

801 THE NINTH HEAVENLY KING

Today, Lu Shu did not make any lame jokes. He simply prepared to teach. It was as if he felt that this was a very formal occasion. He had to be serious as well.

He had been a teacher for more than a month, but he had never taken his position seriously. When he occasionally joked with the students, he still felt like a student.

Everyday, he played Chinese chess with Chen Zuan and the rest in the laboratory. He still posted unreliable bits of wisdom on his page and earned distress points from his students.

But he did not post anything today. He did not play Chinese chess in the laboratory either. Chen Zuan, Cheng Qiuqiao, and Cao Qingci silently looked at Lu Shu. He was standing by the window of the laboratory and spacing out. It was as if he was thinking about something very important.

This was unusual. So unusual that Chen Zuan and the rest started to panic. They were afraid that Lu Shu would suddenly create trouble that would kill them.

Lu Shu did create trouble, but he did not plan to kill people.

Chen Zuan suddenly felt that today's Lu Shu was very different from the usual Lu Shu...

They also suddenly realized that Lu Shu had always been growing, and had always been changing. No matter whether it was a good change or a bad change, the once selfish young man had now gained an understanding of the world.

Perhaps Lu Shu had never changed. He had never been selfish to the point of

immorality. He was not truly cold-blooded either. He just did what he felt was right. This time, he had decided to accept the warmth of the world, and repay it with warmth.

Two years had passed since the start of the magically rich era. In these two years, Lu Shu had met many people and experienced a life that he had never thought about before in the past. This time, he wanted to fulfill the promise he had made. He wanted to fight for the Heavenly Network.

At first, the students did not realize the importance of his words. When they heard that Lu Shu wanted to talk about what had happened at the Collection of Gods, their first reaction was, “Hm? Was Lord Lu at the Collection of Gods back then as well? Does Lord Lu know who the Ninth Heavenly King is?”

The portrait of the Ninth Heavenly King and Liu Xiu were beside each other. All the students had realized this. After all, it was the biggest piece of gossip within the Heavenly Network.

The Heavenly Kings were top combat powers in the Heavenly Network. Everyone knew that there was the Ninth Heavenly King, but they did not know who the Heavenly King was. This piqued their curiosity.

This was like some advertisements in the past that deliberately censored its content. A cloth then covered the countdown timer. Everyone had to wait for nine days before the advertisement underneath was revealed.

The Ninth Heavenly King. The most mysterious Heavenly King. The answer was about to be revealed. Would Lord Lu tell them the truth?

Lu Shu scanned the audience and calmly said, “Back then, the Collection of Gods issued an arrest warrant for me. They wanted to use the Deep Sea White Sand to trade for my life. Zhong Yutang found me immediately. I worked together with You Mingyu to pretend that I was dead. During that period, I could not appear in public, Furthermore, I am someone who will take revenge. If you have a warrant against me, I will kill you. Thus, I went to the Collection of Gods and started a new life with a new identity.”

“That was my first time being a spy. But it couldn’t be considered a success... my cover was always mysteriously blown...” Lu Shu helplessly laughed. Zhong Yutang, who had just arrived, became unhappy when he heard this. Were you not ashamed of your identity being exposed?

But Zhong Yutang did not say anything. He silently looked at the young man on the stage. He seemed more composed, as if he was prepared to accept the various dazzling glories.

Lu Shu continued. “Back then, I met a female colleague who was responsible for helping me. Of course, I can’t reveal her name. She was an ordinary person, but her words touched me. She said that there were some things that people just had to do.”

“Later on, I found out that Takashima Tairatsu was planning to sacrifice the members of the Collection of Gods so that he could advance. Thus, I infiltrated the base that he had built and tried to sabotage his plans.” Lu Shu romanticized the situation. After all, he could reveal that he had wanted to steal magical stones...

“Back then, I was alone with no support. It was difficult to sabotage Takashima’s plan alone. After all, he was almost a Class A. Back then, a Class C expert tried to attack me, but I did not notice. That was when Liu Xiu protected me.”

Lu Shu looked as if he was reminiscing the past. “To be honest, I still don’t understand. If he continued to hide, he had a very high chance of survival. But he choose to protect me. He used his blood and his swords to buy me time. After that, I could not understand why he had done that for a very long time. Was there anything in this world that was more important than one’s own life? Maybe I was too selfish, thus I could not come up with an answer. Till now, I still feel that one’s own life is the most important. But I also understand that there are some things that people just have to do.”

The students suddenly realized that they had been thinking of the wrong thing. While the Ninth Heavenly King and Liu Xiu killed Takashima Tairatsu, Lord Lu was not an observer. He had taken part in it!

They had wanted to ask Lu Shu who the Ninth Heavenly King was. Now, Lu Shu had revealed the answer.

Lu Shu felt as if he had been relieved of a heavy load. He had finally talked about this buried past. He had provided the best remarks for Liu Xiu as a participant of the incident.

Zhong Yutang silently looked at Lu Shu. He was very clear that the battle had been classified because Lu Shu did not want to accept the position of Heavenly King. Lu Shu knew this as well.

Thus, when Lu Shu talked about this himself, this meant that Lu Shu had already made his preparations.

Lu Shu smiled. “This is my last lesson. I hope that all of you have gained something

from my lessons.”

A student suddenly asked, “Heavenly King Lu, where are you going? Are you going to stop teaching?”

When Lu Shu heard the title of Heavenly King Lu, he was dumbfounded. This was his first time hearing this name. He was not used to it. He thought about the danger that waited for him at the Changbai Mountains. Suddenly, he started to talk to himself. “I feel that you will have a moment in your life when you tell yourself, this is me, and this is my decision.”

This was what Lu Shu had learned after his conversation with Lu Xiaoyu yesterday. The solution to problems in life was not to run away. It was to make the problem disappear, or... kill the person who created the problem.

That day, the portrait of the Ninth Heavenly King beside Liu Xiu that had been a black silhouette was finally replaced with Lu Shu’s portrait.

802 WALNUT TREE

Before Lu Shu's portrait had been hung along the corridor, many people had guessed who the black silhouette was. The issue of the Ninth Heavenly King was always brought up, as he had killed a fake Class A, Takashima Tairatsu.

The appearance of the Ninth Heavenly King had caused the Collection of Gods to fall from a top-rate organization into a state of disarray.

It was not easy to cause a large organization to collapse. First, their leader, who had the strongest combat power in the organization, had to be killed. Thereafter, their foundation had to be destroyed. Lu Shu had done all of these things. The strength of the Collection of Gods had fallen significantly. They would need to spend a few years recovering before they could return to the world stage.

Most importantly, for some reason, although the Collection of Gods had been destroyed by the Ninth Heavenly King, a very big reason for their collapse was because of the Collection of Gods itself. For example, Takashima Tairatsu had killed more people than Lu Shu.

Even then, they were enemies.

After the Collection of Gods had been rebuilt by a girl called Sakurai Yaeko, people were surprised that she had obtained the support of the Collection of Gods, but the Ninth Heavenly King did not seem to hate her.

The Collection of Gods had wanted to send an arrest warrant for the Ninth Heavenly King to the Darkness Kingdom, but this had been rejected by Sakurai Yaeko. The Conservatives had questioned Sakurai about who the Ninth Heavenly King was.

Sakurai knew what had happened. She had a short interaction with the Deities at the base. Thus, everyone felt that it was likely that Sakurai knew who the Ninth Heavenly King was.

But Sakurai kept it a secret. She did not answer anything regarding the Ninth Heavenly King.

But after that battle, some of Sakurai's trusted subordinates knew that Sakurai always had several thousand yen in her wallet. But she had never spent the money.

Sakurai no longer needed to pay for anything wherever she went. A wallet was an insignificant existence to her. Later on, Sakurai stopped carrying credit cards around. But she still had money in her wallet.

No one knew that the money was the salary that Sakurai had received from Lu Shu. She felt that the several thousand yen was the cleanest money she had earned in her lifetime.

There were times when Sakurai felt that it would be more appropriate for her to be an assassin, instead of the leader of an organization. Perhaps this was not a life that she wanted. Thus, if she had to leave the Collection of Gods one day, she would not take everything away. She would only take her small "salary".

It was special to her.

No matter what, the Ninth Heavenly King of the Heavenly Network was a mystery in the realm of cultivation. It was as if the Ninth Heavenly King had disappeared after what had happened at the Collection of Gods. Even the members of the Heavenly Network did not know who the Ninth Heavenly King was.

But today, this mystery had been solved.

Everyone already knew that Lord Lu was amazing. After all, Lord Lu often annoyed people. If he was not amazing, he would have been killed a long time ago...

With his impressive military achievements, it was impossible to not give in to him. The teams from the other Cultivation Colleges all prayed that they did not have to face the Luo Shen Cultivation College.

Lu Shu had quietly left the Luo Shen Cultivation College. But the discussions about him did not cease.

He had calmly come to class. He did not directly reveal that he was the Ninth Heavenly King. But the story he had calmly told had proven everything.

Chen Zuan, Cheng Qiuqiao and the rest also did not know that Lu Shu had gone to the Collection of Gods. But everyone who was familiar with Lu Shu had guessed so, especially Liu Li.

Back then, many people had sent flowers to Lu Shu's door and lit candles. It was worth pondering about what Lu Shu had done when he faked his death.

But back then, no one believed that Lu Shu was the Ninth Heavenly King. After all, Lu Shu had killed a fake Class A at the Collection of Gods!

This time, Lu Shu did not bring Chen Zuan and Cheng Qiuqiao with him. Because... it was far too dangerous.

The controller glared menacingly at their keyboard, as if they had already calculated this. Lu Shu had brought them to the Kunlun Mountains because they could handle the level of danger there. They could just run away. But this time, he could not run away. If he ran away, what would happen to the rest of the members of the Heavenly Network?

Lu Shu was not talented when it came to commanding others. He was not a genius in military affairs. He had not received any training either. The only time he had led a group was the Flood of Bronze. Thus, Lu Shu felt that in order for him to inflict the most damage on the secret practitioners, the large organizations, and the controller was not to fight like a soldier. It was to hunt them down.

He could not expose his whereabouts. If his whereabouts were exposed, the people

around him might be in trouble.

Thus, Lu Shu had to hide.

Lu Shu disappeared. No one knew where he had gone.

It was as if Lu Shu knew from the very beginning that if he did not want the controller to control his movements, the first thing he had to do was to disappear.

He was exposed, while the controller was in the dark. Now, everyone would walk into the dark together. We will see who will be killed!

The courtyard at Luidai Lane in the Capital had been rebuilt. The courtyard, which had once displayed the vicissitudes of life, suddenly took on a completely new look. Shi Xuejin looked melancholic as he stood in the courtyard. "My father left behind a lot of things, but the only thing left now is that walnut tree."

Shi Xuejin was not used to it. Although the facilities in the courtyard had been upgraded, but there was no place like his old home.

The entire courtyard had been renewed. For some reason, it felt as if something was missing.

Shi Xuejin patted the stem of the walnut tree. "Walnut tree, walnut tree. There's only you to accompany me. You can't be like the others who have no conscience. If they say that they want to destroy old things, they will... do you think I'm right, walnut tree?"

Nie Ting was beside him. His expression darkened. "Give way."

Shi Xuejin, who had seemed like a scholar, suddenly shouted, "Nie Ting, if you cut down this walnut tree today, I will not cook for you, for an entire year!"

Hao Zhichao and the rest, who were standing around, felt very awkward. Shi Xuejin was not usually like this. He was always kind and gentle, like a scholar.

To be honest, they were also very curious. Why did Nie Ting want to cut down this walnut tree? It was better to let it grow, right? Last year, Heavenly King Luo even treated everyone to walnuts.

Freshly picked walnuts had a green skin around them. One needed to cut off the skin and air-dry the walnut before it could be eaten.

Shi Xuejin was the busiest when the walnut tree bore fruit. He did not even read his books. He would be busy cutting off the skin...

When Hao Zhichao saw how Shi Xuejin was, he could not bear it anymore. "Then let's not cut down the tree..."

Nie Ting coldly said, "Pull him away! Cut down the tree!"

803 THE REAL WAR HAS BEGUN

Nie Ting did not go to the Changbai Mountains. Instead, he returned to the courtyard to cut down the tree. Others could not quite understand why he had decided to do so.

Hao Zhichao and the rest were dumbfounded. They were helpless when they saw Heavenly King Shi hug the walnut tree, not willing to let go. Shi Xuejin was an ordinary person. If they forcibly pulled him away, they might injure him.

Typically, when they came to report for duty, they would be able to eat the food that

Shi Xuejin had cooked. Although Shi Xuejin was an ordinary person, he was very popular in the Heavenly Network.

After all, everyone had to learn the Yinyang Kinship of the Three, which 99% of the Heavenly Network members had practiced, which had been developed by none other than Shi Xuejin.

Suddenly, Shi Xuejin said, "If you walk on that path, you will surely regret it! We have so many people! We might not lose. You don't have to take such a gamble!"

Nie Ting calmly looked at him. "Since when have I, Nie Ting, been overly cautious?"

Shi Xuejin reprimanded him. "You are my father's only successor. The sword techniques of the Shi family cannot be lost!"

"I have passed down the sword techniques to Cao Qingci. Relax. I will not use it unless I absolutely have to." He looked at said to Hao Zhichao and the rest, "What are you doing? Cut down the tree."

Hao Zhichao and the rest suddenly realized that this walnut tree might be different from the rest...

Back then when Nie Ting had broken through the boundary of the Seal of Lands, the entire courtyard had been destroyed. But this walnut tree remained unharmed.

Back then, Nie Ting had been too occupied to control his strength. If he had been able to control his strength, the courtyard might still be standing.

That means that even under that immense power, this walnut tree had survived!

"Cut!" Nie Ting exclaimed with a calm and dignified tone. Shi Xuejin heard the resolution in Nie Ting's tone and slowly stopped struggling.

Shi Xuejin did not see them cut down the tree. He ran into his study. "I will find a way to resolve this!"

Bang! The door of the study was closed.

Hao Zhichao and the rest suddenly realized that this walnut tree might be hiding a secret that might be harmful to the Heavenly Network. Nie Ting had to do this because their manpower at the Changbai Mountains was decreasing. The large organizations constantly tested the morals of the Heavenly Network. Conflicts broke out everyday. Many overseas Practitioners constantly entered the Changbai Mountains.

The massive mountain had turned into a massive battlefield. The roots of the trees had been stained red with blood.

Nie Ting wanted to obtain something inside the walnut tree to give himself another choice.

Hao Zhichao and the rest finally understood that the reason Shi Xuejin did not allow them to cut down the tree was not because he was reluctant to part with it. It was just an excuse.

Hao Zhichao raised his axe and aimed at the walnut tree. Bang! It sounded as if his axe had come in contact with gold.

"Use your full strength," said Nie Ting.

This time, Hao Zhichao used his standard long sword to cut down the tree. Even the long sword was broken.

A person behind him silently passed him another sword. Hao Zhichao tried again.

By the time that he used the fifth sword, the walnut tree started to crack from the inside. Everyone held their breath in concentration. They wanted to see what was inside the tree.

They realized that there was a long and narrow box. It was black and made out of metal. Nie Ting silently took the box and used his sleeve to wipe it. He looked like he was reminiscing.

Nie Ting looked at Hao Zhichao and the rest. "Do not reveal what had happened today." He looked at the fallen walnut tree. It was July, the height of summer. Numerous walnuts had started to grow on the tree. Usually, Shi Xuejin would take care of the tree. Thus, the tree had been flourishing.

"Look at the walnuts. What a pity," said Nie Ting.

"Heavenly King Nie." Hao Zhichao hesitated before saying, "The situation has not worsened till that extent."

Nie Ting quietly looked at Hao Zhichao. "You don't have to worry too much about this. Go to the Changbai Mountains tomorrow. If you discover Lu Shu's whereabouts, inform me."

"Okay." Hao Zhichao said, "But you know that it will be very hard for us to find a Heavenly King if he is determined to hide his whereabouts..."

"Think about his personality. Search from there." Nie Ting calmly said, "Do you not know what he is like? How many Practitioners in the world are as lowly as him?"

Suddenly, a member of the Heavenly Network behind Hao Zhichao started to shout abuses. "You are the lowly one! Your entire family is lowly!"

Nie Ting was silent.

Hao Zhichao was dumbfounded.

Everyone expressionlessly looked at that Heavenly Network member. Nie Ting's expression darkened.

"From Nie Ting's distress, +666!"

"From Hao Zhichao's..."

"Where is Wu Jin? What did you do to him?" Hao Zhichao asked. Everyone knew that the Wu Jin in front of them was not the real Wu Jin. As for who he was, there was no need to guess...

Lu Shu returned to his original appearance and stretched. "He's sleeping."

Nie Ting asked, "Why are you in the Capital?"

"I wanted to see how bad the consequences are after you were struck by lightning,"

said Lu Shu. He had come here to see whether Nie Ting could still attack. But he had to get others to do something as minor as cutting down a walnut tree.

This way, Lu Shu understood. He would not believe what was on the forum unless he saw it for himself. Indeed, Nie Ting could no longer attack.

As for what was inside the walnut tree, Lu Shu did not care much about it. No one could stay away from this conflict. As the boss of the Heavenly Network, Nie Ting had to answer the call of duty. If Shi Xuejin was unable to convince him, what could Lu Shu do?

"I'm going to the Changbai Mountains. Don't use that unless you absolutely have to. Although I have no idea what that is." Lu Shu suddenly paused and said, "There's still me."

Lu Shu did not finish his sentence. Who knows whether Nie Ting would eventually need to attack. But since he had chosen to do so, he would first bear the heavy responsibility.

Hao Zhichao and the rest looked at one another helplessly. When Lu Shu spoke, it was as if their breath was being suppressed by Lu Shu's aura.

At that moment, Lu Shu casually walked to the walnut tree and kept it in the Seal of Lands. The walnuts on the tree seemed quite plump... anyway, Nie Ting could not attack him either!

After he was done, Lu Shu turned and left. He was afraid that Nie Ting would demand him to return the tree.

Hao Zhichao was stunned. Heavenly King Lu, you really seized every opportunity.

Nie Ting expressionlessly looked at Hao Zhichao. "Now you know how to find him based on his personality, right?"

"Yes, yes..."

"From Nie Ting's distress, +199!"

Nie Ting looked at Lu Shu, but did not ask him to return the walnut tree. He knew the responsibilities that he had taken up. So what if he gave him a walnut tree?

804 THE HUNT PART 1

The range of the war was restricted to the Changbai Mountains as there was a bottom line agreed upon by all organizations that they should not affect the greater community.

They had made their stance clear. We were here only for the Ancient Yi treasures hidden under the sword formation valleys and nothing else.

They had a point. The Treasure of Heaven and Earth belonged to anyone capable, so why should the Heavenly Network keep all the good things to themselves? Anyway, did they not compete for resources in overseas remains as well?

But all of them were also aware that it was favorable to them if the war was not allowed to spread to the neighboring villages. Some of them had even imposed strict regulations to prevent secret practitioners from trespassing the borders of the mountains.

What if some of them murdered and robbed Chinese villages? That would make Nie

Ting go mad!

In any case, a small-scale war was acceptable as everyone was longing for the secrets and treasures of the Ancient Yi Clan. But no one was interested in an all-out battle as no organization intended to destroy themselves along with Nie Ting.

In fact, the organizations were also trying to tone down the impact of the war so as not to upset Nie Ting...

The organizations set up a union headquarters at Port Artyom, but they were fighting for the power of speech as well. In front of strong organizations like the Department of Faith Theory and the Phoenix Society, the local tyrant Red Sparrows had no alternative but to yield to them. Due to the previous battle with the White Bears, the Red Sparrows had lost many of its core fighters and they had no Class A's to begin with.

On a side note, the death of the leader of the White Bears still remained a mystery to the Red Sparrows. When they were planning to get rid of this threat at the cost of their own men's lives, the leader's dead body was suddenly uncovered in the wilderness one day...

At that time, the Red Sparrows suspected it was done by a hidden local master. But based on the traces left at the battle scene, it seemed an easy fight. Moreover, there were only two people's footprints found at the site. One belonged to the White Bears leader and the other seemed to be of a child's...

The situation at the Port Artyom headquarters was pretty amusing too. The various organizations refused to move into the office building because they were worried that Nie Ting might fly over unexpectedly and wipe out everyone in the building. Thus, it

would be wiser to scatter apart.

Furthermore, many organization leaders had gone missing upon arrival at Port Artyom. No one knew where they were hiding.

Then, they had to keep an eye on their own members and make sure they would not cause trouble on the territories of the Heavenly Network. Their reason was straightforward as the entire world, including people of the Heavenly Network, would be doomed if the Heavenly Network got pissed off and wanted to start an all-out war right there. In order to ensure everything was under control, the organizations had only sent in a small number of troops to exhaust the force of the Heavenly Network instead of launching large-scale battles.

Nevertheless, it had also been proven that group battle strategies would not work well for Practitioners as it would weaken individual powers.

Lastly, the organization leaders had to seek secret shelters so as not to be located and killed by the Heavenly Network.

Furthermore, the Heavenly Network had their spies all across the world and no organization could be confident that all their members were trustworthy.

Besides, the union of large organizations was not united after all, because they were only bonded together by the obvious interest. Yet, each of them had their own hidden agendas as well.

Afterwards, the situation became even more messy after the Phoenix Society and the Department of Faith Theory successfully secured their leadership positions.

Although the Heavenly Network was outnumbered as they literally stood against the entire world, all of its members were in it together and their sense of organizational discipline far surpassed that of the world organizations union.

At first, the union tested the water with Class C's and secret practitioners because it was unlikely that the battle would intensify all of a sudden.

But in a small-scale battle a few days ago, a slaughter led by You Mingyu and Li Yixiao broke out in the forests. Few would have survived the fight if the Phoenix Society had not secretly attacked Nalan Que, which resulted in the Heavenly Network retreating back to a defensible position.

It was also then when it became clear to the large organizations that the Heavenly Network had no intention to waste their time with them, because they had sent in their most elite team upon the first encounter.

Moreover, the Heavenly Network's stance was firm and clear, and they were ready for the battle when other organizations were not prepared yet.

As a result, the professional fighters of the various organizations had to jump straight into the battle before all of their secret practitioners were wiped out.

At this moment, all commoners had been evacuated from the Changbai Mountains as the place was now teeming with aggressive Practitioners. The frontlines of the Heavenly Network and foreign organizations were closely interlocked and casualties could happen anytime.

Unfortunately, the Heavenly Network was in a disadvantageous position due to the drastic difference in the number of fighters.

Slowly but inevitably, the front line was pushed back into the central area of the Changbai Mountains. At the moment, the east side of the Tiger Back 1 had been fully occupied by foreign organizations. Every night, campfires would be set up on the slope. New faces joined in everyday while old ones perished in the wild forests.

...

A team of secret practitioners led by a master from the Red Sparrows was navigating through the forests. It had been two days since they sneaked into the Changbai Mountains. Luckily for them, though, they had not encountered any members of the Heavenly Network yet.

The Changbai mountain range spanned 310km in a north-south direction and 200km east-west. Thus, it was indeed a slim possibility for the troops to meet on this vast land.

The team reached an open space in the woods. The team leader glanced up at the sky and said, "Let's set up our campsite here tonight. Be alarmed and watch out for enemies in hiding! Members of the Heavenly Network are all experienced soldiers and their flying sword attacks are the most difficult to defend against... Wait, we have two men missing!"

At this instant, he saw with his own eyes a pair of arms reached out from behind the trees and locked one of his men by his neck. Then, with a twist, the man's neck snapped like a fried dough twist.

The team consisted of ten people. But they had lost three before they could even see their enemies.

805 THE HUNT PART 2

To foreigners, flying swords were a symbol of supreme power in the Heavenly Network and only people of Class C and below would use close combat methods.

Thus, they had scattered their groups so as not to be sniped by flying swords.

Furthermore, all of them would be warned about the fatality of flying swords before they entered the forests.

But the attacking strategy of the enemy they were facing now was different from what they had expected. There were no flying swords, and the gray threads on the ground looked as threatening as a nest of snakes.

Subconsciously the team leader knew that his men could hardly survive this. But their enemy was still smiling, as if he had not taken them seriously.

When he was about to run, he realized that his escape route had been blocked by a dense formation of gray threads.

Lu Shu smiled. “You are the last group alive. Tell me about the campsites at the Tiger Back. I’ll grant you an easy death if you give me what I want.”

Lu Shu had visited the Heavenly Network campsite before going into the forests. There, he saw countless casualties and comrades’ bodies awaiting cremation.

Thus, he had no intention to spare the life of any foreign Practitioners he ran into.

Lu Shu was furious. He saw Li Yixiao and Nalan Que from afar, but he did not show himself. At the moment, he kept his own appearance with simple camouflage on his face. He looked like just another normal soldier of the Heavenly Network.

In any case, he could not afford to expose himself. Thus, he had to ensure his own safety by hiding in the shadows.

Therefore, before figuring out the power level of his opponents, Lu Shu had used another way of attack on this team instead of his typical strategies.

He knew that the party he was fighting against was probably watching the battle from behind the curtain and that he would be in serious trouble if his hidden enemies had their eyes on him.

But then Lu Shu realized that this kind of scouting troops was an easy kill. Thus, he could exterminate them effortlessly without using any of his trump cards up his sleeve.

All of a sudden, the Sparrow Shade materialized from his celestial map after Lu Shu had confirmed that there were no traps nearby. Now, the lives of the team lay in Lu Shu's hands.

Surprisingly, though, he was equipped with an instant translation device...

Was he really here to fight? He did not look that tensed up as the other soldiers!

Lu Shu grinned. "Are you waiting for your comrades to rescue you? Sadly, they were wiped out half an hour ago."

Fear seeped through the atmosphere. This team was totally unaware of when their comrades were killed!

Suddenly, the leader felt a piercing pain in his legs. He looked down to see two gray strands sinuating across his calves. Effortlessly the sharp blades of the Sparrow Shade penetrated his Spirit Qi armor like a cutter on a piece of paper.

During this period of time, a large influx of distress points was registered on Lu Shu's end. As expected, fear was the best nutrient for the celestial map.

But it was hard to collect fear as Lu Shu was not a serial killer after all...

"I will repeat myself one last time. Tell me about the Tiger Back campsites... Well, how about this? Let's do a fair information exchange. You'll tell me what you know and I'll tell you mine," Lu Shu said. He was not good at interrogations by torture because he found it too cruel. Nevertheless, he could still be cruel if the situation called on him.

The expert from the Red Sparrows collapsed to the ground on his knees after losing his balance. Struggling, he squeezed out a sentence. "Tell me first how many Class B's there are in the Heavenly Network. Then I will tell you how many we have at the campsite."

With a short pause, Lu Shu replied, "We have 1,000."

"From..."

"From..."

After an awkward silence, Lu Shu decided to give up. "Forget it. It's really not my forte to exchange information. So... I will have to trouble you to send regards to my Heavenly Network comrades when you see them in death. You may tell them that I,

Lu Shu, the Ninth Heavenly King, will avenge them.”

The leader was in shock... So you didn't even intend to get any information from us!

...

The night grew heavier. In the deserted forests, the howling of wild animals pierced through the silence of the night. In fact, the extent of animal mutation in the Changbai Mountains was much greater than that in other regions. But all of those mutated beasts had migrated to other places after tens of thousands of Practitioners invaded their habitats...

As the Heavenly Network team quietly navigated through the forests, the leader suddenly gestured for everyone to stop. At that instant, the ten-people team seemed to have become frozen in the moonlight.

All of them studied their surroundings alertedly. Their leader had stopped because he saw a fire through the slits of leaves.

The leader made a few silent hand gestures to scatter the team into an attacking formation. Then, the ten people immediately fanned out and encircled the fire. They moved in an unhurried manner and kept an appropriate distance from one another. This was a strategic plan as the fire could be a bait and they might be stepping into a trap.

However... it seemed that there was no ambush.

The leader made another hand gesture and the team closed in towards the fire again. Yet, to their surprise, there was only one boy with camouflage on his face.

Moreover, there were over twenty dead bodies of foreign Practitioners around him.

At this moment, the leader suddenly noticed a gray thread hanging menacingly above him from within the trees.

Lu Shu looked up and smiled at the people around him. “Come and warm yourselves, fellow comrades.”

It was a summer night, but the temperature on top of the mountains was still relatively cold, coupled with the cooling moisture in the air.

The leader was hesitant. “Who are you? And who are they?”

“You don’t need to know my name,” said Lu Shu, smiling, “These guys came to my fire. I’ve killed them and a few other teams but there are more in the eastern side of the forest.”

806 THE HUNT PART 3

There was a concept called the Dark Forest Rule 1 , which essentially meant that the universe was like a dark forest and each civilization inside was a hunter with a gun, sneaking through the woods like ghosts.

The hunters must exercise extra caution as the dark forest was full of hunters like themselves. Any signs of exposure might result in themselves being destroyed by other civilizations.

Now, the situation in the forest was the same. Neither the Heavenly Network nor other organizations knew the exact location of each other and the exposed teams would put themselves in an unfavorable position.

This was also why the Heavenly Network operation squad was so careful when they approached the campfire.

The squad leader could even imagine how other enemy teams approached the campfire like them. Then, they would be overjoyed seeing that there was only one boy here, and soon they would be engulfed in desperation...

After all, who would dare to set up an open campfire in a dangerous forest like this? Naturally, people would be attracted to the fire as all of them were here to kill. It would be easier for them with each enemy erased from their map. In any case, it was not a PC game and no rewards could be claimed if you managed to be the last man alive.

Instead, cutting your enemies' ears and bringing them back had a higher chance of getting you some rewards.

That was what had truly happened on the battlefield. Lu Shu was exasperated when he saw the right ear of every Heavenly Network martyr at their campsite was missing.

Now, Lu Shu smiled at the operation squad and explained, "It's more convenient this way. I call it 'the anti-Dark Forest Rule'. It saves me the trouble of having to go and find them myself."

That rendered all the squad members in shock. It was their first time to hear such a plausible excuse for a fishing strategy like that.

"You can try my method. It's very efficient," said Lu Shu.

"It's okay. Thanks..."

The entire squad was dumbstruck. This boy's lack of fear stemmed from his extraordinary combat abilities. Judging from the number of corpses around him alone, he must have attracted at least three squads. Plus the enemies he claimed to have killed in the eastern parts of the forest, the boy might have slaughtered at least four squads!

The squad leader gestured one of his members to investigate the situation in the east. The man came back, stuttering in shock, "He destroyed at least four more squads over there..."

In other words, Lu Shu had killed more than eight squads on one night with the same strategy.

The squad leader was stunned. Was the boy really from the Heavenly Network? According to his knowledge, Heavenly Kings Feng and Heavenly King Li had already returned to their camp for rest. Besides, all of them knew how Heavenly Kings Feng and Li looked like.

Lu Shu grinned. "What's your name?"

"Ma Youjin 1 ," replied the squad leader nervously.

Lu Shu mused, "You sound pretty rich... What's your level?"

Ma Youjin replied, "Peak of Class C. I believe that I can ascend to Class B in half a year!"

Lu Shu nodded. "Now go back. The area in front is too dangerous for you."

“No way,” said Ma Youjin, “I’m a soldier and I fear no danger. We plan to ambush them at Ladder River and kill more enemies.”

Lu Shu studied Ma Youjin closely and smiled. “Head north. The Tiger Back area is really too dangerous for you.”

“We are not cowards,” said Ma Youjin, slightly annoyed. The enemy invasion into the Changbai Mountains had set the entire Heavenly Network on fire and everyone was willing to risk their life in regaining the national territory. “If all of us back down because it’s dangerous, who’s going to fight for our country?”

Lu Shu smiled. He stood up and patted the dust of his clothes. Then, he said, “Me.”

Under the squad’s astonished stares, Lu Shu disappeared into the dark forest. His figure was tall and sharp, like a sword that pierced through the sky, allowing the first ray of sunlight to sip through the clouds.

...

In the Liuhai Lane, the Capital, Nie Ting was ready to set off. A jeep was waiting for him in the lane, and the people following in attendance were elites like Hao Zhichao.

Dressed in the Heavenly Network uniform, Hao Zhichao and the rest stood outside the courtyard quietly in respectful attention.

They were the last group heading to the Changbai Mountains. Finally, the day that all of them were looking forward to had come.

Now that Nie Ting's invisible storage equipment was no longer in use, he hung the black iron case on his back. Then, he faced the house and said, "I've got to go."

The doors, who had remained shut for two days, suddenly opened widely. With a book in his hands Shi Xuejin walked out and said, "Give me a moment and I'll find you a solution... Wait, where's my walnut tree? My tall walnut tree?! You should at least leave some trunks behind after you chopped it down, right?"

It had been two days since the last time Shi Xuejin stepped out of his room. He had been looking for a remedy for Nie Ting.

"Lu Shu took it away..." Nie Ting said after a moment of silence.

"From Shi Xuejin's distress, +666!"

Then, Shi Xuejin reiterated, "Don't ever use it unless out of absolute necessity!"

"I know," said Nie Ting with a nod of understanding, "Lu Shu has probably entered the central area of Changbai Mountains because the front line has been pushed back eastward again. I will only use it as a last resort, but... I cannot be that selfish because I have to protect the future of the Heavenly Network. Our people are risking their lives for our country, and I should be by their side."

Shi Xuejin raised his hands a little, and then lowered them again helplessly. "Never mind. I can't persuade you. You have known your own way since you were young."

In fact, Shi Xuejin also knew himself well. Otherwise, he would not aspire to be well-versed in the Three Teachings and open a new yet risky road.

Nie Ting turned and walked away. When he was about to reach the gate, he suddenly looked back and smiled. “I wasn’t mistaken about Lu Shu, was I?”

Shi Xuejin smiled too. “Did you not suspect that he’s a demon king just a while ago? Although he can’t destroy the Earth, he’s pretty talented at destroying good moods. Now that he’s on a killing spree, it’s no longer an exaggeration to call him the Demon King.”

Nie Ting pondered over it and asked, “What do you say if he becomes the next leader of the Heavenly Network?”

Shi Xuejin replied impatiently, “He’ll mess it up. Don’t even think about it.”

“True.” Nie Ting agreed. Then, he turned and boarded the car.

As the fleet of black jeeps sped eastward, Nie Ting closed his eyes to rest on the rear seat. The logo on the cars was a clear sign that the fleet belonged to the Heavenly Network.

After some hesitation, Hao Zhichao, who was sitting on the front passenger seat, asked, “Heavenly King Nie... Lu Shu has killed countless people this time. Are you not worried that he may lose himself?”

807 THE HUNT PART 4

Legend had it that there was a ghost fire in the Changbai Mountains that only appeared at night. The curious would be attracted to the orange fire involuntarily and then, they had never returned again.

Well, Lu Shu thought that he had recreated a modern version of the story. On the second day after he entered the central areas of the mountains, dozens of more foreign Practitioners lost their lives under Lu Shu’s anti-Dark Forest Rule.

Lu Shu was elated as he thought about the huge amount of distress points he would receive when the rumor spread out.

Wait a moment, could the person behind the legendary ghost fire have done the same thing as he?

Probably not. Lu Shu shook his head. He believed that he was the first genius mind that had thought of this idea.

Pitifully, though, he could not let the rumor spread out. The purpose of killing all who had seen his fire was to keep his identity a secret so that more ignorant souls would fall into his trap.

Nevertheless, after the end of the war, Lu Shu could write a ghost story based on his real experience to gain some distress points.

But even so, Lu Shu realized that this method would not work for long because many foreign Practitioners were equipped with telecommunications devices and his secret plan could well be exposed. By then, he would render himself a target for the organizations.

The bonfire flickered in the darkness. Its orange flames looked warm and peaceful, drying up the dew-wet ground surrounding it.

In the deep mountains, the low temperature and high humidity at night was very uncomfortable. However, considering the risk of setting up an open fire here, most people would choose to suffer in silence.

Suddenly, Lu Shu heard a rustle of leaves. He looked up into the darkness and saw a Heavenly Network squad.

Lu Shu grinned. "Come and warm yourselves."

Yet, those people frowned at the dead bodies on the floor, as if pondering something. Lu Shu did not mind at all because it was understandable to be shocked by the sight.

Lu Shu unfolded a map of the Changbai Mountains and made a few markings on it. The mountain range was too big. Therefore, Lu Shu had to confirm his current location and planned his future path everyday.

However, as the Heavenly Network squad drew near, none of them uttered a word. Besides, Lu Shu had a feeling that... they were encircling him!

Alarmed, Lu Shu suddenly looked up and, in the next instant, he bounced up by the support of his arms and sped backwards like an owl.

Instantly a giant rock broke out of the ground at where Lu Shu was sitting, and the surrounding atmosphere was crushed and exploded!

Firstly, this place reached deep into the enemies' front line. Lu Shu had never seen any Heavenly Network's operation squads since the day before and Ma Youjin's squad were the comrades he had met.

Thus, the fact that he would meet a Heavenly Network squad coming towards him from the east was odd by itself. Besides, their energy waves had far exceeded the expected level of an operation squad. Yet, all of those details had slipped Lu Shu's mind earlier.

Furthermore, it appeared to him that it was a well-organized mission as all of the squad members were Asians dressed in the Heavenly Network uniform. However, upon close inspection, the facial features of the last two members looked more like Southeast Asians.

That could explain their reticence since the beginning, as they did not want to expose themselves through their awkward Chinese.

Lu Shu's face turned cold. His comrades would have been in danger if they were to meet this squad before him. After all, with the poor visibility at night, who would expect that those in the same uniform as themselves could be their enemies too?

Meanwhile, the squad seemed unsurprised that they had not managed to kill Lu Shu with their first move. Based on the piles of corpses beside the bonfire, they had a clear idea that this boy's abilities should not be underestimated.

As a carefully selected team of elites, those people were not afraid of Lu Shu at all. They had the confidence to slaughter a Heavenly King!

Indeed, this squad was dangerous. They aimed to break through the defense line of the Heavenly Network by disguising as their men. Moreover, there was a Class B in the team!

Now that more than half of the organizations in the world had gathered on the eastern slope of the Changbai Mountains, Lu Shu would not be surprised that they could form a squad of experts like this.

The squad slowly closed in towards Lu Shu, but the latter had no intention to confront

them head-on. Instead, he receded into the darkness of the forests and hissed with a cold laugh. “None of you deserves this uniform.”

Lu Shu turned and dashed into the depths of the forest. He sped through the uneven terrains agilely, while the squad was following closely behind.

Lu Shu realized that they were experienced fighters too, which made the chase even more thrilling.

However, Lu Shu’s retreat into the forests was not because of his fear of them, but the fear of letting them escape!

Indeed, it would be too difficult to slaughter all of them if they decided to scatter and run for their lives in the dark forest.

Nevertheless, Lu Shu would never forgive a team that would bring potential threat to his fellow comrades!

During the chase, the squad noticed that Lu Shu was not that fast, but he was incredibly familiar with the terrain.

That made the squad members nervous. Their combat experience had taught them that good knowledge about a difficult landscape would give one a great advantage.

For instance, they kept losing sight of Lu Shu and had to depend on traces left behind on the branches or fallen leaves to determine which direction he had gone to.

Yet, at this moment, the leaves behind the squad suddenly exploded. Lu Shu jumped out and closed his fingers around the last person’s neck.

Unguarded, the man fell backwards under Lu Shu's forceful pull. He could not resist at all!

As soon as the other members realized it, they immediately took action and attacked. However, the man was instantly thrown onto the floor and died due to the violent impact on his head. In the next instant, Lu Shu receded back into the darkness again!

808 THE HUNT PART 5

The night had just begun. The tree leaves rustled in the wind, as if predators were hiding in the shadows, waiting for their prey.

The squad leader stood beside the lifeless body of his member. He calmly examined the corpse with no signs of sadness or grief, as though he was a cold-blooded beast.

In fact, it had only been a week since the formation of the squad. For the past week, they had only been practicing teamwork. Without any personal connections or camaraderie to begin with, they showed no condolences for their dead teammate from another organization.

The leader squatted down for a closer inspection of the corpse. In fact, dead men talked. From the traces left on the man's wounds, he could tell that Lu Shu's instant explosive force was close to that of a Class B, and he was incredibly precise in terms of muscular strength. Moreover, the orderly footprints on the ground indicated that the man was very familiar with the effective application of his force.

It seemed that they had once again underestimated their enemy's true power. The squad went into deep thoughts.

The leader suddenly announced, "Confirmed. He is a Class B, or even a mid-Class B. Fan out and be vigilant... Let's start the hunt!"

There was a tinge of exhilaration in his voice. Before the magical era, every member in the team could be called a war machine, but they were unable to unleash their desires in the peaceful years.

Now was the best time for them. They could run after the strongest opponent in the field of their greatest forte. This was the most enjoyable entertainment ever.

One of them bent down and cut away the body's right ear. Then, he laughed. "He's mine. I won't compete with you for the credits of that boy."

He looked as if it was natural to do so because that was the last use of his team member in his life.

The leader shot him a frosty look. "Pretty fast when you claim rewards. I'll cut off your ear too when you die."

The man replied with a grin. "Then wait until I die first."

In fact, no one questioned him during the entire process. After all, he could exchange the ear for one magical stone after he returned to the camp. That was the value of human lives on the battlefield – one magical stone, or even less.

Of course, they had to behead a key person of the Heavenly Network and bring it back so as to claim higher rewards.

This applied especially for Heavenly Kings.

...

The squad moved on, following traces left by Lu Shu. With a surveillance specialist on the team, they were fast in picking up Lu Shu's marks.

The specialist squatted down and picked up a wrapper. He studied it and nodded at the leader. "We are on the right track. This wrapper has just been discarded as it is dust-free."

However, he was confused about the direction the boy was heading to. Instead of the Heavenly Network campsite in the west, he was running northward.

Was he not going back to seek help? Did he want to die in the mountains?

"Where is he going?" asked the leader.

"There's a tributary on the other side of the mountain ahead. If he continued to run in the current direction... He's slowing down. We should be able to stop him before Erdao Baihe if we pursue at top speed!" the specialist analyzed.

There was one more thing on the leader's mind. Currently, they were not far away from the Heavenly Lake. But the vegetation around the lake was sparse and scarce, unsuitable for hiding. So why was he heading there? Could there be an ambush set by the Heavenly Network? Not likely either, because the leader knew that two Class B's from the Department of Faith Theory and the Phoenix Society had headed towards there just four days ago.

Judging from the timeline, the Class B's should have already gone past the Heavenly Lake and continued heading west. Thus, they would not join later.

Although they could not unite with people from the Department of Faith Theory and the Phoenix Society to block the boy together, it was at least certain that no one from the Heavenly Network could be hiding there.

The squad continued with the chase. In fact, some of the traces could have been erased.

When you sped through a forest, you would inevitably break a few twigs or leaves. Therefore, it would be impossible to conceal the broken branches even if you managed to hide your footprints.

Furthermore, in the specialist's eyes, Lu Shu's forest combat experience was too immature. He had hardly erased any of his traces, as if he totally had no idea what could expose his path.

The pursuers laughed arrogantly and coldly. They would never lose such an easy target with their years of experience in the forests.

However, at this moment, a shadow suddenly fell from the tree branches above them with clear intentions to kill!

It was already too late when the man noticed a change in lighting on top of him!

Just like the previous time, Lu Shu attacked bare-handedly. The man tried to dodge and defend himself with his spine, which was the strongest part of the human body.

Nevertheless, the punch on his spine was as powerful as a strike of lightning. Even those at the back of the team heard his bones cracking. At that instant, Lu Shu had fractured a Class C's backbone with a single punch!

The man collapsed onto the muddy ground of rotten leaves as he lost his balance. Now he knew that it was a mistake to assume their enemy was a forest combat newbie!

In fact, he was right that Lu Shu was bad at erasing his traces. Thus, he had resorted to the most tiring yet straightforward method of all. He ran at the top of his speeds before returning through the trees. To him, the distance between the tree branches was just a piece of cake.

Thus, Lu Shu had created an illusion earlier that he was a slow runner, because he was not running at his top speed at all. Actually, their estimate that Lu Shu could be a mid-Class B still turned out to be a misjudgment.

But Lu Shu had noticed something strange as well. The Class B leader was missing!

All of a sudden, the entire ground caved in where Lu Shu was standing. As an earth-type Metahuman, the leader had hidden himself in the ground and intended to engulf Lu Shu in the quicksand when he was the least prepared.

Right before this moment, the man with the broken spine was still alive, sighing that he could only spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. But now, to his horror, his leader was willing to sacrifice him in the quicksand as well.

On the battlefield, all lives were delicate, and there was no trust to begin with.

The quicksand swirled like a millstone, ready to eat Lu Shu alive. Yet, the Class B earth-type Metahuman could stand in close proximity and remained unharmed!

But he had failed. Lu Shu had withdrawn from the site the instant he broke his target's spine. Clearly he had no intention to stay there for even one second!

Furthermore, he had confidently fended off the attacks from the other members before he left. It was as though none of them could pose any resistance to him!

However... why did he have to flee if he was really so powerful?

809 DIRTY THING

Many people said that it was like spring all year round in Luo City. It was very suitable for living. But to Lu Shu, spring was like the four seasons in Luo City.

When it was cold in winter, people did not want to go out. When it was hot in summer, it was ridiculously hot.

Chen Zuan lay down in the house and fanned himself. He looked as if he had nothing else to live for. He was drenched in sweat. The newly-installed air-conditioning was of no use.

The house that Lu Shu was living in had been renovated by the landlord. There was a heat insulator in the roof. The water pipes and electricity cables had also been replaced.

But the house that Li Xianyi had lived in was different. Li Xianyi and Aunty Liu were not materialistic. They lived an ascetic life. Thus, the electricity cables in this old house could not support an air-conditioner. If they turned on the air-conditioner, the electricity would trip...

Chen Zuan had spent almost all of this month's salary to buy the air-conditioner...

This broken and tattered place. Chen Zuan had never imagined that he would have to

dig for his lunch. If he was in the capital, he would find the best restaurant to eat at!

Chen Zuan was very annoyed. He was a standard tycoon, yet he could only fan himself in this place. Why could his childhood friends enjoy themselves in the Capital? He had been chased out of his house to Luo City. He had wanted to stick to Lu Shu... but Lu Shu had secretly ran off...

But there were some benefits as well. Chen Zuan was now detached from that group of friends, as he was the only one out of all of them who was a Class B expert.

He had to thank Lu Shu for this. Without Lu Shu, he would not have been able to join the Class A aptitude military training. He would not have been able to drink the magical liquid at the Kunlun Mountains either.

After Chen Zuan had advanced to Class B, he wanted to return to the Capital as soon as possible. He would gather all his old friends and bask in their praises...

Cheng Qiuqiao returned home. When Chen Zuan saw Cheng Qiuqiao, he suddenly asked him in a nervous tone, "Are you brave?"

Cheng Qiuqiao was dumbfounded. "Quite. What's wrong?"

"Then let me tell you something!" Chen Zuan sounded very mysterious. "There is a dirty thing 1 in our house."

Cheng Qiuqiao looked around. "Was my grandma right?"

Chen Zuan was dumbfounded. "What did your grandma say?"

Cheng Qiuqiao laughed coldly. “Ha ha, my grandma said that dogs can see things humans can’t.”

Chen Zuan was rendered speechless. “Brother Shu can speak like that because he is so strong, no one can defeat him. But if you speak like that, let me tell you, I am a Class B!”

Chen Zuan seemed like he did not want to continue with this subject. “Back to the main point. There is really a ghost in our house. Since you said that you are brave, if you get rid of the ghost, I will acknowledge that you are braver than me!”

Cheng Qiuqiao was very puzzled. Was there really a ghost in their house. But it was not bad that Chen Zuan would acknowledge that he was braver than Chen Zuan. Cheng Qiuqiao happily asked, “I can’t see the ghost either. How should I get rid of it?”

“You can see it. It’s in the kitchen,” Chen Zuan said with confidence.

Cheng Qiuqiao walked around the kitchen. He remained silent. “Was the dirty thing you were talking about your undone dishes?!”

Chen Zuan beamed in joy. “That’s right. If you wash them, I will acknowledge that you are braver than me.”

The species research specialization had been liberated again. Since they had no teacher, they had to come up with ways to pass the time. Zhao Yongchen came, but only for one lesson before he went to the Changbai Mountains as well.

Cheng Qiuqiao was still decent. He went to school out of his own initiative and

attended classes from other specializations. On the other hand, Chen Zuan was completely free. He did not even go to school.

Back then when Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu were around, they were very happy, playing in the laboratory. But now that Lu Shu had secretly disappeared, the entire species research specialization gave up playing...

“Why don’t we go to the Changbai Mountains?” Chen Zuan suddenly said, “It feels empty now that Brother Shu has left. Anyway, no one is looking out for us. We might be able to help if we go to the Changbai Mountains. Ordinary students might create trouble, but we are not ordinary students.”

All the students in the Cultivation College were being managed and controlled. The teachers were worried that their students would become enthusiastic and run off to the Changbai Mountains. But... the species research specialization had no teacher...

“Go to the Changbai Mountains?” Cheng Qiuqiao thought about it. To be honest, after Lu Shu left, it felt as if their lives were missing many things. Typically, when they had to make difficult decisions, they would unconsciously find Lu Shu. Now that Lu Shu was gone, it felt very strange.

“That’s right. We can call Cao Qingci and Xiaoyu. It would be a waste if the three Class B’s did not go and help.” Chen Zuan felt a sense of belonging to the Heavenly Network. He did not feel assured knowing that many others were dying in the Changbai Mountains, while they were still going to school.

If Chen Zuan was only a Class D or Class C, it would still be fine. But since he was a Class B, he could not enjoy this peace with a clear conscience.

Furthermore... Chen Zuan suddenly felt as if the species research specialization had become an entire team. If they were able to work together in battle, it would definitely be very meaningful.

Chen Zuan dragged Cheng Qiuqiao to find Lu Xiaoyu. They knocked on her door for a very long time, but there was no answer.

“Hm? I came back together with Xiaoyu. After she went in, I never heard the sound of the door opening,” said Cheng Qiuqiao.

Chen Zuan was dumbfounded. “Did you forget that she has earth-type abilities. I think that... she might have gone to the Changbai Mountains herself!”

Chen Zuan felt that his was normal. The chemistry between Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu was so strong that they were like a whole. Since Lu Shu had gone to the Changbai Mountains, how could Lu Xiaoyu be at ease?

He called Cao Qingci. He felt that only Cao Qingci could accompany them. But he suddenly realized that Cao Qingci had turned off her phone!

Cao Qingci was always by her phone. Chen Zuan was as well, as this was an order by the Heavenly Kings to the Class A aptitude geniuses. They might allocate missions for them at any time.

But Cao Qingci had turned off her phone. Chen Zuan was slightly annoyed. “Did Cao Qingci go to the Changbai Mountains too? Why didn’t she say anything?”

Cheng Qiuqiao thought about it and said, “Maybe they thought that you aren’t reliable.”

Chen Zuan was unhappy. "They didn't tell you either, right?"

810 CHEN ZUAN'S INTUITION

If someone was too out of the ordinary, they would affect the people around them. For example, after Lu Shu became the backbone of the species research specialization, no matter whether it was Chen Zuan or Cheng Qiuqiao, their way of speaking unconsciously resembled that of Lu Shu's. One is marked by the company one keeps.

Of course, there were exceptions. If there was someone from the Northeast in a bedroom, the entire bedroom would speak like him. It might not be because that person was outstanding. It was simply because the way of speaking in the Northeast was more impressive.

Chen Zuan was a man of action who would leave immediately without hesitation. But Cheng Qiuqiao was more frank. He even went to the Luo Shen Cultivation College to request for leave before going.

Chen Zuan was unhappy. "If you ask for leave, will they still let you go? Haven't you seen all the students stuck in their classrooms?"

But Cheng Qiuqiao was still not reassured. What if they came back and found out that they had been expelled? How would he tell his parents?

Chen Zuan looked as if he expected better from from Cheng Qiuqiao. "Brother Shu has become a Heavenly King. What are you scared of?"

Chen Zuan suddenly had a sense of security... right. Lu Shu had become a Heavenly King. Could they get away under the name of a Heavenly King?

When everyone else found out that Lu Shu had become a Heavenly King, they were

shocked. After all, it was very shocking for a Heavenly King to appear from among the student population. But Chen Zuan's train of thought was very different. When he realized that Lu Shu was the mysterious Ninth Heavenly King, his first reaction was to suck up to him!

"You're wrong," Cheng Qiuqiao argued. "Back then, Brother Shu was still an audit student..."

When Chen Zuan heard this, he felt that something like this had happened...

"But as for requesting leave," said Chen Zuan, "you can still be flexible!"

"How?" Cheng Qiuqiao was curious.

"You Mingyu has taken over school affairs, right?" Chen Zuan said.

"Yes."

"Where is he now?" Chen Zuan asked.

"I heard that he went to the Changbai Mountains," said Cheng Qiuqiao.

"Right. We'll go the Changbai Mountains and ask You Mingyu for leave there," said Chen Zuan cheerily.

Cheng Qiuqiao was amazed by Chen Zuan's train of thought. How did he come up with that?

Thus, the two of them headed on the long path towards the Changbai Mountains to

ask You Mingyu for leave.

When Chen Zuan sat on the plane and looked as the ground grew more and more distant, he could not help but think that Lu Shu had a very impressive aura. Even when Chen Zuan advanced to Class B, people were not as surprised. He did not celebrate for long either, as he was always chasing after a goal called Lu Shu.

Lu Shu was too fast. Chen Zuan did not want to fall behind.

He was also a very shrewd but timid person. He had always avoided danger in the remains. Chen Zuan always felt that he was a giant in terms of his thoughts, but a midget in terms of his actions. He had wanted to go to the Salt Lake remains, but when he actually got there, he was scared.

It was as if he had professed love for what he really feared. He did not want to be a flower in a greenhouse, but when he actually encountered danger, he instinctively became timid.

This was a very conflicting situation, which continued until he started to interact more with Lu Shu.

To be honest, the Changbai Mountains were now very dangerous. Chen Zuan knew very well that even if he was a Class B, he might not be able to survive. But... Chen Zuan felt that Lu Shu would be very lonely if he fought alone without support.

He felt that he was the one who understood Lu Shu the best, besides Lu Xiaoyu. That young man was lonely but stubborn. He did not ask others for help so that he would not owe others anything. But Lu Shu was not born lonely.

Even if the path to the Changbai Mountains was dangerous, Chen Zuan still wanted to go.

There were times when he thought that the heroes described in stories or history books were too distant.

Chen Zuan felt like he was now experiencing history. Perhaps in the far future, he might appear in the history books with Lu Shu. How would the history books depict him?

Chen Zuan excitedly told Cheng Qiuqiao this. "If Brother Shu becomes even more amazing, he will definitely be recorded in the history of the realm of cultivation. We will definitely appear as the friends who accompanied him in battle. How would the history books depict us then?"

When Cheng Qiuqiao heard this, his eyes lit up. "They would say that you love to eat, that you are shameless, that you often retract your move in chess, that you snore in your sleep, and that your feet stink..."

Chen Zuan's expression darkened. "My feet don't stink."

"Ha ha," Cheng Qiuqiao laughed coldly. "You can be stubborn and defend yourself. I covered you with the blanket, but who secretly took off the blanket at night?"

Last week, Cheng Qiuqiao had said that Chen Zuan's feet were stinky. Chen Zuan denied this and claimed that he could not smell anything. Cheng Qiuqiao thus secretly covered Chen Zuan with the blanket that he used to cover his feet. Chen Zuan could not bear the smell and woke up!

The plane landed in Sheng City, Jizhou. Chen Zuan and Cheng Qiuqiao had wanted to fly directly to the Changbai Mountains airport, but the flights there had been canceled because of the fight in the realm of cultivation. Thus, they had no choice but to rent a car and drive there.

It was easy for them to enter the restricted area. They were of a rather high rank, thus they could enter easily.

When they reached the campsite, Chen Zuan and Cheng Qiuqiao felt the atmosphere of a true war as they drove in. The place was either full of members from the Heavenly Network, or full of goods and materials.

Everyone in the campsite seemed to be in a rush. There was even a massive army tent in the middle. People were constantly moving in and out. At the same time, they saw a small team who were preparing rations to enter the mountains.

On the way, they heard people talking about the war deep within the mountains. It seemed very severe.

At that moment, Chen Zuan suddenly heard someone say, "One of the teams is very aggressive. I heard that we have broken through the Ladder River and the Tiger Back. One of the teams went there and they said that all they saw were dead bodies. But no one knew who did it."

"I heard that too. Our line of defense had been pushed back, but some team had forcibly opened up another route. The strange thing is, when our troops returned, no one said that they had gone there. Strange."

"Maybe our current situation is still good. They are probably still hunting down

people deep in the mountains. They are really aggressive. Could it be the secret team formed by the Heavenly Network?"

"Perhaps. We have a lot of Class B experts in the Heavenly Network."