

Myriad 171

Chapter 171: Great Strength (1)

Day after day passed. Nobody else bothered Su Yu during this period of time.

A lot of people believed that he would not be able to keep the mountainbreak bull blood essence. Lin Yao would be the new owner of the blood essence. Because of that, nobody bothered to create any trouble for Su Yu. Even Liu Hong was nowhere to be seen. Su Yu didn't know if Liu Hong was away for cultivation or some other business.

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28th of August.

Nearly a month after Su Yu entered the academy.

Wentan Research Center.

Filter room.

Source qi undulated intensely in Su Yu's body. With a rumble, an acupoint opened. That was the 12th acupoint. The final acupoint of the advanced War God Art's first stage had finally been opened.

"Done!"

Su Yu was overjoyed. Before entering the academy, he had only opened 5 acupoints. During the past 28 days, he had opened another 7 acupoints. On average, he had opened 1 acupoint every 4 days.

The high source qi density of his surroundings and the Infinite Strength blood essence that he had spent nearly all his money on had helped him open all the acupoints of the first stage. As of now, he could be considered a proper Great Strength cultivator. But he still lacked the final step. If he connected his 12 new acupoints with his Source Opening acupoints, joining all 21 of them, he would become a true Great Strength cultivator.

"It feels fast, but it's really quite slow..."

Su Yu was still not satisfied with his speed. There were 108 acupoints for him to open in the Great Strength Realm. He still had 96 of them. With the speed of 1 every 4 days, he would need at least a year to reach the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm.

Of course, for anyone else, that was already a terrifying speed. But Su Yu knew that in the war academies, there were some geniuses that could enter the Infinite Strength Realm within a year. Thus, his current speed was not enough to surpass those geniuses.

"I have the book's help, but those fellows have a large amount of source qi liquid. And they are already stronger than me, so they can probably reach the Infinite Strength Realm before me."

That was why Su Yu thought that his speed was still too slow. He tossed all that out of his mind and rushed to the living area. There, he pushed a button. A short while later, Bai Feng appeared.

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Nowadays, Bai Feng had transformed into a complete shut-in. He left his stubble unshaved, giving him a sloppy look.

When he saw Su Yu, he stared blankly for a bit before asking in astonishment, "You're done opening your acupoints?"

"Yes." Su Yu happily said, "Teacher, I've opened all 12 acupoints."

"Not bad." Bai Feng was pretty happy too. "Looks like my teachings for the past month have been very effective. You have not disappointed me. This is faster than I expected."

Su Yu had a lot of say about that, but he decided to shut his mouth. He really wanted to ask Bai Feng about his so-called teachings. Then again, his fast progress was all thanks to the research center, so he decided to credit that to Bai Feng instead.

"Don't link your acupoints for now..." Bai Feng said, "When you entered the academy, weren't you given a free entry into the source character grotto? Do you want to use it when you enter the Infinite Strength Realm or do you want to use it when you advance from the Mental Tempering Stage to the Skysoar Realm?"

Su Yu had been learning a lot recently, so after giving it some thought, he said, "Teacher, I intend to seize every minute."

He did not wish to slowly grow. He wanted to grow strong immediately. The stronger he was right now, the more he could get for himself. As for the secret grotto entries, he would have the chance to earn more in the future.

Bai Feng smiled and nodded, "Good. That is the right choice. The source grotto will be very helpful for you. Let's go there. You can make your official breakthrough in there. Take the mountainbreak bull blood essence and forge your body while you're at it. You might even be able to open 12 more acupoints while you're in there."

"Teacher, the mountainbreak bull blood essence..."

He wanted to say that the blood essence had been staked in his coming spars. It would be troublesome if he lost and had no blood essence in hand.

"I know." Bai Feng indifferently said, "If you lose, that can only mean that you're useless. You will have to think of a way to solve that problem yourself. At worst, you can just renege on the debt and embarrass yourself. You will only destroy your reputation in the academy and might even end up expelled..."

Su Yu was speechless. Why was his teaching saying all that like it was nothing? But after thinking about it, he did not object. He would just use the blood essence. And if he ended up losing the spars...well, he was actually a tad bit worried about it.

When Bai Feng saw that, he smiled and said, "Don't worry. It's no big deal. If you really can't solve it, I'll think of something for you. Mountainbreak bull blood essence might be rare, but it's not something impossible to get. At least it won't be an issue for Mountainsea experts."

"Those fellows you mentioned simply do not have a high enough position to buy the blood essence. Look at those freaks. Do you see any of them worrying about blood essence? I don't know about the others, but the big families definitely have some in their storage. The Mountainsea experts of the academy definitely have some too. The people bugging you might come from decently powerful families, but their families are not powerful enough to earn the help of Mountainsea experts. That's why this blood essence is so valuable for them.

"Liu Hong simply doesn't care about getting the blood essence for his student. As for Hu Wensheng, he did prepare a set of blood essence for his student, but he lost it. Now, he needs to enter seclusion so he naturally won't ask for a new set of blood essence from his teacher. Do you understand now?"

Su Yu nodded, "I understand. Therefore, you're actually capable of getting this blood essence as well, right?"

"Not me..."

Bai Feng wanted to say that Wu Yuehua was the one capable of getting that blood essence, but he decided to shut his mouth about it. If this kid really ended up losing, he would have to go seek Wu Yuehua's help himself. Bai Feng was definitely not doing that. It would be too embarrassing. She would probably be willing to help if this kid went asking for help personally.

As the two walked, Su Yu asked, "Teacher, can I enter the grotto secretly? I don't want Chen Qi and the others to find out about it."

"Enter secretly?" Bai Feng smiled, "Looks like you really enjoy hiding your trump cards. To speak the truth, your blood essence ability is enough of a trump card. But since you wish to do that, sure, we can do that."

Bai Feng turned around and walked away.

A short while later, he walked out with a black jacket. He tossed it to Su Yu and said, "Put this on and cover your face. This would be secretive enough."

Su Yu was speechless. Was his teacher playing a joke on him? He was asking if there was a secret entrance or something like that. He was not asking for a terrible disguise like this. Also, even with the disguise on, by walking beside Bai Feng, even a fool would know who he was.

"Hahaha, it would be fine. Those kids won't be able to know the names of those who had entered the grotto unless their teachers told them. Hu Wensheng is in seclusion while Liu Hong had just entered a secret grotto for his own breakthrough. None of their teachers have the time to waste on you kids."

"Teacher Liu Hong is in a secret grotto?"

"Yes." Bai Feng clenched his teeth, "How would..."

How would Bai Feng be so poor otherwise? That fellow must have run into a secret grotto to avoid him! What a shameless fellow. They had agreed to partner up and scam some resources together, but that fellow had run off somewhere instead!

They had agreed to let Liu Hong suppress Su Yu. Bai Feng would be paid for it. But instead of suppressing Su Yu, Liu Hong was nowhere to be seen. Just look at Su Yu! Without Liu Hong's suppression, he was going to reach the Great Strength Realm and the Mental Tempering Stage already. And without money, how was Bai Feng going to nurture his student?

Yes, Su Yu was not far away from the Mental Tempering Stage as well. During his first day in the research center, he had reached 35 percent willpower. Due to a lack of time, his subsequent progress had been slower. Additionally, as his willpower grew, its growth was also starting to slow down.

But he had still been growing every single day for the past 20 days. His willpower was now at 48 percent. He could enter the Great Strength Realm today and the Mental Tempering Stage in a few days.

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Bai Feng was sure that Su Yu would enter the Mental Tempering Stage in the next 10 days.

While thinking about all that, Bai Feng said, "Enter the Great Strength Realm first. And when you finally reach the Mental Tempering Stage, you can start forming Divine Characters again. You have been building your foundation recently. Have you thought about the Divine Characters you want to form? Have you prepared your willpower texts?"

Su Yu was dumbfounded. Hadn't his teacher promised to provide the willpower texts previously?

Bai Feng coughed awkwardly and said, "At the Mental Tempering Stage, you can study Great Strength and Infinite Strength original texts. Those are too low leveled to remain in my storage. I did prepare a few Skysoar original texts for you before..."

Su Yu did not believe a single word of that. His teacher was obviously broke. He knew very well that Bai Feng did not have much money left. After the previous attack on his martial uncle, Bai Feng had gone out several times. Su Yu guessed that Bai Feng must have gone out to sell some things for money. This research center was probably the only thing left unsold.

Su Yu did not say anything. He tossed the jacket aside and followed Bai Feng out. While walking, he said, "Teacher, I still have two Great Strength original texts. I don't have any Infinite Strength texts. Will Great Strength texts be enough when I enter the Mental Tempering Stage?"

Bai Feng smiled and replied, "Of course. But at the Mental Tempering Stage, your willpower is stronger so Great Strength texts won't last as long. And the few attempts you have with each text might not be enough for you to form Divine Characters. Generally, people will increase the level of their texts accordingly as their cultivation grows..."

"Maybe you can read those texts a few times before entering the Mental Tempering Stage. Otherwise, it would be a waste if they break down before you can form any Divine Characters."

"Can I read Skysoar texts?"

"Have you never tried doing that before? If the text is too strong, you won't be able to see anything. It would be the same as entering the fragment room. That would be a waste of a willpower text."

"I see."

Before long, the two left the district. Su Yu had seen the Grotto District from the outside before, but he had never entered.

Chapter 172: Great Strength (2)

About 15 minutes later.

Under Bai Feng's lead, Su Yu entered the Grotto District. Su Yu looked around curiously. There weren't a lot of people around, but the environment here was decent with greeneries everywhere. Amid the flora were some small buildings. In fact, the entire district was filled with these small buildings.

Before long, the two arrived in front of one of these buildings. When they walked inside, Su Yu found that the building was small but there were a few people waiting inside. He instinctively sent his senses out and immediately, several blinding dots of light erupted within his senses.

So powerful!

These people felt even stronger than his teacher. Were these Cloudbreach experts?

"Bai Feng, how are you teaching your student? How can he use his willpower to probe others without permission?"

Su Yu was still in a shocked state. An old man in the room berated, but his words were directed toward Bai Feng, not Su Yu.

Bai Feng coughed awkwardly and said, "He's still young and curious. Don't mind him."

He then looked at Su Yu and said, "Don't probe others with your willpower rashly. Those at the Skysoar Realm and above can sense your willpower."

"Sorry, teachers. I did not mean any offense..."

Su Yu hurriedly apologized. In the room, there were two old men, two middle-aged men, and two youths. Excluding Su Yu and Bai Feng, there were six of them. The small room felt somewhat packed with eight people in it.

Bai Feng looked somewhat uncomfortable as he complained, "The academy should have expanded the buildings here long ago. This room is too small. What if there are more people?"

"Are you paying for it?" The old man who had berated Bai Feng earlier rolled his eyes and said, "The acting prefect wants nothing more than to spend nothing on us and you're asking for more construction? You should be happy he's not telling us to wait under the sun. This place is usually not this crowded anyway. Today is just a coincidence."

Evidently, the two old men were in charge of watching over this place. The others were people like Bai Feng and Su Yu who had come in pairs of teachers and students.

The old man looked at Su Yu and nodded, "You're entering the grotto to advance into the Great Strength Realm?"

Su Yu nodded.

"You have to wait a while. There is still someone in the Great Strength Zone. You can enter after that person is done."

Bai Feng asked, "They can all enter together, right? The grotto is big enough for everyone."

Yes, multiple individuals could enter the grotto together. Chen Qi wouldn't have tried to get someone to meddle with Su Yu in the grotto otherwise.

The old man said, "You don't understand. Just wait."

While the others were talking, Su Yu looked around in confusion. Where was the grotto? Where was it? Why couldn't he see it? The only thing he saw was a simple and crude room that felt similar to the random stores he could find beside the street.

There was a counter in the room. The two old men were seated at one side of the counter while the rest of them were waiting at the other side. There seemed to be a door behind the two old men. Was that the entrance to the grotto?

The old man looked at the two middle-aged men and said, "Since all of you are here for the same purpose, all three of you can enter together later. Once inside, look for a suitable place to break through. Don't disturb the cultivation of others.

"Remember, the moment you feel some resistance from the grotto, leave. If you end up bursting apart from source qi pressure, don't blame me for not reminding you. Don't be too greedy in the grotto. That's suicide."

The old man then recalled something and asked, "Bai Feng, what's the name of your student?"

"Su Yu."

"Let me check..."

The old man worked on the machine on the counter for a bit before looking at Su Yu, "Are you sure you're using your free entry now? This is a reward so you can use it at the Great Strength, Infinite Strength, or even the Skysoar Realm. If you're paying to enter, the price would be different depending on your cultivation. Don't waste this chance. It would be better to save it and use it when you're at peak Mental Tempering Stage."

Su Yu flashed an honest smile and said, "Teacher, I'm not at the Mental Tempering Stage yet. I still have plenty of time to earn my second chance to enter the grotto."

"That's an ambitious thought."

The old man smiled. The other two youths in the room couldn't help but to take a look at Su Yu.

Su Yu? The same Su Yu from the Character Faculty? When Su Yu noticed their gaze, he smiled and nodded at them. He didn't know them. There were too many people in the academy. It was impossible for him to know everyone. But the two did not seem hostile toward him.

Bai Feng and their teachers did not seem to have any issues with each other either. There was no need for him to offend them.

Noticing the youngsters looking at each other, the middle-aged man with long hair smiled and said, "Bai Feng, I heard your student was incited by Liu Hong's student into a spar after the monthly exam. Do you have confidence in your student?"

Bai Feng indifferently said, "It doesn't matter. It would be good if he wins. If not, I'll go kick Liu Hong's ass. He will have to return whatever his student took from my student. He can try hiding from me for life if he wants."

The two middle-aged men couldn't help but to laugh.

Even the two old men laughed. The same old man who had spoken earlier said, "Bai Feng, don't get too confident. Liu Hong had just entered grotto #3 a few days ago. He might leave the grotto as an eighth or ninth-stage Skysoar."

Bai Feng arrogantly declared, "So what? Hu Wensheng is at the ninth-stage too."

That left the rest of them speechless. The middle-aged man from before laughed and said, "In that case, we'll be looking forward to seeing you teach Liu Hong a lesson."

Bai Feng grinned, "Me? No. Su Yu can deal with this. Since he can win, there is no need for me to do anything. In fact, my student is here today to break through and get ready to deal with that fellow."

He looked at the old man and asked, "Had that useless student of Liu Hong been here?"

The old man said, "I'm not telling you. If you want to check the records, pay for it with your merit points."

Bai Feng curled his lips. No thanks. It didn't matter.

Bai Feng looked at Su Yu again and said, "After you enter, don't run around aimlessly. There are signs inside. The Great Strength Zone is quite small. Outside that area is the Infinite Strength and the Skysoar Zones. You can't go there as the source qi density there will cause you to burst apart.

"After entering, start cultivating and linking up your acupoints. Enter the Great Strength Realm directly and cultivate according to your War God Art. With the dense source qi in the grotto, your acupoint opening speed would be even faster."

Finally, Bai Feng was fulfilling his duty as a teacher as he reminded, "Keep opening acupoints until you reach your limit. Then, start forging your body with the blood essence. Just swallow them one drop at a time. After the energy of each drop runs out, swallow a new drop. Keep opening acupoints while consuming the blood essence. The blood essence would strengthen your body by itself.

"Generally, you wouldn't be able to finish all 100 drops. Only those at the ninth-stage can use up all 100 drops. In the early Great Strength Realm, 50 drops would probably be enough. Of course, geniuses can use more. Since you're a genius, remember to take enough blood essence with you."

The two youths looked at Su Yu enviously. They knew about the mountainbreak bull blood essence Su Yu had.

The middle-aged man who had spoken before said, "Bai Feng, if you're letting your student use the blood essence now, what if..."

He wanted to ask what Bai Feng would do if Su Yu was defeated in the spar.

Bai Feng interrupted him, "He won't. Even if he loses, it doesn't matter. Mountainbreak bull blood essence is nothing. We're rich. Do we care about something like that?"

The others rolled their eyes. Everyone knew that their faction was so poor that they were on the verge of pawning off everything they had. As for how Su Yu and Bai Feng would pay up upon losing the spar, that was really none of their business.

In the academy, they still needed to follow the rules. If they had agreed on a bet, they had to honor it. Otherwise, they might end up paying an even higher price.

Bai Feng ignored the others and continued advising Su Yu, "Try to last longer and absorb more source qi. The source qi in the grotto has a higher purity. It is even purer than the source qi in our filter room. Back then, I came here to advance into the Great Strength Realm too. I lasted three hours..."

"Cough."

The two old men coughed.

They had been there for decades and they were present when Bai Feng was here for his advancement. They knew very well how long Bai Feng had lasted. Sure, Bai Feng was free to bluff in front of his student, but was it proper to do it in front of them?

Bai Feng ignored them and continued, "That time, I opened 12 acupoints and entered the second-stage Great Strength Realm directly. Try to open more acupoints. I don't expect you to open 12 acupoints as well, but try to open 7 or 8 acupoints. That would save a lot of your time. Otherwise, you would probably need a month outside to open the same number of acupoints."

The two old men were speechless. The two middle-aged men were speechless too. Could Bai Feng stop bluffing in front of his student? When did he open 12 acupoints? When did he last 3 hours?

When the middle-aged men noticed their students looking at them, the long-haired one coughed and said with a smile, "Yes, three hours is something only freaks can do. That is very impressive. I wasn't that good. Back then, I only lasted two and a half hours. Try to last one hour inside. Don't force yourself if you can't. After all, your teacher used to be one of the few high-high students back then..."

The other middle-aged man also smiled and said, "Looks like I'm the worst here. I only lasted 145 minutes."

The three teachers exchanged knowing gazes with each other. Since one was bluffing and it was improper for the others to expose him, they might as well join in. They were absolutely doing it out of love. They were only doing this to encourage their students.

Meanwhile, the two old men were completely speechless. Were these guys done? Even the other two were joining in on the bluffing. Did they think that the two old men would really not expose them?

Did they want to be exposed and embarrassed in front of their students? Three hours? Two hours? Back then, Bai Feng had only lasted one and a half hours. That was quite a good result, but why did he have to double his result in front of his student?

At this moment, someone knocked on the door behind them. One of the old men waved his hand and the door swung open. Next, a figure stepped through the door. When Su Yu and the others looked over, their expressions changed.

"Fox race?"

Su Yu raised his brow. The other two youths appeared upset while Bai Feng and the others looked shocked. No wonder the other students weren't allowed to enter earlier. There was a demon beast inside.

The newcomer had a long tail, a pair of fox ears, and a face that was a combination of a fox and a human's face. This was most likely a demon from the fox race.

When the two old men saw the unfriendly expressions of Bai Feng and the others, they coughed. One of them stood up and said, "I'll send her out. Old Huang, handle the matters here."

"Ok."

The old man wasted no time and grabbed the silent demon fox. With a flicker, both of them vanished.

Old Huang looked at Bai Feng and the others and said, "Stop thinking about it. The Foreign Student Faculty has opened. The source grotto isn't an important grotto. They are willing to pay so the academy has agreed to let them use it."

Bai Feng snorted, but he didn't say anything.

The long-haired man said, "It's a basic grotto now, but who knows if more important grottos would be opened for them in the future?"

Old Huang said, "It's no use telling me that. Talk to the principal. Are you entering or not? You can enter now. If not, leave."

The others merely sighed. Bai Feng tossed a bottle to Su Yu and waved his hand lazily. They were not too happy seeing demon beasts in their own grotto. Su Yu and the other students walked toward the door silently. Su Yu was still thinking about what he saw earlier.

A demon beast. That was his first time actually seeing one.

"Fox race...sure enough, those books can't be trusted. They all claim that the foxes are extremely pretty. Pretty my ass."

The face Su Yu had seen earlier definitely wasn't something he would describe with the word pretty. He decided to no longer trust everything he saw in books. As far as he was concerned, even Wu Lan was prettier than the fox girl he saw earlier.

Chapter 173: Second Page (1)

Su Yu stepped through the door. It felt like he was traveling through time and space. The world before him warped and before he knew it, he was somewhere else. His surroundings were empty and silent. There was nothing whatsoever around him. No, there was something in front of him. It was a signboard so old it looked like it was falling apart. On it, the following words could be seen: Great Strength Zone.

Before him was an empty zone isolated from the rest of the grotto. It was the so-called Great Strength Zone. The ground under his feet was somewhat soft, but it did not feel like regular soil.

The two other students were standing beside Su Yu. The moment they entered, they started getting ready to cultivate.

But when they saw Su Yu looking around blankly, one of them smiled and said, "Su Yu, stop looking around. Time to cultivate. This is how the entire source grotto looks. There is nothing interesting about it. It's just an empty space formed of a Divine Character for you to absorb source qi."

Su Yu could sense the thick source qi around him. Even without actively cultivating, he could feel a large amount of source qi entering his body and barrelling into his acupoints.

He could feel his acupoints slowly getting filled with source qi. It was evident that even if he wasn't actively cultivating, he would still reach his limit after staying here for a period of time. No wonder Bai Feng and the other teachers had used the time one could stay in the grotto as a measurement of how much source qi one could absorb.

"What a simple place..."

Su Yu muttered. What he had expected to see was completely different from what he saw. He had thought that this was a mystical and al place. Instead, it was simply an empty space. Sure, he had not seen the entire grotto yet, but what little he could see wasn't too impressive.

When Su Yu saw that the other two were already cultivating, he did not disturb them. He sat down cross-legged, but after thinking about it, he stood up and walked further away. He didn't want to be disturbed or disturb anyone else.

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After finding a new spot, Su Yu stopped wasting time and sat down cross-legged. He started linking his acupoints together in accordance with the War God Art. Inside his body, a line was drawn through dot after dot, connecting them with each other. In fact, this was the purpose of the various different cultivation methods: connecting the different acupoints.

Su Yu had opened 22 acupoints in total, but 1 of them belonged to the Lightning Source Blade. That acupoint was not part of the War God Art's circuit.

One dot. Two dots. Three dots.

Everything was happening quickly. After about 10 minutes, 21 dots were linked into a circuit. The acupoints rumbled as they resonated with each other. That was a sound coming from deep within his body, a sound only he could hear.

Dense source qi started converging on him. Not far away, the two students opened their eyes and looked at him in envy. How incredible.

They were different from Su Yu. They only cultivated the regular War God Art. While the advanced War God Art was rather widespread in the war academies, it was rather rare in the cultural research academies.

In fact, even some of the high-tier students in the cultural research academies would choose to cultivate the regular version and settle with entering the Great Strength Realm with only eight acupoints.

These two weren't new students. This was their second year in the academy. Both were already in the Mental Tempering Stage, but they had just reached the Great Strength Realm this year. And they were already among the best of the previous year's intake.

But when they saw Su Yu's cultivation speed, they concluded that he must be cultivating the advanced War God Art. They couldn't help but to feel envious of him. Fortunately, cultural researchers focused more on willpower. Thus, they were only slightly envious of him. Physical cultivation wasn't something they placed a lot of importance on for now.

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After the circuit formed within Su Yu's body, a large amount of source qi entered his body before being absorbed by his acupoints. He could clearly feel the increase of his source qi capacity. Additionally, his physical body was also growing in strength.

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Source qi was tempering his body. His vitality increased, his meridians were being cleansed by source qi, and his bones were shaking. This was a process of transformation. The Great Strength Realm was a stage where a warrior truly transformed into someone with proper combat strength.

"Teacher said that I should continue opening acupoints after my advancement. When I reach my limit, I can start consuming blood essence. Let's see how many acupoints I can open before that."

Su Yu wasted no time and started circulating his source qi in accordance with the second-stage of the War God Art. He had a feeling that he could absorb as much source qi as a drop of source qi liquid could provide in about five minutes.

"That means I can earn 12 drops of source qi liquid per hour, which is equal in value to 60 merit points. If I could stay for 3 hours, I would make a profit of 180 merit points. Also, the source qi here is much easier to absorb than the source qi outside. No wonder everyone wants to cultivate in this grotto."

According to what he heard earlier, even without the free entry given by the academy, members of the academy could still enter this grotto. Those in the Great Strength Realm only needed to pay 100 merit points per entry. Of course, they also needed enough total earned merit to do so.

In other words, if one couldn't absorb 20 drops' worth of source qi in the grotto, one would actually be making a loss. It would be better to not enter this place.

"But it's different for me. I'm using a free entry. This opportunity can be used even at the Skysoar Realm. The entry price is higher for Skysoars. I need to absorb at least 50 drops' worth of source qi to make this worthwhile..."

Su Yu continued his calculation. He probably needed to last four hours to absorb that much source qi. He didn't even know if his absorption speed would increase or drop after staying longer in the grotto.

Regardless, he had decided to not leave before absorbing 50 drops' worth of source qi. He did not consume any blood essence to cultivate. As he circulated his source qi according to the second-stage of the War God Art, his acupoints lit up as he used the source qi he absorbed to temper the next acupoint.

Three minutes, five minutes...and finally, ten minutes passed. The first acupoint of the second-stage was opened. With that, Su Yu's source qi absorption became even faster.

"So fast."

Su Yu was shocked. The first acupoint took him no time at all to open. This felt incredible. No wonder everyone wanted to come here.

"Next."

He did not dare to waste any time. Wasting his time in the grotto was the same as wasting money. After about 10 minutes, the second acupoint opened with a rumble. He was greatly shocked. Were acupoints supposed to be opened this fast in here?

Previously, he would probably need around four days to make the same amount of progress. This was not something that could be explained with source qi density alone. This grotto definitely came with other benefits, such as making it easier for one to open acupoints.

"The world of Divine Characters is truly mysterious."

Su Yu continued his cultivation. This time, he took a longer time to open another acupoint. The third acupoint was only opened after about 15 minutes. Including the time he took breaking through, he had taken about 50 minutes to reach this point. He could feel that after opening three acupoints, his source qi absorption speed was starting to drop.

"I need to start consuming blood essence now. I can't allow the speed to drop."

Su Yu took out the bottle and swallowed a drop of mountainbreak bull blood essence. The moment he swallowed it, his heart thumped.

Mountainbreak bull (Ninth-stage Great Strength Realm)

Racial abilities: Mountainbreak (activate with blood essence)

Foundation source art: Body Strengthening Art (activate with blood essence)

"I was killed by this bull before?"

No, that wasn't right. He had been killed by many bulls before. The mountainbreak bull was probably one of them. But he really had no recollection of that. He had actually activated the second page of his book with the mountainbreak bull blood essence. He was surprised, but he regained his calm soon after.

He had been killed by thousands of races since young. It wasn't surprising for this bull to be one of them. He was only surprised that he had no memory of that. Maybe he had been killed by too many bulls.

"Body Strengthening Art? I heard that the mountainbreak bull blood essence is valuable because of its effect on strengthening one's body. Is this Body Strengthening Art the reason for that?"

Su Yu opened his eyes and took a peek at the two other students. Would activating the Body Strengthening Art help him cultivate even better? As for the iron-winged bird's Source Swallowing Technique, that wasn't a cultivation method that focused on strengthening one's body. Thus, it might not be as good as the mountainbreak bull's cultivation method in terms of strengthening his body.

"Forget it. I'll use the blood essence normally for now and try to open the other acupoints first."

He didn't know when the other two students would leave. He did not dare to rashly activate his book abilities before others. It wouldn't be good if others started suspecting him. That thought had barely crossed his mind when the other two students stood up.

"This is my limit." One of them sighed, "I can't last any longer. But I've managed to open two acupoints and stayed for one hour here. That is already quite a good result..."

He shook his head and looked at Su Yu. Their faces were already flushed red, but when they saw that Su Yu still looked completely normal, they could only look at each other helplessly. This fellow had just started consuming his blood essence. He could probably last another hour here.

There was no comparing him and them. Was Su Yu's body stronger than them? Or did he have a higher limit?

"Su Yu, we're leaving."

Su Yu nodded. The two did not stay any longer. They were merely strangers meeting by chance. Su Yu didn't even know their names. They did not seem to have the intention to introduce themselves to him either. They weren't even in the same faculty. This was merely a chance encounter.

There was a ball of light by the old signboard. That was probably the portal to exit the grotto. When they walked over, they vanished into thin air. After the two left, Su Yu swallowed a drop of blood essence. Instead of using it to activate the book ability, he used it normally.

He could feel a unique power working to temper his body. But he kept having a feeling that this blood essence wasn't working as nicely as he had expected.

"Should I try activating the book?"

He was tempted to give it a try. Since the mountainbreak bulls' basic cultivation method could strengthen their bodies, perhaps using their cultivation method would also work better than only using their blood essence?

"I'll try one drop. If it doesn't work well, I'll continue using the blood essence the normal way."

After the previous drop of blood essence ran out of energy, Su Yu swallowed another drop. This time, he activated the Body Strengthening Art with it. The moment he did it, he felt something completely different. Numerous dots of light appeared in his body.

A lot more temporary acupoints had been opened. The Source Swallowing Technique of the iron-winged bird only utilized 36 acupoints. That number only increased slightly at the Infinite Strength Realm.

But the Body Strengthening Art was already utilizing over 100 acupoints at only the Great Strength Realm. Su Yu only took a rough look to judge that this cultivation method's acupoints were no lesser than the War God Art's.

In that case, the Body Strengthening Art was at least a top-tier earth-grade cultivation method. It might even be a heaven-grade method. And the moment he activated it, he found himself in trouble.

The ambient source qi in the grotto was too dense and too many temporary acupoints had opened within his body. In the blink of an eye, the source qi in his body started to liquefy as more and more source qi entered his body.

Boom!

Instantly, the fourth acupoint opened.

This time, Su Yu felt something completely different. The golden book in his sea of willpower pulsed, seemingly surprised at the density of source qi around him. It was forced to utilize more power to absorb source qi and it seemed exhausted.

For the very first time, the book communicated with Su Yu, telling him that it had run out of energy. The energy provided by the drop of blood essence was insufficient. A single drop of blood essence was supposed to last an hour of activation. Due to the source qi density in the grotto, the activation period had ended way earlier than expected.

Su Yu was surprised that the book could tell him this information, but he couldn't afford to wait and hurriedly swallowed another drop of blood essence. The dimming temporary acupoints lit up once again. Large amount of source qi continued entering his body. After a few minutes, the fifth acupoint opened with a rumble.

"This is so fast..."

Su Yu was fully immersed in this comfortable sensation. Although the rapid absorption gave him a slightly bloated sensation, he was still very pleased to see his acupoints opening one after another.

...

After another half an hour, Su Yu had consumed 18 drops of blood essence and opened 6 acupoints. He had spent one and a half hours in the grotto so far.

Chapter 174: Second Page (2)

Inside the small building.

The two middle-aged men had left with their students. Bai Feng was still waiting there. He wiped the nonexistent sweat on his forehead and heaved a breath of relief. Fortunately, he had bluffed about the amount of time he had lasted in the grotto. Su Yu would probably surpass his real record soon. Back then, he had only stayed for one and a half hours in the grotto.

Old Huang checked the time and smiled, "This new student is not bad. His foundation is quite strong and his nine Source Opening acupoints are stable. Looks like he might really be able to open six or seven new acupoints this time."

The other old man who had returned after sending the fox away said, "He's a small city kid. Not bad at all. I love the students of these small cities the most. They grew up lacking source qi, but as a result, they obtained a stable foundation. That is completely unlike those from the big families. Their elites are still fine, but a lot of those from the branch families only pursue growth speed. Without a good foundation, how can they go far?"

Old Huang sighed and said, "You can't really say that. How many of those from ordinary families and small cities can get a chance like this? The probability of someone rising to prominence among them is too low. This student is only a special case."

Bai Feng suddenly asked, "How long do you think he can stay inside?"

"Probably two hours or so." Old Huang smiled, "He has a stable foundation and enough mountainbreak bull blood essence. His body will slowly grow strong. Since he is still inside and the two kids from earlier said that he has just started using blood essence, he can probably still last a while."

Bai Feng nodded and exhaled in relief. This was not too far from his estimation. Two hours...that was quite good.

Cultural researchers did not care too much about physical cultivation during the Source Opening Realm. A lot of them were quite delicate during that phase. But that was only applicable for the more ordinary people. For geniuses, they still hoped to have a stronger body.

Su Yu's physical body was by no means weak compared to the others in the Source Opening Realm. He was able to even cultivate the second move of the Lightning Source Blade. That wouldn't be possible unless he had a strong physical body.

Of course, talent also played a great role in acupoint opening. The more acupoints Su Yu could open, the longer he would be able to last in the grotto. If he was stuck on a single acupoint for a long time, he would eventually be forced to leave.

Thinking about all that, Bai Feng suddenly asked, "I remember that back then, the person who had lasted the longest and opened the most acupoints was my martial uncle, right?"

"Liu Wenyan?" The two old men looked at each other. Old Huang thought for a bit and shook his head, "No. I entered the academy two batches after him. I heard that when he was at the Great Strength Realm, he didn't cultivate the War God Art. Instead, he cultivated the Sky Sundering Countless Saber."

"Hmm?" Bai Feng was astonished, "Why am I not aware of that? I thought that's the Xia Family's secret cultivation method?"

"Yes, it's their secret method." Old Huang smiled, "But back then, the fifth principal took him as a student and asked for the method from the Xia Family. With the fifth principal's prestige, after promising to not teach the method to anyone else, the Xia Family agreed to teach Liu Wenyan."

"The Sky Sundering Countless Saber is a heaven-grade cultivation method. The version Liu Wenyan got was probably the low-tier version with only 117 acupoints at the Great Strength Realm. When Liu Wenyan was breaking through, he had lasted 3 hours and opened 12 acupoints, nearly stepping into the second-stage."

He teased, "When you bluffed earlier, you were actually talking about your martial uncle's record. You have quite a thick face."

Bai Feng laughed awkwardly and said, "So it's not my martial uncle? I thought he had the longest record..."

"No." Old Huang shook his head. He wanted to say something but hesitated.

The other old man was much more straightforward. He rolled his eyes and said, "Are you intentionally forgetting something? It was the fellow who had beat you up a few years ago. He rented the grotto once and took 5 hours to open 24 acupoints. He went straight into the third-stage Great Strength Realm during that time."

Bai Feng's face fell.

Shit! He had actually forgotten about that.

He couldn't help but to curse, "That bastard isn't even a member of our academy. I was talking about our own people, not him."

The two old men couldn't help but laugh at his reaction.

Old Huang grinned and said, "I didn't want to talk about him. You were the one who insisted on asking. By the way, do you know that he's already in the Cloudbreach Realm?"

Bai Feng had the same ugly expression as he said, "No. I don't care."

Old Huang said, "Hehe. You better put more focus on cultivating and entering the Cloudbreach Realm. Don't stay in your lab all the time. Xia Yuwen is probably near that realm too. Wu Qi is already a ninth-stage Skysoar. After this defeat, Hu Wensheng would probably reach Cloudbreach soon too. There's also Liu Hong..."

His tone turned regretful, "Bai Feng, the freaks of your batch are all getting near the Cloudbreach Realm. Even if you can defeat ninth-stage Skysoars, what about Cloudbreach cultivators? You should put more effort into cultivation. If you don't work hard, even that fellow from Great Zhou is going to catch up to you. I heard he's reaching the sixth-stage Skysoar Realm soon."

"Sixth-stage Skysoar?" Bai Feng was disdainful, "So what? Even if he's at the ninth-stage, I can still kill him with one slap."

/p>

"Don't forget he's only 19," reminded Old Huang.

Bai Feng was much older than that fellow.

Bai Feng grumbled to himself that it wasn't a big deal. His student was only 18...Fine. His student was only about to reach the Great Strength Realm. But the gap between the Great Strength Realm and the Skysoar Realm wasn't really that big!

As they conversed, time slowly passed. Before long, two hours passed.

Bai Feng stared at the door, but when he saw no movement there, he was surprised. Was his student not coming out yet? Not bad at all!

"Don't tell me he managed to open seven or eight acupoints already."

...

Another half an hour passed. Bai Feng was starting to get anxious. "Did something happen?"

"That's not likely." Old Huang said, "The Great Strength Zone is safe. Maybe he's still cultivating. The mountainbreak bull blood essence is very good for body forging. With a stronger body, he can open more acupoints."

Bai Feng blankly said, "That's not right. According to my calculation, 100 drops of blood essence would only help him open around 10 acupoints. He should be coming out about now. Should I go in and check on him?"

"Maybe he hasn't finished using the blood essence. Or maybe he has finished and is absorbing source qi to cultivate. Calm down."

The other old man said, "Don't trust him. This Bai Feng has gone mad from poverty. He is probably trying to get an excuse to enter the grotto and cultivate for free."

Bai Feng looked embarrassed. He was definitely not that kind of person!

"The multiple character faction is rich! We don't lack money—"

He couldn't even finish his sentence before the old man took out a delicate teapot and said, "Tsk, tsk. I heard this is Hong Tan's favorite teapot. He had used it for over 50 years. Good stuff. I bought it from the black market for 10 merit points. I wonder if it's the real deal."

Bai Feng was stupefied. Holy shit! Why was that teapot here? No, that wasn't the point! He had sold a bunch of stuff for only 800 merit points yet they were selling a single teapot for 10 merit points? He remembered selling dozens of items that were even more valuable than the teapot!

"Scammers!"

Bai Feng cursed in rage. Those people had actually scammed him! No, that wasn't right. This old man was the one who had been scammed. He was the one stupid enough to spend 10 merit points on a teapot.

Bai Feng even forgot about Su Yu and coughed before saying, "That is definitely not my teacher's teapot. The one he used is still in the research center. How can it be at the black market?"

"Is that so?"

The old man beamed, "I heard that someone hired Old Qian to fabricate a bunch of things recently. Are you trying to trick your teacher with forgeries?"

Bai Feng exclaimed in anger, "Old Qian promised to not leak the information! He actually sold me off? I'm going to look for him after this!"

"Cough."

The old man hurriedly said, "Please don't. That was an accident. It's no big deal. Don't worry. We won't tell Elder Hong all his stuff has been replaced by forgeries."

Bai Feng clenched his teeth and said, "My teacher's things are all the real deal! The ones you guys bought are the forgeries!"

"Right, right."

The old man nodded in agreement. He had nearly gotten his old friend in trouble earlier. It was better to agree with Bai Feng here. Speaking of, this fellow was truly a bastard. He was actually selling his teacher's personal belongings for money. It was lucky Elder Hong wasn't in the academy. Otherwise, he would probably be infuriated to death.

Bai Feng's expression changed repeatedly before he murmured, "I have no choice either. He was the one who had left nothing behind. Faculty Head Zhou and the others are assholes. They were trying to make a move against my senior brother. What else can I do?"

Yes, it was not his fault. It was his teacher's fault! What could he do if his teacher had left no money behind? There wasn't anything he could sell. As for his teacher's personal belongings, they would be worth something since they belonged to a Mountainsea expert.

And sure enough, he was able to get over 800 merit points from his teacher's personal belongings. He was actually quite surprised when he was given that price. The two old men did not say anything. It was better for them to not get involved in the conflict of the two factions.

Bai Feng could scold the other faction, but they couldn't.

...

At the same time.

Su Yu had not finished his blood essence like Bai Feng had expected. He had only used about 60 drops so far. He had also opened 16 new acupoints. Initially, he had used 18 drops and opened 6 acupoints. A few of them had been opened without using any blood essence.

Then, he had used over 40 drops to open 10 acupoints. He had reached the second-stage Great Strength Realm. Even he himself was shocked at his progress. The acupoint opening speed in this grotto was way too fast.

"I still have eight acupoints to reach the third-stage. Can I open them all in time?"

He had used more than half of his blood essence. He wasn't sure if he had enough to open the remaining eight acupoints. If it was possible, he would be able to reach the third-stage Great Strength Realm in one go.

"This grotto definitely has the ability to help others open acupoints."

Su Yu was more and more certain that his conclusion was right. His physical body had been strengthened considerably. He tried throwing a punch and without even using a martial technique, his punch was strong enough to create a loud rumble in the air.

"I think I've surpassed Teacher in terms of opened acupoints. But I still need to last a bit longer to surpass him. I think I can last longer than three hours..."

He still had about 40 drops of blood essence. He could definitely break his teacher's record.

"Next."

He stopped thinking and continued his cultivation. Drop after drop of blood essence was consumed, keeping the Body Strengthening Art activated and the temporary acupoints opened.

Su Yu was extremely satisfied with his progress. It was fortunate that the mountainbreak bull had activated a new page in his book, and it was also fortunate that the Body Strengthening Art was a great body strengthening cultivation method.

Su Yu believed that the Body Strengthening Art was why he had been able to open so many acupoints so easily. Not even the Infinite Strength Source Swallowing Technique would work so well.

"This blood essence is so useful yet Chen Qi and the others are trying to snatch it from me? I won't forget this!"

The more he thought, the angrier he became. Good thing he had not agreed to sell the blood essence. The so-called silkworm blood essence was definitely not as good as the mountainbreak bull blood essence. Would the silkworm blood essence activate a new page in his book? If there was a new page, would the cultivation method be useful for body strengthening? Would it help in acupoint opening? Probably not.

"Damn them all! They nearly severed my path of cultivation! I will remember this!"

Su Yu was furious. He was more and more convinced that the others deserve his anger. There was no helping it since the mountainbreak bull blood essence was really too useful.

Chapter 175: As Outstanding As Me (1)

Three hours later.

Bai Feng was getting more and more anxious.

"Is he not out yet?"

Bai Feng frowned and looked at the two old men.

Old Huang hesitated slightly and said, "If we go, we might disturb his cultivation. We are Cloudbreach cultivators. The moment we enter, the source qi inside will automatically come toward us."

"I'll go then. I'm only a Skysoar."

"Nonsense. It's the same. Source qi will still flow toward you."

That was how the source grotto worked. Upon entering, the source qi would automatically move to fill your acupoints. With their strength, they could very easily interrupt Su Yu's cultivation upon entering by disrupting the flow of source qi. Even when Bai Feng offered to enter, he wasn't really being serious.

Old Huang hesitated and said, "Why don't we send a Great Strength cultivator inside. I'm mainly worried about disturbing him. If he is really lasting so long due to his talent..."

Bai Feng understood what Old Huang was trying to say. If Su Yu was really extremely talented, he might still be in the process of opening more acupoints. It would be a great loss if he was disturbed at a critical juncture of his cultivation.

"Bai Feng, he's your student. Be honest. Is he really capable of lasting until now?"

Bai Feng calmed down and inhaled deeply before nodding, "Yes. It's possible. He is talented and tenacious. I am only worried that he insists on staying after reaching his limit and harming himself."

There was no doubt that Su Yu was talented. Otherwise, there wouldn't be a need for Bai Feng to bluff about his own accomplishments. He was only bluffing because he had to protect his reputation in front of his student. That was why he had claimed to have lasted three hours. And reality proved that even that wasn't enough to protect his reputation.

After thinking about it, Bai Feng said, "I don't trust any strangers. How about this? Can you use the Source Qi Mirror to check the source qi flow in the grotto? If the source qi in there is still flowing normally, then he is definitely still cultivating. I will be less worried."

"Source Qi Mirror..." Old Huang said, "That mirror has the ability to spy on source qi. It can also pry on a cultivator's secret. Without his approval..."

"I'm his teacher. You only need my approval." Bai Feng was decisive.

Old Huang did not say anything else and exchanged glances with the other old man. The two nodded and roared at the same time.

Whoosh!

The air rippled and a mirror appeared out of nowhere. Numerous red dots appeared on the surface of the mirror. And at the outermost region was a small red dot. Numerous ripples were converging on that red dot.

With a wave of Old Huang's hand, the other area turned dark, leaving only the area with the small red dot visible. The other red dots were the other cultivators. It was a taboo to pry on the cultivation of others. In fact, even against Su Yu, both old men needed to agree on it before they could use the mirror.

"He's still cultivating." Old Huang said in astonishment, "The source qi is flowing rapidly. This is already near the speed of an Infinite Strength cultivator. Your student...is really not simple."

Bai Feng was relieved. He smiled, "Everything is fine as long as he is still cultivating. Everyone has their secrets. How can a genius be the same as a regular student? That kid really gave me a scare. But looks like he has gained a lot this time."

He then coughed and said, "Uhm, by the way. You can deactivate the mirror now. It's not proper to spy on the secrets of our faction, right?"

"..."

Both old men cursed inwardly. Who was the one who had requested them to use the mirror in the first place? How did that change into them spying on their faction's secrets? Shameless!

The two dispersed the mirror with dark expressions. They decided to stop talking to Bai Feng. That bastard had immediately changed his tune the moment he stopped needing them.

Nevertheless, they were getting more and more interested in Su Yu. That was quite a talented new student.

"I wonder how long he can last. Can he break the record of that fellow from the war academy?"

The three started waiting in silence. They were no longer as anxious as before. Since the source qi in the grotto was still flowing rapidly, Su Yu could probably last even longer inside. As for Su Yu's absorption speed, Bai Feng was right. All geniuses had their own secrets.

Cultural researchers were the most mysterious group of people in existence. One should never try to pry on the secrets of a cultural researcher. There were simply too many possibilities. Perhaps it was a unique Divine Character.? Perhaps it was a unique bloodline. Or perhaps it was something else. They only needed to be sure that Su Yu wasn't a member of the Myriad Race Cult and everything would be fine.

Since Su Yu had been accepted by Bai Feng, a proper background check had definitely been performed on him. He was simply unaware of it.

...

Three hours. Four hours. Four and a half hours...

The expression on Bai Feng's face turned stranger and stranger. Was that kid really going to break the record of that bastard?

...

At the same time.

Su Yu had finally finished using his blood essence. He could no longer activate his book. A total of 23 acupoints had been opened. He was one acupoint away from the third-stage. That was why he had been unwilling to leave. He was absorbing source qi as best as he could. Instead of the Body Strengthening Art, he was using the War God Art now.

He was unwilling to accept this. He was already on the cusp of the third-stage. But unfortunately, he had no blood essence left. In fact, he had run out of blood essence half an hour ago. He was simply unwilling to leave.

"One more acupoint..."

Su Yu prayed inwardly. If he managed to enter the third-stage, he would be able to link more acupoints together, forming a complete circuit linked to the third-stage acupoints. That way, his source qi absorption speed would increase even further.

If he left without opening the final acupoint, he would probably need to use seven or eight drops of source qi liquid outside to open it. This was his sole chance to open it for free. After this, he could no longer enter this grotto unless he paid for it.

"If I can open one more acupoint, I can save at least 40 merit points. Open!"

He roared to himself. His acupoints were already overflowing with source qi. If this acupoint still refused to open, he would be forced to leave soon. He clenched his teeth and took out a different drop of blood essence.

Iron-winged bird blood essence!

He had purchased 30 drops from Xia Huyou previously. Recently, he had been using a drop per day and still had 10 drops left. He was initially unwilling to use the iron-winged bird blood essence here since it wasn't that useful for body forging, but he had no choice. He wasn't going to use the blood essence to forge his body. He only needed to activate the cultivation method and increase his acupoint opening speed.

Right after he swallowed the drop of blood essence, even more source qi converged on his body. His own acupoints were relieved of their pressure as more temporary acupoints opened and helped with the absorption.

"This is it!"

Su Yu was overjoyed. With this, he would be able to last longer. Before long, the final acupoint started showing signs of opening. At the same time, the blood essence ran out of energy.

Su Yu cursed. At this point, he didn't even know if this was worth it anymore. He swallowed another drop of blood essence. And finally, the final acupoint opened with a rumble.

He rapidly linked the 36 acupoints together. With the inclusion of his Source Opening acupoints, he had 45 linked acupoints. Within his body, a brilliant net with 45 shining nodes appeared.

Rumble!

As the circuit took form, Su Yu felt his body shaking rapidly as dark impurities started seeping out of his pores. That was the effect of body forging with blood essence.

But in truth, Su Yu had not forged his body with blood essence. Rather, he had cultivated the Body Strengthening Art through his book. The result of that did not seem any worse than forging his body with blood essence.

As for the Source Swallowing Technique, it did not have much effect on body forging. It was clear that the mountainbreak bulls' Body Strengthening Art was an excellent cultivation method to strengthen one's body.

"Body forging...is the process in which I build the foundation of my body. Only with a stronger body would I be able to prevail over my peers."

If everyone had the same cultivation level and cultivation method, the one with the stronger physical body would have the higher chance of winning in combat.

With the final acupoint opened, Su Yu knew that he wouldn't be able to stay in the grotto much longer. Instead of opening more acupoints, he started focusing on absorbing source qi and strengthening his body. All his acupoints were shining brightly, making him look like a bright lantern amid the darkness.

After a while, Su Yu opened his eyes and looked toward a certain direction. That was the Infinite Strength Zone. He could sense that the source qi there was even denser. The pressure there was also higher. He knew that he still wasn't strong enough to enter that place.

"Next time...I must try to enter that place next time. I'll gather enough resources before coming in again. I won't leave before absorbing as much source qi as I can!"

As a fresh Great Strength cultivator, the amount of source qi he could absorb in the grotto was nothing compared to what the grotto could provide. In fact, even in the tiny Great Strength Zone, he wasn't able to absorb enough to cause any change in his surroundings.

"I think I managed to absorb at least 100 drops' worth of source qi liquid."

Su Yu calculated. This was a profitable trip! But he had also used a lot of resources to absorb that much source qi. He had consumed 100 drops of mountainbreak bull blood essence and 2 drops of iron-winged bird blood essence.

"All those would have an official value of 1,510 merit points."

Su Yu was shocked. He had exhausted so many merit points just to reach the third-stage Great Strength Realm. He was basically buying time with merit points.

Without blood essence and this source grotto, he would be able to slowly absorb the thin ambient source qi around him. If he was still in Nanyuan, he would probably need several years to reach this stage. But in the academy, he only needed a few hours. Of course, that was only if he was willing to spend his money.

"If I'm at the Skysoar Realm, can I use the source qi here to form source qi liquid?"

An idea suddenly appeared in his mind. But after thinking about it, it didn't seem right. If that really worked, wouldn't this grotto be sucked dry by those Skysoar cultivators long ago?

"Source character..."

Even though Su Yu had never seen that character before, he was filled with admiration toward it. A single character had transformed into such a powerful grotto.

Chapter 176: As Outstanding As Me (2)

After about five hours, Su Yu left the grotto. He did not try to stay longer. There was no need for that. He had already opened 24 acupoints and formed a circuit in his body. If he stayed longer, he would have to waste even more Infinite Strength iron-winged bird blood essence. That might not be worth it in his current state. He could feel that he wouldn't be able to open more acupoints anytime soon.

It would be a waste to absorb more source qi now. It was better for him to let his body rest first. A bell rang in the room. With a wave of Old Huang's hand, the door behind the counter opened, revealing a filthy Su Yu. Despite his sorry appearance, his eyes were clear and bright.

He felt like his entire body had been cleansed after opening so many new acupoints. Since he had just broken through, he still couldn't hide his aura. Thus, his surging aura was immediately apparent to the ones in the room.

In fact, he looked even more imposing than the two Cloudbreach cultivators and Bai Feng. Bai Feng clicked his tongue in amazement as he looked at Su Yu. What an incredible kid.

But it was a pity this kid hadn't been able to break that fellow's record. Then again, it didn't matter. That wasn't a record the academy or the government maintained so he wouldn't be rewarded for breaking it anyway.

Bai Feng's eyes lit up brightly as he gazed at Su Yu. Su Yu felt like his entire being was being seen through. A short while later, Bai Feng withdrew his gaze. A bright smile formed on his face.

"Third-stage Great Strength Realm."

The two old men did not spy on Su Yu, but they both looked surprised to hear Bai Feng's words. When they looked at Su Yu again, admiration could be seen in their eyes.

Genius!

Freak!

Disregarding everything else about this new student called Su Yu, his talent in physical cultivation alone was comparable to that person from the war academy.

"Third-stage Great Strength Realm..." Old Huang was impressed. "Not bad. Very good. Even better than your teach—"

He was interrupted by Bai Feng's hearty laugh, "He's almost as good as me! I was worried that I would ruin your confidence so I wasn't telling the truth earlier. In fact, I lasted five hours back then. I also opened 24 acupoints and reached the third-stage Great Strength Realm in the grotto."

Bai Feng sighed and said, "I had thought that the heavens were unfair to grant me such incredible talent. It would probably be impossible for my student to be so outstanding as well. Otherwise, the other factions would probably die from envy. But Su Yu, you have proven me wrong. You're as outstanding as me."

This time, Bai Feng did not downplay Su Yu's achievement. Instead, he magnified his own record to save face. With a hearty laugh, he said, "Well done, Su Yu. You did not embarrass your teacher. Our faction is destined to be a faction of experts. And now, you are finally qualified to be one of us."

The two old men rolled their eyes repeatedly. Was this person incapable of feeling shame?

Su Yu asked in astonishment, "Teacher, you reached the third-stage Great Strength Realm in the grotto as well?"

"Yes." Bai Feng had a look of recollection as he said, "I'm not the only one. There are a few others. Even the war academies have a few of them. The world does not lack geniuses. We might be outstanding, but the world is filled with outstanding individuals..."

"Of course, I'm only a little bit better than you. I came here the moment I entered the academy. However, you waited one whole month before coming. I don't know if you can catch up to me."

Su Yu had been curious about Bai Feng's advancement into the Skysoar Realm for a while. He finally found the chance to ask about it. "Teacher, how old were you when you reached the Skysoar Realm?"

"Me?" Bai Feng smiled, "I was a year older than you when I entered the academy. I was 19. I reached the Skysoar Realm at 22."

Su Yu was stunned. Three years?

He couldn't hold his tongue as he muttered, "I heard that Wu Lan's sister, Wu Qi, reached the Skysoar Realm at 20..."

Bai Feng smiled indifferently and said, "Yes, she's two years younger than me. But we reached the Skysoar Realm in the same year. I actually joined one year before her. Hu Wensheng joined one year before me. Xia Yuwen and Wu Qi joined in the same year. Liu Hong entered in the same year as me. As the time we joined isn't that far off from each other, we are generally considered to be of the same generation. Strictly speaking, we are from different batches."

"Then..."

Su Yu's eyes flickered. He wanted to ask his teacher about the source of his confidence.

Bai Feng said, "Is it slow to reach the Skysoar Realm in three years?"

He looked at the two old men and smiled, "Try asking them. Am I better or is Wu Qi better?"

Su Yu was somewhat surprised. The next moment, he realized something.

Sure enough, Old Huang who seemed unhappy with Bai Feng's bluffing still smiled and said, "It's different. Those in your faction need to form a lot of Divine Characters before advancing into the Skysoar Realm. Therefore, your faction's advancement time has always been slower. Thus, three years can be considered very fast. In terms of talent, Bai Feng isn't worse than Wu Qi."

Bai Feng was dissatisfied. "Old Huang, I am obviously better than her."

Old Huang smiled, but he declined to comment. That might not necessarily be the case. Nobody was denying that Bai Feng was a genius. But nobody would agree that he was absolutely better than Xia Yuwen or Wu Qi.

Understanding dawned on Su Yu. He had heard from Xia Huyou before that Bai Feng had formed 12 Divine Characters before entering the Skysoar Realm. In that case, three years were really quite fast.

Bai Feng smiled, "Therefore, you need to reach the Skysoar Realm in three years if you want to catch up to me. I have a lot of confidence in you. After all, you're as outstanding as me during the Great Strength Realm."

"..."

The two old men were really tired of listening to Bai Feng. In order to protect his reputation in front of his student, this fellow was getting more and more shameless.

Bai Feng coughed awkwardly and said, "Let's go."

Before leaving, he looked at the two old men and said, "Su Yu still has an incoming spar. Before the spar, I hope his advancement can be kept secret. Otherwise, if we end up losing over 1,000 merit points because of that, the two of you will have to compensate for that even though we don't lack money."

"..."

Old Huang finally lost his temper. "Scram! Get out of here!"

Old Huang had lost his temper several times since Bai Feng arrived. Had Bai Feng remained any longer, he would probably have his lies exposed.

...

After Bai Feng left with Su Yu, Old Huang said, "Old Nie, what do you think?"

"What?"

"About Su Yu..."

Old Nie said, "We have new geniuses and freaks every single year. What can we see when he's still a third-stage Great Strength cultivator? We'll only be able to see more when he reaches the Skysoar Realm. It's not like there aren't a lot of freaks stuck at the Mental Tempering Stage. He will only be a true genius after entering the Skysoar Realm. It's pointless to say anything before then."

"True." Old Huang nodded. "Bai Feng had accepted this student right after Hong Tan left. In fact, he seemed to have left urgently. Maybe Bai Feng was the one who had instigated him to leave? He was probably afraid that Hong Tan would steal his student."

"..."

Old Nie blanked out slightly before laughing, "Shameless."

"You know, that might really be the case," said Old Huang. "It's not like Hong Tan had never done something like that before. Back then, Bai Feng was supposed to be Chen Yong's student. But all of a sudden, he became Chen Yong's junior brother. Isn't it reasonable that Bai Feng is on guard against his own teacher?"

"Cough, cough, cough!"

Old Nie was laughing so hard he nearly choked. "Multiple character faction...truly a faction of indecent individuals. Good thing Chen Yong had eventually accepted Wu Jia. And she is a good student too. She took only a few years to enter the Top 100 Ranking..."

Suddenly, he sank into silence. Wu Jia had been seriously injured not long ago and had dropped out of the Top 100 Ranking. She wouldn't be able to get back in the ranking anytime soon. The conflicts within the academy seemed to be on the verge of getting out of control.

Old Huang was also reminded of the same thing. He said, "This Su Yu is near the Mental Tempering Stage. A few months later, he will probably be at the sixth-stage Great Strength Realm and the Mental Tempering Stage. If he can't do it this year, he can probably enter the Top 100 Ranking next year. Looks like the competition for the top 100 will get intense next year."

"Next year? I think the competition will start in a few months."

Old Nie said, "There are a few freaks this year. I checked them out not long ago. Some of them have already reached the seventh-stage Great Strength Realm.

"So fast?"

"Yeah. They're all holding back right now. Just wait and see. After a few months, some of them would enter the Infinite Strength Realm or the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm. At that time, things would start kicking off."

...

Su Yu was unaware of all that. He was still immersed in the joy of breaking through. In one day, he had reached the third-stage Great Strength Realm. Although he had exhausted a lot of resources doing so, he was still very happy with the result.

He had opened 36 acupoints. If he was cultivating the Great Strength Art like his old man, he would already be a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator with that many acupoints. He was happy and excited.

Bai Feng was also happy for Su Yu. But at the same time, he was also feeling very nervous. Even bluffing wouldn't be enough to hide the fact that his student was better than him anymore.

This was too embarrassing! He had bluffed about staying for 3 hours and opening 12 acupoints, but this kid had turned around and slapped his face with an even better record. Fortunately, his face was thick enough to cover his lie with an even bigger lie.

In the future, doubling my achievement won't be enough. I have to increase my records by ten times the original number.

Bai Feng sighed. If it wasn't for the fact that the time he took to reach the Skysoar Realm was common knowledge, he would even bluff that he had taken only three months to do that.

Looking at the joyous Su Yu, he coughed and said, "Don't get too excited. The Great Strength Realm is merely the starting line. You're not even at the Mental Tempering Stage yet! For cultural researchers, willpower is the most important. The Great Strength and Infinite Strength Realms are merely a bridge to the next realm. The Skysoar Realm is where everything starts."

"I know, Teacher." Su Yu solemnly said, "I won't get too prideful, Teacher. I'll resume cultivation tonight! After this month, I won't have to be the class monitor anymore. I will be able to cultivate for over 12 hours per day!"

"..."

What else could Bai Feng say? He wanted to shout at his student to slack a bit. This student had just reached the third-stage Great Strength Realm today. Why was he still so disciplined? He had said everything that his teacher was supposed to tell him. What else could his teacher say, then?

Bai Feng felt no sense of accomplishment being Su Yu's teacher. Couldn't Su Yu say something like he wanted to rest a few days after the great progress today? That would give Bai Feng the chance to berate him and tell him to not get too arrogant.

Bai Feng was left with no choice but to say, "Good. But remember to maintain a good balance. Don't tire yourself too much. You need to have more confidence too. But don't get too complacent. That fellow from Great Zhou is only a year older than you and he's already on the verge of reaching the sixth-stage Skysoar Realm."

The more Bai Feng spoke, the more dismayed he was. Why did he need to use a freak from a different prefecture to keep his student grounded? Why couldn't he use himself? Was he not genius enough? This would definitely not be the case if he had accepted any other student!

Back then when Bai Feng was still a young student under Hong Tan, that old man had repeatedly used himself as an example to keep Bai Feng humble. Unfortunately, it didn't seem like Bai Feng would be able to do the same to his student.

"Sigh."

Su Yu interpreted the sigh differently and said, "Don't worry, Teacher. I'll pay you back for the blood essence today after I make some money in the future."

Bai Feng rolled his eyes. Who the hell was sighing because of the blood essence?

But he suddenly recalled something and sternly said, "Learn more languages. I'm afraid that you won't even understand the original texts you read when the time comes. Back when I first joined the academy, I had mastered 35 la-major languages! Including the minor languages, I knew 120 languages!"

Finally, Bai Feng regained some confidence in front of his student. He smiled, "You need to master more languages too. Otherwise, how are you supposed to form more Divine Characters? Are you going to only read the texts of the few languages you're proficient in? Also, the languages you know might not have suitable characters for you. Or their characters might be too weak. Do you understand what I'm trying to say?"

Bai Feng was all confident again. Back then, he had mastered 35...major languages!

Su Yu asked in astonishment, "Major languages? Is that a thing?"

"Of course." Bai Feng said, "All beasts are known as the demon race, but are they all from the same race? How about the tigers? Are all tigers from a single race? Demons, tigers, these are all major races. And under that, there are many minor divisions, and each division comes with its own minor language. But this is my personal classification. You don't have to care too much about it."

"Oh."

Su Yu nodded. Wow. That was really impressive. He only knew 20 languages before this. Recently, he had been attending all his classes and had learned 12 additional languages. However, he had not mastered them yet. It would seem like he still had a long way to go!

"But why do I keep feeling like Teacher is bluffing?"

Su Yu muttered to himself. Did his teacher really enter the academy with 120 languages? He wanted to tell his teacher that he had been in the academy for a month. He was no longer so ignorant.

He remembered that previously, an instructor had said that the highest record of mastered language was held by an instructor with 370 languages. As for the highest record among the students, it was someone who had entered the academy with 79 languages. Bai Feng was neither of those.

"Perhaps he's including his early period in the academy as well?"

Well, that was still quite impressive. Su Yu believed that his teacher loved bluffing too much, but it didn't matter. He would force himself to believe his teacher. It wasn't important anyway.

He had previously thought that his teacher didn't really care about him. But after receiving blood essence worth over 1,000 merit points from his teacher, he found his teacher to be...rather lovable.

Bai Feng might be broke, but he was still quite generous. Alas, he wasn't rich enough or he would probably be even more generous.

Chapter 177: So Lucky (1)

By the time Su Yu was back at the research center, it was late afternoon. The monthly examination was going to be held on the 30th, the day after tomorrow. Today, there was no afternoon class. Thus, the moment Su Yu was back, he prepared to go upstairs to cultivate. Bai Feng admired that, but he still stopped Su Yu.

"Don't tire yourself out too much in the coming two days. Remember to get enough rest. I checked your willpower. It is near the Mental Tempering Stage. That is the equivalent of a warrior's Infinite Strength Realm. But most cultural researchers have no combat strength at that stage. They can't even beat Great Strength cultivators..."

"Why is that? Because these students lack a lot of things at the Mental Tempering Stage. A proper Mental Tempering Stage cultivator is capable of fighting an Infinite Strength warrior or even facing a Skysoar cultivator."

"During the early stages, I'll allow you to grow by yourself. But the moment you reach the Mental Tempering Stage, you will find yourself busier than now. Treasure the free time you still have. As for your spars, just treat them as entertainment to loosen up amid your bitter cultivation. You don't have to treat them too seriously."

Su Yu nodded. He didn't really mind being busy. How much busier could he be? There were only 24 hours per day. Would he be so busy that he had to work 25 hours per day?

That reminded Su Yu of something. He said, "Teacher, you mentioned before that the war academies will have some visiting students. But why are there no news about that?"

"The new semester has just started and everyone is still busy cultivating. Nobody has the time to visit. You need to give them some time to grow first. Before visiting, you need their geniuses to enter the Great Strength or even the Infinite Strength Realm first, right? Why? Are you looking forward to getting beaten up already? Don't get too confident after reaching the third-stage Great Strength Realm. In the previous years, their visitors had always been at the Infinite Strength Realm."

Su Yu was astonished, "Infinite Strength Realm? Their cultivation speed is way too fast."

"That's normal. They don't have to waste their time with willpower. Some of their geniuses were already at the Great Strength Realm before entering the academy. It's not surprising for them to reach the Infinite Strength Realm."

"I see."

After a short chat, the two parted and resumed their busy life.

...

Third underground floor, laboratory.

Bai Feng sighed. Su Yu's growth was too fast. He had thought that Su Yu would need at least three more months to reach the Mental Tempering Stage, but it was evident it would take Su Yu no more than ten more days.

And unfortunately, his martial brother had encountered some troubles too. Because of that, some of his plans were disrupted.

"That bastard Liu Hong is entering seclusion at such a bad timing..."

Bai Feng cursed and called someone with his communicator. A short while later, he changed into a new set of clothes and left the laboratory.

...

Books depository.

That was one of the more important locations in the academy. In fact, its importance was comparable to the Grotto District.

Top floor. Inside an office.

Bai Feng opened the door and walked through it. Inside, a refined man had a pained look when he laid his eyes on Bai Feng. "Look at you. Have you been busy with research again recently? Are you not afraid of breaking yourself from exhaustion?"

"I'm fine."

Bai Feng replied nonchalantly. He was very comfortable in front of his senior brother, Chen Yong. When he first joined the academy, Chen Yong was the first person to notice him. And he had nearly ended up as Chen Yong's student.

Bai Feng sat down and started pouring tea for himself like he was at home. Chen Yong smiled looking at Bai Feng's antics, but his expression soon turned helpless as he said, "Did you sell Teacher's stuff?"

"Nope." Bai Feng denied. But he soon grinned and said, "Yes, I did. They are actually quite valuable! Senior Brother, how big is the remaining hole?"

"Around 5,000 merit points."

"There's still such a big hole?" Bai Feng frowned, "If we really have no choice, I'll visit the Allheaven Battlefield and kill some Skysoar enemies..."

"Don't mess around." Chen Yong shook his head, "Even if we manage to plug the hole, it is still very unlikely for me to preserve my position. We had taken the original texts out of the depository. Even if we pay up with merit points, they can still find an excuse to get us in trouble since those original texts are not around anymore."

Chen Yong smiled, "Therefore, I have not used the merit points you gave me before. I still have all of them. Try to push your student to the Mental Tempering Stage while I'm still here. He can then come and read more original texts for free. Since I'm going to lose this position anyway, I might as well make use of it to the fullest before leaving."

"Senior Brother." Bai Feng was indignant, "They are basically trying to pull our roots out. Everyone knows what the others are doing at the books depository. They have been using it for their own benefits as well. If they're really going to mess with us, we'll make things difficult for them too. We might as well use the remaining time you have here to shut the entire depository down and stop everyone from using it."

"Don't mess around." Chen Yong chided, "The academy is here to nurture talents. If you don't allow the geniuses to enter the depository, that is the same as disrupting their cultivation. The entire academy, Great Xia, or even humanity might suffer because of that..."

Bai Feng furiously said, "We are having a hard time even taking care of ourselves. Why do we need to care about others? I'm not the selfish one here. They are the ones who are refusing to even give us a small breathing space. If they really want to escalate the conflict, bring it on! Am I supposed to be afraid of them?"

Chen Yong said, "Escalate? How? They have countless geniuses and experts. How about us? There are only five of us. If you're a regular student, would you choose the single character faction or the multiple character faction?"

"Is that Wan guy really going to ignore all this?"

Chen Yong smiled, "I understand Principal Wan's thoughts. If the multiple character faction can continue surviving despite its struggles, then there would naturally be a need for it to continue existing. If it ended up eliminated, well, that's natural selection at work. That can only mean that the multiple character faction is no longer suitable for the current times."

"Nonsense!" Bai Feng cursed furiously. After a while, he said, "This isn't a good time for me to ask for this, but since things are already this bad, I guess there is no point in hesitating. Su Yu is progressing quickly. He's going to reach the Mental Tempering Stage soon. At that time, I'll formally allow him to start cultivating multiple Divine Characters..."

"Near Mental Tempering Stage?" Chen Yong was surprised. He said, "I thought he's..."

"That kid has been spending all his time in the fragment room. He's cultivating like his life depends on it so his progress is fast. I'm worried about his cultivation. Which system should he cultivate? Should he cultivate the dragon slaying system like me or cultivate a balanced path of offense and defense like Teacher?"

Chen Yong smiled, "Why can't he learn from me and cultivate the defensive path?"

"..."

Bai Feng glanced at his senior brother. He couldn't bring himself to say his true thoughts. After a long while, he said, "Uhm...I think it's better if he can at least fight back. The turtle path...cough, cough, the defensive path is not good for morale."

Chen Yong glared at Bai Feng. This fellow sure had a lot of nonsense to say!

"Ask for his own opinion. Don't make his choice for him. Each path has its own advantages and disadvantages. For example, you're good at attacking and nothing else. If we're at the same cultivation level, if you fail to defeat me in three moves, I'll definitely win."

Bai Feng helplessly said, "True. I have no way of breaking through your turtle shell..."

"What did you just say?"

Bai Feng laughed awkwardly and said, "Fine. I'll ask him when the time is right. I still hope he can walk my path. What's the point of defending nowadays? Look at you. Your combat style is so passive. Unless others take the initiative to attack you, it's like you're tickling others when you attack..."

"Shut up!" Chen Yong was getting furious. "Are you here to ask about sending him here? No problem. Send him here after he reaches the Mental Tempering Stage. We're only going to use up a few more original texts. It no longer matters."

"Good. I've been worrying about this."

Bai Feng was relieved. But he was still upset. His senior brother sounded fine, but it was clear his senior brother was prepared to give up on this position.

At that thought, he asked, "How's Wu Jia?"

"She's recovering fine. She will probably recover fully in three months. But her cultivation will be delayed because of this."

Bai Feng was furious, "Those people are pushing it too far. This is Wu Jia's golden period of cultivation. Delaying her by three months while all the other top 100 students are growing is too cruel. Even after recovering, it would be hard for her to get back into the Top 100 Ranking.

"Back when we were competing against them, I won countless times. But most of the time, I left them with only minor injuries. Heavy injuries would only happen if the fight was so intense that we couldn't hold back. But look at what they are doing to us. Is this still a normal competition?"

Bai Feng stood up angrily, "What are they trying to do? Are they trying to eliminate us completely?"

Chen Yong waved his hand, telling Bai Feng to calm down.

When Bai Feng sat back down, Chen Yong said, "You have to blame yourself for that. You have been showing off too much recently. Since you've been holding back for so many years, why defeat Hu Wensheng in one move this time? Because of that, they're starting to feel pressured..."

Bai Feng clenched his teeth, "Yes, I was too rash! But my initial goal was to teach Su Yu that our multiple character faction is strong. Otherwise, that kid might really run off to be a weaponsmith instead. It has

been a few years since we've gotten any new blood. If it wasn't for all the pressure they're heaping on us, is there a need for me to demonstrate my strength?"

Chen Yong said, "Jia's opponent wasn't able to hold back in time and ended up injuring her badly. You know how stubborn she is. She's not the kind to admit defeat easily. We can't say anything since she was injured because of her stubbornness."

Bai Feng rolled his eyes and said, "Senior Brother, can you stop being so gentle? Why must you find an excuse for everything they do? Are you on our side or not? This has always been how they are. The kinder you are, the more excessive they become. I understand the multiple character faction shouldn't grow too big, but our cultivation is still suitable for the freaks and high-high students. Is it so hard for them to give us a few students? They're simply afraid that we would rise to prominence again and snatch the power they now enjoy."

Bai Feng snorted, "The competition in the academy is no longer as pure as it used to be. Back then, they could say that they were doing all that for humanity, Great Xia, and the academy. But now...their intentions are no longer so pure."

"During Grandteacher's time, the multiple character faction had a lot of members, right? Sure, most of them failed and ended up switching to cultivating the single character path, but there is no denying that we once stood at the top as well. If it wasn't for the deaths of Grandteacher and a few other elders of that generation, how would our faction decline so badly?"

"And we're not the same as Martial Uncle..." Bai Feng sighed at the mention of Liu Wenyan. "Their generation was crippled. But that was because they all pursued something different. They were aiming for a much higher height. But if we only look at the Cloudbreach and Mountainsea Realms, we are definitely the better choice."

Liu Wenyan's generation had not been crippled just because they had cultivated too many Divine Characters.

"As long as we don't follow Martial Uncle's path, if we focus on only multiple Divine Characters, things would be the same as how it was during the peak of our faction. How can they say that our path would hinder the students?"

"The decline of the multiple character faction was merely an accident. It wasn't an inevitability. As long as we set higher recruiting standards, the regular students would have other choices instead of entering our faction. The other factions would still be able to get students. They can't seal us off just because we're stronger than others in the same realm."

In fact, Bai Feng found that laughable. That was the excuse the single character faction had been using to suppress them. The single character faction claimed that if the multiple character faction grew too strong, they might end up leading more students astray with their path.

What a load of nonsense! Bai Feng had never believed in that excuse.

Of course, the single character faction had a strong reason to use that excuse. The tragedy 50 years ago was the clear proof that they were right. And they had been using the crippled generation as an example again and again. But to be truth, that was merely a special case.

That generation was simply too exceptional prior to their crippling. And there was no denying that a massive number of students had dedicated themselves to the path of multiple characters because of their yearning toward that golden generation.

Chapter 178: So Lucky (2)

Chen Yong waved his hand again and said, "Calm down. It is pointless to get so agitated. Wait until Teacher goes above the Mountainsea Realm. Or maybe wait until I enter the Mountainsea Realm. At that time, things will naturally change."

"How long do we need to wait?" Bai Feng gloomily said, "Teacher has been stuck for so many years. It's the same for you."

Chen Yong laughed, but he did not continue the topic. He said, "So Su Yu is going to reach the Mental Tempering Stage already? This is quite surprising. For our faction, we need powerful willpower to nurture more Divine Characters without putting too much burden on our willpower."

After thinking about it, Chen Yong took out a shiny piece of jade bone and said, "Give this to him. Tell him this is his Martial Uncle's welcome gift to him."

"The skull of the mythic destruction beast?" Looking at the tiny jade bone, Bai Feng was alarmed, "Senior Brother? What are you thinking? You're giving this to Su Yu? Have you gone mad? You got this from Teacher back then to celebrate your advancement into the Cloudbreach Realm!"

Chen Yong smiled, "I don't have much use for it anymore. I wanted to keep it for Jia, but I don't think she needs it."

Chen Yong sighed, "Jia's talent is good. It is only a matter of time before she enters the Skysoar Realm with 10 Divine Characters. But it would be hard for her to form more Divine Characters. Her willpower won't be able to withstand the burden of more Divine Characters."

"As for Su Yu, he is growing very fast. And previously, you said that he managed to form a Divine Character in one day. He might be able to form even more during the Mental Tempering Stage. With this thing, it would be much safer for him. It can also help relieve him of some burden on his willpower."

"Senior Brother."

Bai Feng was hesitating. But when he thought of how talented his student was, he gnashed his teeth and took the round jade bone.

"Fine. I'll accept it. That little bastard has no idea how much we have spent for his sake!"

Bai Feng then took a deep breath and said, "I'll watch over him and make sure he reaches the Mental Tempering Stage as soon as possible. Then...we'll see if he can enter the Top 100 Ranking before the end of the year. It would be better if he can enter and kick out all the bastards from that faction. That way, Jia might be able to get back into the ranking again. With that, you might be able to avoid the second review..."

Chen Yong smiled, "Don't force him. Cultivation is something you need to do one step at a time. It wouldn't be worth it to harm his foundation by forcing him too much. My position isn't too important. We don't intend to accept any new students anyway. And without new students, we won't really be needing this place that much."

"I understand." Bai Feng stood up and said, "I'll be taking my leave, then. By the way, my research is progressing rapidly as well. If you're free, you can go take a look. Don't spend your time in this shitty place all the time. I'm already sick of looking at this place."

The books depository was a good place, but it wasn't their own place. Staying here, Chen Yong had to keep watch over the numerous original texts yet couldn't use all of them. Bai Feng was personally quite sick of this place.

"I know. Take care of yourself too. Don't let your research delay your cultivation."

"Yeah, I know."

After Bai Feng left, Chen Yong sighed. At times, he had the urge to shut his teacher's research center. In fact, when the academy tried shutting down their research center previously, he was agreeable.

Bai Feng was too stubborn. The research center had delayed his cultivation too much. And without their teacher around, Bai Feng was placing even more effort on his research. If this continued, he would probably remain in the Skysoar Realm even after Liu Hong and the others reached the Cloudbreach Realm.

"You'll only hinder your own future if you continue like this."

Chen Yong shook his head and sighed again. He could only hope that Bai Feng's student wouldn't be the same. Sure, research was important, and that was what a lot of cultural researchers were doing. But it would be a waste of his junior brother's time and talent to spend too much effort on a research subject that had been stuck for decades.

...

29th of August.

The day before the monthly examination.

Su Yu's willpower had grown once again. It was now 49 percent full. He was only a step away from the Mental Tempering Stage. He hadn't been able to enter the Mental Tempering Stage before the monthly examination, but he had still been growing at a shocking speed.

It had only been a month since he joined the academy. In the beginning, his willpower wasn't even 30 percent full. In the blink of an eye, he was on the cusp of the Mental Tempering Stage. This was an absolutely terrifying speed.

As for his physical cultivation, he had also advanced into a third-stage Great Strength cultivator. Even in a war academy, he would be one of the better students.

Today, he encountered Liu Hong who had been missing for a while. He had stumbled upon the teacher while he was walking on the street.

"Hello, Teacher Liu."

Despite his dislike for Liu Hong, Su Yu did not try anything stupid when facing Liu Hong. He knew he was still not Liu Hong's match so he was maintaining proper respect for this teacher.

When Liu Hong saw Su Yu, he flashed his trademark smile. When Liu Hong saw the source qi undulations around Su Yu, his eyes flickered. This kid had entered the Great Strength Realm!

That was fast! No wonder this kid was able to catch Bai Feng's eyes. He was really a genius. And the more of a genius he was, the better it would be for Liu Hong. If Su Yu wasn't a genius or a freak, then suppressing him would be pointless since nobody would know Su Yu's value.

Liu Hong had been prepared to help Su Yu grow more before suppressing him. Thus, Liu Hong was pleased to see Su Yu growing so rapidly. Seeing that Liu Hong had stopped walking, Su Yu had no choice but to stop as well.

With a smile, Liu Hong praised, "Well done. I have also heard about your spar with Lin Yao. Is that really happening?"

"Yeah."

Su Yu did not deny it. There was no point. Why was Liu Hong asking him that? Was Liu Hong here to help his student? Was he here to prevent the spar after seeing that Su Yu had entered the Great Strength Realm?

However, Liu Hong harbored none of those thoughts. Su Yu would remain an insignificant nobody before defeating someone like Lin Yao. And an insignificant nobody was not worth suppressing. In truth, even Lin Yao himself wasn't that big of a deal.

After thinking about it, Liu Hong said, "Disputes between students are unrelated to us teachers. As long as you guys do not break any rules, everything would be fine. However, I wish to remind you to not waste your time on these senseless conflicts.

Liu Hong shook his head, "You guys are still too weak. At this stage, it is better for you to keep growing silently. Don't be like your senior sister and get involved in the factional conflict too early. In fact, you were the reason your senior sister was seriously injured..."

Su Yu frowned.

Liu Hong smiled, "I am merely feeling melancholic. Bai Feng had done a lot for your sake, but unfortunately, your senior sister was implicated by his action. By defeating Hu Wensheng, he had slapped the faces of some people. Among those in the Skysoar Realm, very few people can deal with Bai Feng. Your martial uncle is in the Cloudbreach Realm while you're too weak. Your senior sister, on the other hand, is in the Top 100 Ranking. She is the perfect target for revenge."

Liu Hong shook his head, "Bai Feng had been too selfish. To get the mountainbreak bull blood essence for you, to demonstrate the strength of the multiple character faction to you, he had brought disaster upon his senior brother and your senior sister..."

Su Yu was starting to get agitated, but he forcefully calmed himself down and held the urge to punch Liu Hong's face in. He said, "Teacher, I don't understand all that."

"You don't understand?" Liu Hong smiled, "There is no need for you to understand that. I am only telling you that your little tricks might work against Lin Yao, but you are still too far behind the students on the Top 100 Ranking. As for me, I honestly can't be bothered to get involved in these tiny conflicts. I'll just sit back and enjoy the show."

"Great Strength Realm...not bad at all. But some of the geniuses from this batch have already reached the seventh-stage Great Strength Realm. You're still quite far away from them."

With the same smile on his face, Liu Hong said, "Advise your teacher to keep a low profile. That applies to you as well. In truth, winning against Lin Yao won't help you anyway. It will only bring you more troubles. If I'm you, I would probably allow Lin Yao to win. After that, you will gradually fade from the public eye."

Su Yu clenched his fists silently.

Liu Hong continued, "You're worried of losing the mountainbreak bull blood essence to us? Don't worry. I'll advise Lin Yao to give up. I doubt your faction can take out another set of blood essence anyway. You should just save your merit points and get some treatment for your injured senior sister instead."

He sounded friendly and kind, as though he was doing this for Su Yu's own good. But the more Su Yu listened, the more furious he felt. He had never felt so furious before. He looked up at Liu Hong's smiling face. He really wanted to punch that face.

"Teacher Liu. I won't lose."

Not only that, but he would also humiliate Liu Hong. He would deliver Liu Hong's student a crushing defeat, teaching Liu Hong that a piece of trash would always be different from a truly strong person. His patience was running thin. He could no longer endure this. Liu Hong's words had provoked him numerous times, causing him to feel angrier and angrier.

Liu Hong's smile grew even wider as he said, "Children like you are always so stubborn. I am doing this for your own good. Don't always think that I'm trying to harm you. I have also heard about your conflict with Chen Qi. He's already a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. He has also reached the late-stage of the Mental Tempering Stage. Without the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator, you stand no chance against him."

"Sigh. You're only at the Great Strength Realm. How can you contend against him?" Liu Hong shook his head and started walking away. "If you want to get involved in the factional conflicts of the academy, you need to at least get into the Top 100 Ranking first. Otherwise, you won't even be qualified to join the game. You are still too weak. Unless..."

Liu Hong's voice was already starting to turn indistinct as he walked further and further away. However, Su Yu could still vaguely hear Liu Hong mutter these words to himself: "Unless you're really so lucky that you found the lost Skybreak Technique Technique in the library."

Su Yu blinked in confusion.

Skybreak Technique? What was that? From Liu Hong's words, was that something that would help him reach the Top 100 Ranking? Fear not. Xia Huyou, the reliable information peddler was around!

Chapter 179: So Lucky (3)

After a while, Su Yu found Xia Huyou.

When Xia Huyou heard the question, he said, "You don't know that? That's War God Art's complementary martial technique."

"Complementary martial technique?" Su Yu blanked out slightly before asking, "Is the Skybreak Technique good?"

.

Xia Huyou was rendered speechless by Su Yu's ignorance. He said, "A martial technique relies on the practitioner. How do you judge if it's really good or not? But that reminds me of something. Not long ago, the black market was raided and someone lost a Skybreak Technique willpower text. Tsk tsk..."

Xia Huyou grinned and continued, "I heard it was written by a senior researcher from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy. It was supposed to be sold to one of this year's freaks. Its price on the black market has reached 1,500 merit points. In the end, the black market was raided and the seller escaped."

While escaping, the seller lost the text. Nobody knows where it is and everyone has been looking for it recently. Even the academy is looking for it. That's quite a funny story."

"..."

Su Yu was dumbfounded.

"Personally written by a Mountainsea expert?"

"Yeah." Xia Huyou clicked his tongue and said, "Most of the willpower texts sold by the academies are the works of Skysoar or Cloudbreach cultivators. Very few of them are written by Mountainsea experts. The demand for Mountainsea willpower texts is much higher than the supply. The moment one appears, even those in the Cloudbreach Realm might try to buy it. After all, they could comprehend different things from a willpower text of a different realm.

"I don't know why that senior researcher suddenly decided to write a willpower text. The text was booked by someone and was smuggled into our academy. In the end, hehehe...the entire black market was raided..."

"So where's the text?"

Xia Huyou rolled his eyes, "How am I supposed to know? If I knew, I would have gone looking for it myself. The academy is so big and the guards are very strict. Who knows where the text is right now?"

"So it's still missing?"

Xia Huyou said, "Yeah. But don't even think about it. If you find a text, you won't even know if it's a legitimate copy. I suspect the smuggler stole the text and lied about losing it. It's something from the black market anyway. If someone stole it and used it secretly, nobody would know."

Su Yu blinked his eyes as he thought about it. Liu Hong...claimed that the text was in the library earlier. Was that true? How did Liu Hong know about that?

Su Yu asked, "Who's the black market seller?"

"Why do you ask? Are you trying to get connected to that seller?"

"I'm just asking."

Xia Huyou looked at Su Yu suspiciously and said, "Have you heard some rumors and are very happy about it right now? So you're already aware that the text was lost by Liu Hong's people?"

"..."

Sure enough! Su Yu had been wondering about the source of Liu Hong's information. So it was his own people that had lost the text.

"So that fellow knows the location but has yet to find the text?"

So it was in the library and not the books depository? The library only housed the more ordinary books and some damaged willpower texts. In other words, that text might still be in the library right now.

As for Liu Hong's words, he was basically whispering toward the end. If Su Yu hadn't been paying close attention, he would have missed those words. So had Liu Hong intentionally leaked this information to him?

"Library..."

Su Yu's eyes lit up. That was a willpower text worth 1,500 merit points! And if he found it, he could even save the 200 merit points he was going to spend on buying a regular copy of the martial technique!

But did that text cover only the Great Strength version? What if it covered the Infinite Strength version or even the Skysoar version? At the thought of that, Su Yu had the urge to drop everything and went to the library.

But when he saw Xia Huyou's suspicious gaze, he calmed down and smiled, "I see. No wonder my teacher was talking about Liu Hong having bad luck recently. I'm very happy to hear that. Alright. Bye."

Su Yu then left with a calm expression. Meanwhile, Xia Huyou gazed at Su Yu's departing back and scratched his head, "Is this fellow aware of something nobody knows? Perhaps...he knows where the text is?"

That shouldn't be the case, right? How could this fellow be so lucky? Xia Huyou refused to believe that. After all, he was the one who had told Su Yu about the lost text in the first place.

...

"Library..."

Su Yu could not get the matter concerning the willpower text out of his mind. Nothing else mattered for now. It didn't matter if Liu Hong looked down on him. The only thing that mattered was that a Skybreak Technique willpower text written by a Mountainsea expert was lost in the library. It was a willpower text worth 1,500 merit points.

"Liu Hong must still be looking for it..."

Su Yu was excited, but he quickly calmed down. Even though he knew the general location of the lost text, it didn't mean that he would be able to find it. After all, even Liu Hong, who was aware of the location, couldn't find it.

"Has someone else found it? Or maybe the person that had lost it remembered the wrong place? Or maybe it was a piece of fake information to mislead Liu Hong?"

Numerous possibilities rose in Su Yu's mind. He didn't even have the mood to focus on his classes anymore. Late in the afternoon when all the classes were finally over, Su Yu roamed around the academy in a random route before entering the library.

...

Unlike the books depository, the library was not a place filled with willpower texts. In the library, ordinary books and scrapped willpower texts could be found. Those scrapped willpower texts were kept in a room that functioned similarly to the fragment room in the research center. To enter the room, one would need to pay.

The library of the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy was massive. It was a building with six floors. The first three floors only housed some regular books and could be accessed via student cards. The remaining floors could only be entered after paying the required fee.

This was Su Yu's first visit to the academy library. And the moment he arrived, he was stunned. The library was too big. How was he supposed to find a single missing text in a place so big? There were some bookshelves on the first floor, but most of the space was occupied by tables and chairs. The second and third floors were the actual places housing the majority of the books.

"Books related to humans can be found on the second floor while books related to the myriad races can be found on the third floor. The languages used on these floors are different. The seller must have run off during the black market raid and found a random place to hide the book."

That was Su Yu's guess. But the library had too many books. Thus, they weren't able to find the book after returning.

"Since the text was written by a researcher from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy, it must have been written in the human language. It would be too obvious on the third floor. Therefore, the second floor would be the better hiding place..."

After asking around, Su Yu learned that there were 3,300 bookshelves on the second floor and nearly a million books there. Each shelf housed around 300 books. In fact, the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy's library was among the largest libraries in the Human Realm. A lot of rare and classic books could be found in it.

"How am I supposed to find it from 3,300 bookshelves?"

Su Yu was shocked to hear that number. No wonder Liu Hong and his people couldn't find the text. If the text had been hidden in a hurry, they would not be able to find it easily without first marking the text.

And since they had to also keep a low profile while searching, the search became even more difficult. Su Yu was even more shocked when he arrived at the second floor. It was massive. Row upon row of bookshelves could be seen before him.

At the moment, there were quite a lot of people on the second floor. But they were spread all over the massive space so it was still quite quiet. This was indeed a place where one could easily lose track of something one hid without proper markers.

"Liu Hong's people are probably here searching for it right now!"

Su Yu kept his head low and started looking around. He was getting so suspicious that every single person on the floor looked like Liu Hong's agent in his eyes.

"A willpower text is still different from a regular book. This would be much easier if I can search with my willpower..."

But there were a lot of people here. Using his willpower here would only attract more attention. And probing others with willpower was considered a type of provocation among cultivators.

"How am I supposed to find it?"

Su Yu sank into despair. This place was too big and there were too many books here. Was he supposed to flip through the books one by one?

Chapter 180: Kill Character (1)

At the same time, outside the library.

Bai Feng yawned and said, "Are you kidding me? Look at the size of this place. How is he supposed to find a single hidden book? And if someone else found it instead, what are we supposed to do next?"

Liu Hong smiled indifferently and said, "In that case, the willpower text will go to the finder. After all, this can also be considered a fortuitous encounter. In any case, I already gave you what I should. Your student is the first to hear about the news. If he can't even find the text with this advantage, he can only blame his luck for it.

"Luck might be unreliable, but at times, it can also be quite useful. Without luck, you will fail in everything you do. If he has no luck I doubt he can go far even with good talent."

Bai Feng cursed before asking, "Where did you hide the text? I'll go take a look."

Liu Hong said, "Bai Feng, you will attract too much attention. Let him search for it himself. If he fails, then it's not my fault."

Bai Feng looked at Liu Hong speechlessly. After a while, he said, "You're very confident nowadays. Looks like your confidence has grown alongside your strength. I take it you don't need my help anymore after this?"

Liu Hong smiled and said, "There is no need to say that. None of us is helping the other. We are merely making use of each other. I already gave Su Yu a chance. If he fails to grab this opportunity, you can't really blame me for it."

"I keep feeling like you're scheming something." Bai Feng muttered, "But if Su Yu really manages to find it, I'll have to admit that you're really quite generous this time. After all, that's a Mountainsea willpower text..."

That thing was not cheap at all.

Liu Hong smiled, "Of course. I am not stingy when it comes to investments. Also, this willpower text has already been booked by someone in advance. That person had even paid the down payment. After the raid, he wouldn't get his down payment back. That's part of the agreement before the trade. If the buyer learns that Su Yu had obtained his text, hehehe..."

"Who's the buyer?"

Bai Feng did not care that much. He already knew that Liu Hong was a scumbag, so this wasn't too surprising for him.

"Zheng Yunhui."

"I don't know him."

Bai Feng was indifferent. Since it wasn't someone he knew, that must be a nobody.

Liu Hong explained, "Principal Zheng's grandson. He won't fear you guys. Since you guys dare to even snatch his stuff, hehe...just you wait."

"Who?"

"Principal Zheng's grandson."

Bai Feng's face twitched. He cursed, "What the hell? You're such a scumbag. The Zheng Family is filled with brutes. They can't be reasoned with. Can't you pick someone else to scam?"

"I have no choice..." Liu Hong sounded helpless as well, "The other potential buyers have their own Mountainsea cultural researchers. They don't need to buy the text from the black market. Old Zheng's family is the only one without a Mountainsea cultural researcher. Furthermore, their family mainly cultivates the War God Art.

"This martial technique is very important for them. In fact, even Principal Zheng himself needs to buy his willpower texts externally. He has merely been too embarrassed to lower his head and ask for help from some cultural researchers. Thus, his family is the only family willing to pay a high price for the willpower text. There is also no worry that he would spread the news about the black market."

Liu Hong grinned and added, "I charged him 1,000 merit points as the down payment..."

"What?" Bai Feng asked in astonishment, "Is he not going to look for you for losing the text?"

"We have a prior agreement so I'm not afraid of that. It's a black market transaction anyway so it isn't protected by law. Why should I be afraid of him? Would he dare to spread the news that he's buying from the black market?"

Liu Hong said with disdain, "This is the cultural research academy, not his war academy. Of course, he will definitely look for Su Yu after learning that Su Yu has his text. After all, they have paid for it. Would you let Su Yu off if you're in his position?"

"Of course not." Bai Feng answered without any hesitation, "It's fine if I haven't paid anything, but after paying..."

He stopped talking. Old Zheng's family was no pushover. That was a family of brutes. Zheng Yunhui couldn't do anything to Liu Hong, but he wouldn't be as helpless against a mere student like Su Yu.

And would Su Yu give up on the willpower text he found? Bai Feng knew his student. There was no way that was going to happen, especially when it was something so valuable. Furthermore, black market transactions were never supposed to be secured transactions. There were no records to serve as the proof of ownership.

At that thought, Bai Feng cursed and said, "Why did you drag the Zheng Family into this? Are you not afraid that you would drag Su Yu down because of this?"

"That's none of my business." Liu Hong beamed, "I'll even report this to my superiors and have them compensate me for it. After all, I am creating a conflict between your faction and Old Zheng's family. Both of you are opponents of our faction, and my contribution in turning you guys against each other would definitely be appreciated. Tsk, tsk. At the very least, I would get compensated for what I spent on you."

Bai Feng couldn't stop cursing.

Liu Hong placated him, "What are you afraid of? What can those war academy fellows do against you guys? This might sound like a big deal, but it's nothing. It might look like you guys have gotten yourself a new big enemy, but nothing would come out of it. As long as Su Yu can handle Zheng Yunhui, everything would be fine."

Bai Feng scolded, "Everything would be fine? Can Su Yu even handle that fellow? That kid from the Zheng Family is at least a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator already, right?"

"Cough, cough. It's only a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. It's nothing. Don't be afraid."

"..."

There was no sincerity in Liu Hong's words. But it wasn't his problem anyway. In fact, he was the one who had profited big from this.

He had first accepted 1,000 merit points from Zheng Yunhui as the down payment. When he reported this to his superiors, he could even get some extra profit by claiming that he had spent 3,000 merit points on this little endeavor instead.

And Bai Feng didn't have to spend anything to nurture his student, so what else could Bai Feng say? Was Liu Hong not sincere enough by supplying them a Mountainsea willpower text for free? If he hadn't done all that, this bastard Bai Feng would probably pester him for money every single day.

By doing this, Liu Hong was basically killing three birds with one stone. It was a pity that he couldn't tell Su Yu about the plan or even Su Yu would need to owe him a favor. That way, he would be able to kill four birds with one stone instead!

"Oh, right, I need to be the one to tell Zheng Yunhui about this too. He must be thinking that his 1,000 merit points had been spent for nothing. After I tell him about Su Yu, I can even erase his grudge toward me."

Even Liu Hong himself was impressed with his brain. And the Zheng Family would definitely not suspect anything.

Tsk tsk.

With this, he would only profit without taking on any risk. At that thought, the smile on Liu Hong's face grew even wider. As for Bai Feng, after thinking about it, he decided to forget about the matter.

Was he supposed to be afraid of a brat? The Zheng Family had no influence in the cultural research academy. What could Zheng Yunhui do to them? The only thing he could do was look for Su Yu.

If Su Yu wasn't Zheng Yunhui's match, then he would have to choose between giving up on the willpower text or accept the fact that a feud had started between him and Zheng Yunhui.

"Forget it."

Bai Feng had his own plans too. The brat from the Zheng Family might not be weak, but Su Yu wasn't a pushover either. Just the blood essence ability alone was strong enough a trump card.

Without facing the challenges of those freaks, how could he grow? Then again, the biggest reason why Bai Feng was letting all this happen was because...he was broke. Since he couldn't afford the willpower text, wouldn't it be good for Su Yu to solve that issue himself? This was a great solution!

...

Su Yu was naturally unaware of the conversation between the two. He was carefully searching the bookshelves one by one. At this point, he was paranoid enough that every single person he saw looked like someone here for the same reason as him. In truth, he was the only person in the library searching for the text.

"Since the seller was running from the raid, they probably couldn't get too far. The text might have been hidden the moment the seller reached the second floor...Therefore, it might be on a bookshelf near the second floor entrance. But it can't be too near the entrance as it would be too easily found by others. In other words, it's slightly further away from the entrance?"

Su Yu started searching according to his guess.

Ten minutes. Twenty minutes...

He searched untiringly. He had no idea what that text looked like. Maybe it was made of bone. Maybe it was made of a beast hide. Or maybe it was only made of regular paper. But he would be able to recognize it the moment he saw it.

After all, willpower text was something with some power imbued to it. Like a thief, Su Yu sneakily searched the bookshelves. His heart thumped nervously as he was afraid that someone would discover what he was doing in the library.

"1,500 merit points...this is worth my time. I won't leave before finding it."

The library was open 24 hours per day. Thus, some people would stay there all day long. Su Yu could search as long as he wanted.

One hour. Two hours...

After searching over 100 bookshelves and 30,000 books, the text was still nowhere to be found. Desperation was starting to sink in. Was the text really here?

"The monthly exam is tomorrow. If I still can't find it by the morning, I'll have to leave for the exam..."

He continued searching until late night. There were less and less people in the library. Finally, Su Yu noticed something. At the corner of one of the bookshelves, he found something different.

Stuffed within a thick book was something that looked like a napkin. It was very thin. The moment Su Yu saw that, he knew that he had found it. Sure enough, the moment he held the piece of cloth in his hand, he noticed that it was made of some unique materials. It might be a type of beast hide. In any case, it felt extremely smooth to touch.

"Found you!"

Su Yu did not even need to further check the piece of cloth. He could feel the faint traces of willpower it was emitting. This was clearly a willpower text.

"I'm rich!"

Su Yu joyously stuffed the willpower text into his pocket before looking around. When he saw that nobody was looking at him, he exhaled in relief. His heart was still thumping heavily from joy, nervousness, and fear.

He waited no more and left with his head lowered. He did not notice that the thick book hiding the piece of cloth was titled: Basic Outline of Multiple Divine Character's Growth.

Apart from those from the multiple character faction, nobody would bother looking over this book. It was clear that Liu Hong had put some thought into where he hid the willpower text.