

Myriad 141

Chapter 141: Multiple Divine Character Fusion (2)

Su Yu glanced at Xia Huyou. Those words sounded wrong. It almost felt like he was joining the faction just for the sake of waiting for its inheritance.

Xia Huyou did not care what Su Yu thought. He continued talking, "I'm telling the truth. Many people are trying to join that faction. A lot of them only want to join and wait for Elder Hong to go bankrupt. When he reaches his limit, he would sell his research center or finally allow investors to join. At that time, the members of the faction would all get rich. What a pity. It has been dozens of years but that has yet to happen."

Su Yu asked curiously, "Why didn't he open the research center to investors?"

Su Yu didn't think that it was a big deal. After all, the academy still required their research centers to actually produce results.

"There are many reasons. Firstly, Elder Hong has high requirements. He's not willing to work with just anyone.

"Secondly, it's too expensive. Back then, Elder Hong had asked for no less than dozens of intact corpses of divines or devils from the potential investors. It would be even better if they could offer him a live specimen.

"Thirdly, Elder Hong is also extremely picky. Without forming at least 10 Divine Characters, he wouldn't even accept you into the research character. And I'm talking about those below the Skysoar Realm. Without meeting that requirement, one wouldn't be allowed to participate in the research. Nobody would agree to that.

"And thus, he has never succeeded in finding a good cooperative partner. Nobody can fulfill his requirements."

Understanding dawned on Su Yu. Bai Feng's faction was rich, but not rich in cash. All their wealth had been thrown into the research center. As for how much money they had spent exactly, the amount was

probably astronomical. Otherwise, a faction with a Mountainsea, a Cloudbreach, and a Skysoar with only one student would not be so poor.

Xia Huyou had claimed that the research center could be sold for hundreds of thousands of merit points. He might be telling the truth. That was a project a Mountainsea expert had spent decades on. The amount of resources and effort that had been spent on it would definitely be shocking.

Even if the expert had spent all that time doing nothing except forming source qi liquid, he would have earned a large amount of money by now.

Five members... Su Yu was really speechless. That was too small a faction.

He exhaled deeply before asking, "One more question. Is anyone targeting my faction?"

Xia Huyou coughed before saying, "That's hard to say. I'm not too sure about that."

"What's so hard to say about that?" Su Yu solemnly said, "Since you know even some secret information, I don't believe that you don't know about this."

Xia Huyou awkwardly said, "That is a really...difficult topic. If I say it, I would end up offending some people."

"You already said enough. Do you think that I wouldn't be able to find out if you stop now? By acting all secretive in front of me, you would end up offending me instead. Is that worth it?"

Xia Huyou helplessly said, "This information is worth a lot of money. Forget it. You can have it for free this time. The next time you ask me something like this, I'll start charging you."

"This is a conflict of the previous generation. Strictly speaking, this is a conflict that has lasted since the fifth principal's time. Fifty years ago, the conflict reached a boiling point, nearly affecting the entire academy."

"I don't know the exact details as the people from back then have been keeping a lot of things secret. I only know that Instructor Liu wasn't the only one to have been expelled back then. A lot of geniuses and those from the older generation were expelled alongside him.

"Back then, the path of multiple characters was very popular in the academy. It peaked during the fifth principal's time. Meanwhile, Faculty Head Zhou and his people are all from the single character faction. In truth, there are more than one single character faction around. There are actually several single character factions around, but not more than ten.

"I heard that during the fifth principal's time, they were suppressed badly. Or to be precise, it wasn't suppression, but they had merely been starving the single character faction of resources since they believed that the path of single character is worthless. In the end, an incident happened with the multiple character faction and a large number of their geniuses were crippled. That gave the single character faction the chance to rise in power. You understand this well. This is a grudge that has lasted for many years. Would the two sides really be willing to bury the hatchet?"

Su Yu finally understood what was going on. Back then, Faculty Head Zhou and his single character faction were considered worthless. They were subjected to constant suppression and prejudice during the fifth principal's time.

But the multiple character faction ended up falling apart while all their geniuses were crippled. Faculty Zhou Head rose to power, and he naturally wouldn't hold back against the multiple character faction.

"Faculty Head Zhou...Zhou Mingren?"

Su Yu muttered to himself as he connected dot after dot, reaching a certain conclusion. And when he recalled Xia Huyou's words about how they had over a thousand members in their faction while he only had five people in his faction...he was speechless.

How miserable. The so-called multiple character faction was probably doing even worse than the weaponsmithing faction. At the very least, the weaponsmithing faction still had a lot of people.

Fifty years ago...and the expelled geniuses. Su Yu recalled Liu Wenyan, wondering if his teacher was also a genius all those years ago. Was he one of the expelled students? In that case, why did his teacher continue sending students to the academy all these years?

Was he not angry? Or was there more to the story? All that thinking was hurting his head so Su Yu decided to stop thinking about it.

He would let Elder Hong and Bai Feng worry about all that. He was still too weak to participate in their conflicts. He was only worried that he would be implicated and his cultivation would slow down as a result.

But when he recalled how well Bai Feng seemed to be doing, he wasn't as worried anymore. There might be some conflicts between both parties, but if Bai Feng could survive and even become a genius teaching assistant, Su Yu was confident he could do just as well.

...

After Xia Huyou left, Su Yu started resting and bringing himself to peak condition. He was going to prepare to activate an Infinite Strength page in his book. If his book ended up not absorbing the Infinite Strength blood essence after he swallowed it, he would receive serious injuries.

Generally, those in the Great Strength Realm would only be able to consume Great Strength blood essence for their cultivation. And Su Yu wasn't even in the Great Strength Realm yet. He was only in the Source Opening Realm.

If his book decided to not absorb the Infinite Strength blood essence, he would be in trouble. The powerful energy within the blood essence would lash out at his body instead. He wasn't so weak that his body would burst apart, but he was definitely going to suffer some heavy injuries.

When night arrived, Su Yu calmed his heart and looked at the iron-winged bird blood essence in front of him. He sank into thought. He had five drops of blood essence, and all of them came from early-stage Infinite Strength beasts.

As for whether they came from first-stage or third-stage beasts, that was hard to judge. There was very little difference between the energy undulations of blood essence within the same minor realm. Unless the seller labeled each drop of blood essence, the buyer would generally not be able to differentiate each drop of blood essence with each other.

"Hopefully they came from a first-stage beast..."

The blood essence of a first-stage beast would be much better suited for the current Su Yu. With his current strength, he might not be able to withstand the activation of the page with a stronger blood essence even if his book did end up absorbing the blood essence.

The strength eruption and source qi absorption speed of a third-stage beast was still slightly beyond his capacity. A first-stage beast would be within the acceptable range. While thinking, Su Yu clenched his teeth and poured a drop of blood essence from the bottle before swallowing it.

Boom!

The blood essence erupted the moment it entered his body. A powerful force started rushing through his body. A split second later, he felt like his body was going to burst apart. Drops of bright red blood appeared on the surface of his skin.

Then, the powerful force vanished from his body. In his mind, the golden book flickered. Su Yu's face was flushed red as he gasped for breath. The eruption of Infinite Strength blood essence was still too much for his body.

...

At the same time.

Heart Cultivating Pavilion, inside a room.

Wan Tiansheng was reading when he looked in the direction of the Mental Tempering Garden. With a frown, he muttered, "What kind of power is erupting?"

Still with the book in hand, he flickered and reappeared above the Mental Tempering Garden. He scanned the area and his gaze landed on block 3.

"New student, Su Yu. Cultivating with Infinite Strength blood essence? Unique Divine Character? Did Liu Wenyan...pass that Divine Character on to him?"

Wan Tiansheng muttered doubtfully to himself. He wasn't too sure. The multiple character faction had performed a lot of research on Divine Characters. They were able to perform a lot of mysterious feats with Divine Characters. After the leading figure of that faction, Liu Wenyan, was expelled 50 years ago, that faction had been in decline.

"Su Yu..."

Su Yu was a high-high genius, so Wan Tiansheng was naturally aware of his existence. And after tonight, his weight in Wan Tiansheng's heart had further increased. Liu Wenyan had sent a lot of students into the academy over the years. Nothing much had come out of that all these time.

But tonight, an abnormality appeared. Su Yu, a mere Source Opening cultivator, was consuming Infinite Strength blood essence to cultivate.

The energy undulations that had erupted for a split second earlier weren't the power of blood essence. Rather, it was a different sort of power. It was extremely unique, which was how it had attracted Wan Tiansheng's attention in the first place.

"Is it a unique Divine Character? A product of fusion? Or is it something else?"

Wan Tiansheng sank into thought. But he soon smiled and floated away. The multiple character faction had maintained a low profile for many years. Were they going to finally do something this year?

If that was the case, it wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing. He would be more than happy to see that. They had been silent for too long. If that continued, it would only be a matter of time before they went extinct.

As for Su Yu, he only needed to pay a little bit more attention to that kid in the future. If it really involved that Divine Character and he got involved rashly, Hong Tan would not let that go. Hong Tan, Wu Yuehua, and a few other elders were all paying close attention to Liu Wenyan.

Although Liu Wenyan was no longer in the academy, as a leading figure from back then, many people of that generation were still waiting for his return. Wan Tiansheng was not interested in getting into a conflict with them. They would be Zhou Mingren's problem, not his.

Chapter 142: First Visit to the Research Center (1)

Unit 609.

Su Yu was gasping for breath while his entire body was aching and his clothes were stained red with blood. But his attention was not on any of that. Joy covered his face as he focused inward.

Iron-winged bird: Second-stage Infinite Strength Realm

Racial abilities: Tier-2 Rip (activation with blood essence), Ironwing Slash (activation with blood essence)

Advanced source art: Source Swallowing Technique, Infinite Strength Chapter (activation with blood essence)

The description was as short as ever, but he was overjoyed to see it. The page had indeed been upgraded! Prior to this, he wasn't sure if he could really upgrade the page. He had only activated a seventh-stage Great Strength page previously. He had also consumed a lot of blood essence after that. He suspected that some of the blood essence he had consumed originated from some ninth-stage beasts, but his page had not been upgraded at all.

Now, it was obvious that to upgrade the page, he needed the blood essence of a higher realm, either major or minor. After upgrading to a second-stage Infinite Strength page, he suspected that his next upgrade would be the Skysoar page. He exhaled in relief. He succeeded!

The advancement of the source art, in particular, was worthy of celebration. It had been upgraded to the Infinite Strength Chapter. That signified that if he cultivated with blood essence, he would be able to absorb source qi at the speed of a second-stage Infinite Strength iron-winged bird. That was likely ten times faster than the speed of a regular Source Opening cultivator.

"The racial abilities have been upgraded as well."

Su Yu was also happy to see the upgrade of the racial abilities. If he used the ability again, he would be able to release the offensive power of a second-stage Infinite Strength cultivator.

Of course, it wouldn't be a good idea to try that technique now. When he used the seventh-stage Great Strength ability before, his arm had been tortured by intense pain. Unless absolutely necessary, he wouldn't activate the Infinite Strength version of the ability. It would harm both him and his opponent.

He stood up and cleaned himself after a short rest. After washing the blood off his body, he put on a new set of clothes. He thought about it for a bit and decided to give his new cultivation speed a try. He still had four drops of Infinite Strength blood essence. It wouldn't hurt to try it out.

...

Having made up his mind, he swallowed another drop of blood essence. This time, it felt much better than before as the energy in the blood essence was instantly absorbed by the book. Then, numerous dots of light appeared within Su Yu's body as one acupoint after another opened temporarily. Source qi started converging around him.

The Source Swallowing Technique at the Infinite Strength Realm had over 50 acupoints open. This was a profound-grade cultivation method. All these temporary acupoints started taking source qi into Su Yu's body. He was absorbing source qi at a rapid pace.

But the cultivation speed of the Infinite Strength Realm was not something a Source Opening cultivator like Su Yu could withstand. Instantly, he felt himself reaching the limit of his source qi capacity.

The source qi density of the capital also played a part in the high absorption speed. It would probably be slower in Nanyuan. The Great Xia Cultural Research Academy was Great Xia's holy land of cultivation. The source qi density here was high, allowing one to cultivate at a much faster speed.

Su Yu's face was flushed red, but he did not stop absorbing source qi.

Acupoint opening!

Outside of the nine basic acupoints, he had already opened six acupoints prior to this. Five of them belonged to the War God Art while one belonged to the Lightning Source Blade. This time, he wasn't opening the Lightning Source Blade's acupoint. Instead, he focused on opening the War God Art's acupoint.

A large amount of source qi entered his body. The sixth acupoint of the War God Art started shining brightly. More and more source qi entered his body. He didn't even need to use any source qi liquid to cultivate here. The natural source qi around him was enough for him to open his acupoint.

Rumble!

A loud sound erupted in his mind as the sixth acupoint opened. This was an astonishingly fast cultivation speed. Su Yu himself was shocked.

The cultivation speed of the Infinite Strength Realm was much faster than the Great Strength Realm. And when such speed was applied to a Source Opening cultivator like him, it became even more effective.

Since he was already working on the sixth acupoint prior to this, he only took ten minutes to fully open it.

"Next."

He checked the time and confirmed that the activation duration of this ability was still the same: one hour. He couldn't let this activation go to waste!

A drop of Infinite Strength blood essence was worth five merit points when bought through the official channel. He could only get a cheaper price from Xia Huyou. This wasn't something he could afford to waste.

After using a drop to upgrade the page and another drop for activation, he only had three drops remaining.

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As Su Yu started working on his acupoints, all the source qi around block 3 started converging on him. This place was different from his neighborhood in Nanyuan. The residents here were all genius future cultural researchers.

Slowly, some of them started sensing the flow of source qi. With their powerful willpower, they were able to sense the source qi around them being pulled away.

Some of the more knowledgeable ones even reached a conclusion that an Infinite Strength cultivator was cultivating. It wasn't like there were no Infinite Strength cultivators in block 3. After all, their guards were at the Infinite Strength Realm.

But generally, these guards wouldn't cultivate there. Despite the high source qi density there, Infinite Strength cultivators could easily absorb too much source qi and disrupt the cultivation of the students staying there.

Before long, the guard leader, Chen Feng, sensed the disturbance in the air as well. After checking around, he arrived at the sixth floor. Before long, he was standing in front of unit 609.

He did not say anything. Neither did he knock on the door. He merely waited silently. Only when the source qi turbulence stopped did he knock on the door.

A slightly pale Su Yu opened the door. Chen Feng looked at him in astonishment before asking, "Student Su Yu, were you cultivating earlier?"

Su Yu nodded.

"I suggest...this is only a suggestion, that you move to the high-level zone or the special zone."

Chen Feng seriously explained, "In the common zone, there are over 100 residents per block. Although the academy has high source qi density, it is only good enough to support the cultivation of those in the Great Strength Realm. The moment you start absorbing source qi at a faster speed, the other students would be disturbed..."

Chen Feng added, "Also, staying here won't benefit you either. At a higher level, you would need to use source qi liquid to sustain your cultivation. The high-level zone has a much higher density of source qi. Even Infinite Strength cultivators can cultivate there without any problem. As for the special zone, it is good enough to support even the cultivation of those in the Skysoar Realm."

The Mental Tempering Garden was split into several zones for the sake of these students. Chen Feng did not ask Su Yu anything about his cultivation. It was surprising that a Source Opening student could absorb source qi at the speed of an Infinite Strength cultivator, but it wasn't like something like that had never happened before.

Some geniuses even had unique Divine Characters capable of helping them gather source qi. An example was the source grotto of the academy. The source character had the ability to gather source qi. It was the Divine Character left behind by the fourth principal, eventually turning into one of the most important grottos of the academy.

In the world of cultural researchers, everything was possible. With one look, Wan Tiansheng noticed that something was odd about Su Yu. And even someone as powerful as him placed the blame on a unique Divine Character. If the owner of the Divine Character did not reveal the character, outsiders would not have any way of determining the abilities of the character.

An apologetic look appeared on Su Yu's face. He had failed to take that into consideration. This wasn't Nanyuan. There were a lot of experts and geniuses here. When he was absorbing source qi rapidly, the others would be able to sense it.

"My apologies." Su Yu said, "Committee Leader Chen, I will take note of that. My Divine Character will take a few days to recover so I'll only be able to use it again after several days. This place is enough for my normal cultivation. I'll be staying here for now."

Moving would require money, so he wasn't going to do that! He had not expected that cultivating at the speed of an Infinite Strength cultivator would affect the other residents, but he wasn't going to use the blood essence every single day, so it was still manageable for now.

That was mostly because he couldn't afford to use it daily. If he only used the blood essence once every few days and picked a time when very few people were cultivating, it would be fine.

But Su Yu also understood that he wouldn't be able to stay here for long. He would probably need to move after reaching the Great Strength Realm. Otherwise, it would be troublesome if everyone could sense it every time he cultivated.

The ambient source qi here was still not dense enough. Su Yu sighed inwardly. If he moved, he would have to spend 10 more merit points. He wondered if he could ask for a refund if he ended up staying here for less than a year.

He came to realize how naive he had been previously. If he had actually picked an ordinary dormitory like he had intended, he would never be able to cultivate. All his roommates would stare at him like he was a freak the moment he started cultivating. Chen Feng was very friendly. These guards had always been very polite when dealing with these genius students.

When he heard Su Yu's words, he smiled and said, "Sure. That was only a suggestion. The high-level zone is more suitable for geniuses like you. With an entire villa for yourself, nobody would disturb you during your cultivation. There are too many people staying here so things might get inconvenient at times. Student Su, from my observation, you cultivate the War God Art, right? If you have any questions about it, feel free to ask me. Us guards cultivate the War God Art as well."

Then again, they only cultivated the ordinary version. Su Yu thanked the guard again. Having said all that, Chen Feng stopped bothering Su Yu and walked away. After Chen Feng left, Su Yu looked around and saw that some of the doors along the corridor had been opened. A few heads looked out at Su Yu.

When their gaze landed on him, they smiled and nodded before shutting their doors. Nobody said anything. Even an idiot would understand what a faster cultivation speed meant. That was a display of his talent.

Although their cultivation had been disturbed, this was the first day and the disturbance wasn't that serious. Saying anything now would be the same as looking for trouble. But if Su Yu kept doing the same thing every single day, the others wouldn't tolerate it no matter how talented he was.

As the sole high-high genius staying in block 3, a lot of people were paying close attention to Su Yu. He nodded at his neighbors apologetically before shutting his door as well. After he shut his doors, a few students walked out into the corridor and started pointing at Su Yu's unit while whispering to each other.

A high-high genius was indeed different from the others. This was his first day cultivating here and he had already caused a ruckus.

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In his room, Su Yu was feeling very helpless. It would seem like he really had to move soon. But the cultivation session earlier had indeed been very satisfying. He was able to absorb a large amount of source qi rapidly.

His sixth acupoint had been opened and his seventh acupoint was also on the verge of being opened. Perhaps he would be able to open it during his next cultivation session.

And after opening the eighth acupoint, he would reach the limit of the ordinary War God Art. At that time, he would be able to choose to break through and become a first-stage Great Strength cultivator. However, he was going to wait for the advanced War God Art. For that version, he needed to open 12 acupoints before breaking through.

"Great Xia City...Nanyuan City..."

Su Yu had a complicated mood. There was indeed no comparing the two places. If he was still in Nanyuan, he would have to use at least a drop of source qi liquid to achieve the same cultivation speed. But here, he could cultivate without even using source qi liquid.

If there weren't other students around, this place would be more than enough to support his cultivation. It was no wonder that there were so many Infinite Strength cultivators in the capital. Even a Great Strength cultivator without much talent could reach the Infinite Strength Realm after spending several decades cultivating.

"If Dad had settled down in the capital instead, he would have reached the Infinite Strength Realm more than 10 years ago."

Su Yu couldn't help but to think about his father. Nanyuan's source qi density was too low. His father had only been able to reach the Infinite Strength Realm after entering the Allheaven Battlefield.

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Su Yu woke up early the next morning.

These two days were the time given to the students to pick their faculties. Thus, there were no classes for now. The students had plenty of time to deal with their own affairs. Su Yu put on the academy uniform. He had been charged 5,000 dollars to buy four sets of them.

With the uniform on, he looked into the mirror and nodded in satisfaction. He finally had the look of a cultural researcher. The uniform was actually a robe, so it would probably be inconvenient during combat.

Of course, that was only applicable for physical combat. For cultural researchers, these robes would not affect them too much during combat. That was even more true for these new students who were still relatively weak. Not many cultural researchers would focus on physical combat.

Unleashing their Divine Characters, tossing their talismans out, sending their cultural weapons out, or summoning their tamed beasts were what cultural researchers would be more likely to do instead of fighting with their physical body. After admiring himself in his new uniform, Su Yu walked out of his room.

Chapter 143: First Visit to the Research Center (2)

The academy was huge.

The Heart Cultivating Pavilion was quite far away from the Mental Tempering Garden. Bai Feng's research center was located there. After walking for about 20 minutes, a towering building appeared ahead of him.

That was the famed Heart Cultivating Pavilion, the academy's seat of power. Most of the academy's senior researchers resided there. The Heart Cultivating Pavilion was in truth an area with multiple buildings. However, the towering building he saw was called the same name as well. Generally, the academy would hold most of its major meetings there.

Su Yu gazed at the towering building longingly. That was still not a place he could enter for now. There, countless Cloudbreach and Mountainsea experts could be found. Even the more ordinary Skysoar cultivators wouldn't be qualified to enter that building.

After taking a corner, Su Yu arrived at the research center to the south of the Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

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There were a lot of research centers in the academy. The area beside the Heart Cultivating Pavilion was the second research zone of the academy. There were more than one research center in the zone.

As usual, there were guards standing outside the zone. After showing his student card, the guards let him in. There were quite a lot of people in the research zone.

Most of them appeared to be in a rush. It was clear that the people here were all busy people. Beside the street, a few middle-aged individuals clad in instructor uniforms were in a discussion. Su Yu overheard some of what they were saying, but he had no idea what they were talking about. The contents of their conversation felt incredibly profound to him.

He slowly searched the area and before long, a shabby building entered his vision.

Wentan Research Center.

He found it!

Su Yu rushed over. Nobody stopped him from approaching, but the door was shut. The entire building looked like it had been abandoned for a long time. He could even see some spiderwebs around the

door. He was speechless. Was this an abandoned building? Did Bai Feng move out? He was about to knock on the door when it swung open.

A pale Bai Feng walked out and nodded at Su Yu before saying, "You're here? Come in."

Su Yu didn't dare to say anything else and hurriedly walked inside. The door shut behind him. Surprisingly, it was brightly lit inside.

Right in front of the door was a long corridor. While yawning, Bai Feng said, "The next time you're here, swipe your card to enter. I will give you the authority. I'll show you the place as well. You won't have the authority to enter some of the places so don't run around blindly. You might get yourself killed.

"Don't look down on the research center even though I'm alone here. Teacher spent decades working on the defenses of this place. Even a Mountainsea expert would suffer if they try to break in.

"There are six main zones in the research center. The main laboratory, the secondary laboratory, the prison zone, the data room, the living area, and the storeroom..."

Bai Feng spoke with a tired tone, "I have given you the authority to enter the secondary laboratory, the living area, and the storeroom. You won't be able to enter the other three zones. Don't blame me if you kill yourself trying to enter those places.

"The main laboratory is where we have been conducting our research for years. You still can't enter that place for now. The living area is the lodging. The storeroom used to be full, but it is completely empty now. Don't even dream of getting anything good there.

"The prison zone...used to house some powerful beasts. Most of them are dead now. You still can't enter that place as there are still a few beasts at the Skysoar Realm and beyond there. You can get yourself killed easily there. There is no need for me to introduce the data room..."

Bai Feng gave a simple introduction as the two walked through the corridor. Su Yu listened silently as he walked. Eventually, they arrived at a lounge. He even saw a television, a couch, a dining table, and some other furniture. Evidently, this was the living area.

"Teacher..." Su Yu asked, "Do you mean that I can visit here frequently in the future?"

"Yes."

"What's my task?"

"Your task..." Bai Feng looked around before saying, "Cleaning the place, maintaining the storeroom, and participating in some minor experiments. Can you cook? If you can, you'll be in charge of that as well. The restaurants are too far away."

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Su Yu was speechless. Was this guy looking for a student or a housekeeper?

"Don't be unhappy about this." Bai Feng lazily said, "That's what all new guys have to do. When you become an old guy as well and there are some other new guys, then it will be their turn to do all that. It doesn't matter if you're a genius or not. Even if you're a genius, your voice would only hold weight after you grow strong. Without strength, you're nothing. The academy has plenty of geniuses stuck at the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage. Who cares about them?"

Su Yu stayed silent for a while before saying, "Teacher, I can't cook. But I can clean. What can I learn here?"

"Learn?" Bai Feng had a teasing smile as he said, "There are plenty of things you can learn here. I won't teach you the basics as you can learn those in your classes. Here, you only have one task for now. Form Divine Characters and enter the Mental Tempering Stage.

"Build up your foundation first and you would naturally have something to learn. For our faction, you need enough Divine Characters. Otherwise, you won't be able to learn anything."

"But..." Bai Feng frowned and said, "You already have two Divine Characters. That is actually quite fast. I'm not worried about your Divine Characters. I wouldn't have accepted you as a student if you weren't able to form Divine Characters quickly. But your willpower growth is too slow.

"If you continue forming Divine Characters, I'm afraid that your willpower wouldn't be strong enough to nurture them. You would be stuck before the Mental Tempering Stage due to a lack of willpower. For now, you can stop forming Divine Characters. Focus on growing your willpower instead."

Su Yu nodded. That was his weakness. His willpower was too weak. A 30 percent willpower was actually not bad. But when compared to the other high-tier students, that was bad. Most of the other high-tier students had already reached the Mental Tempering Stage.

When Bai Feng saw that Su Yu was taking his advice seriously, he said, "Before the Mental Tempering Stage, it's not hard to increase your willpower. At the secondary laboratory, there is a waste area. And within the waste area is a filter room and a fragment room."

"In the filter room, there is a lot of blood essence residue. The energy within that room is messy and chaotic. You can cultivate there, but don't go too deep into the room or the chaotic energy might cause a cultivation deviation.

"The fragment room is where we store all our broken original texts. There is a large amount of chaotic willpower inside that room. It can help with the growth of your willpower. To grow your willpower, you mainly need to have your willpower clash against an external willpower. You can do that in the fragment room. But of course, you wouldn't be able to read any of the original texts there. You can only make use of the chaotic willpower inside to temper yourself."

At the mention of the filter room, Su Yu recalled what Zhao Li told him previously. That was a room filled with leftover blood from blood essence experiments. Zhao Li placed a lot of importance on it. But Bai Feng did not seem to care about that room one bit.

As for the fragment room...it was filled with damaged original texts? Just how many original texts had been damaged for them to have one whole room of them? This faction was indeed rich!

They seemed broke, but they were actually very rich. He had never heard of anyone using an entire room to keep broken original texts.

Bai Feng sat down on the couch, poured himself a cup of tea, looked at Su Yu, and waited. When he saw that Su Yu was showing no signs of wanting to brew him a fresh pot of tea, he grumbled inwardly that this kid had no manners.

"This would be your current task. I can't really teach you much before the Mental Tempering Stage. Basic classes would be enough for you. But you will still be very busy. You have to attend the basic classes and come help out here. Be sure to clean the place well. It has been a few months since the place was last cleaned."

Bai Feng took a sip of the tea that had been kept in the pot for who knew how long and said, "I won't let you work for nothing. Each month, you'll get five merit points. You're already in the academy for a few days. You should know how hard it is to earn five merit points. As for the filter room and the fragment room, those are treasure rooms for outsiders, but they are nothing for us. You are free to cultivate there. Grab every opportunity you see."

Bai Feng then stood up and said, "I still have something to do outside. Explore the place yourself, but remember to not approach the areas you don't have the authority to enter. Also, don't take anyone inside the research center. If you get your friend killed by the defensive system, don't blame me."

"Look for a random room to rest up when you're tired. A lot of people used to stay here. Some of the rooms still have their furniture. If the beddings is moldy, deal with it yourself."

Bai Feng then walked away. Su Yu was speechless. But without Bai Feng, he also relaxed somewhat. Since he was alone in the research center, he could freely look around without worrying about making a spectacle of himself.

"Secondary laboratory, storeroom, living area..."

Those were the three places Su Yu could enter. When he scanned the living area, he was speechless. These people looked nice and impressive on the outside, but how did they live privately? Why was the living area so dirty? The living area was littered with so much trash that he could barely find a spot on the floor to stand on.

"Sigh."

Su Yu let off a long sigh. The carefree and refined image of Bai Feng shattered inside his mind, replaced by a sloppy Bai Feng. That guy was even sloppier than him!

After his father had left, he had at least placed enough effort into cleaning his house for it to be clean enough to receive visitors. As for Bai Feng's place...he had no word to describe what he was looking at.

"How nice would it be if I had Xia Huyou's ability..."

Su Yu was starting to envy Xia Huyou. His Little Blood and Little Lightning were truly useless. They couldn't even help with something like cleaning, forcing him to do it himself.

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Chapter 144: Where Is My Limit? (1)

Su Yu had not expected that his first task would be cleaning the research center. After about two hours, he finally finished cleaning up the living area.

"This is a pigsty!"

He cursed while gasping for breath tiredly. This place was too dirty! Could anyone even stay here?

In fact, Bai Feng seemed to be a resident of the research center. When cleaning the place, Su Yu had discovered a lot of Bai Feng's personal items. That guy was obviously a sloppy person. In that case, where did he get all those clean and neat outfits he wore when he was outside?

"Don't tell me he has hundreds of the same outfits that he would throw away after wearing once?"

Su Yu muttered to himself. After cleaning the place, his curiosity toward the research center rose. He decided to start exploring the research center. The research center was split into six floors. Three were above ground while the other three were underground.

Each floor housed a single zone. He was currently on the first floor, the living area. There, he could find dining halls, kitchens, living rooms, and so on. The floor was large enough to house dozens of people. But the place was empty nowadays since their faction barely had any members.

Su Yu could imagine that back during the peak of this research center, there were probably a lot of people here. In fact, there were over a dozen bedrooms on the first floor. The main laboratory was located at the third underground floor. The second underground floor was the prison zone. The first underground floor was the storeroom.

The second floor was the secondary laboratory. The third floor was the data room. Su Yu only had the authority to enter the first underground floor, the first floor, and the second floor. He didn't dare to enter the other floors due to Bai Feng's warning. It would be a pity if he got himself killed due to bad luck or something.

"Let's check the storeroom first. Maybe there is some good stuff left there?"

Su Yu wondered if the storeroom of a big research center like this would really be completely empty. He was really skeptical of Bai Feng's words.

...

A few minutes later.

Looking at the over 1,000 square meters storeroom that was filled with completely empty shelves, he had no choice but to trust Bai Feng's words. The storeroom was really empty!

Flying sky tiger blood essence (Skysoar)

Soul devouring demon blood essence (Skysoar)

Golden peng blood essence (Cloudbreach)

...

Looking at the empty containers, looking at the labels, Su Yu was stunned for a long time. He could imagine how rich this place used to be. Skysoar blood essence, Cloudbreach blood essence, and so on. Furthermore, the blood essence all came from powerful races.

But now, nothing was left. Only an empty storeroom remained. No, there was something left. After spending a long time searching through the storeroom, Su Yu found a shelf that was not empty.

Fire hog blood essence (Infinite Strength)

It was a small bottle of fire hog blood essence. It must have been forgotten, left in the corner of the storeroom. Su Yu felt like crying. Fire hog blood essence was actually quite valuable as well, but compared to the names he saw on the other labels...this was basically trash.

This thing was even worse than the iron-winged bird blood essence. But it was still somewhat helpful to temper the physical body of those in the Great Strength and Infinite Strength Realms.

"Is...the research center going bankrupt?"

Su Yu couldn't help but to suspect that. Even the storeroom was empty. Were they unable to continue with their research anymore? Or perhaps they had reached the end stage of their research, so they no longer needed any research materials?

"If they sell the research center, could they really get hundreds of thousands of merit points?"

Su Yu recalled what Xia Huyou said. Was he going to inherit a large amount of wealth right after joining the research center? He shook his head speechlessly.

He looked around again and noted that deeper into the storeroom, some shelves were even labeled with the blood essence of divines and devils. He was regretful to see the storeroom so empty, but he was also shocked at how wealthy this research center used to be.

They used to experiment on the blood essence of divines and devils! In fact, he saw a lot of top 100 races on these labels. Hong Tan...was an incredible individual. Su Yu had a newfound admiration toward that person.

When he walked out of the storeroom and shut the heavy door, he had a feeling that without the relevant authority, not even a Skysoar cultivator would be able to break through this door.

"This would be a good place to hide stuff..."

Su Yu muttered to himself. This storeroom was already empty anyway. And it seemed like Bai Feng had not entered the storeroom for a very long time. It would be a good place if he had something he wanted to hide.

He left the sole bottle of fire hog blood essence in the storeroom. That belonged to the research center. Bai Feng might have forgotten about it, but he could never be sure that this wasn't merely a test to see his character.

If he ended up expelled because of a bottle of fire hog blood essence, it wouldn't be worth it. A lot of people still had their eyes on this research center. He really wanted to know more about this research center. If he was able to remain, he would be able to get much more than a bottle of blood essence.

...

Apart from the living area and the storeroom, the secondary laboratory was the only place Su Yu could visit. He was just about to set off to the next floor when he heard a series of roars.

Boom!

The floor was also shaking slightly. Su Yu was still on the first underground floor. When he felt the shaking of the floor, he shivered. The shaking was coming from the prison zone! There really were some living beings in there!

"Is that one of the remaining living beings mentioned by Bai Feng?"

Su Yu was shocked. There really was something living down there? Something at the Skysoar Realm or beyond?

"Kujili..."

An indistinct voice rang out, accompanied by furious and painful roars. Su Yu stopped and listened, but he couldn't understand those words. That was not one of the languages he knew.

"An unknown language..."

He raised his brow. The prisoner was an intelligent race. In truth, there were many non-intelligent life forms among the myriad races, but the one being imprisoned downstairs was clearly an intelligent life form.

After spending a short while listening, he decided to leave. He didn't even have the courage to stay near the prison zone much longer. He was just about to leave when the words changed into the common language.

"Release me! Release me! If you release me, I'll give you an invaluable treasure!"

...

The voice was indistinct, so Su Yu couldn't hear everything the prisoner was saying. The prisoner might have sensed something and realized that someone other than Bai Feng and Hong Tan was present. That prisoner was roaring unceasingly.

Su Yu took a deep breath and hurriedly walked away. He did not dare to try anything rash. He had tried stomping on the floor. Even after using his full strength, the floor showed no reaction whatsoever. A prisoner capable of causing the floor to shake was clearly extremely powerful. Su Yu was even worried that the prisoner would break free and kill him. The research center suddenly felt much more dangerous.

.

...

At the same time, the second underground floor.

Row upon row of metallic cages were arranged in a large room. Many of the cages were empty, but a few of the cages were still occupied. Some were completely silent, looking like they had died a long time ago.

Some were merely piles of dry bones. In a large cage, a life form that looked like a golden lion was ramming into the metallic bars in front of it repeatedly. Bolt after bolt of lightning struck the golden lion as it did so. The lightning strikes left the golden lion badly mangled.

However, the golden lion ignored its injuries. It continued roaring for a short while and finally stopped after sensing that the newcomer upstairs had left. It scanned its surroundings with its large eyes before roaring again.

"We will die! It is only a matter of time before we all die! If we don't save ourselves, we won't be able to leave this place alive!"

...

The lion was using the common language as it roared at the beings in the nearby cages.

"Hong Tan is away and there is a newcomer. If we entice him, we can escape..."

A soft voice rang out, "Stop dreaming. We won't be able to escape. Just wait for your death silently. All these cages were sealed by Hong Tan with his Divine Characters. We won't be able to take even a single step out. Save your strength. Unless a Mountainsea expert personally breaks in here to release us, there is no hope."

The lion roared, "No! There is still hope! If the newbie is given sufficient authority, he would be able to open these cages for us!"

"This is a cultural research academy of the human race. Even without these cages, we still won't be able to get far. There are too many experts here, with plenty of Mountainsea experts around. Xia Longwu himself is in the city. Even after leaving these cages, where can we go?"

The lion sank into silence. It had nothing to say. The other voice was right. There was no escape for them. Even if they could escape Hong Tan's cages, where could they go after that? They were deep inside the Human Realm!

The other voice rang out again, "Calm down and stop wasting your strength. You're not getting any source qi replenishment here. You need your strength to stay alive."

The lion furiously said, "I am not reconciled to dying like this! Dying in such a sorry manner! I want the humans to pay a price! As long as I can leave this cage, even if I'll ultimately die, I'll still slaughter as many humans as I can! I will spill rivers of blood here!"

The lion looked at a cage at the corner. Within the cage was a shadowy life form. The being was almost undetectable.

"Shadow, there is still hope for you even if the rest of us won't be able to leave this place alive. As long as your cage is opened, you will be able to hide in the shadows of others and sneak away..."

The shadow spoke again, "That's impossible. I have been imprisoned for too many years. My racial ability has degenerated. Without my racial ability, a random Skysoar can easily kill me. Any Skysoar cultivator can see through my concealment."

The golden lion roared furiously. It couldn't accept this. It couldn't accept being reduced into a prisoner, being experimented on by Hong Tan, having its blood extracted again and again by Hong Tan to produce blood essence.

Once upon a time, it was a ferocious being who dominated the Allheaven Battlefield. Once upon a time, it was a genius of its race. It was unwilling to die away without making a single wave.

But there was no escape. This was a prison made by a Mountainsea expert. The cages were unique products overlapped with Divine Character seals. It had no way of leaving.

...

Su Yu was completely clueless about the exchange in the second underground floor. He didn't have the courage to even approach that floor. He was still feeling some lingering fear from the shaking he felt earlier.

The beasts imprisoned down there were all at the Skysoar Realm and beyond. Who knew if the strongest one was at the Cloudbreach Realm or even stronger. He might end up being swallowed in one bite if he dared to enter the prison.

He only heaved a breath of relief after reaching the second floor. The second floor was split into several sections. He saw numerous rooms, and each room was labeled with its function.

Blood essence separation room.

Blood essence fusion room.

Divine Character fusion room.

Dissecting room.

...

There were about a dozen rooms in the secondary laboratory. Only after walking until the end of the floor did Su Yu see the waste area mentioned by Bai Feng. That section was independent from the others. With a corridor in the middle, to the left was the filter room and to the right was the fragment room.

Apart from that, there was a different area ahead of him. When he stretched his neck to get a better look, he saw a sign board saying "Discarded Divine Character segment". Su Yu blanked out. Discarded Divine Characters? Could Divine Characters be discarded? To be precise, could Divine Characters be separated from its owner's body?

One ought to know that after materializing a Divine Character, the character would quickly dissipate into nothingness unless it was preserved with special methods. In that case, what was the purpose of the

Chapter 145: Where Is My Limit? (2)

Standing outside the fragment room, Su Yu took a deep breath before swiping his student card. The door swung open. A massive pile of broken bone fragments and torn beast hides entered his view. All of these used to be proper original texts.

These damaged texts had lost too much of their willpower, so they could no longer serve as ordinary original texts. Su Yu couldn't even begin to imagine just how many original texts had been damaged to create this massive pile before him.

How many merit points were they worth? He took a step forward and felt an incorporeal wall blocking him. The air rippled and next, he broke through the barrier and stepped into the room. The moment he stepped inside, a rumbling sound rang out in his mind as his sea of willpower trembled.

His two characters stirred from their slumber. Su Yu instantly paled as his willpower erupted and clashed against the ambient willpower in the air. He was still quite a distance away from the pile of fragments. Even so, he felt like a mountain was pressing down on him.

Little did he know, this place was actually split into different sections. Layer after layer Divine Character barriers existed in the room, separating the willpower inside from the outside world. He had only stepped into the first section. Without enough willpower strength, he wouldn't be able to break through the second barrier.

However, the first section itself was already bringing Su Yu to his limits. Beads of sweat rained down from his forehead. His face paled as he exhausted his willpower. The clash was intense enough that he could feel his willpower draining away.

This was far more intense than what he felt when he studied the bone chip given to him by Bai Feng. The external willpower did not come from a single source. Rather, willpower from multiple sources were all mixed up together as they crashed into his sea of willpower.

Unlike a normal willpower text, these clashes did not provide him with any new knowledge. Every now and then, some random unknown characters would appear in his mind for a split second before vanishing.

"This is so chaotic."

Su Yu gave up trying to obtain the knowledge within these broken fragments. These were all damaged original texts. If he continued trying to read them, he might drive himself mad. As his willpower drained rapidly, he started gasping for breath.

Was this the function of the fragment room? His 30 percent willpower was akin to a lonely boat in the middle of a storm. Willpower was assaulting him from all directions, threatening to sink the tiny boat that was his willpower.

A short while later, he felt his willpower emptying. At that moment, his sea of willpower trembled slightly, giving birth to a burst of willpower. That burst of willpower did not come from his book. Rather, it came from its sea of willpower. Whenever a cultivator exhausted their willpower, new willpower would be produced. This was how cultural researchers grow.

Su Yu was about to withdraw from the room, but after experiencing a growth in his willpower, he took another step forward instead. He decided to withstand the pressure for a bit longer and see if he could further grow his willpower.

He felt as though countless needles were stabbing into his head. The chaotic external willpower was assaulting him from all directions, torturing him with intense pain. He felt as though he had returned to his dreams again, being killed by numerous beasts again and again.

Regardless of the pain, Su Yu persevered. He did not think that he was already at his limit. According to the manual, when your head felt like it was going to burst apart and your sea of willpower started churning, you must leave. That was a sign that you had reached your limit and you shouldn't stay any longer in the room.

He had yet to feel that sensation. He wouldn't have taken the risk otherwise. Without that feeling, he was clearly not at his limit yet. After 10 minutes, Su Yu started tearing up.

"I'm still not at my limit?"

He started wondering if his limit was a tad bit too high. The pain was so intense that he felt like he was better off dead. This was even more painful than being killed a dozen times in his dream. Why was he not at his limit yet?

...

Su Yu was completely oblivious to the fact that the golden book in his mind was constantly releasing weak bursts of energy, keeping his sea of willpower stable. And since his sea of willpower was stable, it naturally wasn't churning. Each time his sea of willpower was on the verge of churning, the golden book would pulse slightly and stabilize the sea of willpower.

Because of that, Su Yu's limit was far higher than his imagination. But the pain he needed to suffer was also far higher than his imagination as well. He was a person without limit. He unceasingly pursued his limit, suffering an intense torture in his pursuit.

He wanted to leave when his sea of willpower churned, but clearly...he would never be able to reach that limit. After 15 minutes, Su Yu was sprawled on the floor while tears dripped out of his eyes.

"Am I...not tenacious enough? Am I...not cruel enough toward myself? Had I never reached my limit before? I had always believed that I had been struggling near my limit all the time, but what is this? Have I never truly reached my limit before?"

Su Yu felt like crying. Was the pain from all those dreams, all those cruel deaths in his dreams not enough to bring him to his limit? Was his limit far higher than he thought? After 20 minutes, Su Yu crawled out of the room.

"I give up! Forget it! I am indeed not cruel enough to myself. I'm afraid I will die from the pain before reaching my limit!"

He took one whole minute to crawl out of the room. He looked back into the room with lingering fears in his heart. He felt both vexed and helpless.

"I...am not cruel enough to myself!"

He blamed himself for failing to wait until he was at his limit.

According to the manual, if he could reach his limit during his first entry, he would be able to benefit greatly. He even started doubting himself. Both Liu Wenyan and Bai Feng had praised him for his tenacity in the past. Zhao Li had said the same as well. Su Yu himself believed that too. But now...he had no choice but to wonder if he was really that tenacious.

Lying on the floor, he started doubting the world itself. He felt like the pain was going to kill him if he waited any longer. Could anyone even withstand this pain until they reach their limit?

"Is this manual accurate?"

...

At the same time.

While stuffing food into his mouth, Bai Feng spoke to his communicator, "Ignore him. I'm letting him play by himself in the research center. Don't worry. If you're really worried, you can go see him in the research center..."

"Senior Brother, this is my student, not yours. Why are you so worried?"

With his mouth stuffed with food and his lips all oily, Bai Feng waited for the other person to finish speaking before saying, "I sent him to the fragment room. Moving forward, he will need to increase his willpower there. This kid is quite tenacious. With 30 percent willpower, he could probably last a few minutes in the room."

...

"Don't worry. He'll leave upon reaching his limit. Even if he's stupid enough to stay, the barriers will throw him out when his sea of willpower churns. He won't die."

...

"The first threshold is five minutes. If that kid could last five minutes, his willpower would probably grow by about one percent after a rest."

...

Bai Feng smiled and said, "He only needs to visit the room once per day. Even if the effect would weaken when he grows stronger, he would still be able to get around one percent every three days. He could probably reach the Mental Tempering Stage in about two or three months."

...

"I know. Don't worry. I won't let him enter daily. After experiencing the pain of reaching his limit, I doubt that kid would enter everyday either. If he enters once every few days, he would be able to reach the Mental Tempering Stage in half a year."

...

"If he could reach the Mental Tempering Stage in half a year and reach the Great Strength Realm as well, he would probably be a top 1,000 student even if he couldn't enter the Top 100 Ranking. I'll send him to challenge the Top 100 Ranking after one year."

...

"Who? Oh, Liu Hong's little brother?" Bai Feng said with disdain, "I know that kid. He was already at the Mental Tempering Stage and ninth-stage Source Opening Realm before entering the academy. He also had a completed Divine Character. He was only able to get into the Top 100 Ranking with Liu Hong's help. How can he compare with Su Yu?"

...

"Of course I'm confident. If he can't enter the Top 100 Ranking in one year, consider me blind. Just focus on your work. Don't worry about me. I'll let that kid suffer a bit lest he gets too arrogant."

After ending the call, Bai Feng wiped his oily mouth and looked in the research center's direction with a smile.

"Kid, how does it feel to reach your limit? Does it hurt? Is your sea of willpower hurting you so much you feel like you're going to die?"

Bai Feng never doubted that Su Yu would be able to reach his limit. If that kid didn't have enough tenacity to reach his limit, then Bai Feng would really consider himself blind.

"Shit. I forgot something important!" Bai Feng suddenly exclaimed, "I should have added a record in the manual. For example, my previous record of lasting 10 minutes during my first visit...cough, cough. I mean 30 minutes! Yeah, it would be good to smash that kid's confidence around for a bit."

Bai Feng was feeling regretful. He should have left a time record in the manual. Back then, he had lasted 10 minutes...cough, 30 minutes. Yeah, 10 minutes was far too short to showcase his incredible talent.

If the kid saw the record after staying in the room for a few minutes, would he be so embarrassed that he couldn't show his face in the academy anymore? Would that kid still be so arrogant the next time they meet? That would show the kid who the true genius was!

Bai Feng shook his head and threw the matter out of his mind. After paying the bill, he left. Tomorrow would be the day he went looking for Hu Wensheng. If he couldn't show any results to his good partner Liu Hong, that fellow wouldn't be willing to pay up. He was so poor that he could barely afford a meal nowadays.

Chapter 146: You're In Big Trouble! (1)

Wentan Research Center.

Fragment room.

Su Yu left with his tail between his legs. He was very upset with his performance, but the pain was really too much. He had no choice but to crawl out of the fragment room. He was unwilling to give up just like that, so after a short rest, he entered the filter room instead.

...

Like the fragment room, the filter room was also split into several sections. Su Yu stepped into the first section.

This felt a lot more relaxed than the fragment room. A big pool was ahead of him. Golden blood roiled within the pool. That was a mix of countless blood essence. Some of the blood essence already had its essence extracted. These leftover products of blood essence experiments had all been mixed together in one big pool.

A place with mixed blood essence like this was not suitable for the cultivation of experts. But the ambient source qi here was quite dense. As long as Su Yu didn't go too deeply into the room, it was quite a suitable place for him to cultivate.

"If I use the Source Swallowing Technique here, I won't even need to worry about the ambient source qi running out..."

That was the conclusion Su Yu made right after stepping into the first section. The dense ambient source qi wasn't the only benefit of this place. Here, Little Blood could absorb as much blood essence as it wanted.

Little Blood did not seem too picky with its food. It was willing to consume all sorts of blood. There was a massive pool of blood essence in front of them. Just the bloody aura in the air was enough for Little Blood to eat its fill.

"What a pity..."

Looking at the pool, Su Yu couldn't help but to feel that it was a waste to mix all the discarded blood essence together. Otherwise, he could have used the blood essence to open a few more pages in his book.

Some of the blood essence in the pool must have come from the races he had seen in his dreams before. With the sheer amount of blood essence here, it was very likely that some belonged to the races that had appeared in his dreams before.

But with all the different blood essence mixed together, it would be very hard to separate the blood essence again. Even with some of the essence extracted, Su Yu felt that the blood essence was merely some sort of trigger to activate his book, so the leftover blood essence here might work on his book.

"Can I still use the iron-winged bird blood essence for cultivation after extracting its essence?"

Su Yu sank into thought. If he could, would he be able to use the waste products of this research center to help with his cultivation? Could he recycle the pool of blood essence in front of him? He sank into thought again.

But for now, even if he could make use of the blood in the pool, he wouldn't dare to try anything rashly. He had just entered the research center and still knew nothing. Something could go wrong very easily. More importantly, he couldn't even approach the pool.

All around the pool, powerful source qi intermingled. He would get blown up before he could even get near the pool.

"I'll cultivate and let my willpower recover before going back to the fragment room. I refuse to believe that my pain tolerance is really that low!"

Su Yu was getting more and more fixated on his limit. He refused to believe that he was really so useless. If others could wait until they reached their limit, why couldn't he do the same?

Maybe his limit was slightly higher than others. He was sure he would be able to last long enough to reach his limit. He sat down cross-legged and started his cultivation session. In his sea of willpower, the blood character was rapidly absorbing the ambient blood energy in excitement. Meanwhile, gust after gust of new willpower appeared in his sea of willpower.

After every clash of willpower, one's sea of willpower would grow. It would be considered impressive for one to enter the fragment room even once per day. That was because after each clash, one would need to spend some time recuperating. In fact, for those below the Mental Tempering Stage, reading an original text every three days was a common method of cultivation.

It was clear Bai Feng wasn't serious when he told Su Yu to enter the room once per day. For someone at Su Yu's level, it would be more suitable to enter the room once every two or three days.

Su Yu did not care about what Bai Feng told him. He knew that willpower was very hard to recover, but his willpower was somehow able to recover quickly. He suspected that it was due to his weak willpower. Even back at Nanyuan, his willpower was able to recover quickly each time he finished reading an original text.

In fact, he had been reading the incomplete original text he got from Bai Feng a few times each day. That original text did not last long at all. In the filter room, Su Yu did not need to worry about source qi. He could cultivate quickly.

While he absorbed source qi to temper his acupoints, the blood character was having a great time consuming the blood in the room. When it was full, it sank into slumber. When Su Yu sent his senses inward, he could see a bright and shiny Little Blood. It looked much better than the Little Lightning that was lingering nearby.

It would seem like the blood character had benefited greatly from this room. Since this was his first visit, he decided to maintain a low profile and not use any blood essence for his cultivation.

After about an hour, he clenched his teeth and stormed into the fragment room with the expression of a soldier on a suicide mission. He refused to believe he wouldn't be able to reach his limit!

He had been killed thousands of times in his dreams! He had experienced all sorts of pain and torture before! He had encountered all sorts of dangers before! He told himself that he had only failed to reach his limit because he had a far higher limit. After all, he had been killed too many times in his dreams. He wasn't useless. It was his limit! It was higher than normal!

He would not admit that he was incompetent! In fact, he had never believed that he was incompetent since he was a child. At school, he had been able to rank among the best of the students even without the golden book in his mind. Apart from Liu Yue who had started studying foreign languages earlier than him, he was the student with the highest number of mastered languages in Nanyuan.

In Nanyuan, he was an outstanding individual. That would not change here at the academy! With that thought in his mind, he charged into the fragment room bravely.

At 10 minutes, pain flared in his mind.

At 15 minutes, tears started dripping out of his eyes. The pain was terrible.

At 20 minutes, his entire body was trembling. In his mind, the blood and lightning characters shone brightly, helping him resist the ambient willpower in the room.

At 25 minutes, Su Yu crawled out of the room once again.

His entire body was drenched wet with sweat. His performance had improved. Su Yu was overjoyed. That signified that his willpower must have grown after his previous session, allowing him to last longer in the room. But he still couldn't last long enough to reach his limit.

"I can do it!"

He clenched his teeth tightly. He was confident he would eventually be able to do it. If not today, he would try again tomorrow. It would eventually happen. This was basically a repeat of his childhood experience when he first started getting those nightmares.

Back then, he was so scared that he didn't dare to sleep. He nearly tired himself to death. Eventually, he overcame that fear! He learned to brace himself, to keep his fear away, to ignore death, to embrace death, and to accept pain.

He was already capable of all that at a young age. He wouldn't let something like this stop him! This was his chance to strengthen himself. He returned to the filter room and started cultivating and resting there. After he recovered his willpower, he charged into the fragment room again.

He had no other thought in his mind. This was a rare opportunity. What else could he call a place so beneficial to his cultivation?

Su Yu was even slowly starting to approve of Bai Feng's words. Bai Feng had said that some people had offered tens of thousands of merit points just to enter this research center but were rejected. Su Yu was starting to trust those words.

Even ignoring all the other rooms, just these two rooms alone were already worth tens of thousands of merit points.

These two rooms were akin to inexhaustible original text and source qi liquid. In fact, Su Yu had a feeling that he was able to absorb as much source qi here per cultivation session as he could after using a drop of source qi liquid outside.

As for the original texts, they were even more expensive. Su Yu suspected that at the rate he was using his original texts, he would completely exhaust one after about a dozen reading sessions. These two rooms were worth hundreds of thousands or even millions of merit points.

"If I can enter the fragment room and the filter room 10 times per day, that would be the same as making 100 merit points per day."

Su Yu started measuring the value of each visit to the two rooms. After each visit to the fragment room, he needed about an hour to recover. He could only last less than half an hour in the room. Altogether, he would spend two hours per session.

If he could enter the fragment room 10 times each day and spent his recovery time in the filter room, he would need to spend 20 hours per day to cultivate.

"Four hours to eat, drink, and sleep?"

Su Yu exhaled deeply. Forget it. That was too extreme. He would be happy with six or seven sessions per day. Earning 60 or 70 merit points per day was enough for him. Work life balance was still very important, after all.

"Yeah, I need to maintain a good balance. The rooms will always be here anyway. If I enter six times per day, I would only need to cultivate twelve hours per day."

And he could only do that temporarily. When the basic classes began in two days, he would be even more busy.

...

And thus began Su Yu's cycle of cultivation in the research center. He would use the fragment room to exhaust his willpower before going to the filter room to rest, temper his acupoints, and cultivate his blood character.

He could feel his willpower growing rapidly. Naturally, he couldn't measure the exact growth of his willpower. Only those at the Skysoar Realm could sense the level of someone else's willpower. Otherwise, one would only be able to gain a vague impression on the strength of someone else's willpower.

As for the owner of the willpower themselves, they would need to reach the Mental Tempering Stage to accurately measure their own willpower.

...

Su Yu spent the night in the research center. That was his fourth night in the academy.

4th of August.

Bai Feng arrived at the research center early in the morning.

He was no longer the sloppy and decadent guy from before. Nobody knew what he did the previous night, but at the moment, he looked full of vigor. He was also wearing a new set of clothes while his face was freshly shaven. When he scanned the living area, a smile formed on his face.

Very good. The place was quite clean. Finally, there was enough space on the floor for him to stand on. His teacher would probably not scold him for being dirty anymore after returning from the battlefield. Then again, his teacher was quite dirty too.

"Su Yu."

When Bai Feng sensed Su Yu's aura, he called out for Su Yu. Next, a pale Su Yu walked out of a bedroom.

Bai Feng casually tossed a bag over and said, "I knew you wouldn't leave. That's the case with everyone else during their first visit. Nobody was willing to leave. Eat something. I bought these outside. They are quite good."

"Thank you, Teacher."

Su Yu started shoving food down his throat. He had not eaten anything since the day before so he was actually starving. In fact, he was just thinking of going out to eat before Bai Feng arrived.

Bai Feng smiled and was about to ask something when his face stiffened.

"Hmm?"

He looked at the pale Su Yu, wondering if something was wrong with his eyes. Next, his willpower erupted. Su Yu, who was busy eating, sensed a gust of willpower scanning his body. He looked at Bai Feng curiously without saying anything.

Bai Feng blinked a few times and withdrew his willpower. Then, his willpower erupted again. Once again, Su Yu sensed the scan. He shifted his body uneasily as he noticed the odd look in Bai Feng's eyes. What was going on?

Bai Feng rubbed his chin in silence as he sank into thought. After a while, he slowly asked, "Did you enter the fragment room yesterday?"

"Yeah."

"How long did you stay there?"

Su Yu replied with embarrassment, "Not too long."

"How long exactly?"

"Less than half an hour...At first, I was only able to last 20 minutes. But I have been improving. During my final visit, I was almost able to last 30 minutes."

...

Bai Feng sank into silence. What was he doing? He was doubting himself. He was doubting reality itself. Was the fragment room damaged? Half an hour...

Wait, how many times did this kid enter that room yesterday? Bai Feng's heart thumped. He stayed 20 minutes during his first visit. He kept improving...kept improving! So how many times did he enter the room?

Someone with only 30 percent willpower would need at least one day to recover after a visit to the fragment room. Did this kid enter multiple times? Half an hour? He almost lasted half an hour during his final visit?

Bai Feng's eyes widened. What was going on? That made no sense.

Bai Feng solemnly asked, "How many times did you enter the room in total?"

When Su Yu saw the strict expression, he thought that he had wasted too much of the room's willpower. He worriedly said, "Si-six times in total."

"Hmm?"

With a solemn expression, Bai Feng asked, "Six times? Did your sea of willpower churn?"

"No."

"I'm referring to violent churning!" Bai Feng said, "You overdid it! Don't act rashly! If your sea of willpower collapses, nobody can save you!"

Su Yu hurriedly explained, "My sea of willpower didn't churn. Not even once..."

Chapter 147: You're In Big Trouble! (2)

Bai Feng looked at Su Yu like he was looking at a monster. He suddenly had the urge to dissect and study Su Yu. This kid seemed to be an even more interesting test subject than the beasts imprisoned downstairs.

"Did...you exhaust your willpower?"

"I did. But I only need to wait a bit in the filter room to fully recover."

Bai Feng sank into thought.

After a while, he asked, "You have two Divine Characters?"

"Yeah."

"What are their abilities?"

"Blood absorption, illusion, and lightning strike...that can probably induce paralysis."

Su Yu did not hide anything. This person would be his teacher from now on. Only by being honest would this teacher be able to teach him better.

"No other abilities?"

"No, I guess?"

Su Yu was unsure. He didn't know if his Divine Characters still had some other abilities that he had yet to discover.

"Would your blood character change after absorbing blood?"

"I don't think so..."

Su Yu sounded uncertain.

"Would it send some energy to you after absorbing blood?"

Bai Feng suspected that the character could convert blood into willpower. That was the only explanation for why Su Yu could enter the fragment room six times per day. If that was the case, then that would be a terrifying Divine Character. This was the kind of Divine Character all character masters would dream to have.

In fact, a character like this was almost equal in value to those powerful characters that could stay materialized for eternity. Bai Feng's lips turned dry. Was that really the case?

Su Yu's blood character came from the willpower text he had written during his visit to Nanyuan. If that was true, should he write a few hundred willpower texts for himself and try to get a blood character as well?

Sure, the Divine Character of each person might have different abilities even if it was the same character, but even if there was a small chance it would work, it was still worth trying.

"Sending energy to me?"

Su Yu thought for a bit and answered hesitantly, "I don't know. I never noticed."

"Does your willpower recover quickly?"

Su Yu nodded, "Yeah, it's quite fast."

Bai Feng did not say anything else. He sat down on the couch and sank into contemplation. Half an hour, six times per day, rapid willpower recovery...

Holy shit!

He exclaimed inwardly.

Why did all good things end up falling into the hands of this kid? Was the Divine Character the reason for all that or was there a different reason? Impossible! He only had 30 percent willpower—no, wait, it was now 35 percent willpower.

That was also why Bai Feng was so stunned earlier. When he checked Su Yu yesterday, the kid only had 30 percent willpower. One day later, the kid's willpower reached 35 percent. Bai Feng was already

handling it very well to be able to still speak coherently after seeing something like that. A growth of 5 percent per day. That was a terrifying speed.

Even if the speed would eventually drop, that was still a shocking speed. How did Su Yu accomplish that? Even disregarding his recovery speed, the time he could spend in the room each session was also abnormally long. Even someone at the Mental Tempering Stage could hardly last half an hour in the room.

"The blood character might be able to recover his willpower, but the duration he can stay in the room is a representation of his sea of willpower's strength. Is his sea of willpower stronger than the average person? That might be the case. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to nurture two Divine Characters without feeling any stress. He was born with a powerful sea of willpower!"

Bai Feng recalled his first meeting with Su Yu. At that time, Su Yu only had 10 percent willpower. And on that day itself, Su Yu formed his first Divine Character. That wasn't supposed to be possible.

Bai Feng had not thought too much about that. He only assumed that Su Yu had great talent in Divine Characters. But when he thought about it again, perhaps Su Yu's sea of willpower was innately stronger than the others. That was why he had been able to form a Divine Character so early.

After some thinking, Bai Feng's expression returned to normal. He looked at Su Yu and sternly asked, "Do you have any ancestors that were powerful cultural researchers?"

Su Yu shook his head blankly and said, "I never heard of anything like that."

"No?" Bai Feng muttered to himself before asking again, "I know about your father's side of the family. How about your mother's side?"

Su Yu scratched his head and said, "My mother passed away when giving birth to me. I don't know any relatives from her side so I'm not sure."

"Is that so?" Bai Feng asked in hesitation, "Were there any powerful cultural researchers among your mother's ancestors?"

It was possible that one might have a powerful willpower if one had a powerful cultural researcher ancestor. That was a type of inheritance. Of course, that cultural research had to be at the Mountainsea Realm or beyond for that to happen. At that level, a cultural researcher could materialize their Divine Characters for eternity and pass on their willpower to their descendents.

"I don't know about that."

Su Yu shook his head. He really had no idea.

When Bai Feng saw that he couldn't learn anything from asking Su Yu, he gave up. Looking at Su Yu, he coughed and said, "Keep eating. I'll go upstairs for a bit. I need you to go out with me later."

"Alright."

Su Yu did not ask anything and returned to his meal. He was really very hungry.

...

Third floor.

Data room.

After shutting the door, Bai Feng roared at the air.

"Damn it! Holy shit! Is that Divine Character the reason? That makes no sense! Are the willpower texts written by me so incredible? That's not possible! What a pity that he still can't materialize his Divine Characters yet. I want to research his Divine Character! I want to research it! I need to write more Source Opening Codex willpower texts for myself! I'll write 100 of them, 10,000 of them! I want that character for myself as well!"

Bai Feng roared madly as he punched the floor. His fists were starting to swell. Nothing about this made sense. How could that kid recover in only two hours? How could he last 30 minutes in the room at this

stage of cultivation? Back when Bai Feng first joined the academy, he had only been able to last 10 minutes in the room. And that was as a Mental Tempering Stage cultivator.

"Perhaps...part of the willpower in the fragment room had dissipated so it's much weaker now?"

Still in disbelief, Bai Feng rushed to the second floor. He ran straight into the fragment room.

And a short moment later, he walked out with a dazed expression while muttering, "The room has not gone weaker. It has even grown stronger as there are more fragments in it now..."

After thinking about it, he took out his communicator and dialed a number.

"Senior Brother."

"What is it?"

"Senior Brother, if I tell you that I can grow my willpower by five percent in one day, would you believe it?"

...

Bai Feng's senior brother worriedly asked, "Are you on drugs? Or are you hallucinating due to exhaustion? Maybe...you should...uhm...take a short break. Don't visit the prison anymore. Did you get charmed by a demonic being?"

"Senior Brother, you don't believe it?"

"Bai Feng..."

"I don't believe it either!" Bai Feng felt like crying. He muttered in a crazed manner, "I don't believe it either! But...I have no choice but to believe it!"

He rubbed his face, inhaled deeply, and said, "Senior Brother, I discovered a secret Divine Character! It's very powerful! It's very special! I need to form it! I must form it! It has the potential to grow into an Eternal Divine Character! Senior Brother, I'm too broke to form new Divine Characters. Can you lend me 5,000 merit points?"

...

The senior brother paused for a bit before roaring, "Scram!"

So this fellow was saying all that to ask for money? He was still worried that something bad had happened to his junior brother earlier!

"I'm being serious, Senior Brother. I really discovered--"

"Du...du...du..."

...

.

His senior brother had hung up on him. With a pained expression, Bai Feng said, "Why won't you trust me? I might have created a Divine Character that can shake the world! That Divine Character might even be as powerful as grandteacher's Divine Character! Grandteacher?"

The next moment, Bai Feng blanked out.

"Did...did Martial Uncle...give that Divine Character to Su Yu?"

Bai Feng suddenly had a feeling that he had to calm down. Was it a special Divine Character obtained from his willpower text or was it his grandteacher's Divine Character? Did his martial uncle give that Divine Character to Su Yu?

His expression changed repeatedly as he started taking the matter even more seriously than before. He clenched his teeth and called another number.

A short while later, an indistinct voice rang out, "Who is this?"

"It's me, Martial Uncle..."

"Hmm?"

Liu Wenyan's voice wasn't too clear as the connection was poor. He asked doubtfully, "Why are you calling me?"

"Martial Uncle...Su Yu is here. By the way...about grandteacher's Divine Character..."

"Scram!" Liu Wenyan roared furiously. "You're trying to snatch my stuff as well? Is this something you can take? Do you want your teacher to teach you a lesson? Kid, it has been so many years. There are even Mountainsea cultivators with their eyes on my stuff. Are you thinking of taking part as well?"

"I understand now. I did feel that something was off about you during your previous visit. Sure enough, you're trying to take my stuff as well! Dream on! Just you wait! Do you think I can't do anything to you? I heard you incited your teacher to leave. So this was your plan? Very good. You're dead. From today onward, Mountainsea experts will start targeting you. Just you wait!"

"Du...du...du..."

Bai Feng was stunned.? What just happened? He was just asking a question! He was just curious! Was his martial uncle crazy? Was his martial uncle going to teach him a lesson? Mountainsea cultivators were going to start targeting him? Bai Feng shivered at that thought. Did he just land himself in deep shit? He called the number again, but this time, it wasn't connecting.

"Holy shit!"

Bai Feng cursed. The connection was so poor that the call wasn't getting through. What did he do? He was only curious about Su Yu! Was there a need for that reaction?

"I...didn't incite Teacher to leave because of that..."

Bai Feng was going crazy. That was really not the case! Why wouldn't his martial uncle listen to him?

"Ahhhhhhhh!"

Bai Feng screamed. Just what was going on today? Why was everyone misinterpreting his words? His senior brother thought that he wanted to borrow some money while his martial uncle thought that he wanted to take the Divine Character for himself. But neither of that was true!

...

Downstairs.

When Su Yu heard the screaming coming from the second floor, he stopped chewing. He anxiously muttered to himself, "Is...Bai Feng angry because I exhausted too much of the two rooms' energy?"

After all, he had entered the rooms six times yesterday. Did he anger Bai Feng because of that? Otherwise, why would Bai Feng scream for no reason. Su Yu was very worried. Would he get kicked out of the research center because of that? He no longer wanted to leave the research center. Instead, he wanted to stay. For him, this was a land of treasure. He couldn't bear to leave.

"Don't chase me away! I can accept entering the rooms less if that's what it takes!"

Su Yu was deeply worried. He felt like he was going to get kicked out soon.

Chapter 148: All Below The First Place Are Garbage (1)

After a long while, Bai Feng walked back downstairs. He had regained his calm, as though the person roaring earlier wasn't him.

Looking at Su Yu, Bai Feng said, "Apart from your teacher, tell no one about your cultivation. Regardless of whether it is about your Divine Characters or cultivation method, unless you're asking for guidance, don't tell anyone anything!"

Su Yu nodded.

Bai Feng warned, "This is a cultural research academy. Cultural researchers are too mysterious. Any carelessness would result in a leak of secrets. If your enemies discover your weakness, you would die without even knowing what happened. Pack up and come with me."

Su Yu had nothing to pack. He picked up his yellow-grade saber and followed Bai Feng out of the research center.

...

Outside, the sky was clear and bright.

The weather was good today.

While walking, Bai Feng said, "For now, focus on cultivating. When something feels wrong about your sea of willpower, stop immediately."

"Alright."

"Remember to tell me when you reach the Mental Tempering Stage."

"Alright."

Su Yu did not say much. After a while, he softly asked, "Teacher, about the advanced War God Art..."

"Be patient. If everything goes well, you will get it in the afternoon."

Inwardly, Bai Feng grumbled that he didn't even have that cultivation method himself. If he couldn't defeat Hu Wensheng, Liu Hong would not pay up. But after kicking Hu Wensheng's ass, he would be able to ask for anything!

As he mused, he couldn't help but to think about Su Yu again. This kid was very fast when it came to forming Divine Characters and growing his willpower. And from the looks of it, his acupoint opening speed was very fast as well.

In that case, about challenging the Top 100 Ranking in one year...forget it. He would wait and see.

...

Su Yu followed Bai Feng deep into the academy. As they went deeper, there were less and less pedestrians around them. Ahead of them, one villa after another appeared. Su Yu knew where they were. This was the residential area of the teaching and administrative staff. It was actually not that far from the Mental Tempering Garden, but it looked far because of how big the Mental Tempering Garden was. And behind the staff residential area was the foreign students residential area.

"Is he going back home?"

Su Yu wondered to himself. Was Bai Feng going back to his home?

Bai Feng continued walking forward silently. When he walked past the gate, he indifferently said, "We have a few opponents in the academy. This is not a conflict of life and death, but if there is a chance to make them suffer, grab it. That is how they are treating us too.

"Generally speaking, only those in the same realm will compete against each other. The one to rise on top will gain more resources. The resources here are limited. At times, there is only a drop of divine or devil blood available. I want it and he wants it too. Even if we both have enough merit points and total earned merit, you might not be able to get it. In that situation, a conflict would erupt.

"Our faction is known as the multiple character faction. There aren't a lot of us around. Our faction is probably on the verge of extinction. However...we are strong. Each of us is strong! You're not at the Mental Tempering Stage yet, so if those at the Mental Tempering Stage and above act against you, I will handle them for you."

"But when you reach the Mental Tempering Stage, I won't do anything if those in the same stage act against you. Those would be your opponents to deal with. You will understand more in the future. Personally, I have a few rivals in the academy as well."

"Liu Hong?" Su Yu asked softly.

Bai Feng smiled, "Liu Hong? Perhaps. But he ranks lower than me. Since he's weaker than me, I don't really consider him a rival. Do you know Hu Wensheng?"

"I read about his introduction in the student manual." Su Yu nodded.

"He's a ninth-stage Skysoar cultivator, a student of a vice principal, and joined the academy at the same time as me. Back then, he occupied the second place of the Top 100 Ranking. During that year, Xia Yuwen held the first place while I held the fourth place. Wu Qi held the third place."

Bai Feng took a deep breath and said, "I have been competing against him for many years. We competed to become teaching assistants, we competed for divine and devil blood to forge our bodies, we competed for the opportunity to be promoted into a full researcher, we competed for chances to enter the secret grottos, and so on. This has been ongoing for many years.

"At this point, I can't be bothered to keep competing against him anymore. To speak the truth, I have always been looking down on him. Ultimately, that person is not a true genius. He cultivates in a textbook-perfect manner with no unique characteristics of his own."

Su Yu was somewhat surprised. Those were some arrogant words. After all, that person was a ninth-stage Skysoar while his teacher was only a seventh-stage Skysoar. And back then, that person held the second place of the Top 100 Ranking while Bai Feng only held the fourth place. With that result, Bai Feng was actually looking down on that person?

Bai Feng seemed to know what Su Yu was thinking. He smiled and said, "Unless you get the first place, the second, third, and fourth places are the same. I don't really care that much about that. Only the first place is worth fighting for."

"Since I couldn't beat Xia Yuwen, I couldn't be bothered to compete against the others anymore. I only needed to do enough to get into the top four and get the benefits reserved for the top four students."

Su Yu didn't know enough about the ranking to say anything.

Bai Feng continued, "If I had not accepted a student this year, I would have continued ignoring him. I can always fight him again when the time comes for us to be promoted into a full researcher."

Su Yu couldn't help asking, "Teacher, you mean..."

"I accepted you this year, right?" Bai Feng sighed, "I'm already a seventh-stage Skysoar. Some of the academy benefits are no longer as important for me. But that's not the case for you. I need to fight for some resources for you. Sigh. I can only give it a try and reduce some pressure on you. It's no big deal even if I lose. I would only embarrass myself, suffer heavy injuries, and end up bedridden for half a year or so..."

Su Yu was confused. What was his teacher saying?

Bai Feng continued, "Don't feel indebted to me. I am fighting for you, but it doesn't matter. This is my duty as a teacher."

Su Yu wanted to say something, but he didn't know what to say. His teacher was fighting for him? He was dumbstruck. He had no idea what his teacher was talking about.

Bai Feng sighed and said, "If you can reach the Skysoar Realm in a year, then the blood I shed today would be worth it."

...

What the hell was Bai Feng on about? Su Yu was totally confused. His teacher was acting as though he had just created some trouble. But he hadn't done anything at all! He had been maintaining a low profile since entering the academy. Even when Liu He was shouting at him, he had not uttered a single word.

Meanwhile, Bai Feng continued walking with the expression of a heroic soldier that was on the way to his final battle. Slowly, his face turned solemn and a heavy aura descended around him.

"Su Yu, for your sake, your teacher will fight Hu Wensheng once. If I win, everything will be fine. If I lose, it doesn't matter. I would be the one who had overestimated myself. It has nothing to do with you."

Su Yu was going crazy. His teacher was saying all that, but Bai Feng was clearly acting like this was all done for his sake. Just what was his teacher trying to say?

"If you can't reach the Skysoar Realm in a year, it doesn't matter. At that time, I'll go challenge a Mountainsea expert and try to fight for an opportunity for you to enter the Skysoar Realm."

Su Yu wanted to tell Bai Feng to stop talking with such a sorrowful tone. He kept having a feeling that his teacher was still bluffing. Su Yu was truly speechless. He had no idea what Bai Feng wanted to do.

But...it felt like his teacher was trying to give him some pressure. At the same time, his teacher was also trying to make him feel sorry? But he hadn't done anything!

...

Bai Feng naturally ignored Su Yu's expression. Since he had said all that, Su Yu only needed to work hard after this. Just look at his pitiful teacher. Wouldn't he feel guilty if he didn't work hard after this?

As for reaching the Skysoar Realm in a year...cough, cough. That was merely a random rambling of his. It wasn't like he was forcing Su Yu to reach that realm in one year. Then again, that kid was quite talented. He should be able to get into the Top 100 Ranking in a year, right?

Despite all the thoughts racing in Bai Feng's mind, he could no longer spare Su Yu any attention. A new villa entered their vision. Facing that villa, Bai Feng's presence surged as he roared, "Hu Wensheng, your grandpa Bai Feng is here! Get your ass out here!"

His voice resounded all over the residential area.

Next, a figure appeared. A youth clad in a green robe walked out of the villa and looked at Bai Feng.

With a frown, Hu Wensheng coldly said, "Bai Feng, are you seeking death?"

All around them, numerous figures appeared in the air. None approached them. Instead, they all landed on the balconies of the nearby villas.

...

"Why is Bai Feng looking for Hu Wensheng?"

"Are they going to fight?"

"Those two have been competing against each other for many years. But Hu Wensheng is already a ninth-stage Skysoar. He is far ahead of Bai Feng. Don't tell me Bai Feng is here to challenge him."

...

The researchers started talking among themselves. They weren't that surprised. These two had been at odds for many years.

But at the same time, they were also quite surprised. Bai Feng had been stuck at the sixth-stage two years ago and had been silent since then. He had been keeping to himself while Hu Wensheng was the one who would usually be on the offensive.

Eventually, even Hu Wensheng lost interest in Bai Feng and had Liu Hong deal with Bai Feng instead. In their faction, Liu Hong was the main person in charge of dealing with Bai Feng.

As for Hu Wensheng, he had been focused on reaching the Cloudbreach Realm. If Bai Feng left him alone, he wouldn't have bothered to do anything. What was going on with Bai Feng today?

...

In a villa nearby.

Wu Qi walked out into the balcony with Lin Qing and Wu Lan following behind her.

Looking at the two who were in a standoff, Lin Qing softly said, "Teacher, why is Assistant Bai looking for Assistant Hu?"

Wu Qi did not answer.

As for Wu Lan, she was busy glaring at the person behind Bai Feng, Su Yu, while gnashing her teeth. That fellow was here as well!

...

Even further away, Liu Hong stood with his arms crossed. As he looked at the two, a smile formed on his face.

Behind him, Liu He said impatiently, "Big Brother, is Bai Feng courting death?"

Liu Hong glanced at his little brother and said, "Shut up. If he hears you and breaks your legs, don't blame me for not giving you any warnings."

"Fine." Liu He exhaled deeply. But he still spoke with an unhappy tone, "Is he here to challenge Assistant Hu? He is beneath Assistant Hu. Bai Feng truly overestimates himself too much. Even if he's going to challenge someone, he should be challenging you instead."

Hearing that, Liu Hong cursed inwardly. If Liu He had nothing to say, he should just shut up. Bai Feng was overestimating himself by challenging Hu Wensheng and should have challenged Liu Hong instead? What was that supposed to mean? Was his little brother trying to say that he was worse than Hu Wensheng? Was he really worse than Hu Wensheng? Why could Bai Feng challenge him and not Hu Wensheng?

He couldn't be bothered to say anything else about that. But after some thought, he said, "You! Work harder! Don't think that you're a big deal after entering the top 100. Be careful lest you suffer a defeat in a moment of carelessness!"

"Defeat?" Liu He hesitated and asked, "Big Brother, are you talking about Xia Chan or the other freaks?"

...

Liu Hong couldn't be bothered to say anything else. He only needed his little brother to stay cautious. His gaze shifted from Bai Feng to the young man behind Bai Feng. Was this the new student?

Su Yu? Was he very talented? But from afar, the kid looked completely inconspicuous. He lacked the arrogance of those freaks, and he looked completely unremarkable standing near Bai Feng.

...

More and more people gathered in the area.

In front of Hu Wensheng's villa.

Bai Feng snorted coldly and said, "Hu Wensheng, if you're really such a big deal, come after me yourself. Why are you sending your lackey Liu Hong after me instead? Are you looking down on your grandpa? It doesn't matter if you want to compete against me. You dare to send your dogs after my student? How

dare you? Su Yu is a new student. He isn't even at the Mental Tempering Stage yet you sent Liu Hong's little brother after him? Do you really think I'm a pushover?"

...

Hu Wensheng frowned.

He had no idea about any of that. But there was no need for him to explain himself either. His faction had never gotten along well with Bai Feng's faction. It was normal for them to suppress the other faction.

Liu He bullied Bai Feng's student? He did not seek any clarification. That was most likely true. But it didn't really matter. For people like them, if they really wanted to create trouble, they could create an excuse out of nowhere. Even when they were drinking a glass of water, they could simply claim that the water had been poisoned and the other person was the culprit.

The moment he saw Bai Feng appearing before him with such great fanfare, he knew that things wouldn't end silently today.

He did not waste any time and said, "Bai Feng, stop wasting your breath. Get to the point. What do you want?"

"Sure." Bai Feng went straight to the point, "Since your guy bullied my guy, pay up. Face me in a ring. If you win, I'll forget everything. If I win, pay me 1,000 drops of Great Strength blood essence from top 100 races."

Hu Wensheng raised his brow and looked at Su Yu before saying, "You're trying to get him some blood essence to forge his Great Strength body? You won't need that much. A hundred drops would suffice."

"Why do you care? Are you accepting this challenge or not?"

Hu Wensheng coldly said, "Bai Feng, do you take me for a fool? If you lose, you won't lose anything. If I lose, I need to pay up. Are you dreaming?"

"What do you want?"

"That's simple. If I win, I want 100 drops of the blood essence you used at the Heart Cultivating Pavilion."

Bai Feng's expression changed.

He coldly said, "Hu Wensheng, you're asking for too much."

"No. You're the one coming after me. Bai Feng, I have been focused on cultivating for the past two years to get into the Cloudbreach Realm. I have no interest in competing against you. You're not my match...A weakling needs to pay a price when challenging a strong person."

Bai Feng smiled and said, "I don't have 100 drops. I only have 1 drop. If you win, you can have it. Feel free to study it as much as you want if you think you can really do it."

"Are you serious?"

Hu Wensheng's interest was finally piqued. In truth, he did not look too highly upon Bai Feng who was only a seventh-stage Skysoar. Of course, it wasn't like he was completely looking down on Bai Feng either. This fellow must have at least some confidence or he wouldn't be standing here.

A drop of blood essence with a racial ability in it...that was something Hu Wensheng needed. A drop of blood like that was very valuable.

"Fine. But forget about 1,000 drops of Infinite Strength blood essence from the top 100 races. I don't have that. If I lose, you can get 100 drops of Great Strength mountainbreak bull blood essence. What do you think?"

"Mountainbreak bull?"

Bai Feng seemed unhappy, "That race only occupies the 99th place in the top 100 races. Are you not embarrassed to take something so cheap out?"

Hu Wensheng frowned, "That is the best Great Strength body forging blood essence. The mountainbreak bulls have powerful bodies and their blood is suitable for body forging. Don't get too greedy, Bai Feng..."

In the villa behind Hu Wensheng, the expression of a youth changed. That was Hu Wensheng's student. The 100 drops of mountainbreak bull blood essence were actually something Hu Wensheng had prepared for him. He was a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. Before reaching the ninth-stage, he could forge his body at any time.

Even someone like Hu Wensheng had taken a year to gather 100 drops of Great Strength mountainbreak bull blood essence. That was something that you might not be able to buy even if you could afford it. Since that was a top 100 race, it was very hard to see their Great Strength cultivators on the battlefield.

Most of them would only enter the Allheaven Battlefield upon reaching the Skysoar Realm. And to get 100 drops of their blood essence, they had to kill at least 10 Great Strength mountainbreak bulls.

Thus, this was an extremely rare blood essence. Strictly speaking, the Great Strength version was even rarer than the Skysoar version. He had been happily waiting for his teacher to break through before helping him with his body forging.

All of a sudden, Bai Feng came looking for his teacher. But soon, he heaved a breath of relief. It would be fine. His teacher was a ninth-stage Skysoar cultivator. Bai Feng was only at the seventh-stage. There was no need for him to be too worried about this.

Chapter 149: All Below The First Place Are Garbage (2)

Bai Feng did not look satisfied with the wager. After thinking about it, he said with an unwilling tone, "Fine. I'll let you have this. I suppose you don't have anything else you can wager anyway."

Hu Wensheng indifferently said, "A cultural researcher's strength does not come from his mouth."

"Cut the crap. I never liked you!" Bai Feng sneered and said, "Stop pretending to be a saint in front of me. My chance to enter the secret grotto before this was snatched by you with your scheme. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been able to stand here all cocky with your ninth-stage cultivation!"

Hu Wensheng did not even try to defend himself. He merely smiled, "That is a fair competition. You can't blame me if you lose the opportunity due to your stupidity."

A few years ago, the two of them had the same cultivation level. A single entry into a secret grotto had brought Hu Wensheng into the seventh-stage while Bai Feng was still stuck at the sixth-stage.

Subsequently, he was able to smoothly reach the ninth-stage. Meanwhile, Bai Feng had only managed to reach the seventh-stage recently. A lot of times, the gap between cultivators would widen due to instances like this.

"True. In that case, let's compete fairly again." Bai Feng smiled and soared into the sky. "Come up here. The ring is too far. Fellow colleagues, I'll have to trouble you guys to defend the residential area. I don't want to break anything and end up paying for it."

"Hahaha. No problem. Fight to your heart's content. We will keep watch."

It didn't take long for someone to answer him. Next, burst after burst of golden light erupted and covered all the villas in the area. Su Yu even saw Zhao Li among the crowd. The old man was standing in one of the nearby villas, enjoying the show with the others.

The old man seemed to have sensed Su Yu's gaze as a golden sword shot over before grabbing Su Yu. And the next instant, Su Yu found himself appearing beside Zhao Li.

Zhao Li laughed and said, "Let's watch the show. Bai Feng versus Hu Wensheng. It has been years since they last fought. Let's see if Bai Feng has any new trump cards today. Without a trump card, why would he dare to challenge Hu Wensheng?"

Su Yu had a lot of questions, but this wasn't the time for it. He could only shut his mouth and looked at the sky in silence. Hu Wensheng had soared into the sky as well.

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The two hovered opposite each other.

Golden light erupted from Hu Wensheng's body as he started mustering his strength. He believed that Bai Feng wasn't his match, but the two had fought many times before. Bai Feng had lost more times than he had won, but there was no denying that Bai Feng was an extremely difficult opponent.

Sure, Hu Wensheng had a higher cultivation level, but they were still in the same major and minor realms as they were both late-stage Skysoar cultivators. He did not dare to be careless against an opponent like this.

He first protected his body in a golden barrier of light. Then, a sword appeared in his hand. Bai Feng still hovered there without doing anything.

When Hu Wensheng was finished with his preparations, Bai Feng sneered, "A frog at the bottom of the well. Today, I will let you know that the multiple character faction is not something weaklings like you can compare against."

That caused an outburst among the crowd. Bai Feng was incredibly arrogant. One ought to know that the multiple character faction only had a few members in the academy. With those words, Bai Feng had basically insulted the entire academy.

"What? Are you guys unhappy? That is the truth. Are you afraid of facing the truth?"

He then looked at Su Yu and said, "Student, your teacher will teach you something today. In the myriad realms, a genius will always be a genius. As for a weakling, even when given the mask of a genius, a weakling will always be a weakling."

"Go!"

With a roar, more than 10 golden streaks of light shot out of his body. In the blink of an eye, the streaks of light converged together.

"Get out of my face, trash!"

A thundering sound rumbled in the area. With a roar, Hu Wensheng's sword shone brightly. His aura surged as his sword flew forward. But hovering in front of Bai Feng was a powerful golden streak of light that shot straight through Hu Wensheng's sword.

The sword shattered. Hu Wensheng coughed a mouthful of blood and his face paled. Before he could do anything, the golden streak of light arrived and shot through his body. The golden barrier around him shattered. In the blink of an eye, Hu Wensheng was reduced into a bloodied body falling from the sky.

Silence.

The entire world sank into silence.

In the sky, the slightly pale Bai Feng sneered and drifted away in a carefree manner. His voice resounded in the air, "How can weaklings hope to play the game of the strong? Don't forget to pay up. If I wanted to kill you, I could do it with only one move. Trash."

Nobody said anything.

On the ground, Hu Wensheng stared ahead in disbelief.

Silence reigned for a short while.

Then, someone remarked, "Divine Character fusion. He has fused all 18 of his Divine Characters."

"What a guy. He has been stuck below the seventh-stage for quite a while. I thought that he would never be able to catch up to Hu Wensheng anymore, but seems like he has only been spending his time fusing his Divine Characters."

"How terrifying."

"Hu Wensheng is not his match. If Wu Qi can't defeat him as well, Xia Yuwen would be his only match. This fellow...is quite a patient one."

"He's not patient. He simply looks down on Hu Wensheng. As far as he's concerned, only Xia Yuwen is his opponent. Since he can't beat Xia Yuwen, he hasn't bothered to actually compete against the others. But now, he seems to have gained some confidence to do something again."

"A good show is going to unfold."

"True. Xia Yuwen is currently at the Allheaven Battlefield to look for an opportunity to break through into the Cloudbreach Realm. If he returns without breaking through, then the competition between him and Bai Feng would resume."

One person after another spoke. Today, Bai Feng had dazzled all the spectators. With one move, he instantly defeated Hu Wensheng, a ninth-stage Skysoar cultivator. Hu Wensheng was completely helpless before him. Weakling? Genius?

Was Hu Wensheng a weakling? He absolutely wasn't. That could only mean that Bai Feng was a freak. A true freak of nature.

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Inside Liu Hong's villa.

Liu He was stupefied. His mouth was wide agape and he had a shocked expression. Beside him, Liu Hong had a solemn expression.

"What a guy. That bastard has just been messing around with me all these years!"

He cursed and couldn't help but to frown. If that fellow was so strong, how was he supposed to compete? After that show of force, wasn't it clear that he wouldn't be qualified to compete against Bai Feng before reaching the ninth-stage Skysoar Realm?

"Big Brother...why...why is he so strong?"

Liu He was still in disbelief. That fellow had defeated Hu Wensheng with one move. How was that possible?

Liu Hong solemnly said, "It's fine. He relied on the surprise factor. Hu Wensheng wasn't well-prepared. After that one move, Bai Feng was like an arrow at the end of its flight. If he hasn't left immediately, he would probably end up embarrassing himself after all the big talk."

He took a deep breath and continued, "When experts fight, the number of moves is not important. The result is all that matters. If he fails to defeat Hu Wensheng after that move, he would lose. If Hu Wensheng was aware that he had fused 18 Divine Characters and had prepared accordingly, Bai Feng would have been the one to lose. Therefore, don't overestimate Bai Feng's strength..."

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Inside Wu Qi's villa.

Wu Qi still looked as indifferent as ever. However, Wu Lan and Ling Qing couldn't stay calm.

Lin Qing asked in disbelief, "Teacher, isn't he still at the seventh-stage?"

Wu Qi calmly said, "A seventh-stage Skysoar is still a late-stage Skysoar. The gap between the seventh and ninth stages isn't that big. Hu Wensheng? A mere weakling. He actually looked down on Bai Feng just because Bai Feng is at the seventh-stage? What a joke."

Wu Lan only had a simple question to ask, "Big Sister, can you beat him?"

Wu Qi glanced at her and smiled, "Would...Bai Feng dare to challenge me?"

Wu Lan blinked in confusion. What did her sister mean?

"He only dares to bully Hu Wensheng. If he had dared to look for me instead...he would be bedridden for half a year after today."

Wu Qi spoke with an indifferent tone, but she was also incomparably arrogant.

"Hu Wensheng..." Disdain covered Wu Qi's face. She turned around and walked away as she said, "Number two in the Top 100 Ranking? What a joke. After Xia Yuwen took first place, the rest of us had simply lost interest in fighting for the so-called second place. The entire Top 100 Ranking no longer mattered to us."

Everyone below the first place was garbage. Since they couldn't defeat Xia Yuwen, what was the point of fighting for the other positions?

...

Su Yu was not paying any attention to all the discussion around him. He was stunned, shocked, dazed, and in disbelief. He was feeling a rush of emotions.

Bai Feng...a genius? No. He was a freak. Someone who had defeated an opponent above his class with one move. In less than three seconds, he had defeated a ninth-stage Skysoar as a seventh-stage Skysoar.

Divine Character fusion. Fusing 18 Divine Characters, he unleashed a terrifyingly powerful attack, crushing Hu Wensheng's attack and defenses. Was that the strength of the multiple character faction? That was really powerful.

Su Yu found himself understanding Bai Feng's words more and more. Even a genius was nothing. Hu Wensheng was praised as the genius teaching assistant of the academy. He ranked second in the Top 100 Ranking. So what? It was no wonder that Bai Feng had been telling him that geniuses meant nothing for him.

Su Yu finally understood why.

He exhaled deeply as excitement grew within his heart. Earlier, he had still been rather unhappy about how Bai Feng was treating him, but now, he only had one thought: Bai Feng had the strength to back his arrogance. Even if he was talented, without actual strength, who was he to gain Bai Feng's approval?

"I want to grow stronger!"

Su Yu took a deep breath and clenched his fists. He wanted to grow stronger, to grow as strong as Bai Feng. With one move, he defeated a genius. Who in the academy, including those Cloudbreach and Mountainsea experts, would dare to say that he wasn't a genius?

How confident and carefree. That was the kind of strength he yearned to have. But since he was that strong, what was up with the pitiful act he put up before the challenge? Su Yu was speechless.

Chapter 150: The Start Of A Feud (1)

Bai Feng was surprisingly strong.

News of his feat was instantly spread through the academy.

...

Not long after Bai Feng left.

Heart Cultivating Pavilion's area.

In a beautiful villa, Vice Principal Zhou Mingren sighed. With a look of recollection in his eyes, he softly said, "It is not surprising that Wensheng is still not his match."

Apart from Zhou Mingren, there was another old man in the villa. The old man was Zhou Mingren's student, someone he accepted many years ago. He had recently reached the Mountainsea Realm and was admitted into the Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

"Teacher, Martial Brother Wen..."

"Let him get over this himself." Zhou Mingren said, "Everyone talks about cultivating the heart...If he can't even get over a defeat, how can he cultivate his heart? The multiple character faction used to suppress us badly. They don't have a lot of members now, but any cultivator they send out would end up being an expert. That is not surprising."

The look in Zhou Mingren's eyes turned firm as he said, "I know they have a lot of elites, but elites are different. Not everyone can be an elite. Otherwise, the multiple character faction wouldn't have declined."

He looked at his student and declared with conviction, "Only the path that can be spread to the common populace is the best path. Not everyone is Hong Tan. Not everyone is Bai Feng. The academy can nurture some geniuses here and there, but trying to turn the academy into the multiple character faction's playground is a mistake."

Zhou Mingren sighed and continued, "Yuming, you have followed me for many years. You should be aware of why your teacher is fighting them. I don't want to see a repeat of the tragedy 50 years ago. The multiple character faction can continue existing, but it can't grow."

With a look of pain and anger, Zhou Mingren said, "The generation from 50 years ago was filled with geniuses and freaks. But all of them...ended up crippled. Liu Wenyan, Zhao Mingyue, Xia Yunji, and Hu Ping...that was the golden generation of the academy!"

"At that time, heroes and geniuses gathered in the academy. We have plenty of students who were able to form seven or eight Divine Characters at the Mental Tempering Stage. Liu Wenyan even managed to form 20 Divine Characters and gained the strength to fight Skysoar cultivators at the Mental Tempering Stage. But that generation ended up ruined!"

The more Zhou Mingren said, the angrier he looked, "So many geniuses and freaks were ruined! So many of them! Without that tragedy, how many of them would have reached the Mountainsea Realm and beyond by now?"

Calm returned to his face as he took a deep breath and said, "Therefore, I can tolerate their existence, but we can't allow them to grow strong once again. Otherwise, the trend would shift and the tragedy 50 years ago would repeat. The academy has spent 50 years painstakingly recovering from that incident. We can't allow the same thing to happen again."

Beside him, Yuming nodded and said, "I understand, Teacher. I won't give them the chance to grow."

His tone turned gloomy as he continued, "You're still too kind, teacher. Hong Tan shouldn't have been allowed to stay after that tragedy..."

Zhou Mingren waved his hand and softly said, "There is still a need for the multiple character faction to exist, but their growth should be restricted. They can be allowed to accept a student or two per batch and grow silently instead of reopening their faction with great fanfare and take the dominant position in the academy. I heard Bai Feng accepted a student?"

"Yeah. Su Yu, a high-high student from Nanyuan. Liu Wenyan's student."

"Liu Wenyan is still unwilling to give up," Zhou Mingren sighed. "With him staying in Nanyuan, does he really believe that someone else would rise and carry the banner of the multiple character faction? Even he is already crippled. He has just reached the Skysoar Realm not long ago. He has not done anything all these years. Even if he can fuse all his characters, even if he is still as talented as ever, even if he can fight ninth-stage Skysoar cultivators, even if he can fight above his class against those in the Cloudbreach Realm...so what?"

"If he had walked the path of single character, he would have reached the Mountainsea Realm or even the peak of that realm by now. If he was lucky, he could have gone beyond that realm. Is that all really worth it?"

Yuming sighed and said, "It's not worth it. Back then, he was a super genius while I was an unremarkable student. At that time, those people were akin to the suns in the sky. Meanwhile, I was an insignificant speck of dust. Fifty years later, I'm a Mountainsea cultivator. Meanwhile, they are either old or dead. Even entering the Skysoar Realm is greatly challenging for them."

Yuming sank into a melancholy mood. That was a batch of freakish geniuses. It was similar to Bai Feng's batch. No, to be precise, that batch was even more prominent. Perhaps...this year's batch would be the closest in quality to the batch 50 years ago.

Liu Wenyan, Wu Yuehua, Zhao Mingyue, Xia Yunji...Those were the names that were known throughout Great Xia and even the entire Human Realm back then. That was an era of freaks. Mental Tempering

Stage challenging Skysoars, Mental Tempering Stage killing Skysoars, completing a Divine Character in three days, upgrading a Divine Character in ten days...

The geniuses of that era were incomparably dazzling. Meanwhile, he, Zheng Yuming, was an ordinary student. But 50 years later, everything changed. All those geniuses and freaks were as good as crippled. He, on the other hand, had stepped into the Mountainsea Realm.

Zhou Mingren was also melancholic as he recalled that era. He said, "That is the past. We can't allow the same tragedy to repeat. I know what Wan Tiansheng is thinking. He's still not willing to give up. He still wishes to see the multiple character faction rising once again. He wants to give them another try and see if the academy can finally produce someone above the Mountainsea Realm after all these years. But he never stopped to consider the fact that if even all those freaks were ruined, what can the multiple character faction do now? Is he not afraid that yet another batch of students would be ruined?"

Zhou Mingren snorted unhappily.

Zheng Yuming softly said, "Teacher, is the principal really thinking of helping the multiple character faction grow? But back then, he was the one who had expelled all those people. If he now—"

"You don't understand." Zhou Mingren waved his hand, "Wan Tiansheng does not care about the dominant faction of the academy. He is an ambitious person. What he wants is someone above the Mountainsea Realm. He wants to figure out a stable path to the realm above the Mountainsea Realm. But that is something not even the Knowledge Seeking Realm and War Shrine can accomplish. Can he do it? Who does he think he is?"

Zhou Mingren had no confidence that Wan Tiansheng could accomplish it. He coldly said, "Ignore him. Wan Tiansheng is an advocate of the survival of the fittest. He believes in meritocracy. Thus, he won't meddle in our affairs.

"As for Wensheng, let him get over this defeat himself. Increase our support to Liu Hong and push him to the ninth-stage Skysoar Realm as soon as possible. Have him continue suppressing Bai Feng."

Zheng Yuming asked doubtfully, "Can Liu Hong do it? He's worse than Wensheng. How can he compete against Bai Feng?"

"Liu Hong..." Zhou Mingren smiled, "Don't look down on him. He is not as strong as Wensheng, but he is much smarter. Among those in the Skysoar Realm, only Xia Yuwen and Wu Qi are capable of suppressing Bai Feng. And I'm not even sure if Wu Qi can actually do it. Therefore, we can't hope to suppress Bai Feng with strength. We need someone with intelligence."

"I understand."

"Tell Liu Hong to not allow the multiple character faction to gain any sort of fame. Also, suppress Bai Feng's student. If the multiple character faction is allowed to rebuild and rise to prominence once again, the people in the academy might start flocking to them again. At that time, the tragedy would repeat and chaos would erupt in Great Xia yet again."

Zheng Yuming nodded. He was about to leave when he recalled something and said, "Teacher, how about Liu Wenyan?"

"Liu Wenyan..."

Zhou Mingren sank into thought. After a while, he said, "Ignore him. If he is really capable of rising again, that would also be a good thing. But if he can only remain a Skysoar or a Cloudbreach, he won't be able to change anything. After all, if the multiple character faction can forge a path beyond the Mountainsea Realm, the entire humanity would benefit from it. Unfortunately, I doubt that day would arrive."

"I understand."

Zheng Yuming turned around and walked away. Hu Wensheng's defeat came as a surprise for all of them. But for now, the multiple character faction was still incapable of changing anything. The single character faction had dominated the academy for 50 years. They had multiple Mountainsea experts in the academy. As for the multiple character faction, they only had Hong Tan. He could barely keep the faction running.

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Research center.

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Su Yu had rushed back after the challenge. And sure enough, Bai Feng was there.

His teacher was seated on the couch while watching television. When he saw Su Yu, he indifferently asked, "I thought you're going to take a stroll outside before coming back."

"Teacher, you're so strong!"

Su Yu praised sincerely. His teacher was too incredible! Bai Feng had an indifferent expression, but inwardly, he was feeling incredibly smug.

Kid, weren't you cocky earlier? Are you not cocky anymore? Do you now know what a true genius looks like?

While Bai Feng was entertaining himself with those thoughts, Su Yu solemnly said, "This student has been ignorant previously. If I had offended you with my ignorance, I hope you can forgive me, teacher. Teacher, did you change into a new set of clothes? Let me wash your old clothes for you..."

Bai Feng's eyes flickered for a bit before indifferently saying, "It's fine. There is no need to wear the same clothes twice. People like us should not waste our time doing laundry."

Su Yu blanked out slightly. Wasting time? If that was a waste of time, why did his teacher tell him to clean the research center everyday? Was that not a waste of time?

Su Yu stole a glance at Bai Feng suspiciously and noted that Bai Feng was slightly pale. Did Bai Feng...throw those clothes away because he was too embarrassed to show them to anyone? He had changed into a new set of clothes right after coming back. Did he cough some blood after the fight and stained his clothes with blood?

Su Yu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He had discovered something about Bai Feng. This fellow enjoyed bluffing too much. In truth, even if Bai Feng had really coughed blood after the fight, Su Yu

would still view him with admiration. As a seventh-stage Skysoar, he had defeated a ninth-stage Skysoar instantly. How would Su Yu look down on him just because of some blood?

Then again, nobody was perfect. In fact, this little fault of Bai Feng was very easy to accept. It made one realize that he was also a human, not a god. Su Yu tossed the matter out of the mind and started hesitating to talk about something else.

Bai Feng seemed to have seen through Su Yu as he smiled and asked, "Are you trying to ask about the move I used against Hu Wensheng?"

"Yeah." Su Yu nodded. He was very curious.

"Multiple character fusion." Bai Feng explained, "That is the origin of our faction. Of course, it is pointless to tell you now. You're not even at the Mental Tempering Stage. What's the point of knowing so much? I'll teach you when you reach the Mental Tempering Stage. Don't worry. Since you have joined us, I won't be stingy with knowledge."

Bai Feng's smile grew as he said, "I am not afraid that my student would learn too much. I am also not afraid of being surpassed by my student. If my student can really surpass me, I would even be happy as that would prove that I have yet to reach my limit. There are still a lot of mysteries in the path of cultivation waiting for me to discover."

Hearing that, Su Yu stopped asking. It was important to advance step by step in the path of cultivation. He shouldn't be biting off more than he could chew.

Bai Feng shifted the topic and said, "When cultivating, it is better if you can set small goals for yourself. Since you have just joined, I won't have high requirements for you during the first month. For the first monthly exam, I only need you to place in the top 10 in your middle class. Use this month to master the basics and familiarize yourself with the academy. Your future tasks will only grow harder and harder."

"Top 10 in the intermediate class..."

Su Yu was aware of how students were grouped. Those below 20 percent willpower were placed in the junior class. Those between 20 percent willpower and the Mental Tempering Stage would be placed in the intermediate class. Those at the Mental Tempering Stage were all placed in the senior class.

He was an intermediate class student. This year, the academy had accepted nearly 2,000 new students. Most of them were intermediate class students. In fact, there were nearly 1,000 of them.

"Also..." Bai Feng continued, "I defeated Hu Wensheng today. You'll have to watch your back. A lot of people don't want to see us bath in the limelight. They can't do anything to me, but that might not be the case for you."

Su Yu couldn't help but to ask, "Teacher! We only have a few people in our faction. Even if there is competition for resources in the academy, we won't take much since there aren't a lot of us. Why are those people insisting on going after us?"

Bai Feng smiled and said, "You got this wrong. They're not the ones insisting on going after us. We're the ones insisting on going after them."

Su Yu was dumbfounded.

Bai Feng calmly said, "They walk the wrong path. They are all garbage. That is a path that will ruin the future of true geniuses. We disagree with their path, so we naturally need to go against them. We need to prove that our path is the right one.

"Why shouldn't we go against them? The holy land of willpower cultivation is the Knowledge Seeking Realm. Why knowledge seeking? The path of cultivation is long. Before walking until the very end, nobody knows which path is the right path. But there is no denying that the so-called geniuses they have produced all these years are weaker than the others in the same cultivation level. Apart from that, they weren't even able to get into the higher realms. Even Zhou Mingren isn't a match for your grandteacher.

"In that case, why waste the academy's resources on those weaklings? Why support them when they're walking the wrong path? My teacher once suggested that low and middle-tier students should all walk the ordinary character path while the high-tier students should all walk the path of multiple characters. We should teach in accordance with our students' ability. We can't reject the multiple character faction just because of one incident."

Bai Feng continued with a dissatisfied tone, "If even geniuses are made to walk the common path, wouldn't their talent go to waste? Each student should be taught in accordance to their ability! Teacher had suggested that several times before, but he was rejected again and again!"

He did not think that Zhou Mingren's faction should stop existing altogether. He believed that it was better for the ordinary students to walk that path. But why should geniuses walk that path as well? Even if the multiple character faction could easily ruin a genius, as long as one out of ten could rise to prominence, that would still be worth it.

A single Bai Feng would definitely not consume as much resources as 10 Skysoars with the same cultivation level walking the path of single character. But in terms of importance, Bai Feng was confident that he could kill all 10 of them on the Allheaven Battlefield unless he had to fight all of them at the same time.

Su Yu found himself speechless. So...it wasn't that the others were going against them. They were the ones going against the others? Why...did he feel like a villain?

Bai Feng smiled and said, "Of course, that's not the complete truth. We simply dislike each other. Don't worry about that. It's no big deal. Just compete like usual. As long as you stay within the bounds of the rules, you can do whatever you want. As for anyone stepping outside the bounds of the rules, treat them like cult members."

Bai Feng added indifferently, "At that point, it no longer matters if they are actually cult members or not. Treat anyone breaking the rules as cult members. It would be even better if you can prove that they are actual cult members. The academy might even reward you for killing them."

"What are the rules?"

Bai Feng smiled, "As long as they don't kill or sever your path of cultivation, everything is doable. Those trying to kill or sever your path like destroying your sea of willpower can be considered to have broken the rules. Those people can be treated as cult members. Feel free to kill them. The academy will have your back. Don't worry!"

Once again, Su Yu found himself speechless. That was so simple and straightforward. But it was clear that the academy still intended to keep the competition within certain limits. As long as the path of the students weren't severed, they were free to do whatever they wanted to compete. One would have nobody but themselves to blame if they lose out in the competition.

"Alright. We'll stop here. I still need to go to the main lab later..." Bai Feng stood up and said, "The advanced War God Art will arrive later. Cultivate it as you see fit. Just let me know when you reach the Mental Tempering Stage or when you're about to break through into the Great Strength Realm."

"Alright."

...

Bai Feng went to the third underground floor, leaving Su Yu alone. After cleaning up the living area, Su Yu wasted no time and went straight to the second floor.