to earn distress points?!"

With Class B in his sights, Lu Shu started to become obsessed...

The Collection of Gods was still providing a steady stream of distress points, especially with the wave of points at 2am. They had probably gone home, only to see the character "chai" on their door...

Lu Shu felt that he had good foresight. There was no way for them to clean the red paint overnight. Even if they did clean it off, they would have to repaint the entire exterior to maintain the colour of the house.

If they did not finish cleaning up today, Lu Shu would continue earning distress points.