

## 511 ROBBER AND MURDERER, LU XIAOSHU

Lu Shu put his feet up on the table. He stared blankly in the direction of the warehouse.

He once had great aspirations to maintain his image and identity until the best opportunity to settle his affairs. Yet no one could understand his suffering on the inside.

That was several hundred thousand magical stones! Lu Shu felt that if he could successfully sweep up all those magical stones, what an amazing feat he would have achieved!

After all, the Heavenly Network only produced less than 200,000 magical stones annually. If Lu Shu could take all these magical stones, it would be a severe blow to the Collection of Gods' face. Lu Shu felt that he had finally found a reason for himself!

If he did not make a move on all these magical stones, he would not destroy his image as Yamada Akira, but he would destroy his image as Lu Shu!

Lu Shu felt that happiness was still the most important thing to people.

Lu Shu pondered over it. They had four days of staggered holidays every month. He only needed to get approval from his superiors on these days. He could then go out of this fortress and to Nishinokyo with confidence.

There was a possibility that he would be arrested by the Collection of Gods once he reached Nishinokyo. He may not be able to leave the country by the normal routes. Even the retreat route prepared for him by the Heavenly Network may be impossible

to use. Besides, the Collection of Gods would definitely put Nishinokyo on lockdown if that amount of magical stones went missing.

But... for this many magical stones, Lu Shu was willing to even swim back to his country!

Since he had made this decision, Lu Shu had better come up with a thorough plan. His eyes had regained their vigor...

Then Tomosaka brought the previous head of science to Lu Shu's office. Lu Shu looked up at the two of them and asked languidly, "What's wrong?"

The previous head of science sneered. "We are all colleagues here. Give me some face. Since you've collected my money, you have to complete the task for me."

Lu Shu turned his head to look at him. Suddenly, his eyes lit up. "Of course I'll do it. Who said I wouldn't do it? But do you think that it is so easy to talk to Lord Kuriyama? I need time! Besides, we work in three shifts. The manpower for the next two shifts has not been confirmed. I have to confirm the manpower for all three shifts before reporting to the superiors. Does this make sense? Does it make sense for me to disturb Lord Kuriyama again and again to report the change in manpower?"

Tomosaka was dumbfounded for some time. "I apologise. I misunderstood you, Lord Yamada."

"No problem," Lu Shu said with a kind expression. "After I have confirmed the manpower for the next two shifts, I will go to Lord Kuriyama."

Tomosaka left. Within two hours, another two people came with a box each. One of

them smiled obsequiously. "Lord Yamada, I heard that Tomosaka said you were settling the manpower for the next two shifts. I am very conscientious in my work and very loyal to you! I can assure you that I will follow you wherever you go!"

Lu Shu uncovered the box and took a look. He gave a nod of satisfaction. "Okay, I got it. Go."

After he finished speaking, Lu Shu saw that there was no one in the office. He took the opportunity to put the three boxes in the Seal of Lands. Since he had decided to run away, then he would do it one by one!

Lu Shu wanted to ask every one of the 120 Class E Practitioners whether they wanted to become a leader, but he was afraid that his actions would suddenly be exposed... If the price was high enough, Lu Shu was sure this head of science would be willing to do it!

Since Lu Shu had decided on his course of action, he was impatient to get back home!

Lu Shu walked out of his office and headed towards the lift of the underground base. Upon seeing this, Tomosaka and the rest were elated. This Yamada was really honest and trustworthy. They did not expect him to actually go and settle the problem after collecting the money!

When Lu Shu saw the three of them, he smiled and nodded at them. He then went straight to the underground base. He first went to the dorm and as expected, Kawayoshi was loafing on the job to train. He even held a magical stone in his hand, absorbing its power.

"Hm? Why are you here? Aren't you on duty upstairs?" Kawayoshi had just gotten his

and Lu Shu's magical stones. He saw Lu Shu and was now slightly scared of being found out. Nonetheless, he immediately readjusted his composure and spoke with heavy emphasis: "If you are leaving your post without permission like that, I will have to report to Kuriyama..."

Ka!

Without waiting for Kawayoshi to finish speaking, Lu Shu hit Kawayoshi on the back of his neck. Kawayoshi's eyes rolled back and he fainted...

Lu Shu squatted down and carefully observed Kawayoshi. Seeing that he had no reaction, Lu Shu then shook Kawayoshi awake.

Kawayoshi slowly regained his consciousness. He could not understand what had just happened even if he tried. Lu Shu sighed. "You won't awaken this way either."

Kawayoshi suddenly recalled that it was Lu Shu who had knocked him out. But Kawayoshi was slightly uncertain. How was it possible that he could not avoid Lu Shu's blow, even though Lu Shu was much weaker than him?

Lu Shu was thinking of another problem. Earlier Chiba had undergone an awakening after Lu Shu had delivered a karate chop on her. Furthermore, she had awakened two consecutive times in the same day.

Lu Shu thought that he could actually help people awaken, but it seemed like that was not the case. Or was it because Chiba was too particular about Kirihara Yousuke?

What a pity. His income was big, but he had lost one of his plans.

To be honest, if Lu Shu could really help people awaken with just a blow, then he might as well be a craftsman. He possessed some craftsman skills!

Kawayoshi did not hesitate. As soon as he regained consciousness, he drew his katana and slashed it in Lu Shu's direction. Needless to say, Kawayoshi's other aspects made Lu Shu detest him. But his counterattack at this moment made Lu Shu view him in a more favourable light. His combat awareness was very high. Once he knew that the situation was no longer in his favour, he would not engage in any useless talk, instead, he would go for the attack!

But the sound of the katana slicing the air spontaneously came to a stop. The blade was caught between Lu Shu's nails, unable to move further.

Kawayoshi knew that the situation was worsening. Even a Class C could not stop his attack so easily with just two fingers!

Kawayoshi was dumbfounded. He could not understand how someone he once took lightly had suddenly become so powerful.

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +999!"

Kawayoshi shouted, "Who in the world are you?!" He only realised after shouting, that the base was so well-built that no matter how loudly he shouted in the dorm, no one would be able to hear him!

Lu Shu laughed. "Don't you recognise me?"

Kawayoshi forced himself to calm down. "You..."

"I am your father who does not share your blood," Lu Shu laughed. He no longer hesitated. He aimed at Kawayoshi's neck and it split with a clean sound!

### **512 SHROUDED IN DARKNESS, BUT HEADED TOWARDS HOPE**

Not even on death's door did Kawayoshi think that the Class D beginner Yamada Akira he knew was the Ninth Heavenly King they had been looking for all this time.

As for him being able to kill Lu Shu at any time, this was probably only possible in his dreams. Not even the entire Collection of Gods could defeat him, except for Takashima Tairatsu and Kitamura Kijitori.

But Kitamura Kijitori was not in this base, while a Class B expert like Takashima Tairatsu could not possibly stay in this base the entire time. So at this very moment, Lu Shu did not have any enemies in this base.

The only variable was when Takashima Tairatsu would arrive, Lu Shu could not confirm this. Furthermore, he had no cellular data and could not establish a connection with the outside information systems. He was thus unable to know Takashima's whereabouts.

Lu Shu looked at Kawayoshi paralysed on the floor, his neck bent in an unnatural angle. Lu Shu did not have even a bit of compassion for him. As long as they were a member of the Collection of Gods, he could kill them.

Of course, he had to avoid a violent massacre. Lu Shu had realised that there were many spies from the Heavenly Network in the Collection of Gods. If he had accidentally killed a spy and this was made known to the Collection of Gods, he would feel guilty. He was not a cold blooded person, just a little selfish.

But this did not mean that he had no intention of killing others. He still had a lot of targets, for example Kuriyama.

He was afraid that in Kuriyama's eyes, he was simply a Class D and not worthy of acknowledgment. Lu Shu laughed coldly. He took seven magical stones from Kawayoshi's body. As for the magical stone in Kawayoshi's hand that been absorbed halfway, Lu Shu did not discard it either, he simply tossed it into the Seal of Lands.

Even if it was absorbed halfway, it could still be sold for money. Even if you have several hundred thousand magical stones, you still had to live, right?

It was easy to go from a poor to a rich lifestyle, but it was difficult to go from a rich to a poor lifestyle. Lu Shu felt that he had to maintain the honourable tradition of being hardworking and thrifty.

Mystic water rushed out from the Seal of Lands, getting rid of all the evidence. Kawayoshi's katana had provided the mystic water with new energy. Lu Shu had wanted to disguise himself as Kawayoshi and approach Kuriyama, but his height did not complement that of Kawayoshi's.

Lu Shu left and went to find Kuriyama's office. He knocked on the door, but there was no reply. He knocked again, but there was still no reply. Lu Shu recalled that the sound insulation in the base was very good. It couldn't be that even the sound insulation of the office door was that good?! Or was there simply no one inside?

He needed Kuriyama's approval for leave before he could sneak out. He decided to try again.

"From Kuriyama Kumo's distress, +399!"

"From Miyazaki Yuu's distress, +499!"

With a ding, Lu Shu realised that the indicator above the door had turned from red to green. Kuriyama's voice, filled with anger, resonated from inside the room. "Come in."

Kacha! The door unlocked. Lu Shu pushed the door open. He saw the female Practitioner called Miyazaki buttoning her shirt. Even two of Takashima's underlings had been involved in this?

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. Kawayoshi, Kawayoshi, did you really admire someone like him...

Kuriyama angrily said, "Don't you know how to press the doorbell?" Miyazaki was elegantly seated at the sofa by the side. She was touching up her makeup, completely ignoring Lu Shu.

Lu Shu was gloomy. He had completely forgotten about the existence of the doorbell...

"This is my first time in this underground base. I didn't know that there's a doorbell. My apologies, my apologies..." Lu Shu laughed and closed the door.

"What have you come here for?" Kuriyama adjusted his own clothes, as if he was not concerned that Lu Shu knew his relationship with Miyazaki.

"It's like this. I want to take leave to return to Nishinokyo," Lu Shu said with a laugh.

Kuriyama was dumbfounded. He was suspicious. "You just came here. Now you want to go back?"



"Yes, today is the seventh day after Nogiwa Hakushun's death. I'd like to pay him a visit," said Lu Shu.

Kuriyama suddenly fell silent.

Kuriyama never thought that Yamada would still pay his respects to Nogiwa Hakushun even after his death. He really prioritised his feelings.

"Go then." Kuriyama edited Yamada Akira's exit permit on his computer. The fortress could only let him leave if Kuriyama had given his approval.

Kuriyama suddenly added on to his words. "If you could do the same for me, I will not oppose you."

Lu Shu was shocked. He had simply made up an excuse to go out, but here you are pouring out your feelings...

He paused for two seconds before speaking again. "Okay. If you kick the bucket, I will visit you seven days after as well."

"From Kuriyama Kumo's distress, +999!"

"From Miyazaki Yuu's distress, +399!"

Kuriyama was dumbfounded. Was I talking about you visiting me seven days after my death? You must be out of your mind!

Kuriyama's expression darkened. "Hehe. Go pay Nogiwa Hakushun a visit. You will

immediately know the aftermath of being presumptuous."

As he spoke, Kuriyama picked up the phone on his table. It was like it was specially made for use in the underground base and still had cellular network. He keyed in a number. "Go and dig up Nogiwa Hakushun's grave for me!"

He hung up the phone and laughed coldly. "Go and experience the taste of pain. Remember to press the doorbell the next time you come."

Lu Shu was melancholic. How nice it would have been if Nogiwa Hakushun had provided him with distress points upon his death...

"It looks like you won't be needing that doorbell anymore... But seeing how things have turned out, I won't be able to visit you seven days after your death," Lu Shu laughed.

Lu Shu had not even finished speaking. The moment Kuriyama hung up the phone, Lu Shu seized the opportunity. His Corpseudog and Concealed Arrow flew out with a buzz. The room swayed under a ring of waves. It was too late for Kuriyama to even think of reacting!

There was fear in Miyazaki's eyes. No one would have expected to see the swords only the Heavenly Network possessed, what more the two swords that were seldom seen!

Kuriyama wanted to dodge to a corner, but he was still in midair, and he had just gotten hold of his shuriken.

The blade pierced through the air and attacked Kuriyama while he was defenseless,

piercing through his head and heart.

Miyazaki was no longer her previous elegant self. The terrified expression on Kuriyama's face seemed to have frozen in time. The scattered drops of blood spread in the air. It was like a rose, whose vitality had been severed at dawn, blooming in hell. Shrouded in darkness, but headed towards hope.

Lu Shu calmly stood in the office. It was as if the air in this underground base had been refreshed. He greedily took a deep breath...

### **513 LU SHU THE IRON FIS**

"Who on Earth are you," Miyazaki asked, locking her brows.

Lu Shu thought silently, why are you all so fond of this question? What should be his answer this time?

Lu Shu pondered for two seconds before he confessed, "I am the legendary man of beauty and talent... Not good. You may call me the socialist iron fist!"

"... I beg your pardon?!"

"From Miyazaki Yuu's distress, +999!"

Then she asked, "But you didn't use your fist just now?"

"???"

It was not to be taken literally!

Before Lu Shu could figure out an explanation, Miyazaki drew from her long hair an

extremely thin silver thread and darted towards Lu Shu. The silvery string chain glimmered ominously. Lu Shu tilted his body to avoid the attack, and the string had already cracked the wall behind, revealing the sound-proof layer and the iron compartment within!

Lu Shu was stunned by the strict protection installed around Kuriyama's office. No wonder his door knocking could not be heard.

In the next instant, a silvery butterfly emerged from the thread, dashing in Lu Shu's direction. As it flapped its wings, waves of silver dust swept towards Lu Shu, who instantly poured out his divine water as a wall of defense!

Her weapon was a sacred item that possessed a weapon spirit!

Just when Lu Shu was busy defending against the butterfly, Miyazaki hurried to Kuriyama's office table. But Lu Shu would not let her succeed. Her haste had revealed that there might be alarm buttons at the table!

Miyazaki might have underestimated the volume of Lu Shu's divine water, which could easily fill up the entire office!

In a split second, the water expanded out like a giant web, expecting Miyazaki's stumbling into the trap. The golden snake swam upwards and aimed at Miyazaki's neck at lightning speed!

The energy in Miyazaki's Spirit Qi armor was rapidly drained as the snake fed on her power from the bite.

In an instant, her armor cracked creating an opening, and the divine water gushed in.

Miyazaki gave up her attempt at resistance, her eyes filled with malice and desperation.

"From Miyazaki Yuu's distress, +1000!"

This time, Lu Shu destroyed his image for a few tens of thousands of magical stones. Yet, in his report to Nie Ting, he would claim that he had killed multiple Class C's, including two of Takashima Tairatsu's underlings, and consequently dealt a severe blow to the Collection of Gods.

That made perfect sense. Anyway, he himself was only a Class C too.

The Collection of Gods had lost a great deal at the Koh Chang remains. Yet, another disaster had come to them.

As for the magical stones... What stones?! What are they? Hehe, never heard of them.

Besides the fight, Lu Shu had decided not to surrender what he had earned through his own hard work!

Carefully Lu Shu cleaned up the battlefield. But he left the closets and drawers untouched. Based on Miyazaki's action earlier, there might be certain gears or alarms that Lu Shu did not wish to trigger.

In the meantime, Lu Shu noticed that his golden snake was particularly interested in Miyazaki's weapon. After the loss of its host, the silvery butterfly returned to the chain, and the snake gulped the entire chain like how people sucked in noodles. Gradually its belly became bulging.

At its side, Lu Shu felt freaking hungry too...

Last time Lu Shu obtained the golden snake as his weapon spirit after the divine water engulfed Nogiwa Takenobu's magical katana. Now he wondered what would happen next when his snake ate up another weapon spirit.

After a while, the snake had swelled by a fair amount, and even its golden scales had become more distinct!

"No way. The snake actually feeds on weapon spirits?!" Lu Shu was dumbfounded. Magical weapons with spirits were always on high demand, but almost none were for sale.

When the snake fed on normal magical weapons, the only thing that had changed was the volume of the divine water. But when it fed on weapon spirits, the change was in the snake itself!

Now, it could straightaway swallow weapons like shurikens instead of wasting time eating it bite by bite!

However... How much money would it cost? Lu Shu was wondering, how good it must be to sell magical weapons with spirits if he came across one again? Why the need to feed his snake?

A more fatal trump card or money? Lu Shu was unable to choose.

As a matter of fact, Lu Shu was not really just a miser. He wanted to gain possession of all the resources he could find for a sense of security.

Tracing it to the core, his greed for money stemmed from his dread of poverty in the past.

He would never want to experience those days again, when he had to think twice before buying Lu Xiaoyu a stick of hawthorn candy, or when he could not afford to cook fried tomatoes with eggs for Lu Xiaoyu everyday.

In the past, he had no security without money. And now, his very act of feeding those magical weapons to the divine water was for that feeling of security too.

"Money didn't disappear. It is still with me, but in another form..." Lu Shu comforted himself...

After that, Lu Shu walked out of Kuriyama's office and took the elevator to the surface. Everything was normal around him, as if nothing had happened.

Even now no one knew that just a few minutes ago, a so-called Class D had effortlessly wiped out two of Takashima's Class C underlings and a Class D Collection of Gods Head of Department.

Maybe even Kuriyama had found it inexplicable. As for Miyazaki, her sitting posture was still elegant as always just 10 seconds before her death. After that, it had all ended.

And Lu Shu's duty here was to blend into his enemies under a suitable disguise. When the time was right, he would deliver a deadly blow.

Lu Shu believed the loss of a few tens of thousands of magical stones would really be deadly...

Tomosaka was ecstatic seeing Lu Shu again. "How was it, Lord Yamada? Did Lord Kuriyama agree?"

Lu Shu smiled. "Rest assured. He has agreed. Lord Kuriyama asked me to check the stock inside warehouse No.19. You may carry on with your work."

Despite the possibility of earning some distress points, he decided to make Tomosaka happy so that he would not interfere while Lu Shu was away. Every detail must be well thought through.

Now, the only matter on Lu Shu's mind was to take out everything in warehouse No.19 smoothly.

Cheerfully Tomosaka went to notify the other two people. As the captains, they were the bosses on the ground, because the higher-ups could not be bothered to waste their time on low-levels like them.

Tomosaka knew the situation well too. It would be hard to ascend to Class D or C for a man like him. Thus, the wisest option was to expand his fortune there.

When the door of warehouse No.19 was wide open in front of Lu Shu, he felt as if he was in the dreamland. The magical stones were there waiting for him!

### **514 THE COLLECTION OF GODS ON FULL ALER**

Warehouse No.19 stored everything transported over from the temporary transfer warehouse. Rows of boxes were neatly arranged. Besides magical stones, Lu Shu planned to take everything else as well.

As for the four trucks of human goods, they had been transferred to some other place.



The affair was managed only by Kuriyama's most trusted men and had been treated as a top secret in the Collection of Gods.

It was understandable. Li Xianyi would certainly beat them flat if he ever found out about their human sacrificial rituals.

Moreover, the practice itself was downright unethical. If the information leaked out, the international reputation of the entire organization would suffer. Lu Shu suspected that they might have extended their evil plan to foreign Metahumans too.

Lu Shu closed the door. Darkness returned to the warehouse. Then, using the divine water as his source of light, Lu Shu opened every box that contained magical stones. All the stones disappeared the second his hand reached into the box. It was so fast!

With the Seal of Lands, this was an easy task.

Like a black hole, Lu Shu absorbed everything in the warehouse, with only empty boxes left behind. Pillaging the warehouse was his greatest takeaway from this Japan trip!

Only when everything was safely kept in his Seal of Lands, did an unprecedented sense of security and peace rise in Lu Shu's heart.

According to the label on the boxes, there were 1,000 magical stones in each box, and there were 92 boxes. In other words, Lu Shu had gained a whopping 92,000 stones in one shot.

He did not mean to exaggerate but the current Lu Shu had the affluence comparable to that of an entire country!

Of course, he was referring to smaller countries.

Afterwards, Lu Shu carefully put the boxes back in place. He would not appreciate any suspicion when he opened the door later.

At this moment, Lu Shu heard sounds of the ground trembling from far away. Dust was falling down from the warehouse ceiling due to the shaking.

Was that an earthquake? Didn't seem so. It felt more like a weighty creature marching on the ground, shaking the earth beneath its feet.

Having packed up the boxes, Lu Shu left the warehouse at once. The outside was in chaos. Tomosaka came to him and asked worriedly, "Lord Yamada, what's going on?"

"I don't know," Lu Shu replied, "Since you were outside, did you hear anything about it?"

Tomosaka almost trembled in fear. "I'm not sure either. I heard there were two Class B knights coming towards us. They must be giants!"

Lu Shu had never heard about any Class B giant knights. He then turned to Tomosaka. "Follow me. There's something I need to tell you."

With that, he pulled Tomosaka into the warehouse. "Have you ever heard the sound 'Ka'?"

"From Tomosaka Toshi's distress, +1000!"

So far, the only person who knew Lu Shu's visit to Warehouse No.19 was dead. Thus, if anyone wanted to crack the case, they must check the access card log in the control room.

No matter what was happening, Lu Shu decided to leave at once. With the permit to leave granted by Kuriyama, going back to the city would be a piece of cake.

At this moment, the footsteps were drawing closer and closer, seemingly aiming right at the base. Ear-piercing sirens sounded outside the walls, upon which numerous people were running and shouting, "Alarm! Alarm! Enemy attack! The Mansion has been destroyed!"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. What was going on? The Collection of Gods Mansion had been destroyed? Was it a full-out invasion against the Collection of Gods?

Despite the constant turbulence in the realm of cultivation, no one would casually start a Practitioners' world war. Who on Earth had the guts to assault the Collection of God's main base?

After the incident at the Koh Chang remains, the pyramid structure inside the Collection of Gods had lost its balance. The number of high-level Practitioners had plunged significantly.

Moreover, not all Collection of Gods members were concentrated in Nishinokyo at the moment. They were scattered across the entire country.

According to the information given by the Heavenly Network, the total population of Collection of Gods members in Nishinokyo was around 3,000, with their strongest fighters being Takashima Tairatsu and Kitamura Kijitori.

Suddenly, lights across the whole base went out one by one. This was soon followed by the deafening sound of an explosion from somewhere in Nishinokyo.

Darkness shrouded the entire base. Needless to say, electricity was vital to a city. What a smart move to destroy their electricity supply system first!

Shock and horror befell the Collection of Gods base. After half a minute, light returned to the building as the backup electricity system kicked in.

Lu Shu caught a man who had just run down the enclosure walls by his collar. He demanded, "Where are you going?"

"From Maeda Tomosaki's distress, +199!"

"My Lord, I'm going to call for help. An enemy attack is coming!" The man's feet almost left the floor under Lu Shu's lift. He was in a hurry to report the situation, but now he could not even escape Lu Shu's grip...

"Who are the enemies?" Lu Shu asked curiously.

"Not sure. They are very scary! Survivors from the Mansion have confirmed the destruction of the Mansion. And Lord Kitamura Kijitori is currently engaged in a battle with the enemies!" the man explained, anxiously, "The only information so far is that there are not too many of them. But they are very strong!"

At this time, a giant elevating platform was activated in the center of the base. Over one thousand members had come up from underground. Judging from the total number, they should be all of Takashima's manpower. The Collection of Gods was on

full alert!

Like a fighting machine, the entire Collection of Gods had geared up for the battle. But what kind of enemies could make them so alarmed? Could it be Nie Ting? That would be awesome!

But Lu Shu knew it was almost impossible. He had suspected the two knights to be ancient heroic spirits summoned through Chen Baili's magical spells. They must be strong enough to be able to beat Li Yixiao up in the bathroom. But spirits like this could never be sustained for this long.

### **515 CORAL ODIN JOHNSON**

A group of people were asking each other questions. "Where are Lord Kuriyama and Lord Miyazaki? We haven't seen them."

"I didn't see them either... They may still be in the office... They can't be contacted, and no one answered the door either." Someone explained, as if the relationship between Kuriyama and Miyazaki was no secret.

"Don't discuss the Lord's private matters. Get into your formations! Don't be messy! Level One Alert!" Someone said with no fear in the face of danger. "Since Lord Kuriyama is not around, I will temporarily take over!"

Lu Shu walked away from the chaos. This chaos in the Collection of Gods was only temporary. They had high combat discipline and would most likely get into their formations very quickly. Lu Shu had to escape quickly.

Lu Shu came to the main gate. The guards at the gates coldly looked at him as he approached. They did not move one bit.

He showed his exit permit to the two guards. "Let me go. Lord Kuriyama has given me approval."

"It's Level One Alert now. No one is allowed to leave," said the expressionless guard.

Lu Shu had a vague premonition. "Whose alert is this? My approval is from Lord Kuriyama himself."

"This is Lord Takashima's alert!"

What a pain in the ass. Kuriyama was impressive, but he could never reach Takashima's level...

Since Tairatsu had given the order to prevent anyone from leaving, it looked like Lu Shu had no choice but to kill his way out... Lu Shu's murderous intent surfaced. Since there was chaos back there, this was his best chance to sneak out.

The main gate suddenly opened at this moment. Lu Shu saw Takashima briskly walk in. "Lock the main gate. No one is allowed to leave without my permission! Close the steel gates!"

???

Brother, was it really appropriate for you to come back at such a timing? Now that you're back, what do I do? How am I supposed to bring out my precious magical stones!

The steel gates came down with a crash. The entire main gate was completely blocked. The steel gates were for the Collection of Gods to resist aggression from the

outside. Lu Shu never thought that they would make use of the gates so quickly. No one could leave without Takashima's permission...

Takashima looked at Lu Shu. "What are you doing here?"

"Um, I came to see if I could help in any way," said Lu Shu, as if nothing had happened. On the inside he was hurting. He could not escape even with over 90.000 magical stones in his hands. This was a cause of worry for him.

Takashima had no time to care about him. He leaped up to the castle wall and observed the distance between them.

Lu Shu did not dare to directly break through the wall. Takashima was now supervising this place. Lu Shu did not know what he would do if Takashima decided to disregard the outsiders and go for him instead...

"I vow to survive or perish with the Collection of Gods!"

"I vow to survive or perish with the Collection of Gods!"

Lu Shu gasped. The Deities? Wasn't that the organisation Coral was in? After Lu Shu had come to the Collection of Gods, all the information he had received was related to the Collection of Gods. As for the information from the Deities... Nie Ting did not know of the relationship between Lu Shu and Coral.

But Lu Shu could not understand why Coral would come all the way here. The Deities were so far away from the Collection of Gods. It couldn't be for personal reasons, right? There was no way for Lu Shu to confirm this, but inside he already had a vague answer. There was typically no connection between the Deities and the Collection of

Gods, since there was a large distance between them. But if she had suddenly come to attack, Lu Shu could not believe in any other reason other than to avenge him...

This was a very complex feeling. There were actually other people willing to risk their lives for him, other than Lu Xiaoyu.

Lu Shu was touched beyond words. But her arrival was just too timely...

Lu Shu was unable to connect with the outside world now. As he pondered over the situation, he shouted along with the hypnotized crowd. "I vow to survive or perish with the Collection of Gods!"

People eventually stopped shouting. This slogan was simply to boost morale, if they continued shouting, how would they deploy their defenses? In spite of this, Lu Shu continued shouting...

That Class C expert could no longer take it. "Stop shouting! Stop shouting!"

Lu Shu froze. He looked at the Class C. "Are you willing to survive or perish with the Collection of Gods?!"

"... I vow to survive or perish with the Collection of Gods."

"From Kawano Tarou's distress, +666!"

Lu Shu suddenly asked, "How many people are coming from the Deities?"

The Class C was dumbfounded. "It looks like only the new female leader and two exceptionally large steel knights are coming."



Lu Shu almost coughed out blood. What is this? Only three people are coming?!

In reality, Lu Shu did not even count the two knights as people from the beginning. They were knight puppets previously from the Deities, so strictly speaking, only Coral was coming from the Deities!

To Coral, this was her personal grievance. Although the entire Deities crowned her as the Master of Gods because of her Odin bloodline, but the problem was that she did not want to involve anyone from the organisation in her own meaningless sacrifice. As long as it was a battle, there would certainly be fatalities.

Furthermore, the reason the Deities were so willing to respect Coral was not simply because she had awakened the Odin bloodline. As there were not many strong Class B's in the Deities, they could not be sure that the only person who could awaken the Odin bloodline was Coral. They wondered whether there were others who could do so too?

Even if Coral originally had a Gungnir at the back of her neck, everyone else would simply wait and see.

But it was precisely during this period of hesitation, that the two knight puppets everyone had thought were only for decoration had suddenly pledged their loyalty to Coral. They had also become the marks on Coral's left and right hands.

This also meant that the two knights were now Coral's personal possessions. Others could not even make use of them.

The knights' loyalty was the reason that made the entire Deities unite together. As

everyone understood that since the real Master of Gods had appeared, they had to pledge their allegiance to her as members of the Deities.

If Lu Shu had obtained distress points from Coral, he would have realised that Coral's name had changed to Coral Odin Johnson.

In a nutshell, this kind of organisation was much better than that of the Collection of Gods, as there was no dispute once their leader emerged. But what made them troubled was that their leader was currently heartbroken over the death of a Heavenly Network expert, to the extent that she had no appetite everyday.

Everyone felt that this could not go on. If Odin starved to death, what would happen to the Deities! Was she joking around?

Hence, someone went to tell Coral, "You have to eat. Only then can you advance to Class A and avenge his death, right?"

### **516 KURIYAMA TAKES THE BLAME**

Coral was fighting Kitamura's combat troops in close quarters, armed with her weapons. A thousand people surrounded her, yet she showed no fear.

The Gungnir in her hands accumulated power, but did not fire. Lightning struck at irregular intervals. Some Practitioners could not dodge in time and were reduced to broken bits!

The two knights entered the empty place, but Kitamura had disappeared.

Takashima stood on the enclosing wall, looking at the two Class B knights. A young girl with platinum hair sat on one of the knight's shoulder, looking coldly at Takashima.

Seeing the scene in front of him, Takashima understood that Kitamura had probably died in the battle. Although the knights were of large build, their strength was on par with that of a Class B expert. Their strength was frightening.

They seemed to only attack with physical weapons. They used a great sword to mercilessly attack their opponents. The use of only physical weapons seemed to be relatively easier to deal with.

But for some reason, as long as a Practitioner was within a kilometre radius of the knights, their speed would reduce by 30% if they did not have Spirit Qi protecting their bodies.

Takashima certainly would not be affected, but the problem was, was it possible for him to defeat three people by himself? He was only a mid-tier Class B!

But the main problem was that the Collection of Gods and the Deities had no conflict with each other. Even if there was, it would not justify why the Deities came all the way to launch a fatal attack on them.

He could not understand why they had come to attack the Collection of Gods. And it seemed like they were willing to fight till their last breath!

Takashima's expression grew darker and darker. He opened this fortress for a ritual that would allow him to rapidly advance to Class A, thus allowing him to deal with the internal disturbances and foreign aggression.

Kitamura always had a lot of ambition. When Nogiwa Takenobu was still around, the three of them could still check and balance one another. But after Nogiwa Takenobu's

death, the conflict between the two began to worsen. Two tigers cannot share one mountain. One of them had to assert his dominance.

The two Class A's at the Heavenly Network also gave Takashima a lot of pressure. If that Nie Ting came to start another massacre, who else would be able to stop him?

For cases like this, Takashima had planned to take a dangerous risk. He would capture all those who had opposed his political views or the fence-sitters between him and Kitamura into the fortress, and wait for an offer of sacrifice.

But that was still not enough!

Takashima was very agitated. He had even deployed people to arrest the secret practitioners. But by then, it would be too late.

Takashima entered the fortress. He told his trusted subordinate, "Get one group to bring all the prisoners up. Get another group to prepare for the sacrificial ritual inside this very fortress."

The resources for the ritual had all been prepared in advance. The deepest level of the underground base had been reserved as the secret ritual spot. However, he did not have the chance to bring everyone there again.

Takashima's resentment made his expression grow darker. If only his opponents had come two days later, he would have succeeded in the sacrificial ritual!

"Bring out all the magical stones to complete the sacrifice," instructed Takashima.

Takashima's subordinates were the elite of the combat troops. Out of over a hundred

people, there were more than 10 new Class C masters. One could say that Takashima did his utmost to invest resources in them. These people could use up to 30 magical stones every month!

His trusted subordinate assigned men to open the warehouse. Number 19, 17 and 15 opened fully. There were not many magical stones in Number 17 and 15. Takashima had wanted to lure out that Heavenly King, thus almost 60% of the magical stones were in warehouse number 19.

The magical stones in warehouse Number 17 and 15 were transported out. Lu Shu looked gloomily at the sky. Would he be exposed so quickly...

In his original plan, the Collection of Gods would only find out after he had left. He did not think that they would find out even before he had left.

He took this chance to pull aside one of the 120 Class E Practitioners. The Practitioner he had picked out had a similar build to him. "Do you want to become the head? Come with me. I want to talk to you."

The Practitioner was very confused. Under chaotic conditions it was hard to have an opinion of one's own. Furthermore, upon hearing good news like the chance to become a head, one would definitely follow their senior officer.

Lu Shu coaxed the Practitioner as he dragged him to a corner with no one around. He immediately wrenched his neck and even placed the corpse in the Seal of Lands, allowing the mystic water to get rid of the evidence. He quickly changed his appearance and walked back.

The person deployed to transport at warehouse Number 19 suddenly shouted out.

"These boxes are completely empty! The magical stones have disappeared. All 92 thousand stones have disappeared!"

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

"From..."

Lu Shu looked around. Seeing that no one cared about his appearance, he joined in the shouting. "How did the magical stones disappear? What is this! Ah, I don't know either. Do you know what happened..."

"92 thousand magical stones have been stolen by someone. This is just too scary!"

The uproar was like a boiling sea. Lu Shu began to collect distress points like waves crashing in.

Lu Shu put on an act on the surface, but on the inside he was bursting with joy. Everyone was too kind! This wave of distress points was especially high. The distress points that Lu Shu needed to illuminate the seventh star kept rising.

Takashima came to warehouse Number 19 in disbelief. The wooden coffers in front of the warehouse had all been destroyed. The inside of the warehouse was completely empty. In his rage, Takashima drew his black katana from his waist. He sliced the Practitioner standing by his side in half. "Who did this!!!"

He suddenly realised another problem. Takashima's eyes were bloodshot. "Where are Kuriyama and Miyazaki?!"

The people were dumbfounded. That's right. As the people in charge of the

warehouse, how could they not be around after such a large disturbance?

Lu Shu felt slightly awkward. They had transported the magical stones, but he had taken them away. They had tried to find the "culprit", but the "culprit" had been killed by him...

Although he had taken the appearance of someone else, he could not help but fear that he would be exposed...

Suddenly someone had some doubt. "It couldn't be that Kuriyama and Miyazaki took the magical stones away, right?"

This deduction made a lot of sense. If not, where would Kuriyama and Miyazaki be?

Everyone was noisy and confused. Lu Shu suddenly hid in one corner and shouted out, "It must have been Kuriyama and Miyazaki who stole the magical stones!"

The people around him followed suit. "That's right, it must be them!"

### **517 CHECK FROM ACROSS THE SEA**

At this moment, Lu Shu realized that the large amount of magical stones might be an essential element to Takashima's sacrificial ceremony. Otherwise, why the incessant contribution of 999 distress points...

The greatest trouble he caused in Japan this time was perhaps stealing those stones!

At first, Lu Shu felt a tinge of guilt for destroying his image. But now, it seemed everything was perfectly justifiable...

Did he take those stones away for his own sake? Nope. It was to prevent the emergence of a Class A enemy, so as to protect the safety of the Heavenly Network.

Wasn't that his credit? Absolutely yes!

As expected, only when he did not mean it, could Lu Shu stir up real affairs...

Takashima had made up his mind. In the very beginning, the magical stone altar was meant to replace a few sacrifices, in order to minimize the number of lives loss. After all, human capital was crucial for the Collection of Gods as well.

But now, there was no other choice. Takashima was well aware of the severity of the situation, the Collection of Gods might perish if he failed to advance to Class A soon.

He eyed his trusted subordinates, whose eyes were teeming with craziness with the knowledge of the upcoming events. They had long since pledged their lives to Takashima, and had lost their sanity while working for him.

His subordinates split into teams of ten, each led by a Class C. They walked into the crowds, enclosing all Collection of Gods members in the fortress like a giant web. One of the teams immediately spilled the commoners' blood.

All of a sudden, screams of fear and agony shrouded the place. Those commoners had never expected they would be the first casualties in the given situation!

In front of the Practitioners, commoners were totally defenseless. In a fraction of a minute, streams of blood covered the ground. Abhorrence penetrated Lu Shu's heart. How could the Collection of Gods take other people's lives as they pleased!

Other Collection of Gods members were confused. Gradually, they quietened down, watching the massacre from the side. Then, the trusted subordinates drew out a gigantic magical spell on the floor, hauling the dead bodies around as their paint



brushes.

And the spell would include each and every Collection of Gods member inside, with no exception!

Lu Shu felt his flesh creep. Has that Takashima Tairatsu gone mad? Was he really planning to sacrifice so many people?! What more, his own people?

Other Collection of Gods Practitioners were petrified too. "What..."

They had only practiced the techniques for the sacrifice, which could serve two purposes. On one hand, they could accumulate their own power at the expense of other people's lives, just like what happened at the Beimang remains. On the other, they could sacrifice the future of their own cultivation in exchange for a temporary surge in power.

Trusted subordinates had towed out the goods from Warehouse No. 17 and No. 15 and placed them in the sacrificial formation. Then, everyone was aghast to see them instructing other Practitioners to arrange magical stones. It felt like the Practitioners were asked to chop onions and gingers and boil themselves in the pot.

In fact, many of them had no idea what Takashima wanted, but they carried on without any complaint nonetheless.

This was insane. Lu Shu found it hard to understand the logic, even though it truly existed.

Everything was so absurd that Lu Shu felt it was a bit surreal.

A man raised his voice and questioned, "Lord Takashima, are you planning to sacrifice all of us?"

Just when he was done talking, he was sliced into halves by a trusted subordinate nearby. And his blood became the fresh ink for the spell formation.

Then, the "goods" that had been kept captive in the base were brought up. There were a whopping hundreds of them. All of them were immobilized due to the injections.

Takashima announced, "Now, the Collection of Gods is facing a strong enemy. In a time when our shared family is about to be destroyed, we, the Collection of Gods, would rather die in glory than live in dishonor. It is time for your sacrifice, for the Collection of Gods."

"Die in glory!"

"Die in glory!"

"I vow to survive or perish with the Collection of Gods!"

"I vow to survive or perish with the Collection of Gods!"

Madness filled many people's eyes, but a minority suddenly dashed towards the gate. "I'm not going to sacrifice myself!"

For some reason, Lu Shu felt relieved at the sight, for he had finally seen a piece of clean land amidst a stinky, disgusting swamp of dirt. He understood patriotism, but not to sacrifice themselves for Takashima, a mere individual.

Fortunately, some people in the Collection of Gods still had their sanity.

Lu Shu did not move. Takashima's trusted subordinates started a massacre among the runners, while others watched in apathy.

After all of them were killed, people resumed the arrangement of magical stones under the trusted subordinates' guidance. They followed a certain pattern. It was a majestic view where thousands of people were arranging tens of thousands of magical stones.

In the meantime, Lu Shu secretly picked up the stones put down by those in front. In the disorder, no one noticed what he had done...

But Lu Shu would not stay at only one place. Like a busy bee, he would go to somewhere else after picking up a few stones...

Eh? There's one here. Eh? There's another one there...

Some people turned back only to see in bewilderment that their stones were gone.

"From Asano Katsuhito's distress, +199..."

"From..."

Just when Lu Shu was enjoying himself, one of Takashima's trusted subordinates roared, "Watch out for those around you. Report once you notice anyone stealing magical stones!"

Lu Shu felt regretful. He could have picked up tens of thousands of magical stones!

The subordinates searched everyone for the stolen stones when they supervised the work. When they came to Lu Shu, his pocket was even cleaner than his face, and he only had in his hands the five stones given to him just now. Lu Shu yelled with great passion, "Die in glory!"

His shout scared the subordinate. "Do your work!"

Actually, Lu Shu was pondering how to disrupt the ceremony. First of all, he had to ensure his own safety. Secondly, should Takashima successfully advance to Class A, wouldn't that mean Coral would be in danger?

Lu Shu would not have cared if it was some other person. But it seemed that he was the root cause for the conflict between the Deities and the Collection of Gods this time.

He would not stay put if Coral were to die for him.

When she treated him with all sincerity, he had to do the same as reciprocation. That was Lu Shu's philosophy in life.

### **518 NO REGRETS BEING CHINESE**

The preparation was almost complete. Many people had sat in the formation with their legs crossed, exactly the same as what happened in the Beimang remains.

A sense of urgency seized Lu Shu. Takashima was about to advance to Class A like this!

When everyone was seated, two lines of bloody tears rolled down Takashima's face. The streams slid down his cheeks, seeming to have awakened the human blood on the ground. Like tentacles, blood reached out to connect with his tears.

At this moment, numerous traces of blood rose from within the formation, wrapping around all the Practitioners. Meanwhile, Takashima's trusted subordinates guarded the ground outside the formation.

"Everyone, God bless you in heaven," Takashima said and closed his eyes.

The ritual had begun, and every individual involved was awaiting their death in silence.

"Wait!" Lu Shu suddenly raised his hand. "I want to use the bathroom!"

That startled all the trusted subordinates standing outside. What the hell are you thinking?!

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

"From..."

Takashima's eyes were immediately wide open. He fixed Lu Shu with a malicious stare. Even the motion of the entire sacrificial formation paused a little. Lu Shu would have been slain on the spot, if not for those subordinates' fear of the formation!

Outside the enclosure wall there were loud clashes and roars of thunder. Takashima knew fully well that time was running out!

At this moment, an old voice sounded outside, "Please leave, Your Excellency. If you insist on killing us, we will pledge our lives to protect our family from invaders."

That pleased Takashima. He had never expected the hidden clans of the Conservatives to appear at this timing in an effort to counter the enemies. Despite being the losing side of the civil war, the remaining forces of the Conservatives would not sit still as their land was tread upon by aggressors.

The main conflict between the Conservatives and the Jingoists was their stand on foreign policies. But they shared the same interest in protecting their country.

That was also why Nie Ting had never asked Lu Shu to befriend the Conservatives.

This was his opportunity. Takashima knew that those clans could buy more time for him!

At that instant, blood-red traces suddenly rolled towards Lu Shu. The number of blood threads sent to him was multiple times that of others!

But what happened next caught everyone present off guard. From Lu Shu's body flew out a golden dragon. For some reason, Lu Shu had realized that after his acquisition of the weapon spirit, the divine water could be better controlled when in the dragon form, just like Howard's fiery phoenix!

At the same time, Lu Shu stood tall on the dragon head, instantly breaking those bloody traces upon contact with the divine water!

In the meantime, other Practitioners' strength was being extracted by the blood threads, transmitted to Takashima via the formation.

Lu Shu could sense the rapid growth in Takashima's power and energy. He would soon reach the peak of Class B!

Lu Shu advanced forward across the formation. With the protection from the divine water, he could walk through the ground unharmed!

At this moment, streams of blood on the floor suddenly concentrated into a blood dragon, swirling towards Lu Shu. Those subordinates had also stepped into the formation themselves to try and take Lu Shu's life!

The blood dragon suddenly split into four to surround Lu Shu. Despite his best defense, Lu Shu was still hit by one of the dragons.

Fresh blood welled up in Lu Shu's throat. He took a step back to reanalyze the situation. Lu Shu would not be able to counter the blood dragon and over ten Class C masters at the same time. Then he realized, he was unable to fight against the formation in spite of all his powers.

Blasts of red and gold bellowed across the formation. Lu Shu suddenly noticed that Takashima seemed to have been immobilized in the starting stage of the sacrifice!

Outside the sea of chi, the two flying daggers had been rapidly scraping against the snow mountain, which was on the verge of collapse. Lu Shu was well aware that his daggers could hardly inflict any physical harm on Takashima in the current situation, given the thick layer of bloody threads around him. Lu Shu had to find a way to breakthrough.

His days of practice and hard work might soon be able to pay off.

The ancestor of the Hall of Swords once said, the sea of chi was as reckless as the ocean, and snow mountain as vast, the manifestation of one's will in their swords

would rise up into the mountains and into the clouds. Back then, there were those who achieved the level of sword will after the collapse of the snow mountain. Lu Shu awaited that day eagerly.

In the meantime, Lu Shu could only destroy the formation to the best of his abilities while evading the giant blood dragon at the same time. His daggers sped up in their progress of flattening the mountain, but had yet to achieve complete success. The divine water carried Lu Shu around in the formation, but seemed less powerful than the blood dragon. It seemed that a single mistake on Lu Shu's side would result in his death.

Lu Shu aimed at Takashima, but was held back by the blood dragon and over ten Class C's!

It was hard to fight against so many enemies at the same time!

However, at this moment, one of the trusted subordinates suddenly sliced towards his teammate with his katana. Everyone was startled!

A Class C stood in between Lu Shu and the rest were outside the formation. His strengths were growing rapidly, which reminded Lu Shu of the Class D expert who sacrificed his own future just to kill a Class D criminal the other night.

Blood oozed out of the Class C's skin, but his expression was as calm as the deep sea.

Then, he turned and smiled at Lu Shu. "I will take care of them. Handle the rest, please."

As soon as he finished the sentence, he dashed towards the other subordinates with his



katana. At that instant, his figure was as steady as a mountain, like the golden Sun emerging out of the sea surface and layers of clouds, spreading radiance and warmth to the world.

He laughed. "I really miss the minced meat noodles of my hometown. It's been a long time... since I left my home. I never regret being born Chinese. I hope to be your comrade again in my next life!"

Suddenly, cracks rippled out on the enclosure wall with a loud crash. The growth in the man's power came to a stop right below Class B. He had reached his limit. Even he himself knew that he had been burning the candle at both ends under his sheer will that day. Otherwise, he would have been able to reach Class B.

He thrust his blade into a trusted subordinate like a flying moth darting into the flame.

He aimed to kill with every blow, regardless of his own injuries.

This was because he knew he would not be the last man standing. Thus, the only way was to kill as many as he could!

Soon, his body was punctured by three katanas, in his waist, thigh and right rib respectively. Meanwhile, he had killed nine.

Leaning on his katana, the man coughed up fresh blood and chortled. "I am Liu Xiu from the Heavenly Network. Anyone dare to fight me?!"

Even the remaining five men were hesitant!

The man, drenched in blood, still had a murderous air around. Eying the remaining

subordinates, Liu Xiu laughed. "I shouldn't have freaking promised to take care of you all. Such an overstatement..."

### **519 OPEN, THE SEA OF CHI!**

As Lu Shu was battling the blood dragon, he momentarily fell silent. He guessed that out of all the people here, some were his comrades from the Heavenly Network. He never thought that he would have to say goodbye to them just after meeting them.

This was perhaps the reason why Lu Shu felt touched when he had made his vow then. Long live willpower!

He had come to where he was now by a strange combination of circumstances. The blood formation had been formed. He understood that he would probably not be able to escape. The sea of chi was already within his sight.

But Lu Shu felt no remorse. All the moments from his 17 years of living appeared before his eyes. They were like the pages of a book continuously flipping in the warm breeze under the afternoon sun. The pages stopped flipping and all that was left were two unyielding words on the last page. Live On.

The moment Takashima had almost broken through Class A, Lu Shu rode the golden dragon and rushed towards Takashima like a madman. As the blood dragon was about to kill Lu Shu, spears appeared from his hands and bombed the dragon like artillery shells.

The twelve spears rapidly and brazenly attacked it. Lu Shu knew that he was not worthy of being Takashima's opponent, but he could not allow him to successfully advance to Class A, if he did, then Liu Xiu would have died for nothing.

Besides, who said that he would definitely die?

Lu Shu's eyes reddened. His expression was filled with madness!

"I still want to... go back and see Xiaoyu." Lu Shu's twelve spears broke one after another after striking the blood dragon. The roar of weapons did not cease. Even Takashima's face turned pale as a result of the sound.

But Lu Shu used these twelve spears to forcibly open up an escape route!

The mystical water surged forward like a dragon. Takashima sat quietly among the blood formation, coldly looking at Lu Shu. "Do you really think that you can injure me? Wait till I finish the sacrifice. That will be your time of death."

The blood-coloured wires twisted like a thread. Suddenly, the blood formation wrapped Takashima in a giant red cocoon. Then, the golden dragon and the blood cocoon clashed. The Corpsedog hidden within the golden dragon emerged with a roar!

Lu Shu knew that it was too late for him to open the sea of chi and he gave up on this idea. He had to use his strongest attack to open this blood cocoon! Lu Shu had just realised that throughout the entire ritual, Takashima was immobile!

Takashima also did not think that this collision would result in an unforeseen event. The Corpsedog passed through the blood cocoon and came in front of Takashima. Takashima suddenly raised his hand. His hand, that was usually of normal complexion, was suddenly wrapped in countless bloody threads. This bloody hand forcibly sent the Corpsedog flying.

Lu Shu shouted in rage. "Die!"

The Concealed Arrow that had been hidden in the celestial map flew out with a roar.

It caused a huge explosion between Lu Shu and Takashima!

Takashima did not expect Lu Shu to have more tricks. This flying sword had two blades! Didn't the flying swords from the Heavenly Network only have one blade?!

Even as Takashima was about to advance to Class A, he could not help but to dodge the Concealed Arrow. If he did not do so, he would suffer from fatal injuries! The Concealed Arrow scraped his rib, leaving a tiny blood stain.

The blood cocoon shook. Takashima's actions were too large. Lu Shu's desperate combat was an attempt to make him suffer defeat when victory was within his reach!

"Are you trying to die!?! " Takashima was burning with fury. The ritual had been interrupted on the boundary between Class A and Class B!

He was not able to advance to Class A even after consuming so many lives and magical stones. Great waves surged from the blood formation and went in Lu Shu's direction. The members of the Collection of Gods who had been in the formation were all dead.

It was too late for him to dodge. Lu Shu used his mystic water and Spirit Qi to protect himself. He put his arms in front of him to resist the ghostly aura.

The reason he was able to injure Takashima then was because Takashima had to fully absorb the results of the sacrifice before he could successfully break through. The Takashima now had seemingly broken his shackles. He now had no apprehension.

With a roar, Lu Shu was thrown to the ground. He suddenly felt as if his entire skeleton was filled with cracks. There was a cracking sound between his bones. His

internal organs started to bleed. Even his appearance had returned to its original state. He no longer had the energy to keep up his disguise.

Lu Shu suddenly realised that Takashima was levitating. This was the sign of a Class A, he had achieved resonance with heaven and earth, and was free from the Earth's gravitational force!

Lu Shu could not move his entire body, yet he laughed as he coughed out blood. "You have not successfully advanced."

Lu Shu had sensed that although Takashima's waves of power was 30% stronger than Nogiwa Takenobu at his peak, he was still far away from the likes of Nie Ting, Chen Baili and Li Xianyi!

Although he had not been able to kill his opponent, he had been able to stop his opponent from advancement with his abilities as a Class C! The mystical water flowed back to the Seal of Lands. The two blades also flew back to the celestial map. Lu Shu felt some remorse. It looks like he would no longer be able to accompany Xiaoyu...

The Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow silently sharpened the sea of chi. Lu Shu had never been one to easily surrender. Even if he was about to die the next moment, he would do all he could in this one second to find a thin thread of hope.

The enclosing wall of the fortress collapsed with a loud crash. A girl with platinum hair emerged from the smoke, holding a thunderbolt. Her appearance remained fine, but there was some dust and traces of blood on her face.

The knight puppets had been injured in the battle. They returned to the marks on her

hands, using her abilities to regain their strength. After killing for so long, she was also slightly exhausted.

The girl inside the enclosing wall was in a difficult position.

The ruins outside the wall were filled with corpses.

Coral looked at the young man on the floor. Her eyes were filled with surprise and joy. "Lu Shu... is that you?"

Her voice carried a hint of disbelief. There was still a ray of hope in this darkness!

Lu Shu flashed an ugly grin. "... kill this old kid before talking about the past..."

The thunderbolt in Coral's hand shone brightly. The Gungnir cast swift bolts of sudden thunder. The levitating Takashima launched four massive dragons in the direction of the Gungnir.

But he had underestimated the Gungnir. The weapon of the Master of Gods, Odin, cut through the dragons as if transversing the river of time.

The brightly shining Gungnir sliced through each of the blood dragons. Coral suddenly generated power and ran wildly. The ground of the fortress cracked under her feet. She followed closely behind the Gungnir with unparalleled power. Her eyes were filled with thunderbolts!

Coral was much more formidable than Takashima now. Lu Shu was at her feet. She would be willing to rush to her death if it was for Lu Shu's sake.

At this very moment, there was suddenly the ring and tremble of swords within three kilometres radius from Lu Shu. The invisible swords from the inner walls of the fortress started to crisscross and splash in all directions!

The originally smooth wall had been mottled with sword marks.

Zing! A neat trace of blood appeared on Takashima's face. It seemed like an invisible sword had carelessly scraped past!

### **520 SWORD SPIRIT!**

The sound was a characteristic of the Dao from the Hall of Swords. When Li Xianyi advanced to Class A, the sound had almost destroyed everything within a ten kilometre radius of Luo City. Li Xianyi had prevented a great catastrophe only by storing the sword intent. But the sound still lingered.

But people had only heard of the sound that spread out across ten kilometres. No one had ever heard of someone who could create Heavenly Visions after advancing to Class B. Lu Shu may have been the first, or even the pioneer of doing so!

In the future, there might be other Class B's who would be able to create Heavenly Visions. But there was no one before Lu Shu who could do so!

Lu Shu tried to manipulate the invisible swords that filled the sky, but it was too chaotic from beginning to end. It seemed like when the sea of chi parted, the world was changing.

The chi mountain outside the sea of chi toppled over on its side with a crash. The method that Lu Shu and Li Xianyi proposed, worked. The chi mountain was suppressing the entire sea of chi!

Were it not for this chi mountain, his sea of chi would have opened up a long time

ago!

But Lu Shu suddenly realised that this was not the scene that Li Xianyi had described when the sea of chi opened. He clearly remembered Li Xianyi's description, but the floating clouds and the ocean beyond the sea of chi did not surge into its hole, instead, it formed a large whirlpool!

Lu Shu immediately felt that something was wrong. The whirlpool was stirring up the hole of the sea of chi, turning it upside down.

No! This can't be right! Lu Shu felt that the floating clouds and the ocean did not want to enter the sea of chi, instead, it wanted to fuse with the opponent to form heaven and earth.

The pain was unbearable. Lu Shu's clothes were wet with his cold sweat, but he could not move.

This process was forcibly transforming his body. Lu Shu did not know what to do, because those who had a similar experience earlier could not provide him with any help.

What Lu Shu had to do now was not to walk on the small, rugged path in the mountains. That path had the footprints of those who had ventured there before, at least he would know the way.

Lu Shu suddenly saw the chi mountain, that had collapsed on one side, forming tiny cracks. It produced a clicking noise in his head, like an icy river shattering, fine, yet drawn out!



With a rumble, the chi mountain crumbled into pieces. He saw small, white shadows springing out from the mountain. Lu Shu was confused.

What was happening?! Lu Shu was astonished. Li Xianyi had never said that such things would emerge from the mountain after it had collapsed!

Calabash Brothers? Was that you? So what did Pangolin say just before he died?!

This was just too frightening. The things that had happened to Lu Shu after he had embarked on the path of a Practitioner was just not normal...

The small, tiny shadows sprang to their feet as they laughed and played. They directly went inside the Corpsedog. Suddenly it was all clear to Lu Shu. He now knew a tiny bit more about the connection between him and the Corpsedog!

Was this a... spirit?! That can't be right. Rather than a spirit, it was more like a sword spirit that was a direct successor of the sword energy and Lu Shu!

Why would a spirit be produced right after the chi mountain was worn down and collapsed? The old man had never talked about such a thing!

So the old man's suggestion, to use the chi mountain and sharpen his skills, was a mistake, right? The chi mountain was actually used to give birth to a sword spirit!

What the... was this old man still reliable...

Lu Shu suddenly woke up with a start. It was as if he could control the paths of the one hundred invisible swords. This was very different from the old man's ten thousand blades, but these invisible swords could become his greatest trump card, besides the

Corpsedog and the Concealed Arrow, to this Class B!

Takashima did not know that the sound of Lu Shu's Dao only had a radius of three kilometres. But he knew the origin of this Heavenly Vision. Upon his detailed analysis, he did not think that this was the work of a Class A.

But these were beside the point. The main point was that when he had just advanced, his Heavenly Vision did not have a chance to fully form before being interrupted by Lu Shu. He had stopped just before the Class A boundary, he was now in between Class A and the peak of Class B!

This feeling made Takashima furious. But now was not the time to be involved in these kinds of things. Knowing that Lu Shu was not advancing to Class A made him calm down. The Gungnir was coming towards him!

The black katana in Takashima's hands raised up a wave of blood. The entire fortress shook and almost collapsed under the massive blast. Lu Shu, who was unable to move, was sent flying to a corner. "Ow ow ow..."

Hearing Lu Shu in pain made Coral's heart hurt. She hurled the thunderbolt with unparalleled power in Takashima's direction. At the same time, Takashima's hands were bound with countless blood threads. He launched an attack in Coral's direction!

Although Takashima was on the Class A boundary, this position still contained the two words "Class A". On the other hand, even though Coral had awakened Odin's bloodline, she was still a Class B beginner!

Coral probably could not even defeat Class B expert, let alone a Class A!

Coral was sent flying. Her long platinum hair was messed up. She threw up a mouthful of fresh blood while in midair. Even though this injury was less severe than that of Lu Shu's, there was not much difference.

Among the uproar, a voice slowly sounded, "If I, Lu Shu, had not been born, then the sword spirit is dark like a long night!"

Takashima turned back, panic-stricken. Coral helped herself up and looked at Lu Shu in pleasant surprise. But... the two of them realised that Lu Shu was still on the ground, unable to move...

What are you acting for if you can't even move?!

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

"From Coral Odin Johnson's distress, +99!"

Although Lu Shu's entire skeleton had been injured and he could not move, all the invisible swords within the fortress had turned and returned to Lu Shu. The Corpsedog had also suddenly shot out from his celestial map.

The sword energy of a hundred swords and the Corpsedog formed a massive whirlpool of sword energy, which surged towards Takashima!

In his shock, Takashima raised a blood wall to resist the whirlpool. But the sword energy broke through the blood wall like a cutting machine!

The sword energy disappeared, but so did the blood wall.

In a flash, the Corpsedog had come to Takashima. Takashima stretched out his bloody hands and forcibly gripped the Corpsedog, but he too was thrown back by the Corpsedog's inertia.

Takashima laughed coldly. If that was the case, the two of you can be buried along with the rest of the Practitioners from the Collection of Gods.

But in the next moment, a small white shadow suddenly sprang out from the Corpsedog. From its figure, it seemed to resemble Lu Shu.

Clap! Then, there was complete silence.

Lu Shu and Coral were slightly muddled, Takashima was even more muddled. The sword spirit flew out of the Corpsedog to Takashima's face and gave him a slap on the face...

Takashima's face turned numb. There was even a palm print that was the size of a fingertip on his face. One could clearly see each finger...

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. He did not tell it to do this. Was this sword spirit... so lowly?!

"From Takashima Tairatsu's distress, +1000!"

Takashima had let his guard down. He completely did not expect this to happen. The Corpsedog had taken advantage of the situation and directly penetrated Takashima's head!

"From Takashima Tairatsu's distress, +1000!"

Takashima, on the boundary of Class A and the leader of the Collection of Gods, had died just like that!