

## Myriad 161

### Chapter 161: A Good Class Monitor (2)

Listening to the old instructor's eloquent lecture, Su Yu felt like he was personally touring the three seas. His heart was filled with admiration toward the quality of education here. Before long, his admiration rose further when a large screen appeared in front of the classroom. Lifelike marine beasts appeared before their eyes. An even more shocking scene appeared next. On the screen, a beast started speaking.

"Jiliwala..."

Su Yu couldn't understand what the beast was speaking, but all this felt incredibly novel to him.

Video learning! Incredible!

The old instructor smiled, "This is the sea lion race. It was speaking the sea lion language earlier. This is a minor language, but it is still quite useful as there are a lot of sea lions in the seas. You will probably encounter them when you visit the three seas in the future. You can try communicating with them..."

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Su Yu felt like he had entered a brand new world. This was his very first time listening to a non-human speaking. In the past, Liu Wenyan had been the one to teach him all the languages he knew. He had never experienced video learning before.

When he looked around and saw that many of the students seemed used to this, he smiled helplessly. Sure enough, Nanyuan was too far behind the other cities. With such an education method, it wouldn't be surprising for one to master 30 or more languages.

It was no wonder even a fool like Wu Lan could master over 30 languages. Su Yu muttered to himself that if he had been given the same education, he would have mastered at least 40 languages.

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The entire day of lessons was tiring yet fulfilling. Suddenly, Su Yu found himself hating Liu Hong less. He realized that he badly needed these basic lessons. Minor languages, Divine Character structure, sea of willpower protection, language analysis, and so on. There was a lot to do, but he had managed to learn a lot as well.

"So Divine Characters can't be fused in an unplanned manner..."

No wonder Bureau Head Sun and the others had reminded him so sternly that he shouldn't rashly fuse his Divine Characters. If he fused Divine Characters randomly, their abilities might repel each other and result in a breakdown of the characters. This was something he had only learned today.

Different Divine Characters might have abilities that completely countered each other. Only Divine Characters with compatible abilities could be fused safely.

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Su Yu stayed back after the class and only left after the classroom was cleaned. He planned to go grab a meal before starting his daily cultivation routine. However, somebody stood in his path again. This time, there were two individuals in front of him.

Xia Huyou looked at Lin Yao and smiled before stepping backward, seemingly inviting Lin Yao to speak first. From his expression, it was clear he was not interested in getting involved in Lin Yao's business.

Lin Yao merely glanced at Xia Huyou without saying anything. There was no need to provoke someone from the Xia Family for no reason.

Lin Yao looked at Su Yu and went straight to the point, "Su Yu, I am Lin Yao. Let's speak frankly. I am going to reach the Great Strength Realm soon. I wish to buy your mountainbreak bull blood essence. Name the price. Or I can also trade you my silkwrym blood essence. The silkwrym race occupies the 86th place among the top 100 races.

"Meanwhile, the mountainbreak bull race only occupies the 99th place. Of course, its blood essence is more suited for Great Strength body forging. Therefore, I am willing to add 100 merit points on top of

that. You can achieve a similar effect using the silkwrym blood essence while also earning an extra 100 merit points. What do you think?"

Su Yu did not answer. He looked at Xia Huyou and asked, "What's the price of silkwrym blood essence?"

Xia Huyou smiled and said, "Great Strength silkwrym blood essence isn't cheap. Mountainbreak bull blood essence can be bought at 10 merit points per drop while the silkwrym blood essence can be bought at 9 merit points per drop. The difference in value isn't that big. With the additional 100 merit points he offered, it would be a fair trade."

Su Yu nodded and looked at Lin Yao. He was just thinking about beating this fellow up. And now, this Lin Yao fellow was delivering himself to him. What a coincidence!

"If I say no, would you create trouble for me?"

Lin Yao frowned, "You're not even at the Great Strength Realm. I don't have the interest to bully you. Ask me that question when you reach the Great Strength Realm or the Mental Tempering Stage."

Su Yu smiled, "I see. No, I'm not selling."

"You..." Lin Yao frowned and said in a displeased manner, "I told you. The silkwrym blood essence has a similar effect. It won't affect you that much."

"In that case, you can use the silkwrym blood essence yourself."

Su Yu rolled his eyes. Since the two were similar, why did Lin Yao insist on the trade?

Lin Yao was getting furious. "Are you really clueless or are you pretending? People like me aim to enter the Top 100 Ranking. For us, any little bit of strength matters. You will at least be a year behind us. You have plenty of time to make up for the missing strength from using a weaker blood essence."

"I am willing to pay you 100 merit points on top of that. Su Yu, do you even have 100 merit points? Don't be stubborn and lose a benefit you can grab just for the sake of ego. That is pointless. A smart person should know how to make smart choices. Don't let ego dictate how you act."

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Su Yu was getting impatient. "I'm not selling. What's the problem with refusing to sell or trade? Since you insist...I really can't sell it. But a month later, the top three students can challenge the students of the senior class. You're a ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator. I'm at the same stage. I'm not at the Mental Tempering Stage yet but I don't mind that you're already at the Mental Tempering Stage. At that time, I'll challenge you. If you win, I'll make the trade for the same price you offered today.

"And if I win...I don't need your blood essence. It would be a shame if you end up not having even the silkworm blood essence for your body forging. I am not the kind of person that would intentionally delay the cultivation of others. I will take 300 merit points instead. That's fair, right?"

Lin Yao looked at Su Yu with a frown. "Are you sure? Su Yu, don't think that I'm bullying you. You're not even at the Mental Tempering Stage yet. Are you sure you want to challenge me?"

"Yes." Su Yu smiled, "I'm afraid of trouble. If I lose, I'll have the excuse to make the trade and even earn 100 merit points. That's a great deal for me. Just remember to not hit too hard during the spar. I don't have the money to heal myself."

Lin Yao gave Su Yu a deep look and smiled.

"Looks like you're quite confident in yourself. But I need to tell you that confidence might be a good thing to have, but blind arrogance will only bring you shame."

"Sure. See you after the monthly exam."

Lin Yao turned around and left. He wasn't going to reach the Great Strength Realm so soon so he could afford to wait. But he was quite surprised that Su Yu would actually have the confidence to challenge him.

After Lin Yao left, Xia Huyou beamed and said, "Su Yu, it's quite mean of you to scam him like this."

"What?" Su Yu asked in astonishment, "What do you mean?"

"Are you sure you're not scamming him?" Xia Huyou grinned, "I believe you can win. You will absolutely win. What a nice scheme. You're going to get 300 merit points in one go. Also, you're even aware about the requirements to challenge a senior class student. You must have done your research before this, right?"

Su Yu wasn't an old student of the academy. And the new students would normally not be informed about this for no reason. Since Su Yu knew about it, he had clearly been doing his research about it.

It was obvious that this fellow already had his eyes set on someone in the senior class. Was Lin Yao his target? That would be too much of a coincidence. Xia Huyou rubbed his chin and concluded that Lin Yao shouldn't be Su Yu's initial target. Maybe it was Wu Lan?

Su Yu smiled, "Don't talk nonsense. I was merely tired of getting bothered again and again for the blood essence so I asked a teacher about it. If it's possible, I would intentionally lose the blood essence in a spar. The silkworm blood essence would do for me. I hope nobody will bother me again after that."

Xia Huyou said, "You don't have to worry about that. Silkworm blood essence is quite rare as well, but it's not suitable for body forging. It is much less effective than the mountainbreak bull blood essence. Although the mountainbreak bull race has a lower race ranking, their blood is really useful. In truth, none of those geniuses and freaks would be lacking in blood essence. The mountainbreak bull blood essence is merely one of the better ones among the optimal types of blood essence. You can see that Assistant Hu is actually quite nice to prepare this blood essence for his student."

"I see."

Su Yu nodded and did not say much. This was quite good. Lin Yao had actually come looking for him. It wouldn't be long before Su Yu would cross a name from his list.

Previously, he was still somewhat ashamed of his little plan to beat Lin Yao up. After all, he did not even know Lin Yao. But this person was now trying to take his mountainbreak bull blood essence from him. He no longer had any reason to hold back.

"Hey, don't go. Do you still want the iron-winged bird blood essence?"

Xia Huyou hurriedly followed Su Yu when he saw that Su Yu was going to walk away.

"Yes, but I'm only paying 90 merit points. I'm not paying a single point extra. Take it or leave it. I already have a new seller."

"No, no..." Xia Huyou hurriedly said, "I'll take it! Su Yu, do you want to book 100 more drops from me? I can sell them all to you for 300 merit points. You can pay me on the first of next month. You can owe me the merit points for now."

Su Yu turned around to look at Xia Huyou. He smiled. How capable. He was impressed. This fellow was already setting his eyes on the 300 merit points that he would only get after winning the challenge. Clearly, this fellow was confident that Su Yu could win.

"Are you not afraid that I would lose and not pay you anything?"

"Of course not. Won't you still have the silkworm blood essence even if you lose? You will also get 100 merit points on top of that."

Xia Huyou was all smiles as he said, "Are you interested in my offer? Think about it!"

"No thanks." Su Yu started walking away again. "I'm only buying this much from you for now. Be quick. I need to use the blood essence soon."

"Alright! You'll get the blood essence tomorrow. You can always put your trust in me!"

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Su Yu walked further and further away from Xia Huyou. He took a deep breath and told himself that he needed to cultivate hard and do nothing else for now.

He needed to open enough acupoints to break through in a month. He also needed to grow his willpower. On the first of next month, he would kick Lin Yao's ass and enter the senior class. After that, he would have a lot more free time. Was Liu Hong going to make him the class monitor there too?

"You can't blame me for this. Your student is the one coming after me."

Su Yu was actually getting excited. He had only been in the academy for a short period of time yet his patience was already running thin. It felt like everyone in the academy was trying to step on him. This time, Lin Yao would be the one to withstand his anger. Su Yu had never considered the possibility of losing. If he lost even after using his blood essence, then Lin Yao truly deserved to enter the Top 100 Ranking this year.

#### Chapter 162: Bullying The Good Guy (1)

With his day spent on classes, Su Yu prepared to spend his night cultivating. He had previously decided on a goal of entering the fragment room six times per day. He could stay in the room for half an hour each time. After that, he needed over an hour for recovery. Each session would take him two hours in total.

Thus, it would be rather hard for him to meet the goal of entering the fragment room 6 times each day. That would require 12 hours. It was already 7 in the evening when he returned from dinner after class. If he cultivated for 12 hours after that, he wouldn't even have enough time to sleep.

"I still need to sleep. It would be too embarrassing if a ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator like me ended up tiring myself to death. Sleeping four hours per day would be enough. I can wake up at seven in the morning. Alright, I will enter the fragment room four times then."

Su Yu could only helplessly reduce his training time. It was something he had to do. After attending the basic classes today, he had discovered that he was still lacking in many aspects. Thus, Liu Hong's scheme had actually helped him. He did not come from a big family. Liu Wenyan had only taught him a little bit of the basics. He still had a lot to learn.

"One entry is basically the same as earning 10 merit points for free. Reducing my daily sessions by 2 is the same as taking 20 merit points from me per day. I am still 25 days away from kicking Lin Yao's ass. Until then, I'll lose 500 merit points in total. After winning the 300 merit points from Lin Yao, Liu Hong's line would still owe me 200 merit points."

Su Yu was confident in his calculation. He concluded that Liu Hong still owed him 200 merit points. After all, a single cultivation session here was the same as earning 10 merit points. He was already very generous for not charging Liu Hong for slowing down his growth. While thinking about all that, he stepped into the fragment room.

"I am a very generous person. Unless you really push it too far, I won't really care about what you do. But 200 merit points are really a lot. I need to kill two Skysoars for that. Liu Hong, 200 merit points!"

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Bai Feng just happened to be passing by when Su Yu shouted that. Bai Feng was stupefied. Since when did Liu Hong start owing Su Yu 200 merit points? Why was he not aware of that? Were there private deals between Liu Hong and Su Yu? Was Liu Hong even aware of this debt? Was Liu Hong trying to taint Su Yu with money? Their faction might be broke, but they must not allow money to taint them!

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Su Yu was unaware of all the thoughts Bai Feng was having. He had just discovered that two hours per session might not be enough. That was because he had lasted 40 minutes this time. He could now stay longer in the fragment room than before.

"Looks like I will be able to enter the second section soon."

The fragment room was split into several sections. The second section was actually meant for those in the Mental Tempering Stage.

Su Yu was still quite far from reaching the Mental Tempering Stage. But he felt like he could still give it a try. That was because he found that although he didn't have a lot of willpower, his willpower was very strong.



After about 40 minutes, he entered the filter room. Once again, he extravagantly used a drop of Infinite Strength blood essence to cultivate in the room. He still had two drops left, but the new blood essence he purchased from Xia Huyou would arrive soon.

As for the five drops of source qi liquid he had purchased earlier, he had no plans of using them. Source qi liquid would also be helpful for recovery during combat. If he had to use Infinite Strength blood essence during combat, his source qi would drain rapidly. At that time, the source qi liquid could be used for recovery.

After the cultivation session in the filter room, he felt that his eighth acupoint was going to open soon. And after that, he would be able to advance into the Great Strength Realm if he only cultivated the ordinary War God Art.

"Dad only cultivates the Great Strength Art. That cultivation method only opens 36 acupoints in total. But I've already opened 8 acupoints before even properly stepping into the Great Strength Realm. Perhaps I can overtake Dad in terms of acupoints soon? At the seventh-stage, I will have 84 acupoints opened. Can I beat Dad then?"

Su Yu couldn't help but to start entertaining all those random thoughts. He was starting to miss his father. He wondered if his father was doing well on the battlefield. Had his father participated in any battle? Had his father suffered any injuries?

Su Yu had cultivated like his life depended on it for one reason. He wanted to reach the Skysoar Realm as soon as possible and enter the Allheaven Battlefield. That unreliable father had no idea how concerned Su Yu was of him.

Was cultivating painful? Was it not nice to get more sleep? He had never worked this hard in the past. But now that his father had entered a dangerous battlefield, he couldn't help but to be worried.

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Night descended.

Allheaven Battlefield.

Su Long was leaning against the city wall while giggling foolishly to himself.

Beside him, 100-man Commander Liu couldn't help but to curse, "Why are you giggling to yourself again? Su Long, have you gone mad recently?"

Su Long did not feel like entertaining that remark. But after some thought, he smugly said, "What do you know? I've been holding this in for a few days. I wanted to keep this to myself, but today, I have to let it out. Listen well! My son is the top scorer in both the war and cultural examinations in Nanyuan! Remember this well! My son is the top scorer in the war and cultural examinations! Over a dozen academies fought each other to recruit my son. Hahaha!"

Su Long finally ran out of patience and announced the news. Around 100 soldiers heard his words. Not far away, the 1000-man commander on patrol couldn't help but to laugh and shake his head. This fellow had been talking about his son every single day. And now, he was claiming that his son was the top scorer in Nanyuan? Who knew if he was bluffing?

"Old Su, don't shout. We're not in an active war currently, but we still need to be careful and make less noise."

Su Long smiled and said, "Ok, ok, I won't be so loud. Commander, have you heard? My son is the top scorer! I'll buy you all a meal during our rest day a few days later. But Old Liu can't join. It's a waste of money buying him anything."

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Commander Liu was speechless. He said, "Su Long, stop bluffing. Can your son even become the top scorer?"

"I'm telling the truth!" Su Long was getting furious, "He's really the top scorer! I knew you guys wouldn't believe it. That's why I have been keeping silent about it. I received the news from the Martial Dragon Guards. There is no faking this. Not only that, a cultural researcher has accepted my kid as a student before he even joins the cultural research academy."

"Really?"

The crowd's interest was piqued.

But Commander Liu still didn't believe Su Long. "A cultural researcher accepted him as a student?"

"Yeah!" Su Long proudly said, "It's a cultural researcher called Bai Feng. I heard he's quite an incredible person..."

He had barely finished speaking when a silhouette appeared before him. Around him, several bursts of willpower erupted, but all the willpower vanished again immediately after.

An old man entered Su Long's vision. The old man asked doubtfully, "Who were you talking about earlier?"

Su Long was alarmed. An expert!

"ENEM—"

"Shut up." The old man rolled his eyes. "They know I'm here. I'm not an enemy."

Su Long and the others looked around and sure enough, the 1000-man commander was looking at them from not far away. When the old man waved his hand, the commander bowed slightly before leaving. Su Long heaved a breath of relief. Fortunately, this wasn't an enemy. He was given quite a fright earlier.

"Lord..."

"Cut the crap. Who accepted a student?"

"What?" Su Long blanked out slightly before answering, "Bai Feng. Lord...do you know him?"

"Yes!" The old man clenched his teeth in anger, "I won't forget him even if I die! That piece of trash dares to accept a student? He actually dares to accept a student?"

The old man was furious.

What is that bastard doing? Your teacher had just left and you accepted a student immediately? Have you asked for my permission? Who gave you the permission to accept a new student into our faction? Don't you know that we need to test the new student first? You're accepting a student while I am away? What is the meaning of this?

Hearing the old man scolding Bai Feng, Su Long hesitated to speak. He wanted to scold this old man on behalf of Bai Feng, but he ultimately decided against it. His son's teacher could be considered his brother, right?

His brother was being scolded here. He wanted to protect his brother's dignity, but this old man was obviously an important person. Forget it. A wise man knew better than to fight when the odds were against him. He had never met Bai Feng anyway.

"You said that your son is the top scorer of Nanyuan?"

"Yeah."

"Do you know Liu Wenyan?"

"Yeah. He's my kid's instructor..."

"I see."

The old man's anger vanished. That student was probably a recommendation of his senior brother. That was weird. His senior brother had never liked sending people to the multiple character faction.

He glanced at Su Long. This soldier was already quite old. But he was a fresh Infinite Strength cultivator. In the old man's eyes, someone like that was basically a piece of trash in terms of cultivation. Could someone like this have a talented son? The old man was finding it hard to believe.

Forget it. He should never judge a book by its cover. Maybe the son had mutated genetically or something.

"I still have something to attend to so I can't stay long. Since your son is now under Bai Feng, then he is somewhat related to me too."

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The old man searched his pockets and tossed a bottle of blood essence over, "Since fate has allowed us to meet, take this. See you."

The old man then flickered and vanished.

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A short while later.

The old man appeared atop a mountain peak. He muttered, "I can't find what I'm looking for and have lost a bottle of blood essence instead. Bai Feng, just wait for me to return. I'll teach you a good lesson for doing things behind my back!"

With another flicker, the old man vanished. Next, several figures appeared nearby. The newcomers were a group of middle-aged men in cultural researcher outfits. One of them doubtfully said, "Why is Master Hong here?"

"No idea. I heard he's hunting for a new species. None of us have seen that species before. Where did Master Hong hear about that new species?"

"Who knows?"

Someone laughed, "Did the son of that Infinite Strength soldier earlier really join Master Hong's faction?"

"I guess so. Master Hong wouldn't have given the gift otherwise. Interesting. Bai Feng has finally accepted a student. I wonder if any good shows will unfold in the academy this year..."

"Stop thinking about it. We won't be able to return anytime soon. Let them fight it out. We still need to carry out our responsibilities. In the battlefield, there are no longer any factions. It's also a good thing for conflicts to break out back home. If they continue living peacefully, they would only become more and more useless."

After a short conversation, the group vanished.

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Near the city wall.

Su Long was still dazed. What was going on? Had he just received a gift?

Commander Liu was also stunned. He asked, "Is your son really the top scorer?"

"What do you think?" Su Long scratched his head and said, "That old man...cough, that lord knows my son's teacher. They're from the same side. Since that old man is so strong, my son's teacher must be quite amazing too!"

He grinned, "Look at this! I told you guys I wasn't bluffing. You guys refused to believe me. See, someone is here to prove my words! Old Liu, you can keep your daughter for yourself. My son doesn't need your daughter. Plenty of girls are courting my son in the academy."

Commander Liu was shocked, but he calmed down and snorted, "What's the big deal about that? It's not like your son will be strong if he has a strong teacher. Wait until your son actually becomes a cultural researcher before saying that."

Not far away, the 1000-man commander was keeping to himself. However, he could still hear their conversation. He was quite surprised. He had thought that Su Long had been bluffing, but his son had really managed to enter a cultural research academy. Furthermore, he seemed to have gotten a cultural researcher as his teacher.

The commander was aware of how strict cultural researchers were when accepting students. In that case, Su Long's son was probably quite a genius.

He did not know the old cultural researcher that had appeared earlier, but when the old man arrived, the cultural researchers in the army were on high alert. However, they all calmed down immediately. Clearly, they knew who that old man was. That old man was probably a big shot.

"This Su Long guy seems to know a lot of big shots."

The commander was somewhat speechless. Not even he knew as many big shots as Su Long. Just why did Su Long join the army at such an old age? Since he seemed to know a lot of important people, the 1000-man commander would have no choice but to take good care of Su Long.

Nevertheless, he was still impressed with Su Long. This person had returned to the army as a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator. He was almost 50 years old yet he still couldn't let go of his brothers from back then. When the 1000-man commander thought of what Su Long did, he couldn't help but to feel melancholic.

Chapter 163: Bullying The Good Guy (2)

7th of August.

As usual, Su Yu woke up early. He waited in front of the male dormitories. This time, he did not go knocking on the doors one by one. Eventually, students started leaving the building.

When they saw Su Yu, the students greeted him regardless of whether they were from the intermediate class. One of them joked, "Class Monitor Su, you're so responsible. Are you not afraid that the other class monitors will say that you're making life difficult for them?"

Su Yu innocently replied, "Sorry! I never meant to do that! I am from a poor family and the teacher said that if I don't do my job well, I'll have my monthly merit reward deducted. Even a single merit point is very important for me. I can only apologize if anyone is troubled by this."

"I was just kidding!" The same person laughed heartily, "Class Monitor Su, you're only so friendly because you're from Nanyuan. If you're from the capital, you wouldn't have bothered to waste your time on us. You're a good class monitor. Just look at those geniuses at the high-level zone. We can hardly see any of them. Meanwhile, we get to see you every day."

Su Yu bashfully smiled and said, "I wanted to stay there too, but I couldn't afford it. When I make enough money, I'll also move there. At that time, you guys won't be able to see me anymore!"

"Hahaha!"

The crowd couldn't help but to laugh. They found Su Yu to be quite an adorable class monitor.

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Before long, everyone in their class had arrived. Once again, a large group headed to class together. As youngsters, all of them could easily develop a pack mentality. When they saw how the students of the other classes were either alone or in small groups, they felt incomparably proud of the unity their class was displaying.

With so many friends by their side, they felt confident and proud. Just look at how united the intermediate class of the Character Faculty was. Naturally, a certain individual who lacked the sense of unity had already been isolated from the group.

Kong Cheng had not gathered with the group today. He had left alone early in the morning. Nobody was bothered about it. Even his roommates did not care about him. They had only known each other for a



few days anyway. It didn't matter to them if he wanted to leave alone. They had even heard that Kong Cheng was going to move into the Mental Tempering Garden soon.

They all found it accepted for Su Yu to stay in the Mental Tempering Garden. But when Kong Cheng was mentioned, someone said in disdain, "What is a middle-low student doing moving in with those geniuses? What an idiot. Is he not afraid of making a fool of himself in front of those geniuses?"

"That's right!"

Meanwhile, Su Yu acted like he had heard nothing. Kong Cheng only had himself to blame for this. Su Yu was a petty person. He believed that Kong Cheng should be thankful that he was only made a pariah. The only reason Su Yu had not done more to Kong Cheng was because Kong Cheng was simply too weak and not worth his time.

"Maybe I'll just get someone to beat him up a few times before letting the matter end..."

Su Yu mused for a bit before laughing at himself. Why did it feel like he was the villain here? Just look at what he had been doing. He had established his own cohort in the academy and instigated them to isolate the person who had dared to stand up against him.

While he was thinking, a familiar person walked toward him. Looking at the haughty steps, Su Yu did not even need to look up to know who the newcomer was. It was Wu Lan.

She was as prideful as ever. With her head held high, she stopped before Su Yu and said, "Su Yu, why did you accept Lin Yao's challenge? I have yet to defeat you. If you end up losing to him, wouldn't that mean that I'm weaker than him?"

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Su Yu was stunned. What...logic was that?

He recovered from his shock quickly and said with a bitter tone, "You know about the challenge?"

"Of course. That cocky fellow has been spreading the news in the special zone."

"I had no choice..." Su Yu assumed a vexed expression and said, "You should know about the incident two days ago. My teacher won some blood essence from a duel. All those people started coming after me. When I refused to give him the blood essence, he forced me to challenge them, threatening to make my life difficult if I refused..."

"Useless garbage!" Wu Lan cursed. She furiously said, "He's the same as that Chen something fellow. That piece of trash came looking for me previously. Even a piece of trash like Lin Yao is getting involved as well? I'll go look for them. How dare they challenge you before me?"

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Su Yu was feeling a heartfelt admiration for Wu Lan's logic. Yes, exactly. Not even she had challenged him yet. How could they challenge him? But he was confused. Was there a grudge between him and Wu Lan? He had no idea! Why did she have her eyes on him?

"Forget it." Su Yu hurriedly said, "It's fine. This is my personal affair. You don't have to get involved. Also...I'm not afraid of him! I might not be strong, but I fear no one! I don't like to create trouble, but I'm also not afraid of trouble!"

Su Yu declared righteously, "Since he insisted on challenging me, so be it. It doesn't matter if I'm not his match. Us small city fellows might be lacking in a lot of aspects, but we do not fear the powerful. Even if I have to lose, I'll still show him that I am not a coward!"

"Well said, Class Monitor!" Someone furiously said, "Lin Yao, is it? I know him. A high-high student from the Lin Family. Even back when he was in secondary school, he had been very arrogant."

"So he's still so arrogant even after entering the academy?"

"I know him too. He is too cocky. He seems to look down on everyone. Damn that guy. If it wasn't for the Lin Family, he would be nothing. How can he compare with our class monitor?"

"If our class monitor is as rich as the Lin Family, he would have reached the Great Strength Realm and Mental Tempering Stage long ago. That fellow is merely relying on his family to bully others!"

"That's right! Just ignore him, Class Monitor!"

...

One after another, the students scolded Lin Yao, turning him into a great villain.

Animal!

Arrogant!

Bully!

Their class monitor was a good and honest man. He came from a small city and was a humble person. He looked silly when he smiled and he had never intentionally offended anyone. But because his teacher had obtained some blood essence, all those bullies were targeting him!

Su Yu wasn't even the one who had exposed all that. It was Wu Lan! Otherwise, their kind class monitor would probably continue suffering in silence! The more they thought about it, the angrier they became.

One of the young women in the group said, "Class Monitor, don't be afraid of him! He wants to challenge you? My elder sister is in the senior class. She used to be in the top 100. Recently, she has been looking for a sparring partner. I'll get my sister to teach him a lesson!"

"My uncle is a veteran instructor. He's a part of the Character Faculty as well. Since Lin Yao is trying to bully others, I'll have my uncle deduct his marks and fail him in the exams!"

"Who does Lin Yao think he is? What gives him the confidence to be so cocky?"

"That's right. My grandma is an intermediate researcher. What's the big deal about the Lin Family? My grandma is not afraid of them!"

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Su Yu couldn't help but be impressed. Holy shit. His classmates were full of surprises! Good thing he had been keeping a low profile and had not offended any of these students. Otherwise...he would have ended up offending a big shot without realizing it.

Then again, it was understandable. This was the intermediate class. Although these students had yet to reach the Mental Tempering Stage, it didn't mean that they had no background.

Some of them might simply be less talented while some were simply lacking in resources. But it did not mean that they did not have any connections. For example, look at that girl with an intermediate researcher grandma. An intermediate researcher would at least be a veteran Cloudbreach cultivator. No wonder she wasn't afraid of the Lin Family.

Wu Lan was completely dumbstruck. Why were so many people standing on Su Yu's side? Did Su Yu use some sort of charming Divine Character on them?

Su Yu hurriedly said, "Thank you, everyone. Thank you for speaking out for justice. But there is no need for anyone to do anything for me. I dislike owing people favors. Us small city folks are afraid of that the most. We would rather take a beating ourselves than to trouble others with our problems. In Nanyuan, even the smallest favor has to be repaid a hundredfold. I am too poor to repay you all, so please don't do anything for me!"

"Class Monitor, there is no need to repay us. We simply dislike bullies like him!"

Someone exclaimed with righteous indignation, "How have we provoked them? Do they think they're hotshots just because they're in the senior class? There are plenty of senior class students that couldn't graduate. What's the big deal?"

"That's right!"

At that moment, hundreds of students were denouncing Lin Yao. He was afraid of the strong and bullied the weak. He bullied their honest and kind class monitor. He should get his ass kicked! Some students even suggested throwing a sack over him at night and beating him up. Only after a while did Su Yu manage to placate them all.

At that point, Wu Lan had already walked away. She couldn't take it anymore. She wondered if those students had all gone mad. Why were all of them praising him endlessly? In their eyes, even she was a villain. A few of them were even glaring at her in an unfriendly manner.

Of course, most of those gazes came from the girls in the group. As for the gazes of the guys, well, they were quite disgusting in Wu Lan's opinion.

...

As the students created a ruckus, news started to spread.

Senior class. Within a small classroom.

The students were mostly keeping to themselves. They barely spoke to each other.

Suddenly, someone rushed into the classroom and complained, "Lin Yao is such an embarrassment. He actually went and challenged Su Yu from the intermediate class. He has gone mad from thinking about blood essence."

"Is someone like that worthy of being called a genius? A Mental Tempering Stage student bullying someone who isn't even at the Mental Tempering Stage yet. I will never associate myself with someone like that."

"The whole academy is talking about this. Everyone knows that a garbage high-high student has appeared from the Character Faculty, a piece of trash that only dares to challenge a weak student just to win the blood essence Assistant Bai Feng got previously."

"Fuck! We're all implicated as well. The others are saying that this batch's senior class students only dare to bully weaklings and students from small cities."

...

Some of the students were already aware of the incident while some had just learned of it. One of them snorted and coldly said, "Lin Yao is Lin Yao. He is unrelated to any of us. He is a piece of trash, but that has nothing to do with us. He better stay away from me in the future or I won't hesitate to teach him a lesson."

"Lin Yao has no class. What an embarrassment."

"He should at least wait until that fellow is at the Mental Tempering Stage before issuing his challenge. I want Su Yu's blood essence too, but I'm not doing anything. How disgusting. Lin Yao better stop claiming he's from our class. I am not interested in associating with someone like him."

"That's right!"

...

Some of the students voiced their opinions while some remained silent. However, not one of them had a good impression of Lin Yao. He should have waited until Su Yu was at the Mental Tempering Stage before doing anything. What an embarrassment.

These were all geniuses. Which of them wasn't a proud individual? What Lin Yao did only gave the outsiders an impression that they were only capable of bullying the weak. In truth, none of them had the intention to bully weaklings. It was beneath them.

As for the possibility of Su Yu being the actual challenger instead of Lin Yao...yeah, right. Nobody would believe that. Everyone concluded that Lin Yao was the one going after Su Yu's blood essence.

Chapter 164: The Mysteries of Sea of Willpower (1)

News of the challenge spread everywhere. Meanwhile, Lin Yao was completely clueless as he was cultivating alone instead of spending his time attending the basic classes. And since he had no idea what was going on, he had naturally not stepped forth to explain himself.

Because of that, all the students concluded that he had tacitly agreed to the rumors. Everyone believed that he was completely disregarding the intermediate class' fury. Because of that, the students became even more furious at him.

Too arrogant!

Terms such as arrogant and overbearing were being used all over the academy to describe Lin Yao.

...

As for Su Yu, he had been keeping an exceptionally low profile. He had not said anything. Even when some students tried to do something for him, he was quick to placate them. It was as though the others were the ones being bullied, not him.

"Public image is very important indeed."

Su Yu concluded while in the middle of a class. In the eyes of others, he was an honest and reliable student. Meanwhile, Lin Yao was an evil villain.

Sure, his reputation might not bring him any tangible benefits, but it would still help reduce the number of his potential enemies and reduce the trouble he might encounter in the academy. That was good enough. With his reputation, he could hold hands with his fellow students and live a peaceful life.

"I only need to kick Lin Yao's ass next. After that, those who are trying to take my blood essence will probably give up. Even if they are still unhappy with me, they will probably stop trying to mess with me."

His status as a high-high student and position as a class monitor had played a big role in helping him reach this point. Very good. Thank the heavens for Liu Hong!

Su Yu could fully appreciate just how useful this position was. He was basically the spokesperson of the intermediate class. The other students would willingly draw close to him. As long as he wasn't too annoying or arrogant, even those who did not approve of him wouldn't intentionally stand against him.

...

That day, Su Yu attended his classes seriously. He arrived earlier than others and left later than everyone. He also ensured that the classroom was clean and liaised promptly with the instructors to confirm the class schedules of the next day.

In the eyes of the students and the instructors, Su Yu was an honest and reliable class monitor. Additionally, he was also a principled person. He was unwilling to let his fellow students deal with his problem for him. He insisted on facing the evil Lin Yao alone. He would fight until the very end without giving up.

Su Yu said that he was a ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator. He was not afraid of Lin Yao. Even though Lin Yao was at the Mental Tempering Stage, Su Yu would not hesitate to throw his fist at an evil villain like that.

Principled, tenacious, and brave...

In the eyes of the other students, Su Yu was basically a saint. If he had retreated in fear instead, the students would probably look down on him somewhat. It didn't matter if he was an honest and kind person. This was a cultural research academy. Courage still mattered.

His unrelenting spirit when facing a superior enemy won him a lot of respect. Thus, the students stopped trying to advise him against accepting the challenge. Everyone started encouraging him to kick the evil Lin Yao's ass, to show the evil bullies that the intermediate class students were no pushovers.

They all shared a sense of glory for being in the same class. Never before had the intermediate class students been so united. Everyone was standing behind the class monitor. Nobody doubted that the class monitor would place top three in the monthly examination. Even if the class monitor really couldn't do it, they would ensure that he would make it.



...

After the afternoon class ended, Su Yu went to grab a meal. And after the meal, he started heading back to the research center. When he was near the Heart Cultivating Pavilion, he saw someone.

Xia Chan. He had seen her once before. This was his second time seeing her. She seemed to be on the way to the Heart Cultivating Pavilion. Her teacher was Zhou Mingren, and he resided near the Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

She seemed to sense his gaze as she suddenly turned to look at him. When she saw Su Yu, she needed a short moment to recall who he was. She stopped walking.

When Su Yu was near, she said, "Defeat Lin Yao."

Su Yu was stupefied.

Xia Chan calmly repeated, "Defeat him. Show me the strength of a genius from Nanyuan. Before entering the academy, someone told me that a high-high student from Nanyuan is far superior than the so-called freaks of the capital.

"I disagree, but I still want to see the strength of a genius from Nanyuan. Come to the senior class as soon as possible. The intermediate class is too boring. There is no competition. Come to the senior class next month. That is the true heart of the academy. It is pointless for you guys to keep competing against each other. We are planning to go to the Foreign Student Faculty and challenge the elites of the myriad races. If you come, you can join us."

Su Yu asked in astonishment, "Foreign Student Faculty?"

Xia Chan said with an aloof tone, "Why not? Anyone below the Skysoar Realm could be challenged. The Mental Tempering Stage is basically the same as the Infinite Strength Realm. People often say that the Mental Tempering Stage won't give a cultivator any combat strength. What a joke. True cultural researchers are capable of defeating Infinite Strength cultivators while they are in the Mental Tempering Stage."

Su Yu did not say anything. He was suddenly reminded of Wu Lan. Both Wu Lan and Xia Chan were similarly arrogant. But Su Yu was able to quickly see the difference between the two.

Wu Lan's arrogance came from external factors. It came from her family and her education. In truth, she was still childish and silly. She did not understand the meaning of true pride. Xia Chan was different. Her very being radiated arrogance. She was aloof. As far as she was concerned, she was the center of the universe.

An odd thought suddenly appeared in Su Yu's mind. He might be able to give Wu Lan a punch and make her cry. On the other hand, even if he punched Xia Chan until she was coughing blood, she would only gnash her teeth and fight him to the bitter end.

The moment that thought appeared in his mind, he shook his head. Why was he thinking about something like that? Although all women were obstacles in the path of cultivation, he was not the kind of villain that would beat women up and make them cry for no reason.

When Xia Chan saw Su Yu shaking his head, she thought that he disagreed with her. She sneered and said, "If you don't believe me, just come and see for yourself. But if you can't even defeat Lin Yao, then you won't be qualified to be one of us."

"One of you?"

"Yes."

The "us" she mentioned did not even include a high-high student like Lin Yao. Clearly, she was only referring to the freaks, the eight freaks that had entered the academy this year. Xia Chan was the only freak Su Yu had seen thus far. He had no idea what the others looked like.

These were the students who had gained 1,000 marks and above during the entrance examination. Even Su Yu had no choice but to admit that they were incredible.

He was a ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator with two Divine Characters yet he couldn't even get 900 marks. Even if he retook the examination now, he still wouldn't get 1,000 marks.

There was no denying that there was a problem with the Mark of Culture during his examination. But there was also no denying that Su Yu was good enough to be a high-high student.

Suddenly, curiosity gnawed at Su Yu's heart. It might be presumptuous, but he still couldn't help asking, "By the way, just how strong exactly are the so-called freaks?"

A faint smile appeared on Xia Chan's face.

"We can...defeat a piece of trash like Lin Yao with one move."

Su Yu exhaled deeply. Defeating Lin Yao in one move. He believed that Xia Chan wasn't bluffing. There was no need for her to bluff. He definitely couldn't do the same unless he cheated with his book.

Even if he relied on his ninth-stage Source Opening cultivation and his illusion, Lin Yao was also a ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator who was also in the Mental Tempering Stage. He might have a similar number of opened acupoints while his willpower would probably be strong enough to withstand the blood character's illusions.

Su Yu would not be able to defeat Lin Yao with one move. There was still a gap between him and the freaks. Su Yu exhaled deeply. He was starting to look forward to joining the senior class.

"Thank you. I'll defeat him." Su Yu replied seriously.

Defeating Lin Yao was something he had to do even ignoring the 300 merit points waiting for him. Xia Chan left without saying anything else. She had only spoken to Su Yu because someone had once told her that a genius from Nanyuan was better than them.

She was a proud person. She was very confident in herself. She refused to believe that Su Yu was better than her. Thus, she wanted to see Su Yu on the same stage as her. There, he could compete against them instead of wasting his time against small fries.

...

Back at the research center, Su Yu sat down on the couch and sank into thought. He started reflecting on himself again. He thought back to everything that had happened today, trying to see if he had done anything wrong or invited any future trouble. He also considered if everything he had done would be helpful for his cultivation.

"The smart ones will be able to see what I'm doing...but it doesn't matter. The smart ones won't bother exposing me anyway since it won't benefit them. It's not like I'm scheming against the smart ones. I am merely making a move against those fools."

He was more afraid of those who would believe everything they heard. Those people could be very troublesome as they were incapable of forming their own view and could be easily influenced by others. In fact, that was also why Su Yu had worked so hard to build himself a positive public image. That way, he could avoid a lot of unnecessary troubles.

"For example, an idiot like Wu Lan. If she found out that I was the one who had challenged Lin Yao, she would probably be furious that I hadn't challenged her and come challenge me instead."

Su Yu laughed and shook her head. Challenger or challenged, everything he did was for the sake of personal benefit and cultivation. Regardless of whether it was the Top 100 Ranking or Lin Yao, he would only challenge them for the sake of his own future. He wasn't doing all that just to show off and impress others.

Smart people would only get into conflicts for proper reasons. Only fools would get into conflicts because of their emotions. For example, people like Xia Chan. They weren't challenging the Foreign Student Faculty because of their emotions. They were only doing so to temper and strengthen themselves.

...

After reflecting on himself, Su Yu threw himself into his daily cultivation routine. He intended to open his eighth acupoint tonight. He had used three out of his five drops of blood essence. But Xia Huyou had delivered the new blood essence he had purchased earlier when he left class. Therefore, Su Yu now had 32 drops of blood essence in his possession.

...

About an hour later.

Su Yu was clenching his fists in excitement. His eighth acupoint had opened smoothly. This was only his first week in the academy and he had already opened two acupoints. Sure enough, coming to the capital was the right choice. With how scarce source qi and merit points were in Nanyuan, he would never be able to open two acupoints so quickly there.

"I'm still four acupoints away from the Great Strength Realm! There's also the Lightning Source Blade. The second move requires 12 acupoints. This is a move for those at the early Great Strength Realm before the fourth stage. The third move will require 16 acupoints and can be cultivated by those at the middle stage of the Great Strength Realm before the seventh stage."

Su Yu already mastered the second move. As for the third move, he needed to open 4 new acupoints to fulfill the third move's requirement of 16 acupoints. Out of the 4 acupoints, only 1 overlapped with the advanced War God Art's acupoints. In other words, he needed to open 3 additional acupoints for the third move on top of what he was already going to open.

"I have yet to ask about the complementary martial technique of the War God Art. Nobody has mentioned it to me either. Is there no such martial technique or is there a reason for that?"

Su Yu was curious. Neither Bai Feng nor anyone else had not mentioned that to him. He had forgotten to ask about it himself. If there was a complementary martial technique, he would be able to practice the technique without opening additional acupoints. That would save a lot of his time.

The War God Art required 12 acupoints to be opened for its first stage. If he had the complementary martial technique, the required acupoints of the martial technique would overlap with the 12 acupoints. He could directly use the technique without spending time opening new acupoints.

After thinking about it, Su Yu decided to ask Bai Feng. His teacher was probably still in the research center. After all, Su Yu could see the instant noodle packaging left by his teacher in the living area.

Chapter 165: The Mysteries of Sea of Willpower (2)

After waiting at the living area for about an hour, a sloppy Bai Feng walked out. He looked exhausted, but his eyes were bright.

And when he saw Su Yu, he laughed and said, "My beloved student, have you finished your cultivation for the day?"

Su Yu was having goosebumps again. He said, "Teacher, is there a breakthrough in your research?"

"Hahaha!" Bai Feng chortled, "There is some progress. But I still lack something, such as blood essence and Divine Characters."

Bai Feng joyfully said, "Little Yu, I have discovered that the transplantation of character abilities is a very suitable topic of research for me."

Bai Feng's eyes were burning as he said, "I did not understand this before, but I now know that racial abilities might really be Divine Character abilities as well. Blood essence will not be a good material to study. It would be better if I could capture some non-human cultural researchers and extract their Divine Characters...I believe that the myriad races might have some unique Divine Characters whose sole function is to carry their racial abilities..."

"Maybe I don't even need cultural researchers. Perhaps even warriors have this unique Divine Character. Perhaps nobody has ever discovered this unique Divine Character yet..."

Bai Feng started muttering to himself, "Yes. Perhaps...everyone has a unique Divine Character. That Divine Character is the vessel of racial abilities. We have simply not discovered it yet. Nobody has! Although the myriad races have yet to discover this unique Divine Character, they are instinctively using it. Perhaps that Divine Character is innately active for them."

"Humans should have the same Divine Character!" Bai Feng muttered in a crazed manner, "Yes, humans should have it as well! There must be one! We have never considered this possibility before. Teacher suggested that blood essence is the vessel of racial abilities, but why can't it be something in the sea of willpower instead?"

"Who says that racial abilities must come from blood essence and not the sea of willpower? That is the most mysterious part of any living being. Even us cultural researchers have yet to fully explore that place.

"What we found in blood essence might only be an imprint. Due to frequent use of these racial abilities, the imprints of these abilities have been left in the blood essence. That is why we could extract these abilities from their blood. As for human blood, we had actually tried extracting some before, but no racial ability was found. What does that mean?"

Understanding after understanding dawned on Bai Feng. While speaking to himself, he was blankly rubbing Su Yu's head. He didn't even realize what he was doing. Su Yu struggled for a bit before giving up.

He was trembling with fear. His teacher had gone mad again! He was afraid that his teacher would accidentally kill him during this bout of madness. Cultural researchers sure were scary. Just look at Bai Feng. He was still normal a moment ago but suddenly, he had gone crazy.

Suddenly, Bai Feng recovered from his stupor. He looked at Su Yu and solemnly declared, "Su Yu, you are my lucky star. No, you are the lucky star of the multiple character faction. Your words have given me a lot of inspiration. After so many years, we might finally be able to finish our research. Since the racial ability of humans is the hardest to activate, I believe that we also have the strongest racial ability!

"Sea of willpower! It must be in the sea of willpower! There must be a unique Divine Character in everyone's sea of willpower acting as the vessel of the racial ability. That character has remained undiscovered until now!

"If we can activate that Divine Character, that would change the entire humanity! Just think about it. It is basically a martial technique that you don't need to practice. You don't even need to open new acupoints for it. It could grow alongside you. Isn't this the strongest ability ever?

"You need to waste a lot of time practicing a martial technique. What if you can get a powerful technique without practice? Not only would it be powerful, it would also be very compatible with you. For example, if you have 108 acupoints opened, this technique would be able to utilize all 108 of your acupoints. Only something like that is worthy of being called a racial ability.

"Of course, that is only an example of a better racial ability. As for the iron-winged bird racial ability you used previously, it isn't that powerful. It only utilizes a portion of your acupoints instead of all your acupoints. A racial ability like this isn't considered powerful among the myriad races."

Bai Feng took a deep breath and said, "Nowadays, the strongest known racial ability is probably the first divine race's Divine Transformation. According to the records, the first divine race can generally open around 108 to 144 acupoints during the Great Strength Realm. The Divine Transformation is capable of utilizing between 116 to 152 acupoints."

"Think about it. At ninth-stage Great Strength Realm, you can open 144 acupoints. How powerful would a racial ability with 152 acupoints be? Even a sixth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator would be killed by one move unless the cultivator also cultivates a powerful technique and method."

Su Yu couldn't help but to ask, "Teacher, you mean they can even use their Source Opening acupoints for their racial abilities? That's why their racial ability utilizes more acupoints than their Great Strength acupoints?"

"Yes." Bai Feng nodded, "Divine Transformation is known as the strongest racial ability. Generally, the One Hundred Openings acupoint is the only acupoint that wouldn't be used by it. This racial ability can fully link all the opened acupoints so it is very powerful. More importantly, that isn't an ability they need to practice. They innately know it."

Bai Feng sighed, "Consider this. If this is something you actually need to cultivate, who can create a technique that can perfectly utilize all your acupoints? Secondly, a regular technique might require you to open additional acupoints. Some acupoints are very hard to open or even locate. Thirdly, you also need time."

Bai Feng looked at Su Yu and said, "Do you understand why we have been researching this subject now?"

Su Yu nodded, "If you succeed and allow the human race to activate our racial ability, it would save a lot of time and resources. The upper limit of all human cultivators would increase. Some weaklings would turn powerful overnight."



Bai Feng said, "Exactly. A lot of people might have decent cultivation levels, but their martial techniques are horrible. These people can be easily killed in the battlefield when encountering enemies with similar cultivation levels but superior martial techniques. But if we have a racial ability that does not require any cultivation, how much stronger would our cultivators be?"

Su Yu asked, "Has humanity not researched this before?"

"It has." Bai Feng smiled, "That is the origin of the Wentan Research Center. In truth, there are people researching this subject in the various academies, including the war academies. Who wouldn't want to see the human race gaining a racial ability?"

Bai Feng sighed, "Unfortunately, nobody has succeeded after all these years. But I now have a new idea. The sea of willpower. Perhaps the Knowledge Seeking Realm and War Shrine have thought of this before, but it must be a very difficult subject to research. The sea of willpower is extremely mysterious. How do we explore it? How do we search for a hidden Divine Character in it? That might be something we would spend a lifetime on!"

Su Yu was tempted. Completing this feat would be an absolutely amazing feat. But of course, that was still too far away for him.

Su Yu waited until Bai Feng looked less crazy before asking, "Teacher, I have a question. Does the War God Art have a complementary martial technique?"

"Complementary martial technique?" Bai Feng said, "There is one. But the War God Art's complementary martial technique is very expensive. A martial technique is something that can truly increase your strength. Hmm, I think it's even more expensive than the War God Art. It is around 200 merit points or more."

Su Yu asked, "Is that a complete copy or is it only the Great Strength version?"

"What do you think?" Bai Feng rolled his eyes, "Of course it's only the Great Strength version. If you're in a war academy, you might be able to get it at a cheaper price of around 100 merit points. But since this technique was created by the War Shrine and they don't get along well with us, the technique is much more expensive for us."

"Can I get someone from a war academy to buy it for me?"

"Of course not." Bai Feng explained, "Unless that person has high enough total earned merit, that person won't have the authority to teach the technique to a third party. You need to be at least an intermediate researcher in a war academy to have that authority. And some intermediate researchers don't even have that much authority so you might need to find a senior researcher instead. Do you know one?"

"No."

Su Yu was dejected. How would he know someone like that?

"Think of a way to earn money and buy it. I'm broke. You can't count on me for this."

Bai Feng did not waste any time and destroyed any illusion Su Yu might have. "It won't take you that long. You can earn 3 merit points per month as a high-high student. You can also earn 3 merit points per month as a class monitor. If you place in the top 10 in the exams, you'll be rewarded too. I think you can get 10 merit points for placing first. Even if you place at the 10th place, you can still get 1 merit point. If you can place first each month, you can get 16 merit points each month.

"You can earn enough to buy that technique in one year. That's a very short time. Many students would be happy entering the Great Strength Realm in a year. Of course, you would be much faster than the average student. But you also earn a lot more than them. In any case, you have a different martial technique, right? Just use the Lightning Source Technique for now. It's quite good."

Su Yu nodded. Looked like he wouldn't be able to get the martial technique for free from his teacher.

"Teacher, about the mountainbreak bull blood essence you mentioned previously..."

.

"Wait until you're at the Great Strength Realm first."

Su Yu coughed and said, "Teacher, I didn't see you yesterday and couldn't tell you about this. I made a bet with someone using the mountainbreak bull blood essence. Of course, I'll definitely win..."

"Hu Wensheng's student?"

"No. Teacher Liu Hong's student. A newbie like me, Lin Yao."

"Is he a freak?"

"No."

"Oh..." Bai Feng lost all interest and said, "Do whatever you want. He's not a freak or an old student. If you can't even take care of a new student, then you're really a piece of trash. In that case, it no longer matters if you don't have the mountainbreak bull blood essence. A piece of trash is not qualified to use this blood essence. It would be a waste."

Bai Feng couldn't care less. Sure, the blood essence was prepared for Su Yu, but if he couldn't even handle a normal new student, then it would no longer matter if they lost the blood essence.

Su Yu would have no one to blame but himself for that.

After thinking about it, Bai Feng said, "By the way, Liu Hong's faction is rich. Remember to scam more from them when you're betting. I know him. He only accepts rich students. That fellow is extremely stingy. He would want nothing more than to spend nothing on his students and have them offer him tributes instead..."

"Why would anyone want to be his student then?" Su Yu asked in astonishment. Just what would Lin Yao and the others get from Liu Hong?

Bai Feng answered indifferently, "Why not? Do you think that I won't be able to get students without offering any benefits? Do you think all students are like you? The first thing you did after seeing me is asking for benefits! By going under Liu Hong, the students can get connected to his network, his backers, borrow his reputation...and perhaps even get him as a person!"

Bai Feng laughed, "That fellow is still quite good looking. And he's still single. He might even be a Cloudbreach cultivator after a few years. He's the kind of bachelor that would be very popular."

Su Yu couldn't help but to laugh as well. He then looked at Bai Feng and wondered if Bai Feng was a popular bachelor as well.

Bai Feng did not seem to mind. He said, "Don't look at me like that. I'm quite popular too, but I can't be bothered to waste my time on them. If you manage to get popular in the future, you will experience the same thing..."

"All women are obstacles to the path of cultivation!" Su Yu declared solemnly, "Teacher Liu said that women would stop us from growing strong. They are obstacles in cultivation. I won't let that happen to me!"

...

Bai Feng was completely dumbfounded. What had his martial uncle done? His martial uncle himself was quite popular with the ladies, but he taught Su Yu that all women were obstacles? What a bastard!

Bai Feng couldn't be bothered to explain. He beamed and said, "Enough about that. Remember my words. Liu Hong is rich. His students are rich too. Just scam as much as you can from them. Those fellows have been harboring bad designs against us. They are not our friends. You don't need to feel bad scamming them."

"Alright."

"That's all..." Bai Feng was about to return to his laboratory when he recalled something and stopped. He said, "Reach the Mental Tempering Stage as soon as possible. At that point, I'll allow you to enter the main lab and the prison zone. Only in those places can you grow into a true expert."

Su Yu looked forward to that. Strength was something he had been pursuing.

## Chapter 166: Weaponsmithing (1)

Su Yu was kept very busy with all his classes. That was especially true since he was the class monitor. He barely had any time to rest. Even so, he still spent some time visiting the Weaponsmithing Faculty on the 8th of August. The faculty was within the same district, but it was still quite far away.

...

"You finally found the time to come?"

When Su Yu arrived, old man Zhao Li was busy doing something in his research center.

He had previously said that Su Yu could visit him on the 8th, 18th, and 28th of each month. Su Yu had not forgotten that.

He awkwardly said, "Teacher, I..."

"There is no need to explain yourself." Zhao Li waved his hand indifferently, "It's normal to be busy during this period of time. That was why I said that if you're going to minor in this path, you can only treat it as supplementary knowledge. You won't have the time to go too deeply into weaponsmithing."

Zhao Li smiled and continued, "You arrived at a good time. You still don't know about the basics and I can't be bothered to teach you all that. You can attend some basic classes when you have time. But without the basics, you won't be able to learn anything else. For now, I'll let you watch at the side and witness the art of weaponsmithing."

He then started heading deeper into the research center. Su Yu hurriedly followed him.

...

After a while, they entered an underground floor.

Ahead of them was a large hall. There were quite a lot of people already waiting there. Some were old and some were young. Not all of them knew Su Yu. When they saw him, some started asking about him. None of them said anything when they learned that this was a student from the Character Faculty.

They were all aware that the academy was now allowing the students to minor in another path. However, none of them expected any student to achieve much in the path they were minoring in.

"Senior Zhao!"

"Teacher Zhao!"

...

Numerous greetings rang out, but Zhao Li only nodded without saying anything.

Only when he arrived at the center of the hall did Zhao Li speak. "Today, I am going to forge a low-tier profound-grade cultural weapon. Profound-grade cultural weapons are suitable for those in the Skysoar and Cloudbreach Realms. Meanwhile, yellow-grade weapons are suitable for Great Strength and Infinite Strength cultivators. Of course, cultural researchers will generally only use yellow-grade weapons at the Mental Tempering Stage.

"There is no need to mention earth-grade weapons. Only Mountainsea experts can use weapons of that level. As for heaven-grade weapons...the Knowledge Seeking Realm might have some. In any case, I've never heard of those weapons appearing anywhere else."

Clearly, he was saying all that for Su Yu's benefit. Standing in the corner, Su Yu listened attentively. He did not know anyone else in the room. Even if he had any questions, he wouldn't ask them now. He had not expected that Zhao Li would be forging a weapon today. No wonder there were so many people here.

"Some of you might be curious. Why are weapons split into martial and cultural weapons? What is the difference between cultural and martial weapons?"

...

The crowd was speechless. They started looking at Su Yu curiously. Clearly, this was a lesson for Su Yu alone. After all, all of them were already well-versed in the basics. Some of them were the researchers of the Weaponsmithing Faculty, some were instructors, and some were the geniuses of the Weaponsmithing Faculty. None of them was unaware of what Zhao Li was explaining.

However, Su Yu was clearly unaware of all that. It was clear that this lecture was meant for Su Yu alone.

Zhao Li ignored the crowd and continued, "The biggest difference between cultural and martial weapons is the structure. Martial weapons are solid and can take in source qi. The more source qi they take in, the harder they become, and the higher their grade would be.

"Warriors would frequently fight in melee range. They would mostly hack, slash, and stab in combat. For them, the harder and the sharper a weapon is, the better it would be. It would be even better if the weapon could take in all their source qi and unleash more power.

"But none of that matters for cultural weapons. Cultural weapons do not take in source qi. They take in Divine Characters and willpower. We don't care if the cultural weapon is hard or not. If you need a hard cultural weapon, you only need to have the corresponding Divine Character. Your willpower will determine the strength of your cultural weapon.

"When forging cultural weapons, there are a few points to take note of. You need to ensure that the weapon is compatible with the wielder's Divine Characters and character abilities. In that case, you need to take the materials into consideration as compatible materials will be required as well.

"Simply put, a cultural weapon might only be compatible with a single wielder. A martial weapon, on the other hand, can be used by many. That's the difference between martial and cultural weapons. Each cultural weapon is tailor-made for the wielder, so the price between weapons can vary largely. The materials used will depend on the Divine Characters and willpower of the wielder. Standard design cultural weapons do not exist."

"Additionally, there are also different categories of cultural weapons. Cultural weapon forging generally involves forging a mold or forging a finished product. It is obvious enough what a finished product is. A

cultural researcher would supply the materials or merit points for a weaponsmith to forge a suitable cultural weapon. This is a one-time deal.

"Cultural weapon molds are different. A weaponsmith can provide a basic mold to the wielder without any special materials. The cultural researcher would need to fuse their own materials into the mold and nourish the mold themselves by keeping the mold inside their sea of willpower. The mold can be grown with blood essence or other precious materials.

"This would not be a one-time deal. At a certain point, the wielder would need to return to the weaponsmith to have the mold further upgraded. As a mold is not considered a proper finished product, it can still be upgraded as long as enough materials are provided."

...

Zhao Li spent over 10 minutes covering the basics. And he wasn't showing any signs of stopping. Slowly, some of the people in the crowd started growing impatient. They were not here to listen to a basic lecture like this. They were here to observe Zhao Li forge a profound-grade weapon.

Zhao Li had evidently sensed the impatience of the crowd as he indifferently said, "You can always learn something new by reviewing what you already know. Patience is of the utmost importance for weaponsmiths. If you don't even have something as basic as patience, give up on weaponsmithing. You have no future in this path."

Among the crowd, an old man coughed and said, "Old Zhao, don't be angry. But we're already here. Some of us might still have something to do later. Why don't...you forge the weapon first?"

Zhao Li snorted, "Feel free to piss off if you're busy. I will say what I want. What can you do about it?"

...

The old man had nothing to say. He did not know whether to laugh or cry. Zhao Li's eccentric nature was well-known enough that it was even recorded in the student manual. Su Yu had never seen this side of Zhao Li before, so this was his first time witnessing it in action. He felt somewhat awkward as Zhao Li was wasting everyone's time for his sake. He wanted to say something, but he didn't know what to say.



Zhao Li ignored the crowd and continued his lecture, "When forging cultural weapons, Divine Characters are required. In truth, the weaponsmithing path can also be considered the character path. Over the years, many different paths have been created by cultural researchers with Divine Characters as the foundation."

"Carry the things here."

With one order from Zhao Li, a few youngsters carried a bunch of materials into the room. Su Yu barely knew any of the materials. Some were colorful while some were completely black. These appeared to be some metallic materials.

"You need different Divine Characters to dissolve different materials...but since you require a lot of characters, what if some of them conflict with each other? Therefore, most weaponsmiths have some unique Divine Characters."

As Zhao Li said that, a ball of fire appeared in his palm. He explained, "This Divine Character came from the fire character of the flaming devil language. It can be considered a top-tier Divine Character when it comes to weaponsmithing. Almost 90 percent of known materials can be dissolved with this character. As for the remaining materials, you can either form different characters for them or cooperate with others."

While he spoke, the materials started rapidly dissolving into liquid. The liquid hovered in front of him.

"Weaponsmiths need to clearly understand the composition of all sorts of materials. This time, I am forging a cultural weapon for a Skysoar teaching assistant. This person is known for his stab character. I won't give you the exact details about this character. Suffice to say that he specializes in assassination.

"Therefore, this cultural weapon needs to be inconspicuous. That is the most troublesome part about forging this weapon. Fortunately, he has provided me with a chunk of concealed devil stone. With this material, a majority of the weapon's aura can be hidden."

While speaking, Zhao Li worked on the floating liquid. Before long, the liquid from the different materials was mixed together.

"You also require unique Divine Characters to fuse these materials together. The optimal choice would be the blend character from the earthfire language. Some Divine Characters will only have a fixed ability upon formation, but not everyone can form those characters. I don't have that character either, but I have the combine character of the flaming devil language."

A combine character appeared in the air. The next moment, an astonishing sight unfolded before Su Yu. The multiple colors of the mixed liquid started blending together before slowly turning transparent.

While blending the liquid, Zhao Li said, "You must be very careful when fusing the materials. Any carelessness will result in a chaotic mixture. That will result in the creation of a cultural weapon that can't be taken into the sea of willpower. In that case, the resulting cultural weapon might as well be a piece of junk. After all, if you can't take the weapon into your sea of willpower, you won't be able to nurture it and increase the compatibility between it and your Divine Characters."

Seeing that Zhao Li was busy talking while working on the weapon, the other researchers started feeling anxious for him. They were worried that he would mess up and fail the forging session. Although this was only a low-tier profound-grade weapon, profound-grade weapons had never been easy to forge.

And upon failure, a weaponsmith was expected to compensate the customer for the loss in materials. A single low-tier profound-grade cultural weapon could cost thousands of merit points to forge.

For a lot of Skysoar cultivators, that was everything they had. A single cultural weapon could very well push them to bankruptcy.

After a short silence, Zhao Li said, "For weaponsmiths thinking of leaving a backdoor in their weapons, the fusion stage would be the perfect stage for it. Therefore, be sure to inspect any weapon you get."

"Cough."

A bunch of people coughed awkwardly.

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Zhao Li ignored all of them and continued explaining, "In truth, it is better if you're present during the forging. It is also a good idea to inspect the product after the fusion stage. For example, if I want to leave a backdoor on this weapon, I can easily cause the weapon to stop moving or self-destruct if the owner happens to use it against me one day. It would be better to not buy any ready-made weapons on the market. Using a mold is the best choice. You can slowly grow your weapon."

#### Chapter 167: Weaponsmithing (2)

"Old Zhao!" Some of the people in the crowd couldn't take it anymore. One of them coughed and said, "As weaponsmiths, there are naturally rules we need to abide by. We won't do something like that."

"You can never be too careful. Who knows if you would really encounter someone like that?" Zhao Li turned solemn as he resumed his lecture, "After the fusion stage, you will reach the hardest stage yet, the formation stage. At this point, you need to be very careful. This stage will decide whether you can forge a weapon that is actually suitable for the person you're forging for."

"This is a stage where the weaponsmith's capability and character would be tested. Some dishonest fellows would only do enough to form a weapon with the shape you want. But in truth, the weapon is very weak. You won't notice it at normal times, but during combat, the weapon might fall apart after a few hundred moves. Anything is possible."

At that moment, the air itself seemed to freeze. Next, Su Yu saw countless hammers appear out of thin air before slamming down on the transparent liquid.

Boom!

"This is the formation stage. For a low-tier profound-grade cultural weapon, you need at least 37 forges. Some weapons even need 40 forges. Some weaponsmiths are not strong enough so they will stop at around a dozen forges and produce fake profound-grade weapons instead. Accidents can happen easily using these weapons. Such people are the disgrace of all weaponsmiths."

Boom!

As the hammers struck on the liquid repeatedly, Su Yu could see a weapon taking form. It was a dagger. As Zhao Li worked on it, a golden vein appeared on the dagger.

"This is the first imprint of the forging process. For a low-tier profound-grade weapon, you need a minimum of 37 imprints. Of course, weaponsmiths can also leave fake imprints on the weapons. You outsiders won't be able to see through it anyway..."

Once again, Zhao Li was exposing the secret of weaponsmiths. The faces of some weaponsmiths in the crowd fell. Why did it feel like Zhao Li was indirectly accusing them of doing so? They had never done something so dishonest before!

One vein. Two veins. Three veins...

Slowly, beads of sweat started appearing on Zhao Li's forehead. He stopped talking. Evidently, forging was not an easy task. Su Yu could see that Zhao Li was using both his willpower and a different Divine Character for the forging process. From what he had seen so far, Zhao Li had at least three Divine Characters.

A single vein took 10 minutes to form. And since this weapon required at least 37 veins, this would take a long time to finish. It would take no less than six hours. Su Yu was shocked at that realization. He had a feeling that this was in truth a type of cultivation for weaponsmiths.

This was also a process of willpower clash and exhaustion. Using no less than six hours, Zhao Li would be able to create a profound-grade weapon of the lowest tier. Su Yu thought about himself and the fragment room. He could now last 40 minutes there. But if he was the one to work on this weapon, he could probably only last 20 minutes.

That was because this forging process required Divine Character, and it utilized a lot of willpower. Nobody in the crowd spoke a word, but a lot of them had looks of envy or admiration on their faces.

Weaponsmiths were by no means weaklings. In fact, very few people in the academy could actually finish the process of 37 forges.

Suddenly, Zhao Li spoke again, "Weaponsmiths are no weaklings. In fact, our willpower is much tougher than those in the same realm due to the time we spent on weaponsmithing. Against those in the same realm, we don't fear anyone. Oftentimes, we are the ones that would come up on top. Therefore, I like students who are tenacious. Weak willpower does not matter."

He had said something similar before. He was talking about none other than Su Yu. Why had he decided to accept Su Yu as his student the first time he saw Su Yu? Because Su Yu was tenacious despite having a weak willpower. During the battle against the cult members, Su Yu had utilized his Divine Character multiple times despite his weak willpower.

Since that encounter, Zhao Li had been trying to take Su Yu as his student. He was very regretful that Su Yu had picked the Character Faculty instead.

"A genius should aim to forge a powerful willpower that is far more durable and long-lasting than the willpower of their peers. As a weaponsmith, you would be able to sweep away everyone in the same realm. Others might only be able to last five minutes in a fight while you can last ten minutes. You will always be the one to emerge victorious.

"A genius should have the ability to not fear multiple opponents. If your opponents think they can tire you out in five minutes, you can last ten minutes and kill them all instead. With a durable enough willpower, you might even be able to face those above your level and exhaust them to death!"

Zhao Li was starting to tremble from exhaustion, but he still smiled and said, "I am a seventh-stage Cloudbreach cultivator. But no cultivator in the same realm can have stronger willpower than mine. Their so-called offensive prowess is nothing before my willpower. Without strong enough willpower, they can barely harm me. I can simply wait them out and kill them after they run out of willpower.

"I can keep fighting for ten hours. Can they? Those Character Faculty fellows would probably run out of energy after an hour. Their willpower will probably weaken after only a few minutes. I can easily kill such an opponent.

"Your multiple character faction is slightly similar to us. Due to the large number of Divine Characters you guys have, your willpower can also last longer than the average person. But you guys still can't last as long as us weaponsmiths. Of course, with more Divine Characters, you will have more abilities, so it is hard to say who will be the one to win in the end if we do fight.

"Bai Feng can instantly defeat Hu Wensheng who is a ninth-stage Skysoar cultivator. As for me, even against Zheng Yuming, as long as he can't instantly defeat me, I can outlast him."

Zhao Li was filled with pride as he spoke. That was his pride as a weaponsmith.

Zheng Yuming was a student of Zhou Mingren and a Mountainsea expert. Meanwhile, Zhao Li was only a seventh-stage Cloudbreach cultivator. Of course, there was definitely some exaggeration in his words.

Su Yu could clearly see a few people in the crowd looking away when Zhao Li was saying all that. Those people could believe the claim that Zhao Li could fight a ninth-stage Cloudbreach cultivator. But the Mountainsea Realm was an entirely different matter.

The premise of what Zhao Li said was that Zheng Yuming wouldn't be able to instantly defeat him. But that might not necessarily be the case. What if he was seriously injured in one hit? At that point, it no longer mattered how long his willpower could last.

Thus, there was no way Zhao Li would be a match for those in the Mountainsea Realm. Of course, there was no denying that Zhao Li would still be much harder to kill than regular seventh-stage Cloudbreach cultivators.

Zhao Li did not care about the crowd's reaction. While breathing heavily, he said, "For weaponsmiths, obtaining the right Divine Characters is very important. Additionally, expanding your willpower for more durability is also very important. As for the method of doing so, that's a secret. I don't teach that to students who are only minoring in weaponsmithing."

...

Su Yu was speechless. If Zhao Li wasn't teaching, what was the point of telling him all that? This old man was obviously still trying to take him as a student. Su Yu and everyone in the crowd understood what Zhao Li was trying to do. Once again, they all looked at Su Yu curiously. Was this student really that incredible? Was he worth Zhao Li's favor?

At this point, Zhao Li could no longer continue talking. The hammers in the air continued pounding on the dagger. Before long, a few more golden veins appeared on the dagger.

While everyone was watching silently, Zhao Li suddenly spoke, "Watch carefully. Observe where I hit. Each spot I hit will create a different result. How clear the golden vein is represents how successful your forging is. Garbage weaponsmiths will frequently produce only unclear and crooked golden veins."

Bang!

He had just finished his sentence when a new golden vein appeared. It was crooked. An awkward silence descended. Even a clueless newbie like Su Yu could see that the new golden vein was crooked.

And when he recalled what Zhao Li just said, Su Yu hurriedly looked down. He told himself that he had heard nothing.

Zhao Li was feeling rather embarrassed as he said, "I wasn't paying attention as I was speaking earlier. This is an example of what not to do when forging. I am showing all of you that you should always concentrate when forging. This is a demonstration of what would happen when you lack concentration. For me, this doesn't matter. Garbage weaponsmiths won't be able to correct this mistake, but I'm different. I can reforge and correct the previous forge."

...

The faces of a few old researchers dropped when Zhao Li said that. Yes, yes, all of them were garbage weaponsmiths. Why? Because none of them was capable of reforging. Zhao Li was willing to offend all of them just to protect his reputation in front of a newbie.

With a roar, Zhao Li activated a different Divine Character. Nobody knew what character that was. Generally, nobody could see a cultural researcher's Divine Character unless the cultural researcher was willingly showing it.

Rumble!

Once again, the hammers slammed down madly. This time, no new vein was being created. Instead, the previous vein was slowly fading away. This process took an even longer time than the formation of a new vein. After about 20 minutes, when Zhao Li turned pale, the crooked vein finally faded completely.

"Done. This is the basic ability a good weaponsmith should have. This is also a special technique of mine. Some fellows have been trying to learn this from me, but I refused to teach any of them. Those trash weaponsmiths will only embarrass me after learning my technique."

### Chapter 168: Weaponsmithing (3)

Once again, everyone sank into silence. Seeing that nobody had anything to say to him, Zhao Li started focusing on his forging. He was probably getting quite tired and no longer dared to get distracted.

One hour. Two hours...

Su Yu had no choice but to admit that these people were all very patient. They were all attentively observing the forging.

Eventually, seven hours passed. Su Yu had arrived at around five. It was now midnight. At this point, Zhao Li was already drenched wet with sweat. Finally, the final golden vein took shape on the dagger. At that moment, the transparent dagger turned into a golden dagger.

"Form!"

With a roar, Zhao Li's willpower erupted and the dagger vanished. Next, a boom rang out.

A burst of willpower erupted from an old man in the room. With a pale face, he stared at the floating dagger right in front of his face. He couldn't help but to curse, "Old Zhao, have you gone mad? Are you trying to kill me?"

"You're a third-stage Cloudbreach. You won't die so easily." Zhao Li panted as he said, "This dagger is not compatible with my Divine Characters. I gave it a try and it seems quite good. With 39 golden veins, it can be considered one of the best among low-tier profound-grade weapons. Good thing I was able to reforge it earlier or the entire weapon would be ruined."



Su Yu was still in a daze. He had not been able to see the dagger move. If the dagger had been sent his way, he would have died before even realizing what had happened. Was this the prowess of a cultural weapon?

Zhao Li grabbed at the air and the dagger flew back to him before vanishing into thin air. With a smile, he said, "This weapon can now be nourished in the sea of willpower. If the owner is present, this would be the moment for him to send his Divine Characters into the weapon and nourish them together, increasing the compatibility of the weapon and the characters."

He exhaled deeply and looked at the crowd before saying, "Why are you still here? Are you waiting for me to cook you dinner?"

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The crowd was speechless. They could only leave. The few youngsters in the crowd looked at Su Yu with envy and curiosity as they left. Su Yu was about to leave as well but Zhao Li told him to wait. Su Yu wondered if Zhao Li was going to give him an extra class.

However, that wasn't the reason Zhao Li had kept him behind. Instead, a small black saber was tossed his way. The saber looked more like a toy than a weapon.

"Like I said previously, I'm going to give you a mold. You can toss it into the pool in your filter room. You won't need this mold yet, but you can always take it out when you can finally use it."

"Is this...a cultural weapon mold?"

Su Yu played with the saber and found that it actually felt like dough. When he tried pinching it, it immediately changed shape. He was stunned. Was this even a weapon?

"Cultural weapons are not martial weapons. Were you listening earlier?" Zhao Li's face fell as he said, "This is a top-tier yellow-grade mold. It isn't too expensive. I was planning to give you a profound-grade mold, but I remembered that you won't be able to use it for now anyway. You might as well take a yellow-grade mold for now. You will be able to use it after reaching the Mental Tempering Stage. Come

look for me when you're ready to send your Divine Characters into the weapon. I'll prepare some suitable materials to upgrade your mold.

"It is very troublesome for me to forge a weapon for that character of yours with the illusion ability. It's too difficult. You have a lightning character as well, right?"

"Yeah. I have a lightning character as well. My blood character is the one producing illusions. It can absorb blood as well."

Su Yu answered honestly.

Zhao Li sank into contemplation. After a while, he said, "Got it. Blood absorption, lightning...both can be considered offensive abilities. You're a saber user, right? I suggest that you form a saber character after reaching the Mental Tempering Stage. If not, the weapon, break, and pierce characters are pretty good too. Those characters would work well with your blood absorption ability. With a sharper blade, it will be easier for you to wound your enemies and make use of your blood absorption ability."

Su Yu hurriedly asked, "Teacher, can I actually pick the characters I want to form?"

"Of course you can. Of course, the premise for that is money. For example, if there is a character in a willpower text you want, you can read it over and over until you eventually form it. But you might end up using dozens of willpower texts for the character you want. If you have enough money, you can give this method a try."

...

Su Yu could only smile bitterly. He definitely didn't have enough money. A few dozen willpower texts? He only had two Great Strength original texts in his possession at the moment. He had no way of getting more.

"Well, that's none of my business. You have to look for Bai Feng for that," said Zhao Li as he rolled his eyes. "If you're majoring under me, I would definitely supply you with all the willpower texts you need. But unfortunately, you aren't. I won't spare too much effort on you."

"I am happy with what I have. Thank you for your gift and guidance, teacher."

Su Yu was speaking sincerely. Zhao Li was already kind enough to him. He had nearly failed his forging today just to teach Su Yu. If it wasn't for Su Yu, Zhao Li probably wouldn't have bothered saying anything during the session.

"Well, that's all for today. Go back and rest early."

When Su Yu was about to leave, Zhao Li said, "When you finally plan to forge a weapon, form a suitable Divine Character first. I can teach you a way to temper your willpower. You can increase the endurance of your willpower with that method."

Su Yu bowed and said, "Thank you, teacher. I will work hard."

"Alright. Time for you to piss off."

Zhao Li waved his hand and chased Su Yu away impatiently.

When Su Yu left, Zhao Li exhaled deeply in exhaustion. He muttered, "What a pity. He is obviously a good seedling for weaponsmithing. Why must he insist on joining the Character Faculty? His willpower is so weak yet he had been able to use his Divine Character so many times during the battle. He definitely has the potential to forge a weapon with 73 golden veins and above..."

At that thought, Zhao Li looked in a certain direction in his research center with regret. There, a half-completed earth-grade cultural weapon was hidden. It had 72 golden veins. As for the 73rd vein, it was half-formed. Unfortunately, Zhao Li did not have the strength to complete it.

"Unless I reach the Mountainsea Realm or my Soul Expanding Art reaches a higher level, I won't be able to complete the weapon. What a pity..."

Zhao Li sighed deeply. Nobody could help him with it either. As for the new students of their faculty this year, not to mention activating their Divine Characters multiple times, even a single activation was akin

to a torture for them. And that included the high-tier students they had accepted this year. Teaching these students the Soul Expanding Art would be a waste of time.

"Weaponsmithing..."

Walking out of the research center, Su Yu played with the weapon mold in his hand. It was soft and flexible. Did this thing even have any destructive power?

Top-tier yellow-grade. This was supposed to be a weapon he could use until the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage. Converted into physical cultivation realms, he would be able to continue using it until the Skysoar Realm.

"It probably isn't cheap."

Su Yu was no fool. Cultural weapons were at least five times more expensive than martial weapons. Some were even ten times more expensive. That was what Zhao Li told him.

Su Yu had spent more than a hundred thousand dollars to buy his standard yellow-grade saber. A top-tier yellow-grade martial weapon would probably cost him around a million dollars.

A cultural weapon of the same level would be worth ten million dollars. In the black market, it would be worth 200 merit points.

"This thing won't be any cheaper than 100 merit points."

Su Yu didn't know how expensive this weapon mold was, but he was aware that it was worth more than everything he had. After all, he only had around 30 merit points on him at the moment.

...

Back in the research center.

Su Yu hesitated. Should he toss the mold into the blood essence pool? Would it be fine? After thinking about it, he decided to check with Bai Feng. He wouldn't be able to take the responsibility if anything bad happened. It wasn't that he didn't trust Zhao Li, but the research center wasn't his. It was better to ask first.

...

Despite returning so late, Su Yu still insisted on finishing two cultivation sessions. He only went to bed around four in the morning. Early the next day, Bai Feng walked out with heavy eye bags. He looked at Su Yu blankly and asked, "Is there any food?"

Su Yu, who had just woken up, was just about to ask the same question. Out of the pair, one was a cultivation addict while the other was a research addict. For the past two days, Bai Feng had spent nearly all his time in the laboratory. Su Yu greatly suspected that this fellow would already die from exhaustion if he wasn't a Skysoar expert.

"Teacher, I'll go buy some..."

Su Yu decided to just go buy a bunch of instant noodles back.

Bai Feng waved his hand and weakly said, "Forget it. I'm not eating. I still need to continue my research. Cute disciple, we're completely broke. I will be busy for now. Why don't you think of a way to make some merit points for us?"

Su Yu was dumbfounded. Bai Feng was the teacher here! Bai Feng was the Skysoar here! What was he thinking? He was telling a Source Opening kid to earn money and feed him?

Bai Feng coughed awkwardly and said, "Don't look at me like that. Don't you have that number? Call it and tell her that we're starving to death. Ask to borrow some merit points. It should be fine."

Su Yu couldn't help but to ask, "Teacher, whose number is that?"

"You don't know that?" Bai Feng was still in somewhat of a daze as he replied, "That's understandable. She might be your martial mother. But she might also be your martial grandaunt since you're the students of both me and Martial Uncle. I think that's the case."

He stared ahead blankly, wondering if that was right.

Su Yu blanked out slightly before asking in confusion, "Teacher Liu's lover?"

"Lover?"

Fear suddenly covered Bai Feng's face.

Beads of sweat appeared on his forehead as he said, "I was just joking. Don't talk nonsense. What do you mean she's his lover? That's Martial Uncle's friend. An old friend of his!"

Su Yu was speechless. What was Bai Feng afraid of? Would she eat him or something?

Bai Feng hurriedly said, "Forget it. You don't need to borrow any money. I'll think of something. We still have a little money tree-cough, cough. I was joking. We are really very poor."

Su Yu thought that Bai Feng must be speaking incoherently due to excessive exhaustion. Thus, he said, "Teacher, why don't you take a few days off."

"It's fine. I'm still very healthy." Bai Feng said happily, "My research is progressing rapidly. How can I rest now? By the way, do you have anything you want to ask? You better ask your questions now when I still have some free time. Next time, you can press the doorbell if you want to look for me. Otherwise, I might spend even more time in the lab."

He was really very busy. After so long, he had finally found a new path forward in his research. He wanted nothing more than to spend all his time in his laboratory, skipping even all his meals.

"Yes, I have a question." Su Yu hastily said, "I have a yellow-grade cultural weapon mold. I want to nurture it in the filter room. Can I do it, Teacher?"

"Hmm?"

That caught Bai Feng's attention.

"You got the mold from Old Fart Zhao Li?"

"Yes, from Teacher Zhao Li."

"Show it to me."

Su Yu did not hesitate and took out the little saber. Bai Feng channeled some willpower into the saber. Instantly, 36 golden veins appeared on it.

Bai Feng was shocked, "Holy shit, a top-tier yellow-grade weapon! That old fart is pretty generous this time!"

He looked at Su Yu and said, "How did you catch his eye? That old fart has a bad temper. For him, geniuses are nothing. In fact, a few years ago, even Marquis Xia was cussed out of his place one time. He even threatened to beat Marquis Xia each time they met. How did you win his favor?"

Su Yu was stupefied. "Isn't Marquis Xia the prefect's uncle and Great Xia King's son?"

"So what?" Bai Feng indifferently said, "Old Fart Zhao is a master weaponsmith. He's not at the level he can forge earth-grade weapons yet, but there is only one such weaponsmith in the entirety of Great Xia. That weaponsmith is being treated like an ancestor by the prefect. As for Old Far Zhao, he is basically ancestor number two in Great Xia."

Bai Feng was afraid that Su Yu would really run off to the Weaponsmithing Faculty so he hastily added, "Although he's ancestor number two, that old fart has a bad temper. Marquis Xia only requested him to

forge a few cultural weapons and ended up nearly hammered to death by him. Just be sure to keep your distance from him lest you end up being hammered to death."

Su Yu was speechless. Did Bai Feng really think that he was an idiot?

"Teacher, you still haven't answered my question."

"Cough."

Bai Feng coughed awkwardly and said, "Forget about all that. This is already a top-tier yellow-grade weapon. From its quality, this must be Old Fart Zhao's own product instead of something made by those amateur weaponsmiths. The top-tier yellow-grade weapons forged by those amateurs would generally only have between 33 to 34 golden veins. Since this is a mold, it also has a lot of room for growth. It might even grow into the profound-grade in the future. It is quite valuable. Why don't we sell it instead?"

Chapter 169: My Heart Slowly Darkens (1)

Once again, Su Yu was stupefied. He found that Bai Feng had really gone mad recently. Was he trying to sell his student's weapon to feed himself?

"Hahaha!" Bai Feng laughed awkwardly and said, "Just kidding! Yes, you can throw it into the blood essence pool and take it out when you reach the Mental Tempering Stage. That old fart has been setting his eyes on our blood essence pool for a while now. I can't even be bothered to entertain him. He even offered 5,000 merit points to enter the room. Dream on!"

Su Yu asked, "Teacher, we're not really using that pool for anything else right? 5,000 merit points could be very useful for us right now..."

He tried speaking on behalf of Zhao Li.

But Bai Feng shook his head and said, "That's not the issue. Forget it. You won't understand. Also, that fellow would enter with his half-finished earth-grade weapon. If he tosses that weapon into the pool, the pool would be sucked dry. 5,000 merit points aren't enough for that. Furthermore, even after



exhausting all the energy in the pool, his weapon might still remain unfinished. That's a complete waste."

"Has Teacher Zhao Li really forged an earth-grade cultural weapon before?"

"Strictly speaking, no. That's an unfinished product. It can't even be used. What a pity," said Bai Feng regretfully. "That fellow spent all his wealth on that weapon only to fail at the last moment. He had also failed at his attempted advancement. It's truly a pity..."

"Teacher, are profound-grade cultural weapons expensive?"

"Of course." Bai Feng solemnly said, "There are a lot of cultural researchers in Great Xia. And a lot of them are Mountainsea experts. Our academy alone has a lot of them. I don't know the exact number, but out of the 42 pavilion elders, there are 36 Mountainsea cultivators. Six of them are ninth-stage Cloudbreach cultivators.

"Out of the 36 Mountainsea elders, no more than 10 of them are equipped with earth-grade cultural weapons. Sure, Great Xia has a weaponsmith capable of forging earth-grade cultural weapons. But each forging session would take more than 20 hours. The willpower exhaustion is great and the failure rate is terrifyingly high. Even if you're lucky, you would probably only have a success rate of two out of ten.

"And that weaponsmith is only capable of one attempt per month. At times, he would not forge anything if he is busy cultivating. In a single year, he would only be able to make seven or eight attempts. And if he's lucky, he would only be able to actually produce one or two earth-grade cultural weapons. If he's unlucky, he might fail all attempts."

Bai Feng sighed, "Our academy isn't the sole cultural research academy in Great Xia. There is the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy and the cultural researchers in the military. Therefore, how many cultural weapons can our academy actually get?"

They were already happy enough with 10 cultural weapons in the academy.

Bai Feng continued, "Also, cultural weapons can't be mass-produced. It also can't be passed on to the next person."

At the mention of that, Bai Feng had a troubled expression as he said, "Think about it. Everyone has different Divine Characters. Each cultural weapon is tailor-made for one person's Divine Characters. There is no way for those weapons to be inherited. We still have some earth-grade cultural weapons in storage. Those were left behind by some departed elders. But nobody can use those weapons. Rather than use an incompatible earth-grade weapon, you're better off using a compatible profound-grade weapon."

Su Yu nodded repeatedly as he listened. He finally had a clearer idea of how valuable cultural weapons were.

"So does grandteacher have one?"

"Yes." Bai Feng nodded, "That's not surprising. Your grandteacher is still an eighth-stage Mountainsea expert. How can someone like him not have one? Generally, only late-stage Mountainsea experts can possess these cultural weapons. As for those in the lower stages, dream on. They won't be able to get one even if they can afford it."

Cultural weapons could be considered strategic resources. These were things people couldn't buy even if they had the money for it.

"Feel free to nourish your weapon mold in the pool. It's only at the yellow-grade anyway. It won't drain much of the energy in the pool. If you're interested in weaponsmithing, wait until you reach the Skysoar Realm. I don't suggest you focus on that now. It takes a lot of time. You will only be busier when you reach the Mental Tempering Stage."

Su Yu wasn't even surprised. Just look at Bai Feng. He had been driven mad by how busy he was. He spent almost all his time in his laboratory. It was no wonder that researchers were so rarely seen in the academy.

...

After saying all that, Bai Feng vanished again. Meanwhile, Su Yu was in a rush too. He still had classes to attend. After tossing the weapon mold into the pool, he left.

...

Attending classes, cultivating, attending some basic weaponsmithing classes. Su Yu's schedule was packed. A genius would not appear out of nowhere. Behind each genius was an untold amount of hard work. Su Yu was starting to gain an appreciation for that saying.

In the academy, the freaks and high-high students were rarely seen in public. Those with time to actually stroll around the academy were mostly untalented fellows. In the subsequent days, Su Yu stopped encountering people like Wu Lan, Xia Chan, Hu Zongji, or even the petite Liu Ke he had met when he first arrived.

They had just entered the academy. Everyone was busy. Incredibly busy.

...

While Su Yu was busy with his daily activities.

Special zone.

Lin Yao opened his door impatiently and asked, "Who is it? Can't you see the 'Cultivation in session, do not disturb' sign?"

He had been staying indoors for several days. He was working hard on opening his acupoints. He aimed to enter the Great Strength Realm and didn't have the time to go anywhere else. Chen Qi's gloomy face appeared before him.

"Junior Brother Lin, you are very diligent. I've been here a few times but I never got to see you."

"Senior Brother Chen?"

Lin Yao sounded impatient. Was his senior brother aware that it was rude to disturb someone who was in the middle of cultivation? Nevertheless, they still came from the same faction. Hu Wensheng was the previous leader of his generation in their faction. He still held some weight in the faction despite his defeat in the hands of Bai Feng.

Lin Yao forced himself to smile politely, "Is there anything I can help you with?"

"Yes." Chen Qi gloomy said, "Junior Brother Lin, you should be aware of the previous owner of that batch of mountainbreak bull blood essence. It belonged to me..."

Lin Yao instantly understood what this fellow was here for.

He frowned and said, "Senior Brother, like you said, it used to be yours. Not anymore. Now, it belongs to Su Yu."

Chen Qi furiously said, "I'm in the middle of discussion with Su Yu. I'm going to buy it back. Junior Brother, what you did was wrong. You forced Su Yu to spar with you. Is that even fair? You're at the Mental Tempering Stage. Why are you sparring with someone who is not even in that stage?"

"I forced him?"

Lin Yao was stunned. Su Yu was the one who had proposed the challenge, not the other way around! Then again, it did not matter.

Lin Yao said with an upset tone, "Senior Brother, if he manages to place in the top three and challenge me, the rules allow that. Fair or not, that's his choice. It has nothing to do with me."

Chen Qi furiously said, "If you hadn't forced him, would he even challenge you? Junior Brother Lin, it is not a good idea to snatch something that belongs to others. Furthermore, you're not even in the Great Strength Realm yet. You still have plenty of time to forge your body. Why are you insisting on competing against me?"

Lin Yao raised his head pridefully and coldly said, "Senior Brother, you're being unreasonable here. The blood essence is no longer yours. So what if I'm getting it from Su Yu? It has nothing to do with you."

"You..."

"Senior Brother, I am not Su Yu. Teacher Hu is already in seclusion. I advise you to keep a low profile, Senior brother. My teacher is still out and about."

"You!"

Chen Qi was furious. This fellow was actually threatening him with Liu Hong!

"Very well!"

Chen Qi was getting more and more furious. He could still accept getting rejected by Su Yu. He could still think of a way to delay Su Yu from using the blood essence for a period of time. Who would have imagined that someone from his own faction would step forth and snatch the blood essence from him?

Seeing that he couldn't convince Lin Yao, Chen Qi left without looking back. Just you wait, Lin Yao!

...

Meanwhile, Lin Yao was looking at Chen Qi with disdain. He had relied on himself to obtain the blood essence. Why should he give up for Chen Qi's sake? Did Chen Qi really think that Lin Yao would be afraid of him?

Lin Yao shut the door dismissively.

...

Chen Qi seethed in rage as he walked. He did not see Su Yu winning the upcoming spar. Thus, the blood essence would not remain in Su Yu's hands for long.

And there was no taking the blood essence back once it landed in Lin Yao's hands. No matter what, the two of them were in the same faction. There were things he could do to Su Yu but not Lin Yao.

"I need to get the blood essence before Lin Yao! Challenge...I am a senior class student too! If Su Yu can place top three and challenge Lin Yao, why couldn't he challenge me instead?"

The academy had its own rules. But rules could also be flexible. There were more than one senior class around. There were also senior classes of different batches. Supposedly, Su Yu should only be able to challenge the senior class of his batch. But that wasn't really specified in the academy rules.

"I can only get the blood essence if Su Yu challenges me. I heard Lin Yao would give him 300 merit points if he wins the spar. Lin Yao might have forced the challenge, but Su Yu wouldn't really agree if he wasn't tempted by the offer."

"In that case, Su Yu himself must have found the offer agreeable. Otherwise, the spar would not happen. Merit points!"

Chen Qi felt like he had stumbled upon the truth. Su Yu was poor. His teacher was poor too. It wasn't surprising that he had agreed to the spar. It was all for the sake of merit points. With the proposed spar, even after losing, he would still get 100 merit points and silkworm blood essence in exchange for the mountainbreak bull blood essence.

"He won't lose anything if he ends up defeated. And if he wins, he would get 300 merit points. No wonder Su Yu agreed to the spar."

Chapter 170: My Heart Slowly Darkens (2)

That night, Su Yu saw Chen Qi again. It had been a few days since their previous meeting.

Su Yu frowned. He disliked trouble. And this fellow was as troublesome as a persistent housefly.

Without giving Chen Qi a chance to speak, Su Yu said, "I'm not selling. I already agreed to spar with Lin Yao. I can't sell it anymore. If I change my mind, my reputation in the academy would be totally ruined."

"I know." Chen Qi frowned and said, "Su Yu, listen to me. How about the two of us partner up?"

"Hmm?"

"I'll help you defeat Lin Yao. You can get 300 merit points for free. Then, you can challenge me and lose. I will give you 1,000 merit points on top of that. You can get 1,300 merit points in total. This price is more than enough for you to buy all the blood essence you need. You only need to spend some time."

"Defeating Lin Yao?"

"Yes. Do you think you can win without help? Impossible. I was at his place earlier. He's not far from the Great Strength Realm. I also know that he has a profound-grade martial technique. His Divine Character is also quite strong. You won't be his match. He even has a cultural weapon. And he has been in the Mental Tempering Stage for quite a while. He is strong enough to even face Infinite Strength cultivators. You stand no chance against him."

Su Yu asked in astonishment, "How am I supposed to win, then?"

"I have my ways." With the same gloomy expression, Chen Qi said, "After winning, you will gain both fame and 1,300 merit points. If you're willing to buy a cheaper type of blood essence for your body forging, you would probably still have around 1,000 merit points left. That would be enough for you to cultivate until the Infinite Strength Realm or above."

Su Yu raised his brow and said, "I want to beat him fair and square. There is no pride in winning through other means."

Chen Qi furiously said, "Foolish! Fine, I'll offer 100 more merit points. That's the most I can offer. You can get 1,400 merit points for free!"

"It's not for free. You want my blood essence!" Su Yu was speechless. Was Chen Qi taking him for a fool?

Chen Qi was starting to lose his patience. He asked, "What do you want then? Do you really think you can win? If you lose to Lin Yao, you would only get 100 merit points. Silkwrym blood essence might be quite valuable, but if you give me a month, I can get you 100 drops of silkwrym blood essence too. I can also give you 400 merit points on top of that. What do you think?"

Silkwrym blood essence was also quite rare. But the blood essence of most of the top 100 races were quite similar in effect if one wasn't using the mountainbreak bull blood essence. Thus, the blood essence of the other races were much easier to purchase in comparison.

Su Yu hesitated and asked, "Are you serious?"

"Of course."

"What if I say no?"

Chen Qi's voice turned cold. "No? Then you better not enter the Mental Tempering Stage and the Great Strength Realm. Otherwise, you will come to regret your choice today. Su Yu, I am already being very generous. I offer a fair price. I am even willing to help you with Lin Yao. Why do you reject me again and again? Do you really think that I won't lose my temper?"

Su Yu wanted to say that he had a pretty bad temper too. Chen Qi was merely unaware of that.

In his desperation, Chen Qi had decided to threaten Su Yu. Otherwise, he might really lose this blood essence for real.

Su Yu thought about it and clenched his teeth, "Fine. In that case, I'll challenge you after my fight with Lin Yao. The conditions will be the same. If you win, you can buy the blood essence from me for 400 merit points and 100 drops of blood essence from a different top 100 race. If you lose, you need to pay me 1,000 merit points."

"Hmm?" Chen Qi frowned and coldly said, "There is no need to mention the final condition..."



Su Yu sneered, "Maybe I can win. Who knows? You want me to challenge you. But if I have nothing to gain from winning, why would I bother making this gamble? Do you think your threat would work? Do you think I'm helpless against you? I can simply go to Teacher Bai and tell him that you launched a sneak attack on me!"

"You..." Chen Qi was furious. After a while, he said, "You're thinking of using the same trick you used against Lin Yao on me? You want to ruin my reputation?"

Su Yu snorted, "Do you still have any reputation? The moment I challenge you, your reputation would be gone. Do you still care about your reputation? You're a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. By facing me in a spar, you would no longer have any reputation."

"If that's the case, why don't you just sell the bloo--"

"Dream on."

...

Chen Qi was infuriated. Su Yu was too stubborn! Additionally, he was also greedy and enjoyed gambling too much. He would only agree to a spar where he would win big in the event of victory and lose nothing in the event of defeat. An image of Su Yu slowly formed in Chen Qi's mind. This was a greedy and poor person who was also addicted to gambling.

"Ok."

Chen Qi gnashed his teeth and agreed. There was no way he would lose. He was at the seventh-stage Great Strength Realm and Mental Tempering Stage. He was someone ready to challenge the Top 100 Ranking. Not to mention Su Yu, he could even defeat Lin Yao without breaking a sweat.

Su Yu did not say anything else and walked around Chen Qi before walking away. Chen Qi was very strong. But Su Yu was confident in his own strength. With Infinite Strength blood essence, he would have the offensive prowess of an Infinite Strength cultivator. He refused to believe he stood no chance against Chen Qi.

Su Yu was already getting tired of Chen Qi's constant pestering, so he decided to deal with Chen Qi as well. He still remembered what Wu Lan said. Chen Qi had looked for her to help with the scheme against him.

"Previously, I was afraid of using my blood essence ability. But since Teacher had said that I can use him as an excuse for my ability, I have nothing to fear anymore. Liu Hong and Hu Wensheng! Both are from the same faction and both are rich. Who else am I going to scam if not you? Just look at how easily they are offering me 1,000 merit points or more."

Su Yu was finding it hard to believe just how rich those people were. His teacher was a seventh-stage Skysoar capable of defeating a ninth-stage Skysoar. But his teacher was incredibly poor. Why were the students from Liu Hong's faction richer than even Bai Feng?

Little did he know, these people were all the genius heirs of rich families. For the sake of their cultivation, their families were naturally willing to invest a lot on them. They came from families with Cloudbreach cultivators. Sure, 1,000 merit points were a lot, but that was still a price Cloudbreach cultivators could afford.

If Bai Feng hadn't wasted all his time and effort on his research, with his cultivation and his status as the student of a Mountainsea expert, he would also be quite rich.

"Chen Qi is planning to stab Lin Yao in the back. He believes that I won't win..."

At the thought of that, Su Yu smiled. He took out his communicator and dialed a number.

...

Half an hour later.

In a certain park in the academy, Xia Huyou met Su Yu. He curiously asked, "Su Yu, why are you looking for me so late?"

"I'm selling you some information."

"What are you selling?"

"100 merit points."

"What exactly are you selling?" Xia Huyou asked in excitement, "Are you selling the research results from your research center?"

"Scram!"

This fellow must be dreaming.

"Someone is scheming against Lin Yao..."

"What?" Xia Huyou was stunned. He said, "If you're going to say that you're the culprit, forget it. I already know about it."

"Not me." Su Yu was furious. How could this fatty say that? He was definitely not scheming against anyone!

"Are you buying or not? If you sell the information to Lin Yao, you can leave a favorable impression on him and earn some money. That fellow is rich. He can definitely afford 100 merit points..."

Xia Huyou said, "That would depend on who the culprit is. If you're going to say it's the Myriad Race Cult or your teacher, forget it. That's pointless. Only tell me if it's someone he won't expect and if it's actually true."

"He won't expect it."

Strictly speaking, Chen Qi and Lin Yao were on the same side. Would Lin Yao expect Chen Qi to stab him in the back? Su Yu had no idea. But he knew that this information was worth some money.

"Tell me who the culprit is first. Don't worry. I am a reputable businessman. If it's worth money, I'll definitely pay you. And if it's not worth money, I'll keep my mouth shut about it."

"Chen Qi."

Xia Huyou thought he heard wrong. "Who?"

"Chen Qi."

"Dang! He's scheming against his own people?" Xia Huyou blanked out momentarily before asking, "For the blood essence?"

"Yes."

"Isn't that Chen Qi afraid of...right. There is nothing to fear. He's not killing anyone and this blood essence was supposed to be his anyway. If he could get it back, not even Liu Hong would have anything to say..."

Suddenly, Xia Huyou's gaze landed on Su Yu. He clicked his tongue and said, "Su Yu, you're the biggest scum of them all. You're going to profit off both of them. And not even that is enough. You're now here to even profit off me. Are you not afraid of biting off more than you can chew? Or have you entered an agreement with Chen Qi?"

Su Yu calmly said, "You told me that after entering the academy, I need to be ruthless. They provoked me first. Why can't I strike back?"

"Good answer!"

Xia Huyou raised his thumb in admiration. This Su Yu was truly ruthless. First, he provoked Lin Yao. Then, he got involved with Chen Qi. Finally, he sold Chen Qi out. Sure, he would end up offending both of them by doing that, but that did not matter.

They were never friends in the first place. Meanwhile, this whole scheme could very well turn Chen Qi and Lin Yao against each other for real. Su Yu was akin to a puppet master, manipulating everything that was happening. Incredible.

Xia Huyou smiled and said, "Sure. I'll buy the information for 100 merit points. I can probably get 100 merit points from Lin Yao. I won't earn any money, but he will owe me a favor from this. He's still a high-high student so that is worth a lot too."

"Thank you. Don't tell him you got the information from me or he won't believe it."

"Of course. I'm not dumb. Don't worry. Not even Chen Qi would believe that you would be the one to leak this information. By the way, what are you planning to do?"

"I can't tell you. You'll know next month."

Right now, he couldn't tell anyone about his spar with Chen Qi. Neither would Chen Qi say anything either. Otherwise, it would be too obvious that there were trickeries involved. It would only make it much harder for him to scam Lin Yao.

"Next month..."

Xia Huyou did not ask anything, but he started thinking about it. Chen Qi was going to stab Lin Yao in the back...was Chen Qi going to cause Lin Yao to lose the spar? What could he get from that? Blood essence! Had Su Yu made the same bet with Chen Qi as well?

Holy shit! What gave this fellow the confidence to face a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator?

Xia Huyou found that he needed to learn more about Su Yu. This fellow seemed to have a hidden trump card. He was fully confident he could defeat Lin Yao. He wouldn't have come selling this information otherwise.

...

Su Yu naturally did not care about what Xia Huyou was thinking. While on his way back, he couldn't help but to laugh in excitement.

300 merit points, 1,000 merit points, 100 merit points...

The academy was filled with rich people! After the two spars, he was going to get 1,400 merit points! This was crazy. Not even his teacher was this rich.

Just earlier, his teacher was still trying to make him borrow money from someone to feed them. Su Yu started wondering if he should give his teacher a small loan after making his 1,400 merit points.

"Maybe I can lend him some. I'll tell him I loaned the money and he needs to pay the interest...After all, I won't be able to finish 1,400 merit points so quickly anyway..."

Su Yu started making plans for what he was going to do with his future 1,400 merit points.