

## Myriad 126

### Chapter 126: All Women Are Obstacles In Cultivation (2)

Apart from the researchers, the most well-known ranking was the Top 100 Ranking meant for the students that had yet to graduate. The Top 100 Ranking excluded those in the Skysoar Realm and those above 30.

The person in first place was Zhan Hai.

Peak Mental Tempering Stage, 99 percent willpower, and 26 years old. He walked the path of Divine Characters, with three Divine Characters mastered. All three were powerful, but the abilities of the characters were unknown.

Additionally, he was also very capable in physical cultivation. He was a ninth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator.

The manual speculated that Zhan Hai was planning to reach the Skysoar Realm through physical cultivation first before materializing his willpower, allowing him to stack the strengthening effect on his body that would appear during the advancement. Of course, the chance of him succeeding was quite low.

If he did not break through in a year or two, he would no longer be able to catch up to the likes of Bai Feng. If they were already in the Cloudbreach Realm by the time he reached the Skysoar Realm, not even double-forging would allow him to catch up with them. Furthermore, those people were all freaks too. They each had something they were good at.

"Zhan Hai..."

Su Yu was only casually reading about the researchers as he flipped through the pages. As for Zhan Hai, he did not know that person. Nor was he interested in knowing that person. He was only curious as to the strength of someone on the first place of the Top 100 Ranking.

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Before long, Su Yu found the information he was looking for.

Top 100 Ranking, a ranking for students below 30.

Any student with 100 or more total earned merit is eligible to challenge a top 100 student.

For each challenge, the student is required to pay a fee of 10 merit points. If the challenger fails, the challenged student will receive the merit points.

If the challenger succeeds, the merit points will be returned to them.

The students on the ranking were grouped into multiple categories of 10. Those from the 91st to the 100th place will receive 3 merit points per month.

Those from the 81st to the 90th place will receive 4 merit points per month.

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Those from the 21st to the 30th place will receive 10 merit points per month.

Those from the 11th to the 20th place will receive 15 merit points per month.

Those from the 4th to the 10th place will receive 20 merit points and an Infinite Strength original text per month.

Those on the top 3 will receive 30 merit points and an Infinite Strength original text per month. Those staying on top 3 for half a year will receive a chance to enter a secret grotto. Those staying on top 3 for a year will receive an additional drop of divine or devil blood essence.

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Su Yu was stunned.

The rewards were too generous. Those on the top 3 could get 30 merit points and an Infinite Strength original text per month. That was a monthly reward, not a one-time reward. One ought to know that a single Great Strength original text could be sold for 30 merit points and above at Nanyuan.

How about an Infinite Strength original text? Just the original text alone was equal to a reward of over 100 merit points per month. And staying on top 3 for half a year would grant one a free chance to enter a secret grotto. As for the first place, one could even earn a drop of divine or devil blood essence.

Su Yu shook his head, "This is unrelated to me. My goal is to get into the top 100 as fast as I can. Then, I can start earning 3 merit points per month..."

That might not sound like a lot, but after a year, he could earn 36 merit points. That was a decent number. Where else could a Mental Tempering Stage student earn that many merit points?

Those Su Yu had earned previously were mostly due to luck. If he hadn't worked alongside the city guards and the Martial Dragon Guards, he would probably only be able to kill a high-stage Great Strength cultivator, earning him 3 merit points. To earn that many each month, he would have to kill a Great Strength cultivator each month.

It wasn't easy for a Mental Tempering Stage student to do that. And this was the capital. He might not even get that chance. Unless he was willing to go to the wilderness and hunt for cult members, it would be a lot harder. But if he actually went to the wilderness, he could easily get himself killed.

"Work hard and reach the top 100!"

Su Yu's gaze landed on the person on the last place of the ranking, Lin Qing.

"You'll be my next target!"

Lin Qing, 100th place on the Top 100 Ranking, a student for 5 years, peak Mental Tempering Stage, seventh-stage Great Strength Realm...

Even someone in last place was so strong. Almost nobody on the ranking was below the peak Mental Tempering Stage. The few that weren't at that level had Infinite Strength Realm cultivation, so they were just as scary.

This top 100 ranking was basically the equivalent of the Great Xia War Academy's Infinite Strength Ranking.

"Infinite Strength..."

Su Yu exhaled deeply. He still didn't have that much strength yet.

Even when using blood essence to obtain the offensive strength of a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator and his Divine Characters, he was probably only strong enough to face a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator.

The moment he encountered an Infinite Strength cultivator, things would turn bad. He had personally witnessed the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator before.

A bunch of high-stage Great Strength cultivators had attacked such an opponent together only to suffer disastrous casualties. Any carelessness would grant the opponent the chance to even win the fight.

Back then, Su Yu had only interrupted that person for a split second and his head already felt like bursting.

And that was only a pure warrior. In the academy, these students had powerful willpower as well. Even Lin Qing in the 100th place was at the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage. Su Yu's Divine Character interruption might fail or even suffer a backlash against an opponent like that. He simply stood no chance against her.

"I'm still not strong enough to challenge the 100th place. Only when I reach the Great Strength Realm and Mental Tempering Stage and further strengthen my two Divine Characters can I challenge her."

Su Yu took a deep breath and clenched his fists. He encouraged himself that he could do it. Life was too hard for a poor person like him.

As for the fact that Lin Qing was a woman...so what if she was a woman? He did not care about gender when he needed to beat someone up. It wasn't like caring about gender would give him merit points.

His mentor was right. All women were obstacles in the path of cultivation. Just look at Lin Qing. She was his first obstacle in the academy.

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At the same time.

Residential District, Teaching Assistant Zone.

In a small villa.

Wu Lan was in high spirits as she spoke to a girl beside her, "Big Sister Qing, I'll be challenging you soon! Wait for me!"

Lin Qing flashed a gentle smile and said, "Lan, you need to get 100 total earned merit points first. But by that time, I might have reached the top 50 already."

Wu Lan clenched her tiny fist and declared unyieldingly, "I won't take long at all! I'm already at the Mental Tempering Stage. Before long, I'll reach the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage. At that time, I'll be able to accept a lot more missions than now..."

The more she spoke, the more excited she was. She continued, "Big Sister Qing, I've decided. After the registration, I'll follow the Great Xia Army out for some missions."

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Lin Qing first looked at her with astonishment. Then, she worriedly said, "Ridiculous! You're planning to accept the Great Xia Army's missions?"

"Of course."

Wu Lan continued speaking with excitement, "Only then would I be able to earn merit points quickly. I know a guy. He's very weak with only 20 percent willpower. But he joined the Windcatcher Department on a mission and managed to kill an Infinite Strength cultivator, earning him an additional 10 merit points. His total earned merit is even higher than mine."

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Lin Qing stared at her for a long time before saying, "I'll tell Teacher about this."

Her teacher was none other than Wu Qi. A 20 years old freak.

After entering the Skysoar Realm, she became a teaching assistant. Five years ago, she accepted Lin Qing as her personal student. Now, Lin Qing had entered the Top 100 Ranking. Meanwhile, not even some junior and intermediate researchers could nurture a disciple capable of entering the Top 100 Ranking.

Wu Lan objected rebelliously, "If that fellow can take these missions, why can't I? I know. You all think that I know nothing. How can I know nothing? Tempering at the edge of life and death is the best way of strengthening myself.

"You're all simply afraid that I would die during the mission. If that really happens, that's my fate. Back then, my elder sister wouldn't have been able to reach the Skysoar Realm so early if it wasn't for the missions she took either."

Lin Qing advised, "Lanlan, you've just joined the academy. You aren't even at the Great Strength Realm yet. It is ridiculous to accept those missions now. That's the same as throwing your life away."

"But he's not at the Great Strength Realm either."

"Who?"

"Su Yu." Wu Lan fumed, "That fellow from Nanyuan. Teaching Assistant Bai Feng's student."

"Su Yu?" Lin Qing muttered and said, "It's different. Lanlan, the students from small cities are willing to risk their lives for a better future. It's different for you. You have a higher starting line. That is a part of your assets. Why neglect your advantage and pursue something that will put you at a disadvantage?"

Wu Lan frowned, "I don't care. I'll keep my eyes on him. Last time, he placed first while I placed second. At the time, he was so cocky when he laughed! I need to repay him for that! And I need to do this myself!"

Lin Qing did not say anything else. However, she had already decided to inform her teacher the moment she left seclusion. There was no way she would allow Wu Lan to mess around.

One of the teachings of the Wu Family was to not take any dangerous missions before the Skysoar Realm. Things would be troublesome if something happened to Wu Lan during one of these missions.

While she was thinking, Wu Lan said, "Since my sister is still in seclusion, I'll be leaving. That fellow is probably here already. He is definitely secretly cultivating somewhere. I need to go back and cultivate as well."

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Lin Qing did not know whether to laugh or cry. This was an academy. Was there a need for that fellow to secretly cultivate? This Wu Lan was clearly seeing Su Yu as her rival.

"Don't be rash. Lanlan, if you really don't like him, I'll teach him a lesson for you."

"No thanks!" Wu Lan furiously said, "I want to compete fairly! I'll defeat him and arrogantly laugh in front of him. I'll make him furious. I've decided. I will no longer accept the merit points of the family. I need to earn my own merit points! I will rely on myself to defeat him!"

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Lin Qing was helpless. She could only tell herself that this Wu Lan was being immature. Was refusing her family's merit points the correct way to prove herself? Wu Lan was too young, too rash, and too immature. There was no comparing her with Wu Qi. Even neglecting their talent, their mentality was very different as well.

When Wu Qi first joined the academy, she was prejudiced against by many people as well. But being born in the Wu Family was one of her strengths. What was the point of denying that?

If Wu Qi had the same mentality as Wu Lan, she wouldn't have been able to come this far, becoming one of the top genius teaching assistants of the academy. Lin Qing gave up on persuading Wu Lan. She wouldn't be able to change her mind.

She could only wait for her teacher to leave seclusion before doing anything. After this cultivation session, her teacher could probably reach the ninth-stage Skysoar Realm.

At that thought, Lin Qing grew excited as well. With her teacher as a ninth-stage Skysoar Realm, if she could quickly reach the Skysoar Realm as well, her teacher would be promoted into a full researcher. After that, she would receive even more support in her cultivation.

#### Chapter 127: Fate Brought Us Together (1)

That night, there were no senior brothers or sisters knocking on their doors like Zhou Hui had mentioned. The night was uneventful.

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Early next morning, Su Yu walked down the building to find Zhou Hui waiting for them.



"Take your luggage with you."

Zhou Hui was in the midst of talking to the gathered students, "When we reach the main campus, free accommodation will no longer be provided. This place is also not free at any other time."

"Take your merit cards, bank cards, and acceptance letters with you."

Around Zhou Hui, the other senior students were reminding their junior students as well.

"We'll get on vehicle #18 later. Don't go the wrong way."

"All of you will be registered and assigned together. As for the faculty choices, some of you will have your faculty chosen for you while some are free to choose your faculty."

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Since they were in a rush, Su Yu and company only grabbed a simple breakfast before leaving. The Visitor District was quite a distance away from the main campus. If they went on foot, some of the physically weaker students would probably be incapable of walking that far. If this was a war academy instead, students so weak physically wouldn't exist.

Before long, they walked out of the building. Outside, a long row of vehicles was waiting for them. Students could be seen everywhere.

There were slightly less than 2,000 new students this year. Some had gone straight to the main campus. Even so, there were still nearly 1,000 new students here at Visitor District. Each vehicle could carry 20 students and there were around 50 of these vehicles waiting along the road.

Su Yu started looking around, wondering if those from the Nanyuan had arrived. He did not know if their journey had been smooth after his departure. There were too many people around and he couldn't see any familiar faces.

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Before long, everyone was on the vehicles.

When Su Yu saw the petite girl called Liu Ke struggling with two suitcases, he offered to help. But she merely looked at him cautiously, worried that he would ask for merit points. Su Yu was left speechless and could only rescind his offer to help. Did he look like a villain or something?

On the vehicle, after confirming that everyone was there, Zhou Hui said, "Everyone, don't run around randomly during registration. When you encounter old students, don't interact with them too much unless you actually know them."

Zhou Hui solemnly said, "I'll be frank. We have a lot of crazies in the academy. Some of them are those whose willpower had collapsed from cultivation. Most of the time, they look completely normal. They won't do anything unprovoked, but the moment you provoked one, you might end up getting beaten to death. Sure, the crazy would suffer the consequences as well, but you would be dead anyway so that wouldn't matter to you.."

Zhou Hui was stern as she warned, "I'm being serious. Don't treat this lightly. Some of these people are even researchers. You should understand how strong a researcher is. A casual strike is enough to take your life.

"Of course, these incidents are rare, but they have really happened before. I'm warning you. If you provoke such trouble yourself, nobody will pity you."

Everyone turned solemn as well. Nobody dared to neglect her warning.

Liu Ke asked fearfully, "Senior Sister, won't the academy deal with those people?"

"Of course the academy would." Zhou Hui gloomily said, "But they can't inspect the academy every single day. Some people have been in seclusion for a long time. After leaving seclusion, nobody would know that they have gone mad if they still behave normally. And the moment they behave abnormally, someone would suffer from that. What else could the academy do in that situation?"

Liu Ke paled as she asked, "We won't meet one later, right?"

Zhou Hui smiled and said, "Don't say that. Normally, the more you say that something won't happen, the easier it is for something to happen."

She was only scaring them. There were really not that many crazies walking around. These new students were the most disobedient lot. The more talented ones, in particular, were incredibly haughty. They were the hardest to deal with.

Since she had two high-tier students in her group, it was better for her to scare them for a bit. The vehicle started moving.

Zhou Hui stopped talking about the crazies. Instead, she said, "When your family and friends visit in the future, they can stay in the Visitor District. When you return late from missions, you can stay here as well.

"Also, there are more food options here. The taste is quite good. A lot of old students like to eat here. This place is actually a famous food street of the academy."

Zhou Hui licked her lips and smiled, "For food, remember to come here. Those in the Commerce District won't do it. That place mostly sells cultivation resources while the Visitor District specializes in food and entertainment. There are also a lot of fashion stores here, so a lot of girls like to shop for new clothes here..."

That caught the attention of the females in the group.

"Not far ahead is a shop called House of Women. Their clothes are pretty and cheap. Feel free to visit when you have some time. If you give my name to the shopkeeper, you can get a discount."

The students were already familiar with her so one of them laughed and said, "Senior Sister, would you receive an introduction fee if you give your name?"

Zhou Hui did not mind and said, "Who cares about a small fee like that? How much can some clothes cost? The clothes there are really pretty. If we're doing introduction fees, we would normally work with those high-profit businesses."

Zhou Hui's gaze landed on Liu Ke and Su Yu as she said, "If any of you want to purchase some original texts, weapons, blood essence, pills, or talismans, you can look for me too. I'll introduce you to some reliable sellers.

"Also, if you don't have merit points but are rich in cash, you can look for me as well. Some of the less restricted resources can actually be bought with cash.

"You can also look for me if you want to buy or sell contribution points."

Liu Ke asked in astonishment, "Senior Sister, private merit point transactions are illegal!"

Zhou Hui smiled, "That is only applicable to large transactions. Small amounts of private transactions are fine. Some of the students can't even afford to feed themselves and put a roof over their heads. They only have a small number of merit points. Are you going to stop them from selling those points for food and shelter?

"Some students come from poor families. If their parents encounter trouble and they need some cash, what could they do apart from selling some merit points?"

Zhou Hui sighed and said, "If possible, nobody would wish to sell their merit points. But there are situations where people are at the end of the line."

All the new students sank into silence, but Su Yu curiously asked, "How many merit points would be considered a large volume?"

"Above 100 points and you would need to start watching your backs." Zhou Hui reminded, "Your merit cards have a notification system for any transaction above 100 merit points. All the transactions are logged."

"What's the exchange rate?"

Zhou Hui said, "For us, merit points are necessities, not cash. The sale of merit points has always been a gray area. Thus, the market rate ranges between 30,000 to 50,000 for 1 point."

"50,000 dollars!"

Su Yu was speechless. That was a very high variance. As expected of unregulated transactions. The difference between the highest and lowest rate was actually so high.

Liu Ke said, "Even with merit points, without enough total earned merit, you won't be able to buy anything anyway."

Zhou Hui rolled her eyes and said, "If you have enough merit points, you won't have to worry about not being able to buy what you want."

"Take me as an example. With my total earned merit, the academy allows me to buy an Infinite Strength original text per month for about 100 merit points each. Those without enough total earned merit won't be allowed to buy any."

"With the original text in hand, I would ignore anyone offering to buy it from me with cash. But if someone offers 200 merit points for it, would I sell it?"

Zhou Hui smiled, "You can actually make a lot selling what you buy through the official channel. Of course, there would be a limit to what you can get from the official channel."

"For example, if I intend to get into the business of Infinite Strength original text selling, I would only be able to sell one per month. In truth, the volume is too small to be helpful. The time they spend waiting for me to buy one book per month could be used to bring their total merit earned up instead."

"There are actually some people specializing in this business in the academy. They will survey the academy each month to figure out what the students need the most for the month. Then, they will start contacting people to buy and sell the resources that are in demand. The academy would turn a blind eye

most of the time, but you would still lose a lot if you are unlucky enough to have your business raided by the academy."

Zhou Hui shook her head and sighed, "Not long ago, we organized a large sale. But the academy raided us and over 100 students lost nearly 10,000 merit points from the raid. And there was absolutely nothing we could do about it."

One of the new students hurriedly asked, "Would the academy really do that?"

"Of course." Zhou Hui gnashed her teeth in anger, "The academy is actually very sly as well. Those reporting an unauthorized transaction will receive one percent of the merit points obtained from the raid."

"Someone must have reported us, making nearly 100 merit points by stabbing all of us in the back. That person better hide well or all those fellows who had lost some merit points to the raid would beat that fellow to death."

Zhou Hui had clearly lost some merit points during the raid as well, but she probably hadn't lost that many. She didn't look that rich anyway. Su Yu merely shook his head and said nothing.

It would seem like this wasn't an easy business to do at all. It would be fine when the academy was turning a blind eye, but the moment one was raided by the academy, one would make a massive loss.

But would the academy actually be unaware of these private transactions? They were merely unbothered about the smaller transactions. Only upon reaching a certain volume of transactions would the academy make a move and raid the black market, delivering a massive loss to all of them.

After a while, the new students finally saw the main campus. They knew they had arrived because there was a massive gate leading into the main campus. Using the word gate was not that accurate. To be precise, a massive archway acted as a gate of sorts. Some armored soldiers could be seen standing guard around the gate.

Su Yu knew that those weren't the city guards. Rather, they were the academy guards. The academy had the rights to establish a private security force.

The Great Xia Cultural Research Academy had 1,000 academy guards. There were a decent number of experts among them.

The eight guards standing around the gate were basically blinding clumps of light to Su Yu's senses. That signified that these people were at the Infinite Strength Realm or beyond. All eight of them were that strong.

"Get off the vehicle," shouted Zhou Hui before leaving the vehicle herself. The new students hurriedly followed behind her.

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A while later, they started lining up to go through the gate.

Su Yu and company were waiting in line when a group of people arrived behind them.

"Get out of the way!"

With that shout, a group of good-looking young men and women walked forward. Leading the group was a man of roughly 30 years old. The group walked straight to the gate without sparing anyone else a glance.

"Open the door."

The regular students like Su Yu were lining up to get through the main gate. Beside the main gate was a smaller door. That door was being opened for these newcomers.

Sounds of discussion broke out.

"Don't they need to line up?"

It was obvious those people were new students since some even had their luggage with them. They were quite young and some were curiously looking around.

One of the students in Su Yu's group was unhappy and asked, "Senior Sister, what is this?"

Zhou Hui wasn't surprised as she said, "Ignore them. Those fellows are from the Beifeng Club. There are many regional clubs in the academy. You should be aware of that. These clubs have paid some money to the academy for priority entrance."

Someone said unhappily, "Why is the academy so greedy?"

Zhou Hui smiled and said, "You can do so if you're rich enough as well. Since they have the money to burn, nobody cares what they do with their money. They are the ones insisting on showing off this way. I'll have you know that for this special entrance, they are paying at least 100 merit points per entry. Would you be willing to pay that much?"

...

Nobody answered.

#### Chapter 128: Fate Brought Us Together (2)

"Not here?" Liu He did not mind. He said, "A high-high student has appeared in Nanyuan this year. He is Su Yu, an outstanding student Assistant Bai Feng had accepted in advance.

"A genius like this will easily rise to prominence in the academy. It won't take him long to reach the Skysoar Realm.

"I heard that a high-high student from Nanyuan is much stronger than the so-called freaks from the capital. Why? Because that is someone from Nanyuan.



"When he arrives, everyone should learn more from him. I'll be waiting for him at the Top 100 Ranking. I hope he can surpass me quickly. Otherwise, others will think that Assistant Bai is blind.

"Assistant Bai is very strong. I hope that Student Su Yu doesn't disappoint either."

He then turned and stepped through the side door. The crowd stirred after hearing those words.

High-high genius? Student of a genius teaching assistant? Even stronger than the freaks? They naturally understood the meaning behind Liu He's words. He sounded like he was praising Bai Feng, but he was actually insulting Bai Feng in an indirect manner.

Back then, Bai Feng had refused to accept him. Now, Bai Feng had finally accepted a student. He would be waiting for that student in the Top 100 Ranking. Could that student even enter the ranking?

By saying those words, he could both insult Bai Feng and attract some trouble for Su Yu. After all, he was a Nanyuan genius. He was better than the freaks of the capital. Could he shoulder such a praise?

Beside Liu He, a young man smiled and said, "Big Brother Liu, why bother? He's just a new student. Those fellows from the Xia and Hu Families won't even bother. Be careful lest they come looking for you instead..."

Liu He calmly said, "I'm not worried about those new students. If they really come after me, I'll teach them a good lesson.

"As for that Su Yu, I don't care how good he is or how talented he is. I just don't want everyone to keep comparing the two of us."

He was Liu He, a student in the Top 100 Ranking. A student rejected by Bai Feng. And Su Yu was a student accepted by Bai Feng. Thus, a lot of people had been comparing him with Su Yu, using him as a prop to boost Su Yu's reputation. He was very unhappy about that.

That was basically the same case as his elder brother Liu Hong and Bai Feng, with his elder brother being the one used as a prop to showcase Bai Feng's talent. It didn't matter if those two were geniuses. But why must Liu Hong and Liu He be their stepping stones?

Liu He did not say anything else. In truth, he didn't really care that much about Su Yu. He had only said all those words earlier because his elder brother had said that they should humiliate Bai Feng any chance they could get.

Since Bai Feng was not willing to show them any respect, they would do the same to him. It wasn't like it was a secret that Liu Hong and Bai Feng were rivals. Everyone knew the two disliked each other.

After a while, he suddenly spoke, "Su Yu is only a new student. He is not worth our attention. Don't waste too much effort on him. Just put him in his place if you happen to see him. Your actual priority is to get into the Top 100 Ranking as soon as possible. The more people we can get in the ranking, the more stable our position would be in the academy."

"Don't worry, Big Brother Liu. We will try to get into the ranking in one year."

"I hope so."

Liu He didn't really have much hope that these people could really do that. They were all new students. Not everyone was like him, capable of getting into the Top 100 Ranking in one year.

Many of these people were high-tier students, but the academy would accept over 100 students like them each year. If the Top 100 Ranking was so easy to get on, that wouldn't be the goal of so many students.

...

At the same time.

Zhou Hui and the students in their group looked at Su Yu in astonishment. Su Yu from Nanyuan! Was that him?

Zhou Hui and Liu Ke were able to guess Su Yu's identity, but the other students in their group were still clueless. The two were looking at Su Yu with odd gazes.

Liu Ke asked worriedly, "Su Yu, are you the same Su Yu he was referring to?"

Su Yu nodded with a smile.

"Then...you..." Liu Ke did not know what to say. She whispered, "You've offended him greatly!"

Su Yu smiled and said, "I don't even know him. How did I offend him?"

Liu Ke said, "After those words, those freaks will start targeting you..."

Su Yu laughed and said, "They'll come after me just because of those words? In that case, these people wouldn't be freaks. They would be fools. And against fools...I still believe in my ability to deal with fools."

Su Yu shook his head and continued, "The true freaks wouldn't target me because of those words. Instead, they would look for Liu He.

"The further you can see, the higher you can reach. If they really come after me because of this, they aren't true freaks. At most, they are people with a good starting line. I am not afraid of people like them."

He was serious. If those people would really target a student with a lower score than them in the entrance examination just because of those words, were they really freaks? Or were they fools?

People that were so rash and impatient were truly not worth fearing. If someone tried inciting him by saying that a high-middle student was much better than him, would he go after the high-middle student? Unless that high-middle student was the one looking for him, he wouldn't.

Beside him, Zhou Hui looked at him with a deep gaze before saying with a smile, "Junior Brother Su, you're very impressive. Even I was worried for you earlier when Liu He spoke, but you seem completely unbothered."

A look of anticipation covered her face as she asked, "Junior Brother, are you really a high-high student?"

"Yeah."

"I heard...cough, cough, I heard that the Mark of Culture was damaged during your test. Is that true?"

"I guess."

"Then..." Zhou Hui asked curiously, "Are you really weaker than a true high-high student?"

The other students in the group also looked at Su Yu curiously.

Su Yu smiled and said, "It's pointless to ask me that. You should ask the proctors. But..."

After a slight pause, Su Yu continued, "I believe that my exam result is quite good. I shouldn't be that far off from the high-high evaluation. If anyone believes they can do better, they are free to try me."

Su Yu sounded indifferent, but he was actually quite angry as well. Did everyone really think that he was only a high-high student because of luck?

Hu Zongji believed that. The others believed that as well. They all thought that they would have gotten a high-high evaluation if they had taken the same test.

Dream on!

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Wu Lan was a genius, right? But even she had only barely gotten a high-high evaluation at Nanyuan. Prior to that, she was already a high-middle student in the capital.

"I'll keep a low profile for a bit. After reaching the Great Strength Realm and Mental Tempering Stage, I'll challenge the Top 100 Ranking. Liu He...hmp. You will be my next target after Lin Qing!"

Su Yu was gnashing his teeth in anger. No matter what, he was still 18. He couldn't avoid feeling angry after having his ability questioned so many times.

He had stayed silent when Liu He was looking for him earlier. Since he was still weak, he would only humiliate himself if he stepped out. It was completely pointless for him to carry out a verbal spar with Liu He either.

After all, a dog that bites would not bark—cough, cough. A low profile individual would not waste his breath with empty words. He would wait until he was strong enough before stepping on the face of his opponent. That was what a real man should do!

"Hu Zongji, Liu He...I'll remember this."

Su Yu noted the two names down. He only needed to teach Hu Zongji a small lesson. As for Liu He, he needed to be taught an even bigger lesson.

"There's also Zhou Tianqi and his friends..."

"There's also Liu Hong...after I beat up Liu junior, maybe Liu senior would show up..."

"Would Hu Youhui take part as well?"

Su Yu sank into thought. He wondered if he should start keeping a diary like Chen Hao and note down the names of the ones who had wronged him. In the future, he would take his revenge on them one by one.

Chen Hao's dream was to take revenge on his father by emptying his father's pocket one day. As for Su Yu, he was far more ambitious. He wanted to empty the pockets of all those fellows!

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As Su Yu contemplated in silence, the others thought that he did not wish to continue the topic. Thus, they stopped asking. Even so, they were starting to pay him more attention. After all, he was a high-high student.

...

At the same time.

Deep in the academy, within a research center, Bai Feng answered a call and spoke while yawning, "A new semester is starting? That's fast. Liu He said some harsh words at the gate?"

Bai Feng blanked out. "Who's Liu He?"

...

The other person on the line blanked out as well. After a while, he said, "Liu Hong's little brother."

"Ohhh, I see." Bai Feng complained, "Can you stop mentioning these unknown names to me? Just say he's Liu Hong's little brother. I'm very busy. I don't have the time to remember all those names."

"Remember. If it's someone from the Xia Family, just say Xia Yuwen's nephew or brother or grandson or anything. The same goes for those from the Hu Family. Just don't mention their names. I won't know who they are."

"Su Yu is already here, right? Did that kid show himself earlier?"

...

"No?" Bai Feng muttered, "Is he this patient? It's not good to act like an old man when you're a young man. He should declare war against Liu Hong's little brother! What is he afraid of? Just challenge him to a duel three months later. The loser will shut his mouth. That is how a real man should act!"

The other person on the line was really tired of speaking with Bai Feng. He said, "Bai Feng, he's a new student. Liu He has been in the academy for a year. He's also in the Top 100 Ranking."

"Top 100 Ranking?" Bai Feng was indifferent. "So what? It's not like he's in the top 10. Everyone below that is worthless. Only those in the top 10 are worth noting. Everyone else is worthless. I won't change my opinion on that."

"He's a new student!" The other person emphasized. He was starting to get angry. Did Bai Feng understand his words?

"Oh, yeah, you're right. It's fine. He can wait a few months before beating that little brother up then. Beat him until he can't walk..."

"Fine. Help me observe him. I'll come out in a few days. Remember, don't let anyone steal him. If anyone tries to poach him, go tell Su Yu that I can help him get into the Top 100 Ranking in three months."

"Can you stop bluffing?"

"What's there to fear? He won't know I'm bluffing. If he can't do it in three months, he can only blame himself for being useless. Would he be shameless enough to say that I'm a bad teacher?"

"Alright. That's all. I'm almost done with my research. If Su Yu dares to go somewhere else, I'll break his leg. If it wasn't for him, would I need to stay in this lab for months?"

"That's your fault!"

The other person was furious. If Bai Feng had not incited their teacher to leave the academy, they wouldn't have to face all these troubles. This was a hole Bai Feng had dug for himself.

Bai Feng couldn't be bothered to argue and ended the call. He then muttered to himself, "This won't do. I need to give that kid a simple lesson after a few days before bringing him to the research center. He can do some odd jobs in the research center or something. I'm so busy I don't even have enough time to sleep. Can his body withstand 20 hours of work per day?"

He made a short calculation and decided that four hours of sleep per day was enough. A genius needed to temper himself properly. Four hours of sleep per day was enough to keep Su Yu alive.

"Many people dream of entering this research center. You should be happy to be given the opportunity to enter, kid."

#### Chapter 129: Independence (1)

Outside the gate.

It was finally Su Yu's turn to enter. He stepped through the gate, officially entering the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy. Towering trees dotted the landscape while colorful flowers could be seen all around the streets. The entire academy was akin to a garden. And in the middle of all that nature, small animals could be seen freely frolicking around. Not far away, some man made lakes could be seen, decorated by elegant lotuses.

"How beautiful!"

Liu Ke exclaimed. The others nodded in agreement. The main campus was truly beautiful. The oppressive atmosphere from before couldn't be felt anymore. Zhou Hui was already used to this environment so she felt nothing.

After giving the new students some time to look around, Zhou Hui said, "Let's go to the Registration Office. You have plenty of time to enjoy this view in the future."



...

A few minutes later, they arrived at the arrival hall.

They still needed to line up.

But this time, 10 counters had been opened for the registration. Thus, the process was rather quick. After about 10 minutes, it was their turn to register.

"Liu Ke...high-tier. Are you staying in the Mental Tempering Garden?"

The person on the counter was an instructor instead of a researcher. The instructor asked, "If you're staying in the Mental Tempering Garden, you need to pay either 50,000 dollars or 1 merit point as the fee."

"I'm staying there." Liu Ke hurriedly nodded. She had heard about the normal dormitory from Zhou Hui. There, she would have to stay with seven other students. It was too crowded for her liking.

She added, "I'm paying in cash, not merit points."

"Ok. 67,000 dollars in total."

After swiping her card, the registration was completed. The entire process did not take long. In the blink of an eye, 67,000 dollars were spent.

Su Yu was in a gloomy mood as he cursed at the academy for being so greedy. What should he choose?

Next, it was his turn. When he submitted his acceptance letter, the instructor checked his profile before looking up in surprise, "Su Yu?"

"Here."

"So you're Su Yu." The instructor smiled, "You're quite famous around here. The Mental Tempering Garden is split into several zones as well. So which zone do you prefer? The common zone or high-level zone?"

...

Su Yu was speechless. Why wasn't the instructor asking if he wanted to stay in the Mental Tempering Garden or not?

But his interest was piqued so he asked, "Teacher, is there a difference?"

"Yes. The common zone is basically a zone of apartment blocks. Each unit is small, but you can still get a unit for yourself. However, you will be surrounded by neighbors. In the high-level zone, you will get an independent villa for yourself. The environment is good and it's suitable for cultivation.

/p>

"There's also the special zone. You can get an independent villa there too, but the source qi density there is far higher.

"For the common zone, you need to pay 1 merit point per year. For the high-level zone, it's 10 merit points per year. The special zone is even more expensive, at 100 merit points per year.

"I suggest you pick the high-level zone. The special zone will put too much pressure on you while the common zone is not too good. As a high-high student, you will get 3 merit points per month from the academy. A fee of 10 merit points per year is really not that expensive for you.

"Not everyone will be given this offer. I'm only asking you because you're a high-high student. Those lower-tier students won't be able to go further than the common zone even if they have the merit points. To enter the high-level and special zones, you need enough total earned merit."

Su Yu felt helpless. He did not have enough money. Or to be precise, he lacked merit points. He had spent all the merit points he had earned previously while the points he had earned on the way had yet to be transferred to him.

"Teacher, I'll be staying in the ordinary dorm."

"Huh?" The instructor looked at Su Yu in astonishment and said, "Kid, don't be too stingy or you'll regret it."

Su Yu helplessly said, "I don't have merit points..."

"Don't worry. I checked. You just received a credit of 42 merit points earlier. I wouldn't have asked otherwise."

...

Su Yu did not know whether to laugh or cry. So it turned out this instructor could see the balance of his merit points. No wonder he was offered the high-level and special zones immediately.

It would seem like the academy had already processed his rewards. They were quite efficient with their work.

Su Yu heaved a breath of relief. With some merit points in pocket, he would no longer feel as stressed. After giving it some thought, he said, "I'll pick the common zone."

He could still afford one merit point. As for the high-level zone, that was too expensive for him. After all, he really didn't want to stay at the regular dorm. There were too many people there for him to cultivate in peace. He could also easily expose himself when consuming blood essence for cultivation there.

"I still suggest that you stay in the high-level zone..."

Despite saying so, the instructor still completed the registration process for him. After completing the paperwork, he said, "Go pick up your books and uniform in the afternoon. You will be given more instructions in regard to that at the dorm."

"Thank you, teacher."

After thanking the instructor, Su Yu was given a key.

...

When Su Yu returned to the group, Zhou Hui asked, "Are you staying in the Mental Tempering Garden?"

"Yeah."

"Great. I'm staying there too." Zhou Hui smiled, "My mission is now over. You and Liu Ke can come with me. We'll be going the same way."

Su Yu had been worried about getting lost. Therefore, he was relieved to hear the offer.

"Thank you, Senior Sister."

"Don't worry about it."

Zhou Hui was no longer concerned about the other students who were still waiting in line. They would receive their accommodation after completing the registration process. She had already told them about the location of the dorms on their way here, so she didn't need to worry about them anymore.

Dragging two large suitcases with her, Liu Ke walked alongside them. While walking, she looked at Su Yu curiously and asked, "Student Su Yu, did you receive merit points from your family earlier?"

She had overheard that Su Yu had received 42 merit points earlier today. He was so rich! Of course, as a high-tier student, she didn't really lack merit points either. She was merely curious since Su Yu was from Nanyuan. She had heard that he came from an ordinary family. How did he get so many merit points?

Su Yu smiled and answered, "Yeah. My father transferred the points to me."

"Uncle Su is so generous." Liu Ke said enviously, "Before I left, my father told me to rely on myself and only gave me 30 merit points."

Su Yu had nothing to say. Was everyone here so rich? Why did it feel like they could easily throw dozens of merit points out at will?

But that was understandable. Their daughter was leaving home and coming to an academy alone. It wasn't cheap to study in the academy and her family would naturally support her the best they could. Even Chen Hao had secretly told Su Yu that his father had given him over 20 merit points before leaving Nanyuan.

They conversed while walking and before long, a garden neighborhood appeared before them. Some guards could be seen around the entrance. Even from the outside, they could see the towering trees in the neighborhood.

Zhou Hui introduced, "The Mental Tempering Garden is very big, but only students below 30 can stay here. New students can enter if they are high-tier students while old students need to be at the Mental Tempering Stage. In fact, most of the Mental Tempering Stage students are staying here. There are nearly 5,000 of them here.

"There are 50 ordinary apartment blocks here. Each block is six-storey tall with 20 units per floor. A single block can house 6,000 students. There's also the high-level zone that is separate from the common zone."

With 50 blocks, this place could be considered a large neighborhood.

Zhou Hui smiled, "The two of you have probably been assigned to block 3 and 4. The students above 30 have already moved out of those two blocks. The academy has emptied them to accommodate the new students."

Su Yu looked at the number on his key and nodded, "Unit 609 of block 3."

"In that case, Liu Ke would be staying in block 4. Block 3 is for the guys while block 4 is for the girls."

Liu Ke looked at her key and said, "Yeah. I'm staying at unit 303 of block 4."

Zhou Hui pointed at the blocks ahead of them and said, "Your blocks are over there. I'm staying at block 28. Feel free to visit me if you're free. You can also ask me if there is anything you don't understand."

As they walked, they could see some old students passing by. But most of the students appeared to be in a rush and were ignoring them.

...

A few minutes later, they arrived at block 3.

That was a regular apartment block. As the Mental Tempering Garden had quite a long history, the building looked rather old even though it had been refitted in the past.

"Su Yu, I won't send you up." Zhou Hui took his leave. With a happy smile, she said, "You have my number. Remember to call me if you need me."

"I will. Thank you for everything, Senior Sister."

"Don't worry about it." Zhou Hui said, "If you stumble on anything good, don't forget your Senior Sister. Old students like us have it hard. Any random benefit from geniuses like you would be enough to satisfy us."

Su Yu nodded with a smile, but he didn't say anything. He could barely get anything for himself, so he couldn't promise anything. Furthermore, he wasn't exactly close to Zhou Hui. Of course, if there was something he could do to help her without much effort on his end, he wouldn't mind helping.

"Goodbye, Student Su Yu." Liu Ke waved at him and hurriedly ran off with Zhou Hui, as though she was afraid of him.

Su Yu was speechless. He did not look like a bad guy. Why did Liu Ke keep treating him like he was some villain?

...

As this was an old building, there was no elevator.

There were very few people in the building since it had been allocated to the new students. The entire building was silent.

On the 6th floor, unit 609.

When Su Yu opened the door, a moldy smell wafted out. It had been a while since the previous resident moved out, so the smell was quite bad.

Before Su Yu could enter the unit, someone laughed heartily beside him and said, "Student, do you need help?"

...

Su Yu turned his head and was greeted by the sight of a chubby, honest, and comical looking guy. When he saw Su Yu looking at him, the guy smiled and said, "Student, you must be a new student as well. The unit is very dirty. I checked earlier. Do you need my help cleaning it?"

Su Yu looked at him and asked, "Is it free?"

...

## Chapter 130: Independence (2)

In the room, Su Yu shook his head and laughed.

He was certain that this fellow would definitely be able to get some customers.

Almost all the residents of the Mental Tempering Garden were high-tier geniuses. Many of them were from large families. These units were too dirty. These students wouldn't mind paying one merit point to have their units cleaned.

"This is quite a good business idea." Su Yu sighed as he grumbled, "I have two Divine Characters, but why don't they have this ability as well? Otherwise, I would definitely be able to earn a lot today!"

There were over 100 units in a single block. Even if the building wasn't fully inhabited, there would be no less than 60 residents in the building. Even if only half of them were willing to pay, he could earn 30 merit points.

That was a big business! He could finish the job quickly and safely to earn the equivalent of what he could earn from killing three early-stage Infinite Strength cultivators.

He was regretful. There was nothing he could do if his Divine Characters were so lame. After setting his luggage down, he scanned the room. Not only was it dirty, it also lacked the usual daily necessities.

"Sigh."

He had to spend even more money! The academy had charged him 17,000 dollars and 1 merit point earlier, leaving him with around 5,000 dollars and 41 merit points.

"Let's clean this place up first."



After picking up a random rug, Su Yu started cleaning the unit.

...

While Su Yu was cleaning, there were more and more activities in block 3.

The new students were moving in one after another. Not everyone could afford staying in the high-level zone. And even some who could afford it wouldn't be willing to stay there. It would be too much of a waste to spend 10 merit points per year just for a slightly better accommodation.

Some of the students also chose to stay in the common zone only because they enjoyed the lively environment there. A villa was good, but it was too lonely living alone. The apartment block here felt much more welcoming than an empty villa.

As for the ordinary dormitories, they were too crowded and would not be beneficial for one's cultivation. The common zone of the Mental Tempering Garden was perfect. Each student would get a single apartment unit while everyone would be in the same building.

As block 3 bustled with noise and excitement, a chubby guy was moving all over the building, earning a sizeable sum of merit points. While the old students were still worrying over making merit points, this chubby guy had already earned more than 10 merit points just by cleaning some apartment units.

"Making money is quite easy!"

The chubby guy remarked to himself. This felt too easy. This was his first day in the academy and he had already earned more than 10 merit points. And there seemed to be even more new students arriving. He could probably earn at least 30 merit points by the end of the day.

He was currently busy cleaning an apartment unit. Beside him, the student asked curiously, "Student, what is your Divine Character? Is cleaning its sole ability?"

The chubby guy smiled and said, "That is its only ability for now."

"That's a waste of an ability. What a pity."

The student felt regretful for him. He said, "By the way, what's your name?"

"Xia Huyou."

"Xia Huyou(Misleading scammer)?"

The student was stunned. What sort of a name was that?

The chubby hurriedly explained, "No! It's Xia for Great Xia, Hu for tiger, and you for especially. Xia Huyou, that's my name."

"Xia?"

The student asked blankly, "Don't tell me you're from that Xia Family."

"You can say so. I'm a distant relative of the family."

Xia Huyou had a helpless tone as he said, "The Xia Family has been in existence for so many years. There are a lot of people with that surname walking around nowadays. But apart from the direct descendants of the Great Xia King, the rest of us are basically the same as the regular people."

The new student nodded, "True. Otherwise, it would be too scary to imagine a Xia Family member cleaning my room for me. By the way, I heard that someone from Marquis Xia's line is joining the academy this year. Do you know about that?"

"Yeah." Xia Huyou curled his lips and said, "It's a girl. What's her name? I forgot. That's a cocky fellow. But she's not staying here. She's staying at the special zone instead. What a wastrel. She's actually spending 100 merit points per year just for accommodation."

"Marquis Xia is rich. He's the number one merchant of Great Xia. Would he care about a little bit of merit points?"

The new student was impressed as well. Some people simply lived a much better life than others. Not even some of the bigger families would be willing to spend 100 merit points just for accommodation.

When the new student saw that Xia Huyou was so talkative, he asked, "You have been everywhere. Do you know if there's any big shots in our block?"

"The freaks are either staying in the high-level zone or the special zone. As for our block...the strongest is probably the fellow in unit 609. Su Yu from Nanyuan, a high-high student."

"Su Yu?" The new student said, "The fellow who got a high-high evaluation due to a damaged Mark of Culture?"

"You know that as well?" Xia Huyou said in astonishment, "Don't tell me you really believe that he only managed to get high-high evaluation because of a damaged Mark of Culture?"

"Is that not the case?" The student said, "That's what I heard. His willpower is weak yet he managed to get a high score during that test. He's not even at the Mental Tempering Stage. If the Mark of Culture isn't broken, would he be able to get a high-high evaluation?"

Xia Huyou smiled and said, "Think what you want, but I advise you to not provoke that fellow. No matter what, he's a ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator. Fresh Mental Tempering Stage students like us can probably be killed with one slap by him unless we have powerful Divine Characters."

"Ninth-stage Source Opening..."

The student nodded in agreement. True, their willpower might be stronger, but a lot of them were rather weak in physical cultivation. Provoking Su Yu was basically the same as asking for a beating.

"Those freaks won't fear him. I heard some of the freaks are already in the Great Strength Realm."

"But that has nothing to do with us."

Xia Huyou was already done cleaning the room. While walking away, he said, "Feel free to call me if you need anything in the future! I'll give you my card later. I provide apartment cleaning services three times per week. You can hire me instead of doing it yourself!"

"Sure. Thank you, Student Xia."

"You're welcome."

/p>

A wide smile appeared on Xia Huyou's face. See, it was so easy to earn money! And people here were even thanking him after paying him. If he could expand his cleaning services to the entire Mental Tempering Garden, he would be rich! But he had heard that the academy provided the same services as well.

Before long, he arrived at the 6th floor. He was staying there as well. He wouldn't have encountered Su Yu so early otherwise. His gaze landed on unit 609 curiously. The door was shut.

Xia Huyou raised his brow. Su Yu, high-high student, a genius of Nanyuan, and a student of Liu Wenyan. He seemed like a nice guy, but he was too stingy! He was so stingy he wasn't even willing to spend one merit point. If he ended up exhausting himself to death cleaning the apartment, he deserved it!

While he was thinking, the door opened. When Su Yu saw the chubby guy in the corridor, he smiled and said, "Student, can I ask you something? Are there a lot of stores selling beddings downstairs?"

"Not really. There are only three of them in total and there is only one near our place."

"Thanks!"

Su Yu then walked out of his unit and shut the door.

Xia Huyou hurriedly asked, "Do you really not want my help with it? It's very cheap! I'm only charging 100 dollars. If you don't have cash, you can swipe your card instead. My business accepts cards!"

"I'm good. Thank you for the offer."

Su Yu was smiling politely, but inwardly, he was cursing. Dream on! Was 100 dollars not money? Paying 100 dollars for someone to go downstairs for him? Did he not have legs himself?

"By the way, where's the cafeteria?"

"It's quite far, but still within the Mental Tempering Garden. It's in block 15."

Su Yu nodded and asked again, "Student, you can consider buying some meals over. Since everyone has just arrived, they are probably tired and too lazy to go that far. You can probably earn some money selling food."

Xia Huyou sighed and said, "I wanted to do that as well, but the profit margin is too low. The food in the cafeteria is too expensive. If they have to pay enough for me to profit as well, they might as well leave for some fine dining instead."

"Is the food there really that expensive?"

"Yes." Xia Huyou nodded and clenched his teeth in fury, "You need to swipe 1 merit point there to get a credit of 10,000 dollars in the cafeteria. Each meal is worth hundreds of dollars. You would probably end up spending 1 merit point per month to eat there."

Su Yu was speechless. Damn it! The academy must have gone crazy from greed!

"How about those without merit points? Are they going to starve to death?"

"Not really. You can always cook. You can also eat at the Visitor District. They accept cash there and the food there is priced fairly. Only the cafeteria here is overcharging their food."

...

Su Yu laughed helplessly. After arriving at the academy, he realized how poor he was and how greedy the academy was.

When Xia Huyou saw that Su Yu was being chatty, he followed Su Yu and said, "Student, in the academy, you need to learn to make your own money. The academy encourages its students to be independent. Otherwise, it won't be able to support so many people, especially when everyone is a cultivator."

Su Yu nodded. That was true. There were nearly 100,000 people in the academy. That was too many people for the academy to support.

"We are all new students, so there won't be that many ways we can make money. We can't even get those missions. You might think that all the new students are very well-off now, but wait a few months. At that time, new students will probably be the same as beggars."

Xia Huyou sighed and said, "We need to look for our own income. Relying on family alone won't work."

"Yeah." Su Yu nodded again.

Xia Huyou lowered his voice and said, "Brother, I have a good money making idea. Are you interested?"

Su Yu looked at him and said, "If it's guaranteed to make money, why are you looking for me? We don't know each other that well, right?"

"It doesn't matter. We will be close after getting to know each other." Xia Huyou smiled and said, "You're Su Yu. I know you. A high-high genius from an ordinary family, right? Do you want to make some money?"

Su Yu merely looked at him silently.

"It's really very easy. I can promote you and incite some people to challenge you. You can charge them for each challenge, earning money regardless of the result. What do you think?"

...

Su Yu smiled and said, "Why don't I promote you instead? You can be the fighter."

Xia Huyou helplessly said, "I wish. But I'm not as well-known as you. You're quite famous and the Mark of Culture happened to be damaged during your test. Many people believe that you're not qualified to be a high-high student. This is a good chance. You should grab any money you can. After your talent is revealed, you won't be able to do this anymore."

"Forget it. I'm not interested."