

891 LONG QUE

Li Heitan said in a hoarse voice, "My boss asked us to remind you who we truly are. Selling soap is just a part-time job. Understood? We have noble ambitions."

Lin Gui took a long time to gather his thoughts. What? So now they were a bunch of ambitious bandits?!

But they were still bandits no matter what ambitions they had!

Indeed, the nature of Azure Dragon Village remained unchanged, despite their unusual behavior under their new leader's rule. Therefore, they were as unreasonable and aggressive as ever.

Over the span of one day, Lu Shu received an enormous amount of distress points. He knew that they were in millions without even looking at it...

Meanwhile, Lu Shu spent almost all his time practicing his swordplay. Unexpectedly, Azure Dragon Village was a magically rich land, whose concentration of Spirit Qi was much higher than that in Zhang Weiyu's little house. This had greatly facilitated with Lu Shu's daily cultivation practice.

Consequently, he had attained Rank Five, a feat that he had estimated would take up to three months, in less than a month.

Lu Shu knew very well that it was one's power that made this world go round.

Although he could assume self importance through his connections with the Bishop, it would serve him better if he himself was strong enough.

By now, his sword skills had achieved a state where his sword energy could be released and applied freely to his will.

Even if he was only holding a twig, he would feel as if the twig was his sword, and the sword was an extension of his body.

At first, Lu Shu had intended to make soap bars together with Lu Xiaoyu. But after the change of his plan, all of the remaining bandits in Azure Dragon Village had become his laborers. Following that, they saw a huge surge in output.

Now, Lu Xiaoyu's only job was to bring back alkaline mines. After that, Lu Shu would refine the crude minerals to obtain caustic soda, which was then added to the final product. The rest would be handed to the laborers in a factory-line manufacturing manner.

Lu Shu sighed with emotions. "Having a good plan is halfway to success..."

In fact, the laborers held no grudges towards their current life at all. In the past, their earnings solely depended on their boss' mood, yet they could do nothing about it. Now, however, it was based on their contribution. The more soap bars they made, the more money they could get. This way, their life was much more stable than the past...

Back in the old days, they could only eat their boss' leftovers. But now, they could afford eating meat occasionally.

Thus, whenever they walked past the flag that read "Escape Poverty and Make a Fortune" on their way home, they would worship it as if paying respect to a shrine...

Recently, the bandits felt that they had welcomed in a new age. With money

constantly flowing in, they were keenly motivated and were even more determined to develop the business further with their new boss!

At this moment, Lu Shu held a soap bar in his hand and told Lu Xiaoyu, "Making soap is not hard. Although currently we are doing a good job in keeping the manufacturing process a secret, they would figure it out sooner or later because we can't possibly handle everything by ourselves after the yield improves. By then, there will be imitators."

Lu Xiaoyu shot him a concerned look. "So what should we do?"

She wanted to suggest suppressing the imitators through violence, but did not voice it as Lu Shu seemed to be a genuine pacifist at the moment.

"Should we design a logo?" asked Lu Shu, "To create our own brand?"

Lu Xiaoyu pondered over it and controlled Anthony to build a mold of Lu Shu's head...

There was an awkward silence. Then, Lu Shu commented, "The previous time I saw similar logos was on the containers of Laoganma Chili in Oil and Wang Shouyi Condiment..."

He was not judging. In fact, Lu Shu liked Laoganma. But he still felt that it did not look right...

"I think it's pretty good," Lu Xiaoyu said, curling her lips in disapproval.

"In fact, it does look like me," Lu Shu said, "You are an artist, Xiaoyu."

Then, Lu Xiaoyu made another Doraemon mold. But Lu Shu shook his head.

"Copyright..."

Lu Xiaoyu was speechless. They were in Luniverse! Why should they be concerned with copyright issues?!

Then, the Doraemon turned into Little Fury.

Lu Shu's eyes brightened in surprise. "I like this! Brand it on all our soap bars!"

That was how the Little Fury branded soap bar had come from.

However, the imitators could actually copy their logos too. In the end, Lu Shu decided to establish the soap market as soon as possible and reap sufficient profits before the emergence of competitors.

At the end of the day, they would return to Earth. Thus, they were not interested in becoming the richest in the Luniverse. Besides, it was rather unrealistic to be the richest man by selling soap bars.

"We must let the outside people know that now this place is free from bandits and conducive for business trading. Otherwise, they won't be willing to come," Lu Shu said after some consideration, "Beware of Ye Xiaoming, though, he may cause us trouble. Ask Li Heitan to advertise for our Azure Dragon Village and say that we can ensure the safety of merchants in the area. Moreover, if you spot any new bandits, exterminate them."

Lu Shu did not perceive himself as a good man, though he did not mind using

violence against the outlaws.

Yet, at dawn the next day, Li Heitan rushed back soon after he carried the newly produced soap down the hill. He shouted, "My lord, my lord! That woman is coming! The very strong slave owner!"

Lu Shu was confused. "Who?"

"The itinerant merchant who's trading for specialties in Yun An City recently," Li Heitan replied.

"Why is she here?" Lu Shu asked, frowning. But this was good news because Li Heitan once told him that the merchant had a huge sum of money. It was said that she had a successful business in the palace and her traveling around was solely due to her interest in the outdoors.

Back then, he had wanted to find her for investment but failed. Now, she was coming to visit him by herself...

Lu Shu wanted to put on some airs and reject her. Yet, in the next second, she had already arrived by air...

Lu Shu was astounded. "You are a Rank One! Why be an itinerant merchant?"

The slave owner was stunningly beautiful. She looked even more handsome in her red suit. As she turned her gaze to Lu Shu, she smiled. "I'm a Rank One merchant and you are a Rank One bandit. So don't call the kettle black. Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Long Que."

At that moment, the Bishop was standing right behind Lu Shu. Thus, Lu Shu pretended to be arrogant and asked, "What wind blows you to my Azure Dragon Village?"

Lu Shu believed that this woman had come from an unusual background. Otherwise, she would not have been an itinerant merchant given her impressive Rank One powers. Hence, it was possible that she had another secret identity. Lu Shu decided to minimize their contact so as to avoid unforeseen trouble.

"How much soap do you have left?" Long Que asked with a bright grin. "I'm buying all of them!"

Lu Shu sat up straight at once. "We are friends, from this moment onwards!"

892 QUICK SALE AT AZURE DRAGON VILLAGE

As a matter of fact, Lu Shu had been concerned about how to create a bigger market for his soap outside Yun An City. This was why he had tasked Li Heitan to give away soap for free to travelers outside the city.

Now that they had freebies to collect on their way out, many residents of Yun An City had taken the initiative of traveling out of the city to visit their distant relatives. This was a luxury in the past as travelers used to be robbed or threatened by the bandits outside.

There were also people who had gone out just to get free soap. But Lu Shu did not mind them too as soap making was a cheap business. Moreover, his ultimate goal was to promote his soap by advertising for the convenience of using soap.

After a while, people learned that Azure Dragon Village would not punish those who faked their trips just for the soap. As a result, more and more people had jumped onto

the bandwagon of collecting free soap.

Unsure of what to do, Li Heitan went to consult Lu Shu for advice. Lu Shu said, "Just let them get the soap."

"But what if they come back shortly?"

"Have you forgotten that we are bandits?" Lu Shu said, rubbing his temples.

"Understood!" said Li Heitan. The next day, some people played the same old trick. Afterwards, Li Heitan blocked them on their way back to Yun An City and insisted they pay for the soap they took.

Those people were reluctant to pay because they knew the soap was supposed to be free.

Li Heitan said, "You pay because I told you to. We are bandits!"

In fact, Lu Shu was well aware that folks in poverty-stricken regions tended to be mean. Thus, he had to make the message clear that Azure Dragon Village was a bunch of disciplined bandits but other people had better not mess with them.

Truth be told, Lu Shu enjoyed his life as a bandit. At the very least, he had earned the respect of the people through fear.

When the Yun An City market had gradually become saturated, Azure Dragon Village organized a timely quick sale with a slogan that went "If you love her, buy her Azure Dragon Village soap". Similar sales events were held every other day in all different forms.

Residents of Yun An City were unfamiliar with such sale tricks. Some women even felt that it was a once-in-a-life-time opportunity that should not be missed when there was a discount of five notes!

Meanwhile, Lu Xiaoyu was rendered speechless by Lu Shu's sales ideas...

Honestly speaking, it would have been a sure loss if Lu Shu had played the same marketing gimmick on the Earth. Yet, they were in Luniverse, where the people were ignorant of such business tricks.

Its cleansing effects were apparent, especially when washing the oil off her hands after meals and cleaning her hair during baths!

In their times, shampoo and hair conditioner were foreign items. Thus, soap was the best body wash product that they had ever seen...

Not only so, Long Que had been in town since Lu Shu became the leader of Azure Dragon Village. Thus, she had been watching from the shadows just how the city had changed over the past days. She did not pay attention at first because to her, all bandits were merely worthless, uncivilized beings.

Afterwards, however, as she gathered more information, she learned that the new leaders of Azure Dragon Village were probably two Rank One's. That captured her interest in them. Soon, she realized that... the culture at Azure Dragon Village had changed drastically under the new leader, given the fact that they had even devised so many different ways to collect protection fees alone...

Today, Long Que had decided to visit the village personally mainly for two reasons.

Firstly, she was interested in the soap and wanted to bring some with her. Secondly, she wanted to know the new village heads.

Before she arrived, she was thinking maybe she knew the leaders as all the Rank One's in Luniverse were rather famous. However, to her surprise, she did not find the face familiar at all. Moreover, the elder behind the young man was wearing a pink scarf... which looked kind of weird...

Long Que glanced around. In her impression, Azure Dragon Village should be a dirty and messy place, riddled with half-naked men walking on muddy grounds.

The village might even stink. Anyway, it would not be a pleasant place.

However, she was caught by surprise when she flew over the thick, protective village walls. It was not an easy engineering feat that average bandits could achieve. Yet, she was even more impressed by the internal structure of Azure Dragon Village.

The village was no longer the dirty base of bandits as it used to be. It was floored with neatly arranged stone slabs that Lu Xiaoyu had excavated from the mountains.

The stones were smooth and clean, carved with delicate skid-resistant lines. There were stairs on the steeper slopes. A waterfall ran down the mountain behind and cut through the village. There was even the foundation of a pavilion beside the river and it was nearing completion.

Long Que almost had the illusion that she was at a summer resort.

This was all thanks to Lu Xiaoyu's effort. She had stocked up enough alkaline minerals for long-time use and really had nothing else to do.

Thus, in her free time, she renovated Azure Dragon Village and made the environment here much more presentable.

The moment Long Que landed on the floor, her main agenda of this visit had changed from the soap trading to getting to know this interesting head of the village.

Yet, she soon realized that the new lord of Azure Dragon Village was not interested in her at all for some reason. But his attitude was overturned completely as soon as she expressed her interest in buying all the soap... Frankly speaking, not many people in the Luniverse were as honest as this guy in showing their greed for money...

She had expected at least some formalities, which did not happen either. Nevertheless, this man was rather straightforward and good-looking...

Long Que's expressions froze momentarily when she saw Lu Xiaoyu. But immediately she was back to normal.

That did not evade Lu Shu's sharp eyes. He wondered what she was hiding.

Long Que's attractive physique was perfectly embodied in her red tight suit. Undeniably, she looked like a fiery phoenix.

Long Que laughed heartily. "Give me all you have. This time I'm heading south to Nangeng City and I will make a return once I hit the border. After that, I will go past the South Capital and the Palace and continue to head northward. I can assure you that the entire Luniverse will be familiar with your soap brand if you have enough stock to provide."

Lu Shu felt that Long Que was as bold and forthright as a man. Earlier he had heard from the shop waiter that she had an unusual temperament... Was she a lesbian?

893 LONG QUE'S MISSION

Lu Shu suddenly felt that there was something wrong with this world. If Long Que was like what he had thought, then there were too many strange beings in this world!

Putting her character aside, Lu Shu suddenly picked up some details in her speech. Go south to Nangeng City, then turn back after reaching the border.

Everyone knew that the Black Feather Army was approaching. Which normal travelling salesman would go to the border? Even if you were a Rank One that could fly, you could not protect everyone in your trade caravan in this chaos, right?

Unless Long Que was hiding something!

There were three small towns near Nangeng City. One of them had crop fields!

Although Lu Shu could not be sure whether she was heading towards the crop fields, he believed that his guess was correct!

Zhang Weiyu was very strange. Thus, Lu Shu found it difficult not to associate this with him. Had Long Que and Zhang Weiyu been entrusted with the same thing? Lu Shu could not be sure. If they had the same mission, then Long Que lived a much better life compared to Zhang Weiyu.

Lu Shu was cautious. The responsibility that Zhang Weiyu had was most likely related to the King of Gods. Lu Shu guessed that Zhang Weiyu was one of the people who were close to the old King of Gods.

When Lu Shu thought about this, he felt that this was not something that he could

involve himself in. Even if he reached the Master Realm, or Shen Cang Jing on Earth, the new King of Gods would still be more powerful than him, right?

This was not something he, as a Rank Five Practitioner, could take part in. His aim was to forcibly break free after he had reached Rank One through his swordplay and cultivation. He would then exchange his distress points for celestial fruits and do everything he could to find a way home.

Lu Shu preferred Earth over this world.

Lu Shu casually asked, "What if the Black Feather Army attacks? Are you not afraid?"

Long Que smiled. "Those who have reached the Master Realm cannot attack. We have nothing to fear. For now, no one has dared to touch the rule that the old King of Gods had established."

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. So those who had reached Master Realm were not allowed to attack!

Long Que came and left quickly. Lu Shu was still thinking about how Long Que would transport the soap worth 40 thousand notes. It turned out that she had invisible storage equipment.

This way, Lu Shu was even more certain that she had an unusual identity. After all, invisible storage equipment was not common in this world.

Lu Xiaoyu and Lu Shu sat on the village wall. Lu Xiaoyu suddenly asked, "Do you think that the Black Feather Army will come?"

Lu Xiaoyu was dumbfounded. "Then what about the Wei Wu Army? What brand are they like?"

Lu Shu was silent for two seconds. "Have you ever heard of the Jiangnan Leather Factory..."

Lu Xiaoyu thought carefully about it. This made sense...

"Recently, I have developed a new way to refine oil." Lu Shu suddenly said, "I had thought that pig oil is not too expensive. We produce it using leftover materials. But after we have expanded our business, buying pigs make up the majority of our budget. I asked Li Heitan whether there were any soybeans and rape seeds here. He said that there were people who planted peanuts near Yun An City. It is quite convenient to produce oil this way."

This world had not started to use vegetable oil in cooking. Vegetable oil was often used to produce cloth, especially sesame oil.

The process of producing peanut oil was very simple. Even ordinary people could do it themselves. They just had to fry the peanuts for five minutes at 200 degrees Celsius. They only had to take care of the pressure.

When the residue and the oil were separated, the soap produced by peanut oil would look clear and pretty. This allowed Lu Shu to produce new products.

Lu Shu did not have any marketing skills. He did not have a special talent in business either. He only knew that if he wanted to earn money, he had to develop a variety of products. Pretty soap would be able to attract aristocrats as consumers. Ugly soap

could be sold to the civilians at a low price. This way, the needs of everyone were fulfilled.

To be honest, being a bandit was not complicated. After all, if you put your sword on the table, others would be willing to buy your product, even if it was just a stone. But Lu Shu was a bandit with ideals. He had to focus on the sustainable development of his business...

Lu Shu had asked Li Heitan to buy as many peanuts as they had. He even encouraged agriculture. If they planted one mu, they would be rewarded with 50 notes. After they were fully grown, Lu Shu would buy them at the original price...

Lu Shu felt that he was making great contributions to the economic development of Yun An City. He had heard that some soldiers of the Wei Wu Army had started to grow peanuts. Soldiers from the Wei Wu Army had their own fields, but in the past, growing crops was not profitable. Thus, everyone was too lazy to plant crops. Planting crops was not as fast as robbery!

But now, it was different. There was financial aid from public finances...

After all, the oil in the Wei Wu Army was all concentrated in the hands of the middle class and above. The soldiers at the lowest level had to go through a long process just to eat. Now, they had the opportunity to make money. They had financial aid too. Furthermore, the Azure Dragon Village was buying peanuts for a rather high price...

Thus, the civilians in Yun An City were somewhat surprised. The lazy soldiers of the Wei Wu Army had actually started planting crops...

The civilians had felt despair towards the old Yun An City. But now, for some reason,

they felt as if Yun An City was glowing with a new lease of life...

Then, those who brought soap out to rope in their relatives finally brought back results for Lu Shu. Not only had they brought soap over, they had brought news. The only bandits in Yun An City are from the Azure Dragon Village, and they did not rob people. They simply conducted business!

In just half a month, travelling businessmen from Nangeng City in the south and Kaitai City in the north started to gather in Yun An City. The slaves in the shops near the entrance of the city were just about to start their business for the day when many groups asked them where Azure Dragon Village was...

In just half a month, many people had seen a commercial opportunity in soap!

They wanted to research how soap was created, but could not come up with anything.

How would ordinary people be able to think that soap, that could get rid of dirt and oil, was made out of oil? They had no chemists!

When Ye Xiaoming heard the news in the palace, he could not understand. What was the Azure Dragon Village doing? All the businesses he had seen had avoided bandits. But the world had changed, and business started to actively seek out bandits!

Were they all mad?

894 VIRUS AND MARKET

When Lu Xiaoyu heard Lu Shu talk, she rolled her eyes. She knew that Lu Shu had spent a lot of time on his plan to brainwash them. At first, Lu Xiaoyu had thought that he wanted to carry out multi-level marketing. Later on, she found out that Lu Shu had no intentions of doing so.

According to Lu Shu, if their business spread too far, the aristocrats might be alerted and they might be surrounded. This could possibly endanger them. After all, they were not strong enough. Thus, they could not be too open.

Lu Xiaoyu then watched as Lu Shu started to brainwash the traveling businessmen. These businessmen were elites. When they had first started, they had done business as well. Who would believe such a trick? They just looked at the profits in front of them and resisted.

But Lu Shu did not want to trick them. He purely wanted them to be more enthusiastic in selling soap.

When the traveling business realized that this was not a scam, they started to listen to Lu Shu attentively.

At first, Lu Shu had thought that this was very simple. But when he actually carried it out, it was not easy...

It was definitely not easy doing any kind of business. Over the last two days, Lu Shu had to remember the reactions of every single businessman, as well as emotions that showed in their eyes when they heard something...

At night, when Lu Shu was taking down notes, Lu Xiaoyu lay down beside him and quietly watched. There were times when she felt that days like these were not bad.

For some reason, without Lu Shu beside her, she was always filled with explosive anger and murderous intent. If Lu Shu was by her side, she would be able to calm down.

It was as if an ocean wave had come into contact with the Dinghai Shenzhen. The ocean was still an ocean, but one's feelings were different.

The next day, Lu Shu started to teach them. "How do you do your business? Do you open your doors and wait for customers to come? Do you believe that good wine needs no bush? Let me tell all of you. Good wine still needs a bush!"

That day, Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu led a group of traveling businessmen down the mountain to the city. Ye Xiaoming was amazed that they actually dared to enter the palace. But when he thought of their power, he did not dare to act rashly.

There was a meeting among scholars of the King's Studies that day. Lu Shu did not slack off. Recently, he often visited Yun An City to send soap to the scholars. Thus, they had to invite the Azure Dragon Village to their meeting today.

Everyone knew that the Azure Dragon Village would not come. Thus, they did not expect them to actually attend.

But when the Azure Dragon Village arrived, the scholars were shocked... that was the representative of the New King's Studies, right?!

Someone asked softly, "What new theories has he proposed?"

The traveling businessmen liked to pose as lovers of culture as well. There were many classic poems in the King's Studies. It was a trend to drink alcohol and ponder about poems!

Someone else said softly, "He said that 'Yi Shanjin' could be the name of a person..."

The traveling businessmen gasped in shock! This?!

Suddenly, one of the scholars smiled at Lu Shu. "Do you have any insights today? We will be inspecting three poems by the King of Gods..."

Lu Shu looked at the thread-bound book in his hands. He shook his head and smiled. "You are far too disrespectful to the King of Gods. Before you read his poems, even if you don't take a shower and change your clothes, at least wash your hands. The poems would be stained if you did not do so, right?"

As he spoke, the Bishop had brought a bucket of water. Lu Xiaoyu obediently passed Lu Shu a bar of crystal clear soap. The scholars watched as Lu Shu used the soap to wash his hands before he carefully flipped open the collection of poems.

When the scholars saw Lu Shu's serious expression, they were stunned. They did not know that there were such practices when reading poems written by the King of Gods.

Everyone looked at Lu Shu's clean fingers, then looked at the clear bar of soap. It felt like a ceremony...

The traveling businessmen looked at one another helplessly. They remembered what Great Lord Lu had said to them during their lesson yesterday. "Sales is not just selling items. When you sell something, not only do you have to entrust the object with its basic function, but also give it significance!"

Lu Shu immediately continued. "How do you give it meaning? Make it feel like a ceremony? Let me ask you, what does this mean? This means to give something that is insignificant significance..."

Now, a simple cheap trick by Lu Shu had become the basics of ceremonies in the King's Studies. Before one read the king's poems, they had to wash their hands with soap from Azure Dragon Village...

How mysterious! The traveling businessmen had their horizons widened. After two days of brainwashing, they still doubted the Azure Dragon Village. But Lu Shu's action gained their respect and admiration.

As Lu Shu flipped through the poems, he casually said, "Typically hand washing cannot completely clean your hands. You must use soap. If you flip through the king's poems with dirty hands, you are being disrespectful to the old King of Gods..."

The scholars and traveling businessmen almost vomited blood. How shameless!

Although the new King of Gods had taken over the throne, he had never rejected any of the old King of Gods' contributions. Thus, the people in this world still continued to respect the old King of Gods. Some of the King's Studies scholars were extremely passionate.

But with Lu Shu's actions, if someone looked through the king's poems without washing their hands with soap, they would be disrespecting the old King of Gods...

Although the scholars felt that it was somewhat nonsensical, but... it suddenly felt very important. It was very elegant!

In reality, Lu Shu knew that some things were held in high regard precisely because they were involved in ceremonies. He had just linked the ceremony with soap for the scholars...

The traveling businessmen felt that this personal experience was a classic. They had never seen this before!

Lu Xiaoyu rolled her eyes at the side. She silently said, "How terribly shameless."

Four days later, the traveling businessmen left. They had all come from afar with the intention to earn money, but left with a devout passion. It was not that they had been brainwashed. It was just that when everyone realized how fashionable the king's poems were, a ceremony would allow them to earn money!

This was similar to some religious organizations that needed products like joss sticks. Their business was flourishing!

After that, the saying that one had to wash their hands with soap before reading the king's poems or it would be disrespectful to the old King of Gods spread like a virus. The traveling businessmen repeated Lu Shu's actions in a frenzy...

They marketed their products in a frenzied manner in order to earn money. It was also a subversion of ceremonies in the King's Studies. If scholars of the King's Studies did not bring a bar of soap with them, they did not have the courage to say that they were out on a meeting...

Lu Shu stood on the wall around the Azure Dragon Village and looked at the mountains in the distance. There were too many cases like these on Earth. Diamonds were a global scam in the name of love.

Far too many people have been scammed and kidnapped in that era. But no one was willing to wake up to reality, as there was joy in this.

895 INVASION OF BLACK FEATHER ARMY

Lu Shu was an experienced businessman on Earth. He had sold things like boiled eggs, stinky tofu, and even magical stones to large organizations. Yet, he had never felt the same sense of accomplishment as now, as if he was standing at the frontier of a new age...

At that moment, he understood why the old King of Gods liked the Luniverse, because his modern knowledge made him appear exceptionally smart among the "caveman" locals. However, Lu Shu was aware that the Luniverse was not where he belonged.

Unexpectedly Lu Shu received an invitation from Ye Xiaoming, the leader of Wei Wu Army, to a visit at his mansion.

Although Lu Shu had not been taking Ye Xiaoming seriously, he would still give him 10% of the profits earned from his soap business once in a while. Lu Shu knew that there had to be something extraordinary about Ye Xiaoming given that he was an orphan, yet he had become the leader of an army. Thus, Lu Shu did not want to corner him either.

That was all.

Sitting on the village wall, Lu Shu looked down at the man who had come to deliver Ye Xiaoming's message and said, "Tell Ye Xiaoming to come to Azure Dragon Village if he wants a chat."

The man was aghast at Lu Shu's arrogance. He returned to Ye Xiaoming and told him that this overbearing guy actually wanted Ye Xiaoming to visit him personally...

Then, Ye Xiaoming really did as he was told.

Lu Shu smiled at Ye Xiaoming, who was seated beside him, and asked, "What wind blew you here, General Ye?"

Ye Xiaoming answered, "Recently, Nangeng City has broken into a war with Black Feather Army. The situation is worrying. Now that the Black Feather Army suddenly sent two Rank One's to attack Nangeng City together, the city is truly in imminent danger. Our Yun An City will inevitably become the next target if Qing Sai Army fails to defend their borders. Thus, we have to be prepared too."

Lu Shu was confused. "What's your point?"

Ye Xiaoming hesitated and said, "Your Azure Dragon Village thrives on your business, welcoming new itinerant merchants every day. You sent caravans of products out each day for sale. Undoubtedly you are the richest man in Yun An City now."

"Speak proper language."

"I need military funding..." said Ye Xiaoming.

"From Ye Xiaoming's distress, +666!"

No matter how pathetic Ye Xiaoming's life used to be as compared to other generals, he had never asked for funding from the bandits until today...

In fact, this was not the first time that Wei Wu Army asked Azure Dragon Village for money. Now, close to one quarter of the Wei Wu soldiers were planting peanuts, waiting for their Azure Dragon Village daddy to give them daily subsidies.

Over time, it seemed as if Lu Shu had become the true leader of both Yun An City and the Wei Wu Army...

Ye Xiaoming had never seen another strange happening like this in his entire life...

Ye Xiaoming explained patiently, "Think about it, Sir. Will your village not be in danger when Yun An City is compromised?"

Lu Shu agreed. But he doubted whether Ye Xiaoming could protect the city even with more money. Then, he smiled. "Don't even think about cheating my money. But I'd like to do business with you."

"A business?" Ye Xiaoming was puzzled. "What is it about?"

"Firstly, ask all your soldiers to plant peanuts," said Lu Shu, "Then I'll give you the money."

Ye Xiaoming's face brightened. He knew that the subsidies provided by Azure Dragon Village for peanut farmers were commendable. In this case, he would be able to earn more profits too if all that money had passed through his hands first before being distributed to the people.

Despite the transition from the lord of a city to that of a farm, Ye Xiaoming did not mind that much in the face of the huge sums of money offered, which had even relinquished his persistent thoughts of suppressing Azure Dragon Village.

Ye Xiaoming asked, "What else?"

"You'll have me in your Wei Wu Army. And, recommend me to the Sword Hut," said Lu Shu with a smile of victory beaming on his face.

Lu Shu had wanted to join the Wei Wu Army through a legitimate way, but who would have expected him to become a bandit in the end? Yet, unyielding in the face of challenges, Lu Shu had not forgotten his dream of going to the Sword Hut in search of a way to go home!

Upon hearing Lu Shu's conditions, Ye Xiaoming suddenly babbled on excitedly, "Do you want to go to the Sword Hut? That's great! In that case, I can give you the quota for free even without the deal! I can write you a recommendation letter with my tiger stamp right away! When are you leaving, Sir? Let me wish you every success in your admission into the Sword Hut!"

Lu Shu was speechless.

He looked at Ye Xiaoming, feeling as if he had been bullying Ye Xiaoming for too long and now that he was leaving, Ye Xiaoming could hardly conceal his pleasant surprise...

In fact, Ye Xiaoming had been wracking his brains thinking about how to chase away this lord of Azure Dragon Village. But considering his extraordinary powers, he knew very well that he could not force him out with violence...

As a famous general in the South State, Ye Xiaoming had never been so aggrieved before!

Yet, the demon himself wanted to leave. This was... freaking awesome!

In the past, the aristocrats bribed Ye Xiaoming to send their talented sons to the Sword Hut. But this time, Ye Xiaoming would willingly pay for Lu Shu's application... Whatever it took for Lu Shu to leave!

If Ye Xiaoming was the emperor of Yun An City, Lu Shu could probably be his backstage ruler...

Lu Shu was speechless at Ye Xiaoming's visibly pleased expressions. After a while, he dismissed him with a wave. "You may leave, then. Remember to send me your recommendation letter as soon as possible."

"Of course," said Ye Xiaoming. Then, he left in buoyant spirits. Indeed, Lu Shu's intention to go to the Sword Hut was the best news he had heard recently!

However, in less than two hours, Li Heitan rushed back with his men from Yun An City. Their armors were broken and there was blood on their faces.

Lu Shu was stunned. "What happened?"

"An elite troop of the West State Black Feather Army has bypassed the Yun Tian Mountains in secret and launched an attack against Yun An City!" Li Heitan reported, panting heavily, "The lord of Yun An City, Ye Xiaoming, was killed by the Black Feather Army on his way back to the city!"

Lu Shu was petrified. At that instant, the only thought on his mind was that... his recommendation was toast.

Why was it so freaking hard to get a recommendation letter? He had disgraced himself by becoming a bandit, yet he still could not get the letter! Just a moment ago, he had

finally persuaded Ye Xiaoming to write the letter for him, but now he was dead! This was insane!

Lu Shu was in shock. This was definitely the worst timing the Black Feather Army could choose to launch their attack!

Immediately Lu Shu and Li Heitan rushed towards Yun An City. From the top of the An Mountain, Lu Shu knew from merely one glance that Yun An City was doomed to fall into enemy hands. While the black soldiers of Black Feather Army charged bravely forward on their fearless horses, the Wei Wu soldiers could only flee for their lives.

896 LITTLE SHU, THE GENERAL OF WEI WU ARMY

Lu Shu returned the black soldier's stare calmly, but the latter did not pause for long. He turned and charged onwards, seemingly determined to slaughter all his enemies.

According to the original plan, the Wei Wu Army should have been stationed on the city walls to defend against Black Feather Army. However, the attack was all too sudden, which left the Wei Wu Army little time to rush back to the city from their military camp in the countryside.

The Black Feather Army was as fierce as a black dragon. They had disrupted the formation of the Wei Wu Army in merely one assault. Compounded with the unfortunate fact that their general, Ye Xiaoming, had been killed on his way back to the city, the troop was in complete disarray...

Lu Shu sighed. Ye Xiaoming was truly a good-for-nothing. He should have at least written him a letter of recommendation before he died!

Now that the general of the Wei Wu Army was dead, how could he possibly obtain

the letter?

The bloodshed outside the city did not stop until night fell. All the doors in Yun An City were closely shut as the folks were afraid that the Black Feather Army might slaughter them all.

Strong and well organized, the 3,000 Black Feather Army soldiers charged forward fearlessly against the 10,000 Wei Wu soldiers. They were unstoppable. Often times a small-scale assault was enough to panic their enemies.

Blood dripped down the slits of their black armor. Their spears were stained scarlet red.

The few survivors of the Wei Wu Army had fled into the mountains, hoping that the Black Feather calvary would not abandon their horses and pursue them so soon.

Meanwhile, Lu Shu and Li Heitan paid close attention to the situation on the battlefield. When Lu Xiaoyu requested to go out for a closer look, Lu Shu did not allow it.

At the moment, he could be certain that the Black Feather soldier who stared into his eyes earlier was a Rank One master. He did not want to take the risk of having Lu Xiaoyu kidnapped by him.

After defeating the Wei Wu Army completely, the Black Feather Army headed southward, clearly showing no intention of entering the city. They were truly the most elite troop in the Luniverse. Lu Shu felt that they were on par with his Flood of Bronze.

Yet, the Flood of Bronze had the advantage of bronze armor, which was a piece of magical weapon, but the Black Feather Army did not have such a luxury.

Gazing at their receding army, Lu Shu pondered for a long moment and concluded. "They are going to trap the Qing Sai Army in a siege. In fact, taking down Yun An City was not their main goal. They simply wanted to breach this weakest point of defense and launch a surprise attack on the Qing Sai Army. This way, it's impossible for Qing Sai to survive..."

Now that a troop of Black Feather Army was charging towards them, the Qing Sai Army in Nangeng City was certainly on the losing end.

Now, Yun An City had become a lifeless place. At night, the entire city was shrouded in total darkness and no light could be seen. The town folks hid in their houses, scared and helpless like cicadas in the cold winds.

Suddenly, a group of Azure Dragon villagers came up to Lu Shu and said, "My Lord, Wei Wu Army has come to seek your protection."

Lu Shu almost laughed out loud. "Ha, the government troops have come to seek help from the bandits! Are they not ashamed? Ask them to leave. We have no obligations to protect them."

The villagers trotted away. However, they returned again when Lu Shu was inspecting the situation down the hill. "My Lord, they said that they are willing to plant peanuts!"

"... Insignificant skill... Let's go and have a look."

Lu Shu walked up the village walls of Azure Dragon Village. Outside were countless

deserters from Wei Wu Army. In a rough estimate, Lu Shu guessed that there were at least 3,000 people...

Under their hopeful gazes, Lu Shu said in a calm voice, "You are soldiers and we are bandits. It doesn't make sense for us to protect you, does it? Besides, there is not enough space in my village to accommodate all of you, even if I wanted to."

"It's okay. We can sleep in the countryside. We only hope that you don't chase us away, sir!" a man shouted. His face was covered in mud, apparently having fought extremely hard for his life...

Lu Shu was still reluctant to accept. "Most importantly, it doesn't reflect well on either of us. We have no connections with Wei Wu Army at all..."

At this moment, someone threw an item at Lu Shu. At first, he thought that it was a secret weapon. The Bishop caught it and passed it to Lu Shu, who stared in confusion. "What is this?"

"This is Ye Xiaoming's tiger stamp. Now that Ye Xiaoming is dead and the Wei Wu Army is in a state of disunity, I, Liu Qianzhi, one of the deputy generals of Wei Wu Army, am willing to follow you as our new general!" As he spoke, the man suddenly knelt down on one knee, and so did the other Wei Wu soldiers. Liu Qianzhi shouted, "All of us used to plant peanuts for you, doing our best to secure a living. In the past, we had always been ostracized inside the Army because we did not agree with Ye Xiaoming's values!"

As if sensing Lu Shu's hesitation, the man continued, "The appointment of the Wei Wu general has never followed any strict procedures. I know the lord behind Ye Xiaoming and I am willing to send him presents on behalf of you, my lord. With

enough money and benefits, we can buy the general position for you! Now that the Wei Wu Army is in a state of utter despair, it is the perfect time for you to lead us, my lord! With the tiger stamp in your hands, we are willing to follow you!"

Was this supposed to be a joke?! Lu Shu drew a startled breath. An outsider as he was, he had wanted to join the Wei Wu Army in a low-key manner but ended up as a bandit. Then when he wanted to ask Ye Xiaoming for a recommendation letter, that guy was dead. And now that he felt sorry for the dismal state the Wei Wu Army was in, they had just pledged to follow him as their new general...

Was this Luniverse a fake world?!

That was truly an eventful day. Yet, Lu Shu could hardly muster any joyful emotions at the moment. Instead, he was doubting the authenticity of his life...

Li Heitan had once told him that those who were willing to plant peanuts for them were good-natured soldiers as they earned a living through hard work. In comparison, most Wei Wu soldiers had gotten used to living off the toil of other people and they were reluctant to get their hands dirty with peanut farming even though the subsidies provided by Azure Dragon Village were really inviting.

Therefore, this group, who were kneeling in front of him and pledged their willingness to plant peanuts, were at least not rotten at heart. They might still be salvageable. In fact, lady luck was on their side because they were on the farmlands when the war began, far away from the battlefield.

Undeniably, this was some good karma...

Hesitant, Lu Shu glanced over the huge group of Wei Wu soldiers outside the village

walls and asked, "Err, are you sure that I can be your general?"

That almost made Liu Qianzhi jump in joy. He knew that Lu Shu was moved by his offer!

Immediately Liu Qianzhi dropped to his knees again and shouted, "We are willing to plant peanuts for you for life, my lord, until the day we die!"

That certainly did not sound like any other pledge of allegiance!

897 PRESSING INTO THE ANT MOUNTAIN

In Nangeng City, the Qing Sai Army was having a hard time. The Black Feather Army swept through their territory like a storm of locusts, and Liu Yizhao had certainly not expected a Rank One enemy in their very first encounter. The man had almost killed him in the first wave of attack.

Nevertheless, Qing Sai Army was a troop of Practitioners. They had long since developed magical weapons especially served to defend against Rank One's who could fly in the air. Usually, such weapons would be carefully stored and preserved in the armory, but thankfully Liu Yizhao had good foresight this time.

The Black Feather Army bore down menacingly. Thus, Liu Yizhao had a bad hunch that their attack would be fiercer than any previous ones. Hence, he had ordered his most trusted men to bring along weapons especially against Rank One's.

Now that Nangeng City was in a siege and their support forces had been delayed, Liu Yizhao had prepared to yield. He had no resolution to be destroyed together with his city.

Their support forces, Fiery Army of the South State, were now guarding the Li Yang Pass over 500km away. They would have arrived within two days if they had wanted

to help them out of their plight. However, Liu Yizhao was well aware that they had no intention to take the risk. Instead, they were more interested in what the Black Feather Army aimed to achieve, by sacrificing Qing Sai Army.

As for the Wei Wu Army in the north... Liu Yizhao had never had any expectations of them...

A trusted subordinate spoke to Liu Yizhao in a low voice, "General, the Black Feather Army is after something grand. It's said that the West Lord of Heaven, Duanmu Huangqi, promised the Black Feather Army feasts and bounties to their officers and men and the appointment of ten more city lords if they could occupy ten cities in South State."

Liu Yizhao shot him a calm look. "Of course I know. The Fiery Army are kidding themselves to think that they would be able to protect Li Yang Pass without us, which is utterly ridiculous. They have forgotten that we share a common fate."

"General, what should we do then?" the man asked softly.

"Abandon the city and give Nangeng to Black Feather Army. Then, head north and roll in the Wei Wu soldiers. I want to see whether Fiery Army can really block the Black Feather Army outside Li Yang Pass!" Liu Yizhao said, his expression frosty. At the moment, the Qing Sai Army had enough forces to break out of the siege before the Black Feather Army launched another round of attack.

Yet, that would sacrifice more than half of their men. Out of the 30,000 Qing Sai soldiers, it would be lucky if a few thousand could survive. However, Liu Yizhao insisted that it was worth the gamble because he did not want all of them to perish there. If the Fiery Army still refused to help Nangeng City, they must have been up to

some cunning tricks.

"But now, some people want us dead. If we go, we'll have no place in South State from today onwards. We may have to live as refugees for the remaining time of our life," said Liu Yizhao with a sigh.

He gazed into the distance at the undulating mountains, wondering if it was possible that someone wanted to take his head by the hand of the Black Feather Army. Yet, he could not voice his concerns to anyone. Although he could report the inaction of the Fiery Army to the Lord of Heaven, Liu Yizhao knew very well that he would have been killed long before he could make it to the Lord of Heaven.

If there was indeed someone pulling the strings behind the Fiery Army, he certainly would not let Liu Yizhao get in contact with the Lord of Heaven.

Liu Yizhao asked, "Have they come back from Tiangeng Town?"

"Yes, sir," the man answered, "We sent our most elite scouting squad to the place you said, but there was no one inside. The squad reported that the place had likely been discovered by the Black Feather Army, and the person inside had cleverly escaped before being caught by the Black Feather Army."

Liu Yizhao heaved a sigh of relief. "Okay. You may leave. Prepare to break out of the siege at midnight."

...

At the moment, Lu Shu looked at the Wei Wu soldiers outside the village walls, distress all over his face. He had consented to their offer out of impulse and ego, but

now he was at a loss over what to do.

However, after he returned to Earth, he could boast about his legendary stories to his friends. After all, he had been appointed the general of an army without much effort and he, a bandit, had obtained legitimate identity over one night...

But the question was there was not enough food to feed so many mouths!

Lu Shu asked Lu Xiaoyu to send Anthony to follow the Black Feather Army from a distance, so as to observe their movement. He did not want his men to fall victim to a swing around of their enemies.

Suddenly Lu Xiaoyu frowned. She whispered to Lu Shu, "Qing Sai Army seemed to have broken out of the siege from Nan Geng City. They ran head-on into the troop of Black Feather Army in the north."

Lu Shu said calmly, "For some reason, I have a feeling that the scale of this war will not be small. Let's pack up and suspend the soap industry. Peanuts will soon become part of our daily diet."

"Okay." Lu Xiaoyu nodded her head.

"Have you found a retreat route in the mountain?" asked Lu Shu.

"Yes. There is a long cavity behind the An mountainous range. When I was searching for alkaline mines, I found a huge underground limestone cave. It stretches for more than 10km, suitable for hiding as there's a water source and the slope isn't that steep either," said Lu Xiaoyu, "But what about food?"

"Luckily, we've been buying peanuts like crazy in the recent days. Now that we have sufficient food supplies, it could at least last us for a while, though we can't possibly survive on peanuts only," Lu Shu said after some consideration, "Besides, the Black Feather Army troop that invaded Yun An City did not replenish their supplies because they had wanted to travel light. I suspect that Ye Xiaoming had certainly harbored food and wealth in his personal storage. Liu Qianzhi also told me that Ye Xiaoming had two private granaries. You can go and take a look with Li Heitan and Liu Qianzhi, and bring back everything you find there in your space ring. If there's insufficient space, ask someone to help you carry it. Be aware of those Wei Wu soldiers. Kill any rebels if necessary."

Special times required special treatment. At this moment, Lu Shu was ready to press into the mountains with Wei Wu Army. Now that Qing Sai Army had broken out of the siege, Yun An City had lost their final line of defense. Thus, the total occupation of Black Feather Army was inevitable.

He had observed the new recruits from Wei Wu Army for two days. As if planting peanuts was their first round of selection, this group of people were actually willing to work hard.

This also proved to Lu Shu that not all homeless people were lazy. Some of them had fallen into the predicament only because they had no other choice. The lazy ones had died in the fight against the Black Feather Army.

At sunset, Li Heitan returned, joy beaming on his face. He had a few sacks over his shoulders. When he saw Lu Shu, he announced happily, "We are rich, my lord. That Ye Xiaoming really had big money!"

Lu Shu let out a sigh of relief. As far as he could see, the one thousand plus people

who had gone off all returned with sacks on their backs, which showed that their visit was truly rewarded. In this way, the shortage of food could be resolved temporarily. Thus, it was a lie when Ye Xiaoming claimed that he had no money for military funding earlier. It was possible that he had asked all the aristocrats and major slave owners across the entire city for money.

On the same night, Lu Shu made an inventory of his stocks. What was the most pleasant was the fact that there were now enough military rations. As a matter of fact, Ye Xiaoming had always perceived Wei Wu Army as his personal property and he did whatever he pleased with the army provisions. His original plan was to make a fortune by storing military food and selling it during wartimes, which in the end served Lu Shu a favor.

"The amount of food should be able to last us for half a year, if we minimize wastage," said Lu Shu, "I wonder when we will have peace in South State."

In the meantime, Lu Xiaoyu was recording the items in the inventory with full attention. On her face there was a look of maturity and seriousness that did not match her actual age. Now, this little girl had become a competent secretary for Lu Shu. It was not because she liked the chores, but that she wanted to help Lu Shu with his work.

To Lu Xiaoyu, it was more like a game. She would be by Lu Shu's side if he wanted to play the game.

Lu Shu turned to look at the darkness behind him. "Press into the mountains at dawn!"

Behind him, utter silence befell the bandits and the homeless Wei Wu soldiers. All of them were waiting for Lu Shu to lead them towards a new life.

At this moment, none of them would have expected the glorious reputation that Wei Wu Army would enjoy in the future. That night was the turning point.

898 SUPERHUMAN SHIFTER

The Qing Sai Army broke away with all their strength. The Black Feather Army, who was approaching them, also did not expect to encounter the Qing Sai Army mid-escape in this wide expanse of flat land. According to their plan, they should have laid in ambush between Li Yang Pass and Nangeng City. The chief commander of the Black Feather Army had been preparing and wanted to prevent the Qing Sai Army from joining the Red Flame Army at Li Yang Pass.

Unfortunately, the Qing Sai Army did not trust the Red Flame Army. Thus, they did not intend to go to the east towards Li Yang Pass.

Their encounter in this piece of flat land meant that they had to fight to the death. Liu Yizhao was not a timid and weak-willed person. When he saw that their path had been blocked, he was not afraid. "Follow me and charge. If you die, I will take care of your family. If you live, I will drink with you!"

Liu Yizhao had been in Nangeng City for over ten years. He did not expect that the arrival of the Black Feather Army would waste all of his previous efforts. It was said that compassionate people could not lead armies. Liu Yizhao knew this very well. But every death of his subordinates made his heart bleed.

Since they had come here, they could not go back. Liu Yizhao could not die yet. He still had his mission!

Liu Yizhao could only rejoice that he had taken pains to nurture the Qing Sai Army. Those who were able to be here today were not only the elites, they were also

completely loyal to him!

The Qing Sai Army suddenly charged forth. The Rank One commander from the Black Feather Army soared into the sky. He threw a long spear in Liu Yizhao's direction. It produced a sharp sound as it fell through the sky.

As long as he could charge into the formation and kill Liu Yizhao, they would defeat the Qing Sai Army without a fight!

But the next moment, he saw Liu Yizhao fly into the sky as well. The red-tasseled spear in his hands trembled, and a Siberian Crane flew out of the spear!

When Liu Yizhao took charge of Nangeng City, he was only a Rank Two. But this did not mean that he had remained as a Rank Two after over ten years.

He had hidden his inadequacy in the eyes of others. But he did not expect to be involved in someone else's plan even though he had remained low. His life was at stake now. Liu Yizhao charged forward with full strength!

"Where is the superhuman shifter?" Liu Yizhao roared.

One of his trusted subordinates took out a ball with a lotus engraved on it. He squeezed it with force. The lotus suddenly started to glow. Many fluorescent and transparent petals flew out towards the commander of the Black Feather Army!

The commander, who was dressed in black armor, had an unpleasant premonition. He quickly retreated, but it was too late!

The superhuman shifter! The owner of the Sword Hut had once casually tossed it to

Liu Yizhao. It could only be used once. Thus, Liu Yizhao treasured it. But not many people knew that he had the superhuman shifter. He was afraid that he would not be able to keep his position as the head of Nangeng City. There were petals on the ball which the owner of the Sword Hut had carved. They had the ability to kill a Rank One.

The petals flew very quickly. Liu Yizhao stuck himself to the commander and did not give him the opportunity to run away. The two of them fought like eagles in the sky. The people on the ground had no way to interfere.

The moment the Qing Sai Army and Black Feather Army came into contact with each other, the flood of red and the flood of black suddenly collided and attacked each other. It was as if lava from a volcano that had just erupted came into contact with the river!

There were roars and the sounds of metal clashing. It sounded as if something was burning.

Suddenly, Liu Yizhao raised his leg and kicked the long spear that the commander was using to protect himself. They were over 100 feet apart in the air! Then, the petals of the lotus cut through the black armor that the commander was wearing and pierced through his body!

Liu Yizhao sighed internally. In the end, he had used this weapon. He watched as the petals and the ball fell along with the commander and disappeared.

The armies fought each other at close quarters. Whether or not they had a commander were two different concepts. Liu Yizhao led the Qing Sai Army to charge forward, while the Black Feather Army started to disperse!

Needless to say, the Black Feather Army was made up of the most elite soldiers. Even if their commander died, they would still fight to the death. They stepped into the breach to replace their fallen comrades!

No one from the Black Feather Army had escaped. Only dead bodies were left on the battlefield!

The Qing Sai Army, which had 3000 people when they escaped, was left with only over 1000 people.

Liu Yizhao turned and looked at Nangeng City, which had ceased to exist. "The Wei Wu Army is definitely done for. We will change our escape route! Leave your horses here. We are going into the mountains!"

The Black Feather Army had come from the same direction as Yun An City. Thus, Liu Yizhao was certain that the Wei Wu Army was done for. The Black Feather Army had come from the back. To prevent their escape routes from being sealed off, they definitely had to kill the Wei Wu Army. If not, what if the Black Feather Army wanted to retreat, but had to face the Wei Wu Army? It would cause them even more trouble, right?

Liu Yizhao had no way to confirm whether there were any soldiers from the Black Feather Army on guard in Yun An City. Thus, leaving their horses here and going into the mountains was the best decision.

For a period of time, Liu Yizhao felt that they were surrounded by enemies, isolated and without help. They were slightly desolate.

His subordinate said, "Commander, we can be considered as lonely souls."

Liu Yizhao laughed. "But we are also souls with bare fangs and brandish claws! Let's go!"

Behind, the Black Feather Army spread like locusts and wreaked havoc in the south. There were only ten positions for the heads of city. There might not be enough for everyone!

The new leader of the Wei Wu Army brought the old, weak and disabled to the depths of the mountain range in the north. They were not in a particular hurry. They were most afraid that the grains they were carrying would get wet and become damp. Thus, Lu Shu allowed them to be more careful.

Liu Qianzhi said sincerely, "We are very glad to have a leader like the Great Lord."

Lu Shu paused for two seconds. "I am happy for you as well."

Liu Qianzhi was confused.

"From Liu Qianzhi's distress, +99..."

Lu Xiaoyu, who was beside them, secretly laughed. Lu Shu was still the same Lu Shu. He could pause, but would never remain silent.

"Great Lord, please do not worry. Although our disorganized soldiers are not of much use, they are not two-faced people. If that was the case, we would have been partners-in-crime with Ye Xiaoming a long time ago." Liu Qianzhi was most worried that Lu Shu did not trust them. This was very important.

After two days, Liu Qianzhi's greatest impression of Lu Shu was although he was occasionally harsh in his words, he was not a moody ruler. He realized that even Li Heitan dared to joke around with Lu Shu.

It was said that a small sign can indicate a great trend. If Lu Shu was not an amiable ruler, Li Heitan would not dare to do so as well.

As for grains and resources, Lu Shu did not intend on taking them for himself. The grains were simply to be stored as reserve grains for the entire team. If it were Ye Xiaoming, he would have to be dying before allowing his soldiers to drink clean water and eat good food.

899 REORGANIZE MILITARY DISCIPLINE

"There are no great saviors, nor do we need superhumans or kings. We have to depend on ourselves to create happiness in the Wei Wu Army..."

The group travelling in the forest started to sing. It echoed through the forest and scared the birds.

Lu Shu had felt that the march was far too dry. Thus, he had adapted the lyrics of L'Internationale and taught the soldiers of the Wei Wu Army. To be honest, these people were once slaves. They were actual slaves who still had the seal of a slave in their bodies. Thus, it was easy for them to relate with this song.

At first, everyone did not like this adaptation very much. The plays and songs that they had heard were very different from this. Thus, they found it hard to accept the song.

But as they sang, they felt that it sounded good...

There were times when people needed to get used to new things. Lu Shu had the right to force them to get used to it...

At first, Lu Shu did not accept this. Why was the old King of Gods appreciated for the poems that he had copied, but his song was not appreciated? Who were you talking to?!

In the end, the more the Wei Wu army soldiers sang, the more they liked the song. They could not help but sing. The more people that sang, the more vigour they sang with. It was as if the march through the forest had become much more relaxing...

Even if Lu Shu did not allow them to sing, they could not help but hum. It was as if they had started a new life.

The campsite that Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu headed for was over 50 kilometers north of the Azure Dragon Village. They took two full days to walk there. After all, Lu Shu did not make them walk at full speed for the entire day.

If they encountered any animals along the way, they would hunt these animals and take the meat along with them. Food supplies were running low and every morsel counted. If the conditions allowed for it, Lu Shu would ask everyone to capture these animals alive and rear them in the future.

He had done preparations for a long war. After all, wars could last for several years.

When they reached the campsite, Lu Shu stood on a high slope. As Lu Xiaoyu had said, the mountain slopes were very gentle. There was a river at the foot of the mountain. The entrance to the limestone cave was halfway up the mountain and covered in vegetation. If Lu Xiaoyu had not surfaced from underground to find ores,

they would not have found this place.

There were few signs of human habitation. There were no specific names of places here either. Lu Shu turned and looked at Li Heitan. "Have you been here before?"

Lu Heitan said earnestly, "Only the Great Lord will come to such an isolated place. Who cares what it's called?"

"Then from today, this place will be called King Lu Mountain!" Lu Xiaoyu exclaimed. She seemed very pleased with herself.

"No, wait!" Lu Shu grabbed Lu Xiaoyu.

Lu Shu was speechless.

"From Lu Shu's distress, +199!"

Lu Shu asked Li Heitan and a few others to light a few torches. They then entered the cave. It was dark, damp and cold. They could even hear the sound of water dripping onto stones. Lu Shu raised his torch. Everyone saw the stalactite, that was shaped like a sword, on the dome.

Liu Qianzhi carefully asked, "Great Lord, this might be where a demon lives. It is far too frightening. Why don't we retreat for now?"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. He then realized that Liu Qianzhi and the rest may have never seen a limestone cave. Thus, when they saw a strange place, they thought that a strong demon lived there...

"Feudalism and superstition kill people." Lu Shu sighed. "This is the result of corrosion of limestone after being exposed to water underground for a prolonged period of time... forget it. Even if I explain, you might not understand. This was naturally formed. No demons live here."

The expressions on Li Heitan and Liu Qianzhi's faces said, "Although I don't understand what happened, it seems very amazing..."

However, they were still unconvinced. Were there really no demons here? But if the Great Lord said so with such confidence, then there were really no demons.

After all, Li Heitan was used to believing whatever Lu Shu had told him. Liu Qianzhi still needed time to adjust.

Lu Shu said to Lu Xiaoyu, "This limestone cave seems like a natural house, but people can't live here. It is too damp. Are there limestone caves elsewhere?"

Not only was it unliveable, items could not be stored in the cave. Grains would go bad in less than half a month.

Lu Xiaoyu recalled. "There are a lot of limestone caves here. They stretch over ten kilometers. But that is made up of over 20 limestone caves that are not connected."

"Then we will connect them," said Lu Shu. "Then, we will construct a concealed passageway at an appropriate place. It can be in a mountain creek, the forest, or a cavern. It is best if it is a place that is hard to find unless discovered by accident. After we connect the limestone caves, they will be our retreat path. The Black Feather Army may not enter the mountains, but even if they do, we are prepared. If we can't directly fight them, we can run, right?"

"Got it." Lu Xiaoyu nodded her head. "After I'm done, I will draw a map. I will do my best to ensure that the entrance is concealed."

Lu Shu had chosen this place to give himself and the Wei Wu Army a retreat path. If the Black Feather Army came, they would definitely be unfamiliar with the limestone caves here. Thus, the limestone caves had become a natural shelter and a passage for escape.

Unless over 100 thousand soldiers from the Black Feather Army extended all over the mountains, they could not possibly find the Wei Wu Army.

If they had food, land, manpower, and a way to escape, Lu Shu could be more relieved.

Lu Shu walked out of the limestone cave and looked at the faces of his soldiers. He sighed with emotion. Could he create a Heavenly Network branch in this world? He did not know whether it was easy to trick them...

He said to Liu Qianzhi, "Split into two teams. One of the teams will build houses. I will give you a blueprint. Build a covered wooden house according to the blueprint. The other team will open up the wastelands. Turn this mountain slope into terrace fields. Here, I will be particular about hygiene. No one is allowed to use the toilet wherever they want. No one is allowed to drink raw water either. Everyone has to bathe everyday. Go to the river now and bathe. Wash your clothes as well. Whoever dares to bring fleas and lice into the campsite will be punished!"

Liu Qianzhi felt slightly awkward. In the past, the military campsite had never cared about this...

But Li Heitan and the rest were all used to it. Back then, when Lu Shu first became the Great Lord of the Azure Dragon Village, he had also forced them to bathe and change their clothes. If not, they would not be allowed within ten meters of the Great Lord...

Thus, since the Wei Wu Army had nothing else to do, all of them jumped into the river to bathe.

The water that flowed from the mountains was very clear. Clean water constantly flowed, while dirty water went downstream.

900 REUNION WITH AN OLD FRIEND

This was a clash between modern and old thought. Lu Shu knew the consequences of the lack of hygiene. He had asked whether Li Heitan and the rest often fell sick. Li Heitan said that some people had died of an illness. He did not even know the exact cause of their death.

Lu Shu and the rest had met many strong creatures in the forest. Lu Shu had even seen a Rank Two creature. This was what he was often worried about. There was a high concentration of magical energy here, but this did not mean that the only ones who benefited were humans.

Lu Shu realized that even the leeches in the dark pools of water could cut the skin of a Rank Three Practitioner. What about parasites? They had definitely mutated as well.

He had caught a leech to experiment with. The leech only died after being submerged in water for a minute. Thus, Lu Shu required the soldiers to boil water for 2 minutes before drinking it.

Thankfully, the river at the foot of the mountain was very clear and was exposed to water. Bodies of water that could reach such a state often did not have parasites. On the other hand, bodies of water with leeches meant that it was not suitable for drinking. Even if the water was boiled, there were still many impurities.

What Lu Shu wanted to do now was to instill his basic knowledge in the soldiers of the Wei Wu Army. He did not care whether they were happy with this or not. He had the final say.

These rough men had never cared about this. During their march, Lu Shu could see fleas and lice in their hair. He was very disgusted.

To resolve the issue of cleanliness, Lu Shu even asked Li Heitan to take out a few boxes of soap for them to use.

When they were by the river, the soldiers softly said, "Does the Great Lord hate us? We have to be naked and allow others to inspect us. How humiliating."

"The Great Lord keeps staring at us. He forces us to strip naked and bathe as well. Could it be..." Someone was absolutely terrified.

"I am not a slave with a seal on my buttocks..." Someone uttered in shock.

When Liu Qianzhi heard this, he glared at them. "Do as the Great Lord says. No nonsense!"

When Lu Shu heard what they had said, his mouth twitched. He finally understood why Zhang Weiyu's tone had been so weird! It was all because he did not have enough knowledge back then!

At first, the soldiers felt that bathing everyday was very awkward. But after they persevered for seven days, they felt... very comfortable!

In the past, even if they had bathed, fleas and lice would jump on them when they returned to the campsite. They were used to the itchiness.

After the campsite focused on hygiene in particular, everyone felt extremely refreshed. It was as if their spirits lifted significantly.

Someone had asked whether the Great Lord hated them. But after seven days, they honestly hated how they were seven days ago.

The first step in achieving hygiene had produced results. Gradually, the houses started to take shape, and crops were planted in the fields.

Although Lu Shu felt slightly tired, he felt very accomplished.

They had obtained wood from the trees they had cut down in the forest. There was an abundance of wood. Furthermore, Practitioners were the ones transporting the materials. It was very convenient.

Lu Shu looked at Liu Qianzhi and the rest. They seemed very familiar with building barracks. He was curious. "You are very skilled."

"In the past, we were the least liked soldiers in the Wei Wu Army. Thus, we did all the difficult labour, like building barracks." Liu Qianzhi smiled. "I was assistant commander and I led work like this."

Lu Shu nodded his head. Indeed, these people were very skilled in such work. But the problem was, how would he equip them with combat power?

To be honest, in terms of pure power, they were not much weaker than that of the Qing Sai Army. Armies were all like this. Those who were more particular about cooperated combat and motivation were stronger overall. But these people were lacking these.

If the Black Feather Army really came, it would be good if the Wei Wu Army could defend themselves, right?

Lu Shu was slightly annoyed. If Zhong Yutang were here, things would be much better. Even if these soldiers were trained like new soldiers, they would be able to produce results in half a year. It was a pity that Lu Shu had never done this in the past. Even when he was a teacher, he only taught individual combat.

He could teach these slaves swordplay, but he did not have the approval of the Hall of Swords. Lu Shu would not keep the way of the Dao to himself. He wanted to pass the knowledge on to others with a clear conscience.

There was a suitable environment for the soldiers of the Wei Wu Army, but he could not train here...

He would put them aside for now. He would think about other things when the house and the fields had been fully constructed. Now, Lu Shu had to train.

He accidentally discovered that the magical energy in the limestone caves was present in a higher concentration compared to Azure Dragon Village. He might as well stay in the limestone cave and train his swordplay alone everyday and increase his power.

After half a month, Lu Shu heaved a sigh of relief. His swordplay had reached Rank Four. With the sword energy, he could even kill a Rank Three!

At that moment, Li Heitan shouted from the outside the limestone cave, "Great Lord! We captured a suspicious person!"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. This place was uninhabited, right? How did they manage to capture someone? Could it be a spy from the Black Feather Army?

He walked out of the limestone cave. When the soldiers from the Wei Wu Army saw their Great Lord walk out of the limestone cave, they would consciously salute in respect. This was not out of force or because of a requirement that Lu Shu had proposed. During this period, Lu Shu had been impartial in handling affairs. He did not embezzle their grains. Although they did not eat particularly well everyday, they did not have to go on empty stomachs.

In this chaotic world, there was nothing more valuable than a ruler who was willing to understand and sympathize with their subordinates. It was as if the soldiers had understood gratitude better than an ordinary person.

But now, this was limited to respect and exerting themselves. Lu Shu felt that if he truly wanted to bring them into battle, this group of people were guaranteed to run faster than mutated rabbits!

Lu Shu followed Li Heitan up the mountain slope. "What happened?"

"It seems as if over 50 ordinary people have come here from the north to escape." Li Heitan thought about it and said, "But Great Lord, you should verify it. They are very

hungry, but very strange. They did not want to drink the water we gave them..."

Lu Shu furrowed his eyebrows. If they were only ordinary people, it would be best for them to stay here. If these people left and spread the news, the Black Feather Army might find out that the Wei Wu Army was still in the mountains.

But when Lu Shu saw the group of people, he was dumbfounded. Li Heitan said, "If you have anything to say, tell it to our commander and Great Lord!"

When he saw Lu Shu, he was dumbfounded as well. "We haven't met for only a short while, but you've become commander and Great Lord... what kind of nonsensical title is that..."

Lu Shu was happy. "Zhang Weiyu, weren't you hiding in the cave? Why have you come here?"

When Zhang Weiyu thought about this, he was annoyed. "The Black Feather Army is for real this time. Luckily, we sensed that something was wrong early. If not, we might have died."

Suddenly, Zhang Weiyu looked at Lu Shu, then looked at the group of people who respected Lu Shu. Two months ago, he was a slave who had escaped. How did he suddenly become the commander of so many people?

Lu Shu seemed to understand what he was thinking. "Before I left, didn't you suggest that I join the Wei Wu Army?"

"Then?"

"Then I incorporated the Wei Wu Army into my own forces," said Lu Shu.