

Myriad 181

Chapter 181: Kill Character (2)

Su Yu was extremely nervous the whole way back. Only when he arrived at the research center did he heave a sigh of relief.

It was already past midnight.

Bai Feng was waiting at the living area. When he saw Su Yu and sensed the faint traces of willpower undulation around the kid, he knew that Su Yu had found the willpower text. Looking at his student who was looking like a burglar who had just hit the jackpot, Bai Feng laughed.

This kid still has no idea how much trouble is waiting for him in the future. But even if he knows, he probably wouldn't care. He would probably find offending a genius for over 1,000 merit points a worthy price.

Bai Feng did not expose anything and said, "Prepare some food yourself. The monthly exam is tomorrow. Remember to rest earlier tonight."

"Yeah, yeah. Got it, teacher!" Su Yu hurriedly agreed.

He still couldn't fully calm down yet. When he saw Bai Feng walking away, he hesitated slightly before saying, "Teacher, about the Skybreak Technique..."

Bai Feng interrupted him, "Buy it yourself. Or win it from Liu Hong's faction. They are rich so you are free to scam as much from them as possible. You have a bet with Lin Yao, right? Maybe increase the wager and add the Skybreak Technique as well. But remember, however you get it, it needs to be a legitimate channel instead of something illegal. If you don't have this technique in your record and you suddenly use it in public, the academy will perform an investigation on you."

Su Yu blinked a few times before nodding, "Ok. Got it."

But inwardly, he was suspicious. Why did his teacher feel like a prophet? It was as though his teacher was already aware that he had gotten the willpower text.

Bai Feng also realized that he was acting suspiciously. He hurriedly added, "You can find these martial techniques in the black market as well, and they are quite cheap. But don't get too greedy. Martial techniques and cultivation methods should be bought from the academy or some legitimate channels. Do you understand?"

"Yes."

"Don't get too greedy."

"Ok." Su Yu nodded and asked, "Teacher, you know this technique as well. Can you be the one to teach me?"

"Of course..." Bai Feng smiled, "But I need to pay for it. To teach it, I need to pay 200 merit points for the rights. I don't have that much money right now."

Su Yu clenched his teeth. Rather than letting others profit, he might as well let his teacher profit. He decided to use his teacher as his legitimate channel if he couldn't get any from Lin Yao and the others. At worst, he would only need to pay the 200 merit points for his teacher.

But he had barely opened his mouth when Bai Feng said, "I'm leaving."

"Teacher, I..."

"Talk again next time."

Bai Feng ran off. He did not want to know. If he knew, wouldn't he be the one to handle the trouble from the Zheng Family after they found out about the willpower text? Su Yu was the one who had found it. He naturally had to deal with it himself.

"..."

Su Yu was speechless. His teacher felt more and more like a prophet. It was as if his teacher knew what he was going to say.

"Weird...this is so weird."

Su Yu scratched his head in confusion. Bai Feng was acting too suspiciously tonight.

...

Since Bai Feng insisted on leaving, Su Yu wasn't able to say anything. In any case, he was also getting impatient. The moment Bai Feng left, Su Yu took out the piece of cloth and unfolded it. On the cloth, countless characters could be seen. These characters were written in the human language.

Su Yu did not use his willpower yet. He only skimmed through the text to gain an initial understanding of the Skybreak Technique. Sure enough, that was War God Art's complementary technique.

"Only the Great Strength and Infinite Strength versions?"

Su Yu frowned. This was not enough for him! He had thought that this copy would include even the Skysoar version.

"It would do for now. This is actually an earth-grade technique. That's understandable since it is supposed to complement the advanced War God Art."

This was a willpower text booked by a freak in the academy. Su Yu had no idea who that person was. Since the buyer was a freak, he definitely cultivated the advanced War God Art as well. The complementary technique would be different depending on which version of the War God Art one practiced.

"There are 6 moves in total. Each move is meant to be learned in stages of early, middle, and late stages of the Great Strength and Infinite Strength Realms. It requires 96 acupoints in total..."

Su Yu exclaimed in admiration. His Lightning Source Blade only required 40 acupoints to master the entire technique. As for the Skybreak Technique, the final move actually utilized 96 acupoints.

In short, each move would require an addition of 16 acupoints. The first move alone required 16 acupoints, making it even stronger than Lightning Source Blade's second move. The 16 acupoints did not include the Source Opening acupoints.

"Since I already have 36 acupoints opened, I can already use the first move..."

Su Yu checked the text and found that he had opened all 16 acupoints the first move required.

But despite having opened 36 acupoints, he couldn't use the second move yet as some of the acupoints of the War God Art's second stage did not overlap with the Skybreak Technique's second move.

He would probably have enough acupoints at the middle of the Great Strength Realm, at around the sixth-stage.

"In other words, I can actually grasp the first move in no time..."

The Skybreak Technique was not a saber technique. Neither was it a sword technique. This was a pure strength eruption technique. After all, the warriors that cultivate the War God Art might not necessarily use the same weapon.

This martial technique was mainly a technique to unleash more strength. It was not something as simple as a weapon technique.

"16 acupoints, different acupoint circuits, different eruption methods, and different activation methods..."

Su Yu was completely engrossed in the new technique. Unknowingly, his willpower started sinking into the text. Next, a burly middle-aged man appeared before him. The man started demonstrating the Skybreak Technique.

"Skybreak Technique, a ferocious and unyielding fighting technique..."

"First move, Wallbreaker. With this move, you can break all obstacles before you. This move requires 16 acupoints."

The burly man explained slowly. As he explained, one acupoint after another lit up within his body. The activation, linking, and circulation methods were explained clearly. Su Yu was completely engrossed with what he was seeing. Eventually, a character on the piece of cloth started twisting.

"Kill!"

Su Yu did not notice the character. All his attention was on the burly man and the profound martial technique. But immediately after, he was awakened from his state of concentration.

The two Divine Characters in his sea of willpower were stirring. Instantly, the two characters woke up from their slumber. Together, they furiously charged ahead. In his confusion, Su Yu finally noticed a different character in his sea of willpower.

"Kill character..."

Su Yu was stunned. He wasn't planning to form a Divine Character at all. Why did one appear in his sea of willpower? But he didn't have the time to think too much. Since he had encountered one, he naturally had to tame it.

He shifted his attention from the willpower text as a miniature Su Yu appeared in the sea of willpower. The blood character transformed into a saber while the lightning character fused into the saber, wrapping the blade in a layer of lightning.

Boom!

Su Yu swung the saber at the new character. This character was a lot more powerful than the two characters he had formed previously. It emanated a thick murderous aura. As Su Yu swung his blade, he suddenly sensed a terrifying killing intent that caused his heart to palpitate.

"Kill!"

A loud voice roared in his mind.

"Kill!"

"Kill!"

The boundless killing intent echoed again and again.

The newly formed Divine Character was extremely powerful. Instantly, it broke through the saber and flew straight toward Su Yu. This was a Divine Character that originated from a Mountainsea willpower text. It was much more powerful than the characters from texts written by Liu Wenyan and Bai Feng.

If the Mountainsea expert had not been holding back as the willpower text was meant for someone between the Great Strength and Infinite Strength Realms, Su Yu wouldn't have been able to even understand the text, much less form a Divine Character through it.

Even with the writer holding back, this character was still unimaginably powerful. The saber shattered into pieces. The blood character reappeared. It looked much dimmer than before. The lightning character was shaking. The three of them were clearly not the new Divine Character's match.

"Damn you! How dare you be so cocky when you're in my sea of willpower?"

Su Yu was furious. Killing intent? What was that? He had been killed countless times. Would he be afraid of some killing intent? Su Yu charged forward and used his palm as a saber. Utilizing the Lightning Source Blade, he clashed against the kill character.

After a while, Su Yu's body fell apart.

Dead!

But this was his sea of willpower, so he wasn't dead for real. In the blink of an eye, a new Su Yu appeared. This time, he looked paler than before.

"Don't get too cocky. How many times can you kill me? I'll tire you to death!"

What was death? He only needed to get used to it. Dying in his sea of willpower would only give him a little bit of headache. How many times would this character be able to kill him? He refused to believe that he wouldn't be able to beat this character into submission.

...

Once, twice, thrice...

After dying countless times.

With a rumble, the kill character broke into pieces. The broken pieces dissipated into nothingness, leaving the greatly weakened main body in the sea of willpower. Even in such a weakened state, it still had a high fighting spirit.

Unfortunately, it was no longer a complete character. After stirring for a bit, it settled down. Calm returned to the sea of willpower. In the real world, Su Yu opened his eyes and gasped for breath. He had finally beaten that fellow into submission.

But the drain on his willpower was terrifying. It felt like he had entered the fragment room six times in a row without resting. And when he looked outside...morning had arrived!

Su Yu was alarmed. The monthly examination was about to start. How was he supposed to take the examination in his current condition? His willpower was in a terrible state!

Chapter 182: Monthly Examination, Mental Tempering Stage (1)

Character Faculty.

Intermediate class.

Su Yu was late. This was the first time he had ever been late since becoming the class monitor. The monthly examination was going to be held today. He was actually going to be late on such an important day. When he arrived, everyone was stunned into silence.

"Class Monitor, what happened to you?"

Seeing Su Yu's pale face and his dim eyes, some of the students thought of something.

One of them roared, "This is Lin Yao's fault!"

"This is too much!"

"Class Monitor must have cultivated too much in order to not embarrass the intermediate class and ended up injuring his own willpower."

"Damn that Lin Yao!"

"Class Monitor, are you fine?"

One person after another walked up to Su Yu and looked at him with expressions of grief and indignance. Why must he push himself so hard?

Even Lin Yue had a sorrowful expression as she said, "Su Yu, even if you lose, it's nothing. Even without the mountainbreak bull blood essence, you still have the chance to get more in the future. Why torture yourself like this?"

"Yeah!" Liu Wu, who had a decent relationship with Su Yu, said, "Class Monitor, it's not good to push yourself like this."

Previously, Su Yu was still in a slightly dazed state due to his willpower exhaustion. By the time he had arrived at class, he had recovered slightly. When he saw the reaction of his classmates, he did not know whether to laugh or cry.

Who said that he had tortured himself because of Lin Yao? Was he dumb? In his eyes, Lin Yao was nothing. He had merely exhausted too much of his willpower trying to tame the Divine Character. The kill character was too strong.

It was much stronger than his previous characters. He had spent an entire night taming that character. If it wasn't for the high durability of his willpower, he would have run out of willpower way earlier instead of lasting until the morning.

"I'm fine..." Su Yu smiled, "I'm really fine. I exhausted a bit of my willpower, but I would recover soon. Don't worry. It has nothing to do with Lin Yao."

He increased the volume of his voice as he continued, "Everyone, stop talking about Lin Yao. After all, he's...cough, someone's student. Everyone, don't make things difficult for yourself because of me."

Realization sank in for everyone. Right, Lin Yao was Liu Hong's student! Liu Hong, the genius teaching assistant. Would they offend Liu Hong for scolding Lin Yao like this? Initially, all of them had a good impression of Liu Hong. But he was rarely around so the students had nearly forgotten about him.

Only now did they remember that Liu Hong was their head counselor.

Even so, someone still said, "So what? That fellow is the one at fault. Why do I care if I offend Liu Hong? What is there to fear?"

"That's right. Class Monitor, your teacher is a genius teaching assistant as well. Your teacher is ranked even higher than him! He's merely a bully. It's not like we don't know about this. The single character faction has been bullying the multiple character faction for many years..."

A lot of these intermediate class students were without official teachers. Thus, most of them were unaffiliated with any factions. There was no one to shape their opinions. The senior class, on the other

hand, was different. Most of the students there had official teachers of different factions. Thus, the separation between factions was much clearer in that class.

The student continued cursing Lin Yao and Liu Hong. After a while, someone suddenly coughed outside the classroom. It was Wang Ming, the head instructor of the Character Faculty's intermediate class.

Standing beside Wang Ming was none other than Liu Hong. When Liu Hong's gaze landed on Su Yu, he was astonished. Even if this kid was reading the willpower text last night, he shouldn't have been in such a bad condition. Was the Mountainsea willpower text too harsh for his willpower? And this kid had been too engrossed while reading to notice the damage done to his willpower?

Just look at that exhausted appearance of this kid. If he didn't know what Su Yu had been up to, he would have wondered what night activity Su Yu had participated in to drain him that much.

The moment the two teachers arrived, the class sank into silence. Su Yu went to his seat and sat down. There were nearly 600 students in the class. Participation was mandatory for these monthly examinations.

Wang Ming walked to the front of the class and said, "The exam today will be jointly supervised by Liu Hong and I. This is the first monthly exam of the new students. I hope you can do your best in the exam.

"You are all already aware of the rules. The top 10 students will be rewarded while the last 10 students will be penalized. The exam is split into three main sections: culture, willpower, and Divine Character."

Wang Ming looked at Liu Hong and said, "Assistant Liu, do you have anything to add?"

Liu Hong smiled and looked at the class. "Everyone, don't be nervous and perform as you normally do. The first exam won't be too hard. The top three students will be allowed to challenge the senior class students. If you win, you can enter the senior class directly even before reaching the Mental Tempering Stage. Of course, you can also choose to not challenge anyone. The last 10 students of the senior class will not be allowed to refuse any challenge. The other students have the right to refuse your challenge."

Many students looked at Su Yu.

One of them said, "So we can't challenge anyone without getting into the top 10?"

"Yes." Liu Hong smiled, "That is a measure to protect the weaker students and give them more space to grow."

Everyone looked at Su Yu again.

Someone said, "Class Monitor, you're in a bad condition today. I'm afraid you won't get into the top three. We won't be holding back either."

They could see that Su Yu's willpower had suffered some damage. Thus, they wanted to squeeze Su Yu out of the top three so that he wouldn't challenge Lin Yao in that condition.

Su Yu was feeling helpless. So were they helping him or were they standing in his way? After all, he would get 10 merit points if he could place first. Also, if he couldn't get into the top three, the promised 1,300 merit points would be gone.

Su Yu smiled and said, "Everyone, just do your best. Don't let me affect your performance. Your results will be kept in your records. I know some of you have offered to help me reach the top three without doing anything..."

Su Yu's face turned solemn, "Don't do that! Don't ruin your future because of me! Just do your best or I would feel bad staying as your fellow classmate!"

"If I fail to get into the top three, that would be my own problem. If I can't get it this time, I can simply try again next month! Therefore, don't hold back. That is the same as disrespecting me. No matter what, I'm a genius as well, right? I'm the only high-high student in our class. It would be too embarrassing to have my fellow students hold back so that I can get into the top three. Guys, I still care about my reputation."

Toward the end, Su Yu adopted a joking tone. When the other students heard that, some who were planning to hold back turned solemn as well. Yes, holding back would be a form of insult against their class monitor.

Su Yu said, "Also, be sure to do well in the exam. I am the class monitor. If our class does poorly, then that would reflect on me. That would be considered a dereliction of duty on my part. I might even get my merit points deducted for that..."

Su Yu laughed and continued, "Assistant Liu is right here. If I end up having my merit points deducted, you guys would have to compensate me."

"Who would dare to say that our class monitor isn't performing his duties well?" Liu Wu roared, "Class Monitor is the first person to arrive and the last person to leave every single day. Before deducting our class monitor's merit points, they have to get through all 600 of us first!"

"That's right!"

In front of the class, Liu Hong had the same bright smile on his face, looking like he had heard nothing. Was this brat scheming against him? This scheme was not good enough against someone like him. He was completely unbothered by it.

Liu Hong waited until the students were almost done talking before interrupting them with a cough. He then smiled and said, "Since you're done talking, we should get started with the exam. The first test is the culture test. The monthly exam is mainly for the purpose of measuring your growth. Thus, the languages that you have tested for during the entrance exam won't be tested again. That would be pointless.

"Instead, your growth during the past month will be the focus here. For the culture test, you will only be tested for the language and Divine Character classes you have signed up for during the past month.

"The rules are similar to the entrance exam. Each set of questions will grant you a maximum of 10 marks. You guys will be the ones to decide how many marks you can get. The more classes you have signed up for during the past month, the higher your maximum score will be.

"This is an academy. Here, we teach according to the students' ability. Your ability will decide your score. Nobody will stop you if you only sign up for one language class. But in that case, you won't be able to get more than 10 marks during the test. Therefore, you will have nobody to blame but yourself for your bad result."

He looked at Su Yu and continued, "Student Su Yu, you have signed up for 15 classes during the past month. Manage your time properly during the test. You don't want to end up getting only 20 or 30 marks out of 150 marks. That would be embarrassing. I can see that you're in a bad condition today. You can also give up on the exam."

Su Yu looked up at Liu Hong. A smile formed on his pale face as he said, "Teacher, I'll do my best."

When Liu Hong saw the smile on Su Yu's face, he was slightly stunned. Why was that little bastard learning from him? He felt uncomfortable seeing his trademark smile on Su Yu's face.

"That's good to hear. Do well and don't try to cheat. If anyone thinks that you'll be able to cheat in front of me...you're welcomed to try."

...

The test papers were soon distributed to the students. Each student was given a different set of questions in accordance to the classes they had signed up for. Standardized examination questions did not exist in the cultural research academy. The students were the ones determining the maximum score they could get.

And there was no limit to the maximum score one could get. Why? Because this was an unfair era. This was an era where the gap between the talented and the untalented was massive.

Some of the students had only signed up for two or three classes. Some had signed up for a lot of classes, like Su Yu. In truth, he had not voluntarily signed up for all the classes. He simply had no choice since he was the class monitor. He had to be present for all classes.

Looking at his examination papers, a dizzy spell assaulted him. His willpower was still damaged. And since he didn't have the chance to recover, his head was hurting badly.

Fortunately, he was already used to such pain. Back when he first started having his nightmares, he would suffer from similar headaches in the mornings as well. He had been able to continue going to school despite that by slowly getting used to the pain.

He was only looking so bad right now because it had been a while since he last suffered from a nightmare.

He had received 15 sets of questions. 12 of them were related to different languages while 3 of them were related to Divine Characters. He rubbed his temple and started answering the questions.

Chapter 183: Monthly Examination, Mental Tempering Stage (2)

After staying in front of the classroom for a short while, Liu Hong leisurely walked out. He was heading toward the senior class. The senior class was also taking the monthly examination today.

Outside the classroom, he looked through the window and saw that all the geniuses this year were present. As the largest faculty in the academy, the Character Faculty was filled with talented students.

Xia Chan, Wu Lan, Zheng Yunhui, Xia Huyou, Lin Yao, Wan Mingze from the Wan Family, Zhao Shiji from the Zhao Family, and Hu Qiusheng from the Hu Family. Hu Zongji, who Su Yu had encountered on his way to the academy, was also in the senior class.

There were a lot of them. But Liu Hong's attention was not on these geniuses. Instead, his attention was on some other students. There were a few abnormal students in the class this year.

A few of the pavilion elders who had not intended to accept students this year had suddenly accepted a few students. The news shocked the higher ups of the academy. And the students they had accepted were all extremely mysterious.

It was rumored that these were the hidden trump cards of the various families. This year, they had all appeared due to the Foreign Student Faculty.

Of the abnormal students, one was sleeping on the desk. One was staring blankly at the ceiling. One was...snacking on sunflower seeds.

Liu Hong frowned before muttering to himself, "These are the hidden trump cards of the various families? Why haven't I heard of them before this? Have they been accumulating these geniuses for a few years without letting them enter the academy? Something feels off about these fellows."

They seemed completely fearless and had no respect for anyone else. They weren't exactly arrogant and domineering, but they were dismissive of everyone. Even when they met Liu Hong, they would only give him a perfunctory nod and nothing else.

"Looks like troubled times are really upon us. All sorts of people are appearing nowadays."

Liu Hong continued staring at the weird students. One of them seemed to have sensed his gaze. The chubby young man turned his head and looked at Liu Hong before flashing a wide smile at him.

Liu Hong could see the breadcrumbs on the fatty's teeth. This fellow was definitely eating during the test. Liu Hong did not say anything and walked away. After he left, the abnormal students started conversing through voice transmission.

"I'm not doing this anymore. Why do we need to sit for the monthly exam as well? It has been decades since I last took an exam. Why do I need to do this?"

"Yeah. This is so boring. I want to go back and sleep."

"I still need to go back to my research. But Wan Tiansheng warned that if any of us dares to run off, that person would suffer. That bastard..."

The instructor in the class was completely oblivious to the ongoing conversation. He could see that those students weren't taking the test seriously, but he couldn't be bothered to do anything about it. The students would have to be responsible for their own results.

As the fake students conversed, they started talking about the students like zoo animals. One of them said, "Look at Xia Chan from the Xia Family. She's not bad at all. No wonder she's one of the freaks. But how did she get accepted under Zhou Mingren? Is Fatty Xia colluding with Zhou Mingren?"

"Who knows? But Xia Chan is really very different from Fatty Xia. Xia Huyou resembles Fatty Xia more. I almost suspected that Fatty Xia is the one pretending to be Xia Huyou. Good thing I saw Fatty Xia two days ago so I'm now sure that they're not the same person."

"Xia Huyou is the prefect's son. Don't mess around. It's not surprising that Fatty Xia's grandnephew resembles him. Be careful with what you say. If the prefect hears this, you might need to watch out for his blade."

"Cough, cough. Stop talking nonsense. Shut up. Xia Huyou has never liked cultivating since young. Instead, he likes researching. And he had even stayed at Fatty Xia's place for about eight years. It's normal for him to resemble Fatty Xia."

"Let's stop talking about those from the Xia Family. None of them is a good person. As for Wan Mingze, he doesn't resemble Wan Tiansheng at all. Wan Tiansheng was quite a domineering person in his youth. Why does this kid feel all gloomy and sinister?"

"It's not like he's from Wan Tiansheng's direct line. He's the grandson of Wan Tiansheng's elder brother. It's not weird that they don't resemble each other."

"True. As for the Hu Family, this Hu Qiusheng kid is quite interesting. He looks more promising than Hu Wensheng..."

The old fogeys continued commenting about the students.

Eventually, they started talking about Wu Lan. One of them said, "This girl is quite talented, but she's somewhat...silly and arrogant. She always lifts her head loftily and shows her nostrils to others. If it wasn't for the fact that I'm afraid of her grandaunt, I would have sent her flying with a slap long ago. The last time she looked at me, she was practically facing me with her nostrils."

"Cough, cough. How old are you already? Don't take a little girl seriously," someone teased. "She's like that no matter who she's facing. This is only a phase. After gaining more experience, she will change. She isn't a bad person. She's just somewhat silly."

They started laughing through their voice transmission, but none of them were physically laughing. From the outside, nothing seemed to have changed. The one who was sleeping was still sleeping. The one who was eating was still eating. After a while, their topic of conversation reached Su Yu.

"What do you think about Bai Feng's student?"

"I never met him. I don't know."

"Do you think he has any hope against Lin Yao?"

"Lin Yao might really lose. Bai Feng isn't dumb. He's very shrewd. If there is really no chance, he would have gotten involved already. Since he's ignoring the whole challenge, he must be confident in his student."

"Alright. Forget about those students. Let's talk about Liu Hong. Why did he suddenly apply to be the head counselor? Also, he has recently entered a secret grotto and entered the eighth-stage Skysoar Realm. After that, he stopped cultivating and spent his time walking around in the academy. What is that kid planning?"

"Who knows? That kid is obviously a bad guy. He has been spying on us from behind earlier. I think he's suspecting something about us. Hehe, if any of you end up discovered by him, you would be the one to lose face, not me. Imagine if news of a bunch of pavilion elders acting young and pretending to be students spread. Tsk tsk. You wouldn't be able to show your face in the academy anymore."

"Shall we beat him up him secretly and force him to enter seclusion due to injuries? That way, he won't be able to keep spending his time observing us."

"Piss off. Do that yourself if you want. I'm not doing something so embarrassing." Another person laughed and said, "That little fatty from the Xia Family is taking bets for Su Yu's match with Lin Yao. Since Fatty Xia has been trying to cut our salary, why don't we place some bets as well?"

"Bets? What are the odds?"

"1.5 if you're betting on Su Yu and 1.1 if you're betting on Lin Yao. The pot has been growing. I heard that at least 1,000 merit points have already been placed on Lin Yao. And this is just starting."

"What?"

"So are we betting on Su Yu? We can only earn more if there is an upset, right? And the Xia Family is rich enough to pay us even if we win big."

Someone else said, "Why bother betting? We're going to eat the entire pot. Wait until the pot grows large and we'll raid it for illegal betting. The entire pot would be ours. Why bother placing bets? Who are we? We are pavilion elders! We are Mountainsea experts! Why bother playing with those kids? We're taking everything!"

"..."

The other elders sank into silence. They all looked at the one who had spoken with admiration. What a ruthless elder. They couldn't help but to admire him. They were planning to place bets and win a little bit of money, but that fellow intended to take everything. What a scumbag.

The elder added, "After the raid, we can also arrest Xia Huyou and fine him. Get the Xia Family to pay the fine for his release. Hehe...eating the entire pot is not enough. We need to get Fatty Xia to spit out some money too!"

"Would Fatty Xia pay?"

"He's too stingy. Would he actually pay? I think he'll just ignore us."

The same elder said, "You don't understand. Of course Fatty Xia won't pay. It's the prefect's son anyway. Who would dare to do anything to Xia Huyou? Us elders can't touch him too. But who are we right now? We're now students!"

He grinned and said, "We're all Mental Tempering Stage students. It's fine. We'll just give Xia Huyou a beating every few days. We'll do the same to Xia Chan as well. If Fatty Xia refuses to pay, we'll beat them up every single day."

"..."

The other elders looked at him with disdain. What a shameless guy. Was he really treating himself as a student? How shameless. Then again, that was quite a good idea. This way, they would be able to have their payback against those who had offended them before.

Fatty Xia's juniors, Old Hu's juniors, Old Zheng's juniors...all those people could be beaten up! Sure, they couldn't touch those juniors as elders. But they were now students!

...

While the elders were busy scheming.

Su Yu was taking the test with a dazed mind. A lot of students were able to finish their test early, but he only managed to barely finish before the time was up. Liu Hong was already back in the classroom.

Many of the papers had already been marked. After Su Yu was done with his, the papers flew toward Liu Hong with a wave of his hand. After a quick scan at the papers, he said, "120 marks. An average result. You did poorly in a few of the languages. You could've answered some of the questions correctly, but for some reason, you got them wrong."

Su Yu did not say anything. His mind was still in a bad state.

"For the culture test, you place third. Wang Yun has the first place with 140 marks. Qian Hong is in second place with 130 marks. You and Hu Ming are in third place with 120 marks."

Liu Hong was able to directly list the placing of the students from memory. Su Yu wasn't the only student who had signed up for many classes. Some of them had only signed up for so many classes because of Su Yu. They were inspired after seeing how hard Su Yu worked.

Su Yu was silent. He had barely gotten into the top three with 120 marks. However, this was not over yet.

"The willpower and Divine Character test will be held in the afternoon." Liu Hong indifferently said, "Like the entrance exam, you will be taking the test within the range of a Mark of Culture. It's easy to score too. The score you get later minus your score during the entrance exam will be your final score. The academy cares more about your growth, not what your elders have given you prior to this. Therefore, some of you might even end up with a negative score."

Negative score! Liu Hong was clearly talking about Su Yu. He had walked 27 meters to get 270 marks during the entrance examination. If he couldn't perform better this time, he would receive a negative score. The academy was doing this to encourage their students to keep growing.

Su Yu couldn't even be bothered to give Liu Hong a response. He would be able to recover after taking a short rest before the afternoon. Did Liu Hong really think that he would stay in this condition for the entire day?

Su Yu would absolutely not allow Liu Hong's wish to come true! He swore to get a high score in the afternoon and anger Liu Hong to death.

...

After the morning examination was over, Su Yu did not spend any time with his fellow students and went back to the research center directly due to his bad condition. After a short nap, he went to the filter room for a short cultivation session. It was there that he noticed something different about himself.

In the filter room.

Su Yu blinked his eyes in confusion. Had he...broken through? He was really unsure. Prior to this, he had been able to vaguely sense his willpower. But today, he was sensing something different.

Rather than sensing his willpower, he seemed capable of seeing it now. Prior to the Mental Tempering Stage, most students were forced to imagine the presence of their willpower. But today, he was able to see his willpower with his eyes.

When he focused on his sleeve, he saw something piercing through it. In his vision, a transparent needle had pierced through his sleeve. It was said that only upon reaching the Mental Tempering Stage would one be able to properly sense the existence of willpower.

And now, Su Yu was able to clearly see his own willpower. That transparent needle was something he had formed with his willpower.

"Did I really reach the Mental Tempering Stage?"

Su Yu was completely stunned. Wasn't it said that there was a bottleneck before reaching the Mental Tempering Stage? Why hadn't he felt anything? He had reached the Mental Tempering Stage just like that?

Weird.

Su Yu blinked in confusion. Was his advancement due to his excessive exhaustion the previous night? His willpower had finally grown after a rest? After all, reading a Mountainsea willpower text was a form of willpower tempering. Additionally, he had also spent the night taming a Divine Character.

"I'm at the Mental Tempering Stage..."

Su Yu muttered to himself. Suddenly, he recalled something.

Cultural weapon!

Could he use cultural weapons now?

Holy shit!

Had he suddenly grown much stronger than before?

"Since I've reached the Mental Tempering Stage, I can start learning the teachings of the multiple character faction, right?"

He would have a lot more things to do after reaching the Mental Tempering Stage. He was looking forward to it, but he soon thought about Lin Yao and Chen Qi. Since he had reached the Mental Tempering Stage, wouldn't those two lose terribly against him?

"So I reached the Mental Tempering Stage just like this?"

Su Yu was happy, but he was also disappointed. Where was the promised bottleneck? Where was it? Why was there no bottleneck? How sad. He felt no sense of accomplishment breaking through like this.

When he checked the time and saw that the afternoon examination was drawing near, he forced himself to stop feeling sad. He would go take the examination before telling his teacher about his breakthrough.

He was still feeling quite upset, though. He had been looking forward to crushing his bottleneck for quite a while. Alas, no bottleneck had appeared for him. All that anticipation had been for nothing.

Chapter 184: Crisis (1)

The afternoon examination wasn't held in the classroom. It was held in the Dao Preaching District. There were several big public squares there for the purpose of lectures. Su Yu had not been to this place much. He had heard that at times, there would be researchers here to give free lectures, but he had been too busy recently to visit this place.

For the afternoon examination, Liu Hong was not the only Skysoar cultivator present. The instructors were not Skysoar cultivators, so they had no way of supervising tests involving willpower and Divine Characters. And for this test, not only the intermediate class students were present.

...

Public square #2.

This was the examination venue of the intermediate class. Beside them was public square #1 where the senior class was taking their examination. Both were the students from this year's intake.

There were also students from the other batches taking the examination today, but they were taking different examinations so they weren't here. As for public square #3, it was the examination venue for the junior class students.

Su Yu arrived quite late. Everyone knew that he was unwell today so nobody was surprised that he was late. They were relieved to see that some color had returned to his face. At the very least, he had recovered somewhat.

The moment he arrived, someone softly said, "Class Monitor, the senior class students are taking the exam here too. Lin Yao would definitely be here..."

Su Yu nodded, "So be it."

Liu Wu said, "That's not the issue. You're unwell today. What if...cough, what if you get a negative score today? Wouldn't those bastards take that chance to humiliate you?"

He was worried for Su Yu. He had heard about the senior class students doubting Su Yu's high-high evaluation. If Su Yu ended up with a negative score today, that would be very humiliating.

According to the rumors, there was a problem with the Mark of Culture during the Nanyuan examination. And today, they were going to take a Mark of Culture test again. Liu Wu was feeling nervous for Su Yu. After all, reputation was very important for a young man like Su Yu.

"It's fine."

Su Yu glanced at the nearby public square #1. There weren't a lot of people there. The senior class had much fewer students than the intermediate class. But in truth, there were quite a lot of students in this year's senior class. There were about a hundred of them. A hundred Mental Tempering Stage students. And this was only a class in the Character Faculty. It was not a small number at all.

...

When Su Yu looked at public square #1, some of the people over there were also looking his way. Very few people in the intermediate class were worth their attention. Only Su Yu was worth a little bit of their attention.

"We're taking the Mark of Culture test today..."

Someone said with a mocking look on his face.

High-high genius, Su Yu.

He was not at the Mental Tempering Stage. He was the first high-high student who was not at the Mental Tempering Stage. Wasn't that weird? And what a coincidence. The Mark of Culture used during the Nanyuan examination was damaged.

What a coincidence!

Today, Su Yu would finally have his true worth tested. If he obtained a negative score, he would be reduced into a joke. Back during the entrance examination, he had obtained 270 marks for this test. That was a score beyond even what many of the senior class students had gotten. Generally, an average Mental Tempering Stage student would only be able to walk 20 meters in that test.

That day, Wu Lan had only walked 18 meters. But she had just reached the Mental Tempering Stage back then. Her willpower hadn't been strong enough. While the senior class students were mocking Su Yu, a certain someone was seething with rage. Su Yu was still looking at them indifferently.

Meanwhile, Wu Lan shouted coldly, "You, get in the ring with me today. I challenge you!"

She was very loud. All three classes heard her. Wu Lan had her head raised high, overlooking a young man in front of her. That young man was none other than Hu Zongji, someone who had traveled to the academy with Su Yu.

Ignoring Hu Zongji's red face, Wu Lan coldly said, "A piece of trash will always remain a piece of trash. Why do you insist on looking for excuses for your worthlessness? Damaged Mark of Culture? Why don't you try getting a high-high evaluation from a damaged Mark of Culture first? What gives a piece of trash like you the qualification to look down on others? Get in the ring. If I can't beat you to death you in three moves, I'll withdraw from the academy!"

Silence descended. Wu Lan was incomparably arrogant.

Yes. She was furious. Because she had also taken her examination in Nanyuan. When these students mocked Su Yu, she felt like they were mocking her as well. How dare a piece of trash like Hu Zongji look down on her?

Sure, she was also the type to look down on others. But it was only natural that she looked down on Hu Zongji. She was a high-high student while he was only a high-middle student. He was not qualified to be making all those snide remarks. He was beneath them.

Hu Zongji's face was flushed red, and he was about to fly into rage out of humiliation. But beside him, someone softly pulled his sleeve and brought his mind back. He clenched his teeth and said, "Wu Lan, I wasn't talking about you..."

"Piece of trash. You don't have the guts to admit what you've done?" Wu Lan berated, "You're nothing except a treacherous slime. You only dare to talk about others behind their back. Even with a broken Mark of Culture, a piece of trash like you wouldn't be able to get a high-high evaluation. And now, you're trying to deny what you've done? What an embarrassing piece of trash."

Wu Lan looked around and snorted coldly, "Anyone who disagrees with me is free to come after me. I'll accept all challenges. What a bunch of useless fools. Because you couldn't get a high-high evaluation, you slander others and look for excuses to cover your incompetence."

Her gaze landed on one of the students and said disdainfully, "What are you looking at? If you keep looking at me, it means you're one of those pieces of trash too. Don't think that I haven't heard what you guys were saying earlier. The next time you run your mouth off in front of me, I'll cripple you."

She was incomparably arrogant.

The student she was berating had an unsightly expression. Wu Lan was too arrogant. Nobody was talking about her. Most of the time, they did not include her when talking about the broken Mark of Culture.

Little did they know, leaving someone out could hurt someone even more. Wu Lan suspected that they believed that she was unworthy of being talked about. Why did they spend their time talking about Su Yu? Why couldn't they talk about her? She was there in Nanyuan as well!

And her result wasn't even as good as Su Yu's! In Wu Lan's opinion, since even Su Yu's result wasn't good enough for them, she must be completely worthless in their eyes. They were all looking down on her! She wouldn't take that silently! Those bastards were too excessive! How dare they say all that in front of her?

...

"Incredible!"

Su Yu wanted to give Wu Lan a thumbs up.

Mighty. Domineering.

Su Yu was feeling very good. He knew he was right. This woman was kind of silly and could be provoked very easily. Just look at her holding a grudge against him even though he hadn't done anything to her.

It was only natural for the senior class students to offend her by harping about the broken Mark of Culture day in and day out. Su Yu wasn't in the position to teach them a lesson, but now, there was Wu Lan!

"Like I said, a little bit of push is enough to make her go after the entire academy. Sure enough, I was right."

Su Yu was very amused. When Wu Lan had her eyes on him, it was really bothersome. But when Wu Lan was doing that against others, it felt incredible! Hu Zongji had been making snide remarks about him for quite a while now. Good. Finally, it was his turn to be humiliated.

Would he dare to fight Wu Lan? Her elder sister was a genius teaching assistant, a ninth-stage Skysoar. Her grandaunt was a Mountainsea and a big shot in the Pillmaking Faculty.

Even the student of her elder sister was a top 100 student. Someone in the Top 100 Ranking was certainly a Mental Tempering Stage student. Wu Lan's elder sister and grandaunt might not be able to touch a student who had provoked Wu Lan, but that wasn't the case for a student. The mood turned frosty.

Next, someone else spoke, "I was there at the Nanyuan examination too. Why am I being used as a negative example every single day after that? Doubting the exam results because of the broken Mark of Culture is basically the same as questioning my integrity."

Someone landed from the sky.

Proctor Huang. He was a proctor during the Nanyuan examination. Huang Yao had been in a bad mood recently. He was getting tired of all these people. What did they know?

Not only had he been fined for the incident, he had also been forced to endure having a bunch of little bastards talking behind his back every single day. Were they blind? Couldn't they see that he had been punished already?

Huang Yao was furious. He was losing control of his temper. These people were doubting his integrity as a proctor! He was already very unhappy after being fined. How could he still control his temper after having these bastards talking about the test held under his watch being unfair repeatedly?

After landing from the sky, Huang Yao coldly said, "When the exam starts, let me see just how incredible all of you are. You better be great since you've been spending your time doubting my judgment. If you do well, I'll have nothing to say. If you do badly, you would only prove that all of you are pieces of trash. And pieces of trash are unqualified to judge others."

He had thought that he was already at peace with himself having reached the middle age. But nothing seemed to be going well for him this year. He was really furious.

The Nanyuan examination was unfair? What a load of nonsense! In his opinion, the Nanyuan examination was the fairest of them all. He had no relationship with Su Yu. Furthermore, he was there to help Liu Hong suppress Su Yu. Thus, nobody deserved his result more than Su Yu. And these idiots had been doubting Su Yu's result for days. Wasn't that the same as doubting him?

"Calm down, Assistant Huang." Someone smiled, "It's just a bunch of kids. Don't mind them."

A teacher of the senior class had arrived. He was a Skysoar cultivator as well. In truth, most of the teachers of the senior class were also researchers instead of mere instructors.

When Huang Yao saw who the newcomer was, he snorted. He held nothing back and said, "Kids? Since they have entered a cultural research academy, all of them are the elites of humanity. They are preparatory soldiers. Who would treat them as children? If you guys continue questioning the fairness of the Nanyuan examination, that would be the same as slandering me. Don't blame me for the measure I'd have to take to address that."

Huang Yao then looked at Su Yu and said, "Su Yu, stop hiding when it is time to show the world what you're really made of. Show them what it means to be a true genius. Don't keep hiding yourself. Keeping a low profile isn't enough to shut the mouth of the ignorant. Only by stepping on them ruthlessly would you teach them that they are the actual pieces of trash."

"Huang Yao..."

The newly arrived teacher looked at Huang Yao in surprise.

Huang Yao had always preferred keeping a low profile. Why was he in such a bad mood today? Was he not afraid that these geniuses would target him after they grew up in the future?

Huang Yao seemed to know what the teacher was thinking about. He indifferently said, "This is the last monthly exam I supervise. I'll be joining the Talent Fostering Bureau next month. I forgot to tell you

about this. I was accepted into the Talent Fostering Bureau due to my contribution during the Nanyuan exam. Interesting, isn't it. That is the same examination with the damaged Mark of Culture."

He spoke with a mocking tone. Wasn't that interesting? He was going to get promoted. He was joining the Talent Fostering Bureau.

Bureau Head Sun might have harshly criticized him, but they were fellow schoolmates and the incident in Nanyuan had ultimately been harmless. Thus, Bureau Head Sun was apologetic after seeing Huang Yao being fined so he had ultimately helped Huang Yao join the Talent Fostering Bureau instead.

The Talent Fostering Bureau was not as influential as the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy, but it was still the official department in charge of education, and the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy was an education institution. His current position as a teaching assistant was nothing compared to the role of a minor official he could get at the bureau.

At that time, even the full researchers in these academies would have to be respectful in front of him. And his trip to Nanyuan was the reason he was able to join the Talent Fostering Bureau. With everyone questioning what he did in Nanyuan repeatedly, he had to stand up for himself or everyone would think that he was a pushover.

"Congratulations!"

Liu Hong and a few other instructors had arrived as well. These instructors would be in charge of helping out with the examination. The three Skysoars would be the main proctors.

Liu Hong smiled, "Assistant Huang's promotion is worthy of celebration. This is just a minor issue. Let's focus on the exam for now."

Huang Yao was still slightly fearful of Liu Hong. He nodded and said, "I don't want to waste my time on these people too, but they have been provoking someone stronger than them repeatedly. If I remain silent, they will start thinking that they can bully me as they wish.

"These people have no respect for others just because of their seniors in the academy. After entering the Talent Fostering Bureau, I will definitely make a suggestion to make some changes to next year's entrance examination. The examination system is in need of an adjustment.

"Let's see what happens. I might propose to deduce 50 marks from the score of each candidate from a large family who has used willpower texts and source qi liquid before."

Boom!

Those words instantly created an uproar. Even Liu Hong's pupils shrunk.

The expression of the other Skysoar changed as he said, "Huang Yao, watch what you say!"

However, Huang Yao seemed to have gone mad as he said, "What is there to fear? I will definitely make this suggestion after entering the Talent Fostering Bureau. I will submit the proposal to the director, to Marquis Xia, and to the prefect. We will crush the dominance of the influential families and allow those with humble origins to rise into prominence as well!"

"The rich and influential families hold the dominant position in the prefecture. Those without any background do not enjoy any benefits the powerful enjoys. Even so, the rich families have still produced a bunch of useless students. What gives you the confidence to make all these snide remarks and question an actual genius from an ordinary family? What a joke!"

Liu Hong was shocked. Huang Yao was definitely not doing all this just because of his anger. He was doing this on purpose. There was definitely a reason for this.

Huang Yao, someone from an ordinary family, had made a declaration that he wanted to break the dominance of the influential families. He was definitely not doing this for nothing. Someone was definitely behind him, using him to test the waters.

They were using Su Yu as an excuse to launch their own play. Something major was really going to happen. Strife was really coming. The conflict between the influential and the common had never stopped.

Chapter 185: Crisis (2)

In the past, those with ordinary backgrounds had never been able to hold power. But over the years, some new experts with humble backgrounds had risen into prominence in the military. Some geniuses from ordinary families had also risen among the cultural researchers. And now, all these people were finally going to join hands.

The students might be confused as to what Huang Yao was really trying to say. They might think that he was angry about what they had said. But Liu Hong knew that something major was really going to happen.

Huang Yao was not a hot-blooded young man. He was not such a rash person. As someone with no background, he wouldn't have been able to join the Talent Fostering Bureau so easily. Someone must be helping him.

Furthermore, he had clearly picked the correct timing to make his declaration. This was a counterattack by those from ordinary families. There might really be a big change for next year's entrance examination.

Huang Yao looked at Su Yu once again and loudly said, "The best way to deal with those doubting your ability is by slapping their faces with your ability! Do your best in the exam today! With me here, nobody would dare to cheat or rig the exam! The Talent Fostering Bureau is watching!"

"Huang Yao!"

"Wang Peiyuan!" Huang Yao shouted back at the other person. "As a teaching assistant and a Skysoar cultural researcher from an ordinary family, is this how you supervise the senior class? What is the point of keeping a bunch of arrogant fools around? Would they even be willing to fight for humanity in the future?"

"Would they end up joining the Myriad Race Cult after some setbacks? What is the difference between these people and the Myriad Race Cult if all they can do is suppress those from ordinary families? If we're going to let this stand, we might as well let the Myriad Race Cult take over! If we're going to be enslaved, why does it matter who our masters are? The stability of humanity relies on all of humanity, not the influential families alone!"

This was an entirely different Huang Yao than the one Su Yu had seen in Nanyuan. When a person gained the will to fight, a goal, a dream, and a belief, many things could change. Huang Yao was still Huang Yao, but he was no longer the same unambitious Huang Yao that was living life aimlessly.

He loudly said, "Cultural researchers from humble backgrounds are just as good as everyone else. We are all contributing to humanity as well. We are all fighting on the battlefield as well. We are bleeding. We are giving. We are also the spine of humanity. Do not feel inferior. Do not be afraid. What is there to fear about the influential families?"

"There is still justice in the Human Realm! The act of suppressing those from ordinary families is bound to fail. I only hope that many years later when all of you have grown strong, you can remember my words today. Do not become the next generation of rich thieves."

"Of course, not all of those from the influential families are useless and evil, but some of them are, and these are the ones ruining their reputation. The Xia Family has ruled Great Xia for many years. I have never seen them bully the weak or misuse their power.

"Principal Wan has run the academy for many years yet I have never seen anyone from the Wan Family acting with arrogance and disregard for the law.

"However, there are some influential families out there who suppress the masses and monopolize any benefit they can get just to keep themselves in power. These people are a stain on Great Xia's reputation. They are the ones keeping the entire humanity from true unity. These people should be executed!"

His declaration was akin to a thunderclap. Numerous gusts of willpower started extending toward the area from all over the academy. Nobody said a single word. Meanwhile, Huang Yao stood there proudly. He felt great. He felt like even if he was to die now, he would have no regrets.

Boom!

Abruptly, his willpower erupted. This middle-aged cultural researcher who had been living a directionless life suddenly broke through after voicing all his frustrations, his aura rising to a level that was stronger than even Liu Hong's aura.

He had not reached the ninth-stage Skysoar Realm, but he did manage to step into the late-stage from the middle-stage.

Seventh-stage Skysoar Realm!

A wide smile bloomed on Huang Yao's face. He was not looking at the students. Instead, he was staring in the direction of the Heart Cultivating Pavilion. There were some students from ordinary families in the crowd. At this moment, all of them felt their blood boiling with fighting spirit. Most of these students were from the junior and intermediate classes.

"Well said, Teacher Huang!"

"Long live Teacher Huang!"

The students cheered. Huang Yao was right. So what if they came from ordinary families? They had climbed up from the very bottom after working much harder than the children of the influential families to finally earn a ticket into the cultural research academy. But upon entering, they were welcomed with disdain. They wanted to tell the influential families that the academy was not their personal playground.

This was only supposed to be a regular monthly examination, but it seemed to have been transformed into the spark of something much larger. This was a clash between the rich and the poor.

...

In the crowd, Su Yu was also getting all hot-blooded, but he soon calmed down. He even felt helpless.

Proctor Huang, you are free to say what you want, but why are you dragging me into this? I'm still trying to keep a low profile! Look what you did! I'm going to turn into some sort of symbol!

Seemingly having read Su Yu's thoughts, Huang Yao suddenly transmitted his voice to Su Yu, "What are you afraid of? Bring glory to those from ordinary families and you will get your support. Your multiple character faction is already in imminent peril. You have plenty of enemies, so a few more enemies won't make a difference. But by doing this, you can gain a large amount of support. You might even gain some

Mountainsea experts as your backers. Of course, if you're really unwilling to do this, continue keeping a low profile and pretend I haven't said anything.

"If you can suppress all the children of the powerful families and rise to prominence as someone from an ordinary family, you will soon find a large amount of support pouring into the multiple character faction. The support will come inside and outside the academy. Your faction will no longer need to fight alone. Even if some people are trying to knock Chen Yong off his position, they would have to see who has the stronger backers.

"We're not doing this to challenge all the powerful families. We only wish to get more opportunities for those from ordinary families. The academy is investing too little on the poor. It is too disappointing. We have been working hard to improve ourselves and contribute to humanity only to be disappointed by our fellow humans. If this continues, nobody would be willing to keep fighting for the human race anymore.

"If even this doesn't work, we will try to open a new academy for the children of ordinary families. There, we will only accept the children of ordinary families. Us cultivators at the Skysoar Realm above will go to the battlefield and earn the resources we need. You can join our academy too. I guarantee that you will receive the greatest support from us!

"We don't want to see the things we fought for on the battlefield benefit only those bastards. And even after all our sacrifice, we still have to endure their disdain. This is intolerable!"

Su Yu was shaken. A new academy for ordinary families? That was too shocking. In fact, that could shock the entire Human Realm. This was no longer a matter of a single academy. Rather, it was a change that would affect the entire humanity.

The experts of the ordinary families were already at the limit of their patience. Any carelessness might result in the conflict blowing out of control. Su Yu was both happy and excited to hear that, but he also felt somewhat uneasy.

He was happy to hear that those from ordinary families would finally be given more chances. He was excited at the prospect of having a new academy that would nurture even more experts from ordinary families. He was uneasy because this might result in a counterattack by the powerful which might even escalate into a civil war.

"Su Yu, don't feel pressured. This is just the start. Perhaps this might drag on until after you reach the Skysoar Realm. This is not something that can happen immediately. But we need to make our voice heard.

"Regardless of whether you're willing to work with us or not, you are undeniably one of us. Your father is a soldier. The small number of experts that have risen from the military are mostly from ordinary families. We are not the only ones unhappy with the academy. The entire military is unhappy with this. They are unhappy that while they are fighting on the front line, their children are being discriminated against back home.

"Therefore, we are making ourselves heard. We are telling everyone that we need more support."

Su Yu inhaled deeply. He did not say anything.

The next moment, Liu Hong seemed to have received an instruction as he smiled and said, "Alright. Assistant Huang, time to start the monthly exam. You can talk about all this some other time. More discussion will be required before any reform can be made on our education system. As for the proposal of deducting marks, that might not necessarily be fair either. We can talk about this in the future. The students are here today for the exam. Don't waste their time."

Huang Yao, who had calmed down, smiled and said, "Sure. Let's start the exam. I heard that there will be a good show after the exam. I'll be around so some people can forget about pulling any dirty tricks. Justice still exists in this world."

After all, Lin Yao was Liu Hong's student. Hearing those words, Liu Hong felt truly aggrieved. He definitely wasn't the one who had ordered Lin Yao to challenge Su Yu. He had merely slightly instigated Lin Yao to do so. But Su Yu himself was a treacherous snake too. He was clearly using that as an opportunity to scam Lin Yao.

Just look at what Su Yu had done. As far as the public was concerned, everything was Lin Yao's fault. Lin Yao was the one coveting Su Yu's blood essence. Su Yu was totally innocent. He was pitiful. He was being bullied.

"Little schemer..."

When Liu Hong looked at Su Yu and saw a nervous face who was uneasy and afraid of being bullied, he was speechless.

"You're overacting..."

Liu Hong even had the urge to remind Su Yu to be mindful of his act. Did that kid really think that he didn't know about the kid's breakthrough?

Did that kid think that he wasn't aware of the Skybreak Technique? The truly pitiful person here was Lin Yao. Liu Hong started wondering if he had been too bad toward his own student. Maybe he should improve his treatment toward his student by a tiny bit. For example, he could always say some comforting words after Lin Yao was defeated.

"Yeah, I'll give him some comforting words. That won't cost me any money anyway..."

Looking at Lin Yao who had just arrived, he couldn't help but to inwardly say that this was as much as he could do for this pitiful student of his unless the Lin Family was willing to give him even more benefits.

It wasn't like Lin Yao's family wasn't aware that Liu Hong was a scumbag before sending that kid his way. It definitely wasn't Liu Hong's fault that Lin Yao had gotten himself a terrible teacher.

Chapter 186: Numerous Thoughts (1)

The examination was finally starting.

Huang Yao acted like he wasn't the one who had said all those words earlier and started focusing on supervising the examination of the junior class. The three Skysoar cultivators were standing near each other. Each of them had arrived with a Mark of Culture.

Wang Peiyuan was in charge of supervising the senior class while Liu Hong was in charge of the intermediate class.

Liu Hong was also acting like nothing had happened. He said, "The three Mark of Cultures contain different Divine Characters, but all three are quite similar as they all create illusions and emit pressure."

"I hope nobody will question the fairness of the exam today. If anyone has an opinion, say it now."

Nobody said anything.

"If there are no questions, let's start the exam now. Students, step into the marked zone and wait."

The students did as told. Each of the three proctors stood in the middle of one public square before taking out a book.

Mark of Culture!

The Divine Characters left behind by dead Mountainsea experts couldn't be preserved for long. These Divine Characters couldn't be turned into secret grottos either. However, they could be passed on as Marks of Culture.

"Begin the test."

With Liu Hong's order, the three Marks of Culture erupted with a faint light. The light spread outward and covered all the students.

...

There was no illusion. There was only pressure, similar to what one would feel when entering the fragment room. At first, Su Yu had thought that he would be faced with illusions. Instead, he only found himself being subjected to an incorporeal pressure.

"Walk forward. The further you go, the better you are."

Liu Hong's voice rang out.

Su Yu was already used to such pressure. In fact, the pressure didn't even feel as heavy as what he was subjected to in the fragment room. He was someone who could last over 40 minutes in the fragment room before reaching the Mental Tempering Stage. He had been improving a lot recently.

He started stepping forward with steady and orderly steps. The pressure was not strong enough to stop him. He soon understood that the monthly examination was actually an opportunity for some of the students to further temper their willpower.

This environment was very similar to the fragment room. Some students couldn't afford to cultivate in such special environments. For these students, the monthly examinations would provide them with a free opportunity to temper their willpower. The longer a student could last, the better the result would be.

"There are no beasts to kill and the pressure is weak. This feels even easier than the entrance examination..." Su Yu muttered to himself.

This pressure was too weak. This felt like a walk in the park for him.

...

Over a thousand students started walking forward.

One minute. Two minutes...

Slowly, some of the students in the junior class started reaching their limit.

One by one, they withdrew.

Some were simply saved by the Skysoar teachers. Those withdrawing this early would get a bad result in the monthly examination. Most of them were from the junior class. A few were from the intermediate class. Those who had withdrawn so early looked dispirited. Not a single student from the senior class had withdrawn thus far.

Under the effect of the Marks of Culture, the students couldn't see or converse with each other. But not everyone could be restricted by the Marks of Culture.

Senior class.

The fake students started conversing among themselves.

"So how far should we walk?"

"This Mark of Culture was left behind by that fellow, right? What a pity. I wonder if I can leave a Divine Character behind after dying as well..."

"I want to leave a Divine Character behind as well, but I want mine to be powerful enough to be transformed into a secret grotto that can be passed on for eternity."

Eventually, their topic reached Huang Yao.

"What's up with Huang Yao?"

"That's probably the counterattack of some people. They're trying to give some pressure to Great Xia and the academy. Just ignore them. If the conflict gets out of control, they will just be thrown at the Allheaven Battlefield."

"True. Everyone would learn to be obedient after reaching that place," said one of them with an amused grin. "It's fine to fight among themselves here, but if they dare to do this on the battlefield, hehe. Those old fossils would teach them a lesson they could never forget."

The people even these elders were calling old fossils were definitely ancient.

At the mention of those old fossils, some of them shivered.

"Those old fossils are inhuman. Back during my first visit there, I only spoke a little too much. In the end, I was dropped alone at the Frost Purgatory. Damn it. I was hunted by over a thousand demon beasts there...

"I was nearly swallowed alive by those beasts. In the end, the fellow who got into an argument with me was the one to save me. I remember the old fossil saying that if I died there, he would die after me. Even now, I still remember that experience."

"Consider yourself lucky," said another elder with a sigh. "Those old fossils are truly heartless. Back then, we got into a conflict with the pillmakers. The old fossil assigned a pillmaker to our team and said that if he dies, all of us will die as well. And damn, all of us nearly died trying to protect that fellow on the battlefield."

The elders started laughing bitterly as they remembered their past. There were barely any inner conflicts among humanity in the Allheaven Battlefield. Why? Those who had been there would understand.

Oh, you didn't get along well with someone? Great! Both of you could go out on a mission together. If one died, the other would be executed. Oh, you were a genius? They wouldn't dare to kill a genius? Dream on!

Why would Invincible experts care about how much of a genius you were? Killing you was the same as killing a chicken for them.

Your factions didn't get along well? Great. Both factions could go on a mission together. If one faction returned with fewer members than the other faction, they would kill the surviving members until both factions had the exact same number of survivors.

That was a bloody lesson. And those old fossils did not care what others thought of them. On the battlefield, everyone needed to be obedient. The Allheaven Battlefield was a battlefield of the myriad realms. It was incomparably dangerous. There was no room for internal conflicts there.

And the old fossils did not have the time to manage all the internal conflicts. Nor would they waste their time placating those who didn't get along well with each other. For them, you either survive or die.

Every single one of these elders had suffered one such baptism in the battlefield during their youth. Without suffering, one would not learn. While they were conversing, more and more students withdrew.

Before reaching the Mental Tempering Stage, it would be hard for one to even walk 10 meters. At this point, more and more students from the intermediate class were starting to withdraw as well. Meanwhile, not a single senior class student had withdrawn.

"Xia Chan has walked 14 meters. That's quite fast."

"Wan Mingze is not bad either. He has walked just as far but he looks like he is still holding back."

"That kid from Zheng Family is quite good. I thought he would be a brute like his grandpa, but look. He has already walked 12 meters. Physical cultivation won't help in this test..."

The elders continued remarking about the students like they were mere observers.

Suddenly, someone berated them, "You! If you keep staying still, all of you will be thrown out of the circle!"

The elders cursed inwardly. Huang Yao was growing more and more gutsy. The only reason they weren't moving was because they didn't know how far they should walk. Forget it. They would be magnanimous and let him off this one time. They started walking and caught up to Zheng Yunhui in no time.

Then, they stopped walking again. "This test is not good enough. We need to let the students see their competitors. Only then would they have the motivation to walk further. If they can't see anyone, they won't feel any pressure."

"That's right."

"Why don't we alter the Marks of Culture?"

"What if they discover us?"

"That's easy. One of you withdraws and returns as an elder. It would be perfectly normal for an elder to alter the test in order to further motivate the students. All of us have forgotten about this after so many years of not overseeing any tests. This test should have changed long ago. If we weren't here, I doubt any of us would remember this."

When they were young, they had thought of this as well. But after growing strong, they had forgotten about it. A short while later, they made their decision. One of them withdrew from the test. They did not care about their placing on the examination anyway.

...

More time passed and more and more students withdrew.

Right that moment, Liu Hong frowned as someone appeared from the sky. That person seemed to be passing by when he curiously said, "Huh? Monthly exam? Why are you guys still doing it in such an outdated manner after all these years?"

Several beams of light descended from the sky. The beams shot into the three Marks of Culture. Next, the world around all the students still in the test changed. Instead of a blank space, they were now seeing other people around them.

They could see their fellow students. They could see the teachers. They could even see the Marks of Culture at the center of the squares. However, the same pressure was still crushing down on them. And they were still within the illusory land. The only difference was that they could see the others around them.

The students were confused, but Liu Hong reacted immediately. He looked at the sky and loudly said, "Thank you, Elder Zhang for modifying the Marks of Culture."

"It's no big deal."

The elder flashed and vanished from the sky. A short while later, a student who had vanished from the group of senior class students who had withdrawn from the test reappeared. However, nobody had noticed his disappearance and reappearance.

Only then did Su Yu and the other students realize that an elder was passing by and had improved the Marks of Culture. This was an understandable change. Only by seeing each other would the students have more motivation and pressure.

Su Yu was initially quite happy with how far he had walked, but now, he discovered that he had only walked over 10 meters. And near him were a few intermediate class students. As for the senior class, there were at least 40 students who had walked as far as him. Xia Chan was already approaching 20 meters.

Instantly, Su Yu felt greatly pressured. The other students were similarly shocked at the number of remaining class students. Some of the genius students had arrogantly believed that they were definitely at the lead. But now that they could see the number of remaining students, their relaxed expressions vanished.

Meanwhile, the fake students in the senior class were laughing secretly. They should have done this long ago. How would these students gain more motivation without sufficient pressure?

Chapter 187: Numerous Thoughts (2)

At the same time, Liu Hong was muttering to himself that the modification of the test had been proposed a long time ago. But the Marks of Culture were left behind by Mountainsea experts so regular cultivators weren't able to modify them. The pavilion elders were all too mysterious and busy, so none of the elders had taken any action after the recommendation.

But now, an elder had actually appeared during a normal monthly examination. Was this really a coincidence? Or was the elder here for some specific students? While Liu Hong was thinking, the students continued withdrawing one after another.

Only one student from the junior class was left, and that student was struggling to remain. Having walked 15 meters, that student was pretty impressive. In fact, that result was even better than the result of a majority of the intermediate class students.

When Liu Hong looked over, he nodded. This student would be promoted to the intermediate class after this monthly examination. It was an impressive achievement to be promoted into the next class in only one month.

Generally, only Mental Tempering Stage students could walk 20 meters. It was either that or outliers like Su Yu who was able to walk far relying on the strength his two Divine Characters gave him despite not being in the Mental Tempering Stage.

...

18 meters, 19 meters...

Su Yu increased his pace. The pressure on him was getting stronger and stronger. Not only was the strength of his willpower tested, but its tenacity was tested as well. The longer he stayed, the greater the pressure.

About eight senior class students had walked over 20 meters thus far. Gradually, Su Yu pulled apart from the other intermediate class students. Eventually, there were no longer any students walking alongside him.

He looked at public square #1 curiously. Someone there happened to be looking his way as well. It was Lin Yao. With a pale face and a gloomy expression, he clenched his teeth and continued walking.

He had just discovered that he hadn't even walked as far as Su Yu. His motivation instantly surged as he pushed himself to go further. That was also the case for Hu Zongji.

These two were probably the ones to feel the most threatened by this. Hu Zongji had been believing that Su Yu's high-high evaluation was a fluke. He had been confident that he was better. Now, he was finally feeling the pressure.

For some reason, Xia Huyou looked completely relaxed in the test. Sure, he might be wobbling as he walked, as though? he might withdraw at any moment, but he was able to keep walking forward. He was even able to look around him curiously. It was clear that this fellow was still not at his limit yet.

While the students were pushing themselves, Liu Hong heard a voice transmission. He hurriedly nodded. The voice transmission came from the previous elder. That person had not left. He was observing in secret.

Liu Hong said, "Current first place of the senior class, Xia Chan at 25 meters."

"Current first place of the intermediate class, Su Yu at 22 meters."

"The test for the junior class is officially over. Sun Fei placed first with a result of 16 meters."

"Everyone else, keep going. Even the weakest top 100 student can walk over 40 meters. I hope you guys will not be too far behind them."

The moment he said those words, a few senior class students increased their pace. This was too humiliating. Su Yu had actually walked 22 meters!

...

After about three minutes, Liu Hong continued announcing, "First place of the senior class, Xia Chan at 29 meters."

"Su Yu of the middle class, 25 meters. The test is over for everyone in the middle class except Su Yu."

Su Yu was the sole remaining student on public square #2. Meanwhile, there were around 50 students remaining on public square #1. A majority of them had walked over 20 meters.

Su Yu walked silently as beads of sweat formed on his forehead. This was quite difficult. During the entrance examination, he had walked 27 meters relying on his Divine Characters. Today, he wasn't using any Divine Character. He had relied entirely on his willpower.

Of his three Divine Characters, the kill character was still somewhat damaged. However, he could still use it if he wanted. It would simply be weaker than its undamaged form.

"29 meters..."

Su Yu looked at Xia Chan and her steady steps. He couldn't help but be impressed. Her willpower was much stronger than his.

He didn't know if she had used any Divine Characters yet, but she didn't seem pressured even after walking 29 meters. Sure enough, this woman was one of the obstacles in his path of cultivation. He couldn't allow himself to be defeated by her!

...

After three more minutes.

"Xia Chan, 33 meters."

"Su Yu, 28 meters."

Huang Yao also joined in, "Hu Zongji is out at 24 meters."

"Wang Zhiqiang withdraws at 25 meters."

The moment those words were said, the faces of Hu Zongji and the other student turned red in embarrassment.

They were the two who had been making snide remarks about Su Yu earlier, resulting in Wu Lan losing her temper. If the teachers had not arrived when they did, the two would probably have a hard time dealing with her. But now, they were thoroughly humiliated.

Huang Yao was definitely doing this deliberately. Weren't these two the loudest when it came to questioning the Nanyuan examination? Well, let's see if they could continue doing so after this.

Huang Yao added, "The Mark of Culture is probably undamaged this time. Of course, if you don't believe it, you are free to go and experience it yourself."

Nobody said anything.

After a short moment, the intermediate class students started booing the two students. They looked down on the two. They might not be as good as these two, but they still felt great seeing those two getting slapped in their faces by their own words. Served them right!

The two felt terrible. Both of them had actually grown decently during the past month. They hadn't been able to walk this far during the entrance examination. Otherwise, they would have gotten high-high evaluations as well.

But they were not the only ones improving. In the senior class, walking a result of 25 meters wasn't too bad, but it wasn't excellent either.

Nobody noticed that Wu Lan was already starting to struggle when she suddenly gained a new burst of strength upon hearing Huang Yao's announcement. No! She would not allow herself to be humiliated like that too!

She was afraid that Huang Yao would announce her result next. She had just reached 25 meters. She had improved considerably, but this was basically Wang Zhiqiang's result. Just a moment ago, she had been shouting insults at them. If she ended up getting the same result as them, it would be too embarrassing.

And an even bigger portion of her motivation came from Su Yu. He had improved yet again! Wu Lan clenched her teeth and looked completely rejuvenated. She would not allow herself to be embarrassed in public. But in truth, not many people were paying attention to her.

...

"Xia Chan, 36 meters."

"Wan Mingze, 35 meters."

"Hu Qiusheng, 34 meters. Zhao Shiji, 34 meters. Zheng Yunhui, 33 meters. Su Yu, 32 meters..."

Once again, the results were announced. This time, Su Yu and Xia Chan weren't the only ones announced. Rather, the names of those who had walked past 30 meters were all announced.

Liu Hong nonchalantly said, "Everyone is doing well. Keep going. At present, none of you have shown the potential to enter the top 100. The gap between you and the top 100 students is still quite big."

Even the weakest top 100 student could walk 40 meters. And this test only measured one's willpower and Divine Characters. A top 100 student would also have a far stronger physical body and martial techniques. Simply put, not one of these new students were ready to enter the Top 100 Ranking.

Liu Hong was not surprised by Su Yu's result. That kid seemed to have reached the Mental Tempering Stage. That was far faster than he had expected.

At that moment, Wu Lan, who had walked 27 meters, finally stopped. She looked completely discouraged. She was defeated yet again. This time, she wasn't defeated by Su Yu alone. Instead, she had lost to a lot of people. A piece of trash. Maybe she should call herself that too. In the eyes of those people, she was probably a piece of trash.

...

"They're really quite impressive."

Su Yu's eyes were glowing while his blood character was shining brightly inside his head. He was using his blood character to battle the willpower pressure. The character had been pushed to its limit and he had managed to walk 32 meters. But when he looked at the senior class, he saw that there were even more incredible students there.

"Good. This is good. I was afraid that I won't have any motivation to push myself more, but it looks like there are really quite a lot of geniuses around."

Next, the lightning character lit up. Su Yu took another step forth. The willpower pressure crushed down on him, but his steps remained steady. He did not think that he was any less talented than any of these people.

At that moment, Huang Yao's voice rang out, "Lin Yao, stopping at 30 meters. Not bad."

He did not forget to give Lin Yao a small praise. This was indeed a decent result. But Lin Yao wasn't happy at all. In fact, he had a dark expression. Back during the entrance examination, he had been able to walk quite far as well. He wouldn't have gotten a high-tier evaluation otherwise. His result today was an improvement of his previous result, but it wasn't too big.

Of course, he would still be happy with his result if there was no Su Yu around. But he had actually lost to Su Yu.

After leaving the Mark of Culture's range, he looked at Su Yu. When he saw the light Su Yu's body was emitting, he frowned and said, "He's at the Mental Tempering Stage already?"

He was able to see it. In fact, almost all the Mental Tempering Stage students had noticed it. Su Yu had entered the Mental Tempering Stage. At that moment, Su Yu erupted with another burst of strength and took more steps forward. Before long, his lightning character started weakening. Su Yu cursed and had the two Divine Characters fuse.

He had attempted this fusion several times and nothing had gone wrong before. Thus, he did not mind trying even though he knew that character fusion could be very dangerous. After the two characters fused, he took a few more steps forward.

Liu Hong, who was keeping the Mark of Culture active for Su Yu, was shocked by the burst of power. Inwardly, he rejoiced that he had taken the lesson from Huang Yao's punishment and had used a lot of his willpower on this Mark of Culture, ensuring that it would have sufficient energy to keep running properly.

How did that kid suddenly grow so energetic? He was clearly at his limit just a moment ago.

"Xia Chan, 38 meters. Wan Mingze, 37 meters. Su Yu, 36 meters."

Chapter 188: Numerous Thoughts (3)

By the time that announcement was made, Su Yu was already at his limit. He started considering using the kill character. This character had only been tamed last night and it was still in a damaged state.

But at this point, he had no choice. This was too embarrassing. He couldn't accept losing to a girl. He was still a hot-blooded young man, so it was understandable that he couldn't accept this. His third Divine Character started stirring.

Next, faint traces of a baleful aura started coming out of his body. The other students couldn't sense it, but the elders and the Skysoar teachers present all looked at Su Yu.

Liu Hong was astonished. Was this a new Divine Character? Or a new ability? It felt quite powerful! Once more, Su Yu stepped forward.

Liu Hong hurriedly said, "Su Yu, 39 meters..."

This was the very first time Su Yu had walked ahead of Xia Chan. But at that point, he reached his limit. He was pushed back several steps with beads of sweat on his forehead. He had really reached his limit for real.

Unless he merged the three Divine Characters, he wouldn't be able to go further. If he was still in Nanyuan, he might really try it. But he didn't dare. The more he learned, the more timid he seemed to have become.

"Xia Chan, 40 meters."

At that moment, a faint layer of golden light appeared around Xia Chan's body. With a roar, she took another heavy step forward. She staggered, but she continued pushing herself.

"41 meters..."

"Wan Mingze, 40 meters."

One after another, the freaks started pushing themselves. Wan Mingze's hair started fluttering about as he rushed forth, but when he reached 40 meters, he started trembling. At this point, everyone knew that this test was near its end.

Apart from Xia Chan and Wan Mingze, nobody had managed to break the record of 40 meters. It was also at that moment that Su Yu stopped forcing himself and withdrew at 39 meters.

He did not appear discouraged. It was normal for his willpower to be weaker than theirs. They were truly strong. They might even be at the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage already. And they might also have more Divine Characters formed than him.

...

Senior class.

Both Xia Chan and Wan Mingze heaved a breath of relief to see Su Yu withdrawing. His name had been echoing in their ears again and again. They were really afraid that they would really be surpassed by him here. That would be too embarrassing. No matter what, they were both freaks.

Both of them were also near their limits. Wan Mingze was about to withdraw when another figure appeared beside him.

That was a chubby youth. While eating, the youth turned his head to look at Wan Mingze and grinned, "Go on. Keep going. I have been waiting behind you. Why are you stopping?"

Wan Mingze's eyes widened. Impossible! How...could this fellow be better than him? As far as he was concerned, his sole opponent was Xia Chan.

Liu Hong was also shocked, but he still announced, "Jia Mingzhen, 41 meters."

The young fatty smiled and walked up to Xia Chan. When he reached her, he wiped his oily hand on her sleeve and said, "I thought those from the Xia Family are incredible, but...hehe, how boring."

The little fatty ignored the murderous look in Xia Chan's eyes and walked two meters beyond Xia Chan. There, his face turned slightly red with exertion as he continued walking while gasping for breath. After a few more steps, he finally stopped.

"Jia Mingzhen, 45 meters."

Liu Hong was greatly shocked. Just where did these mysterious youths come from? Had they been near the peak Mental Tempering Stage even before entering the academy? Or perhaps they were already at the peak Mental Tempering Stage?

Apart from Jia Mingzhen, there were four other mysterious students. Three of them did good by going further than 30 meters. The last one had stopped around 25 meters. There were five of them. And all five were incredibly powerful.

"No wonder those elders had suddenly accepted students this year. These fellows are no weaker than those freaks. And there's also Su Yu this year..."

Liu Hong was alarmed. Why were there so many freaks this year? If Su Yu and the five mysterious students were included, there were fourteen of them! No, there were more! His gaze landed on Xia Huyou who was standing there leisurely. Was the prefect's son really so useless?

Why did that fatty look like he was only going through the motions instead of doing his best? In that case, this batch might have 15 freaks in it! What exactly was a freak? A freak was a student with the potential to reach the Skysoar Realm in three years.

Did this signify that the academy would produce more than ten new Skysoar cultivators in the next three years?

Despite his shock, Liu Hong was able to quickly calm down and said, "For the senior class, Jia Mingzhen placed first for the Mark of Culture test. Xia Chan placed second while Wan Mingze placed third."

"For the intermediate class, Su Yu placed first."

"For the junior class, Sun Fei placed first."

Next, Liu Hong started listing the final placings of the students of all three classes. For the senior class, neither Xia Chan or Jia Mingzhen was the one occupying the first place. It was Hu Qiusheng. He was actually the top scorer for the culture text. As for the Mark of Culture test, he had also improved considerably. Thus, he obtained first place with his overall result.

Jia Mingzhen had been eating and sleeping during the culture test so his overall result was merely average.

As for Su Yu, he had obtained 130 marks for the culture test. This time, he had walked 39 meters for 120 marks. In total, he had obtained 250 marks for the monthly examination. He placed first in his class.

The student who had placed second in the intermediate class was Wang Yun with 190 total marks. He had obtained 40 marks for the second test for walking 4 more meters than his original result. In truth, this was actually quite a good improvement.

While the results were being announced, Su Yu glanced at Lin Yao and his heart thumped. Would...Lin Yao run off? Why did Lin Yao look scared?

Lin Yao was no fool. After witnessing Su Yu's performance, he realized that he might have fallen for a trick. He was really considering if he really wanted to proceed with the challenge.

While he was thinking, Su Yu suddenly said, "Teacher, the top three students are allowed to challenge senior class students. Student Lin Yao from the senior class has challenged me previously and insulted me. Now that I've entered the Mental Tempering Stage, I would like to challenge him to a fair fight."

Liu Hong nonchalantly said, "Lin Yao is not a bottom ten student, so this will be up to him."

Su Yu said, "If Lin Yao is unwilling, I can drop this matter. I only need him to publicly apologize to me. I am not an unforgiving person. But he had insulted and bullied me previously for not being at the Mental Tempering Stage. If he apologizes to me, I will not challenge him anymore."

Su Yu's voice was loud. The other students were not surprised to learn that he had reached the Mental Tempering Stage. After all, he had been able to walk quite far ahead during the test.

They were happy for him, but they did not forget to shout, "Apologize to him!"

Lin Yao's expression changed repeatedly.

He was more and more convinced that he had been tricked. He gloomily said, "Su Yu, nobody bullied you. You were the one who had proposed the challenge..."

"Boo!"

The students started booing at him. Even Xia Chan forgot her anger toward Jia Mingzhen and angrily rebuked, "Piece of trash. What an embarrassment to the senior class! Why don't you have the guts to own up to what you did? Su Yu is only an intermediate class student. As a senior class student, you can't reject the challenge of an intermediate class student. Why bother explaining yourself?"

She was already in a bad mood due to Jia Mingzhen, so she instantly lost her temper when she heard Lin Yao's words. She felt like Lin Yao was single handedly destroying the senior class' reputation.

Even Wan Mingze was unhappy. He frowned and coldly said, "Since an agreement has been made, you need to honor it. Only a coward will back off from a challenge like this. You're afraid of the strong and only dare to bully the weak. You are so scared that you don't dare to accept the challenge just because he has entered the Mental Tempering Stage. If you're really so cowardly, you are no longer qualified to be our schoolmate. You should just quit the academy."

The two held nothing back, disregarding both Lin Yao and Liu Hong. They did not fear Liu Hong. Nor did they fear Zhou Mingren. Lin Yao was simply too embarrassing.

A ruckus erupted in the senior class. All their students looked at Lin Yao. Some were frowning and some were disdainful. What a piece of trash. High-tier evaluation? Was a student like that worth such an evaluation? Just because Su Yu had reached the Mental Tempering Stage, he became so scared that he even denied what he did before?

Lin Yao was furious. He finally realized that he might have really been tricked. But this time, he was already backed into a corner. He clenched his teeth and looked at Su Yu. Fine. If he ended up losing, he would only lose 300 merit points. That bastard Su Yu was a liar!

"Fine. I wanted to refuse since you've just reached the Mental Tempering Stage. But since you insist, we'll see each other in a ring tomorrow."

Su Yu's eyes flickered. Tomorrow? He was ready to beat Lin Yao's ass today. This fellow must have guessed something. That was why he was trying to drag it for one more day. Was he buying time to prepare his trump card?

But Su Yu had no fear. He said, "Ok. See you tomorrow."

Lin Yao said nothing else and left. Damn it! That bastard Su Yu might have reached the Mental Tempering Stage long ago! This must be a trick!

"The monthly exam is over. If any other students wish to propose a challenge, feel free to see your instructor later."

Liu Hong also left with his Mark of Culture.

A lot of variables had appeared. And the biggest variable of all was not Su Yu. It was Huang Yao and people like Jia Mingzhen. He kept feeling like a lot of schemes were brewing at the same time.

It was also very odd that an elder had suddenly appeared. Numerous possibilities rose in Liu Hong's mind, but he still had no idea what was actually going on.

Chapter 189: One Hit Knockout (1)

Su Yu was in no rush to return to the research center. He first went to the Merit Office to claim his monthly merit points.

Merit Office.

The young woman at the counter looked at Su Yu curiously.

"Three merit points for being a class monitor of the intermediate class, three merit points for being a high-high student, as for your monthly exam reward, it's not issued yet...huh? It's here. That's quick."

She was surprised. The examination had just finished. Generally, the reward would only be issued so speedily if the student in question was...poor. The student was so poor that he needed to be paid immediately.

"16 merit points in total. Any questions, Student Su Yu?"

"No. That would be right." Su Yu nodded.

Su Yu couldn't help but to wish that he could get even more. However, this was good enough. At the moment, he had 146 merit points in total after including the 100 merit points he had earned from selling information to Xia Huyou. And he was going to earn even more tomorrow. All in all, he had probably earned more in a month than a regular Skysoar cultivator could earn.

Su Yu did not plan to buy anything, but he still asked, "Do you have any mountainbreak bull blood essence?"

The staff shook her head, "Great Strength blood essence? No. It's too rare."

"No, early-stage Infinite Strength blood essence would do."

The staff was astonished.

Infinite Strength?

The Great Strength mountainbreak bull blood essence was a great choice for body forging during the Great Strength Realm. But the Infinite Strength blood essence was much less useful in comparison. It would be better to use a regular Infinite Strength blood essence instead.

Of course, she did not voice her opinion. She said, "Yes, we do have some in stock, but we don't have too much of it. This is a top 100 race, after all. Even their Infinite Strength cultivators are quite rare. Of course, people rarely buy it too unless they're using it for experiments. However, it is still not cheap. For early-stage Infinite Strength blood essence, you need to pay 15 merit points per drop."

Su Yu cursed inwardly. How greedy.

The Infinite Strength mountainbreak bull blood essence was definitely not something with a high demand. Even so, they were still selling it at such an expensive price. But the academy did not care. They did not need to worry about offering a competitive price since the demand for these resources would always be higher than the supply.

"So are you buying?"

Su Yu gave it some thought and decided to ask Xia Huyou first. After all, Xia Huyou's stock would be much cheaper in comparison.

...

Half an hour later, Su Yu returned to the research center.

Bai Feng was there waiting for him.

When Su Yu returned, Bai Feng looked him up and down before asking, "You reached the Mental Tempering Stage?"

"Yeah. I broke through during an afternoon nap earlier..." Su Yu scratched his head in a dispirited manner and said, "I don't know why I broke through just like that. Teacher, didn't you say that there is a bottleneck?"

Bai Feng indifferently said, "That might be the effect of the Source Qi Secret Grotto. After absorbing enough source qi, you were able to nurture your sea of willpower well too."

Bai Feng decided to end that topic quickly. He didn't want to hear about it. Mental Tempering Stage...hmp. He didn't care about it!

"Since you've reached the Mental Tempering Stage, you will be even busier from now on. Finish your spar quickly tomorrow. After dealing with your trouble, follow me somewhere."

"Ok." Su Yu nodded before asking, "Teacher, can I start using my cultural weapon now?"

"Yes. You can also leave it in the pool when you don't need it. There is no rush to upgrade it for now. You haven't even decided on which Divine Characters you want to focus on. You also don't know what path you're walking yet. You can work on your cultural weapon in the future."

Su Yu asked, "How do I start using it?"

"Send your Divine Characters into it and take it into your sea of willpower. It will be yours after you leave an imprint of your willpower on it. It's easy. I heard a few abnormal students have appeared in the senior class?"

"Abnormal?" Su Yu blinked before nodding, "Yeah. Jia Mingzhen, Xia Chan, Wan Mingze, and Hu Qiusheng. All those people are abnormal. How did they walk further than me?"

Bai Feng was speechless. He resisted the urge to roll his eyes. They were abnormal just because they walked further than you?

He couldn't be bothered to explain anything and said, "Be careful. Keep an eye on Jia Mingzhen and the others. All those people have no background whatsoever. Nobody knows where they came from. They have appeared as the students of several elders out of nowhere. Nobody knows anything about them."

"Jia Mingzhen...Jia Mingzi(fake name)?"

Bai Feng frowned, "The moment I heard that name, I suspected that something was off. Be careful. Since they are related to the elders, we can't look too deeply into them. Just bear in mind that something is off about them."

Su Yu asked, "Are they Faculty Head Zhou's people?"

"I doubt so. They are probably related to Principal Wan," Bai Feng explained. "The elders that have accepted them as students are all from Principal Wan's faction. I don't know what the principal is trying to do. Just watch your back."

A small jade ball appeared in his hand. He said, "Take this. This is a gift from your martial uncle. Wrap your willpower around it and pull it into your sea of willpower."

"What is this?"

Su Yu had not met his martial uncle yet. Thus, he was surprised to receive a gift from this unknown martial uncle.

"A mythic destruction beast skull." Bai Feng nonchalantly said, "This is a treasure. It is worth thousands of merit points. With it in your sea of willpower, you can keep a Divine Character in it and have it nourish the character for you and reduce your burden. It can also help stabilize your sea of willpower."

Su Yu was barely listening to the rest of Bai Feng's words. He only heard that this thing was worth thousands of merit points.

Su Yu swallowed and said, "Martial Uncle is such a nice person. Teacher, why don't we find some time and visit him. Since I'm already at the Mental Tempering Stage now, he might even give me more gifts for breaking through..."

Bai Feng was tired of speaking to this student. This student had nothing but money in his mind. Was he not aware that his martial uncle was poorer than his teacher right now? No, that wasn't right. His martial uncle still had some merit points he was using to plug the holes in the depository. But those merit points couldn't be touched.

"Stop talking nonsense."

Bai Feng rolled his eyes and tossed the skull over. He sternly said, "Don't let anyone know about this. Quite a lot of people are coveting this thing. It's much more valuable than the mountainbreak bull blood essence. Keep it hidden."

"I know." Su Yu nodded happily. He was rich!

He had just realized that there were a lot of benefits to entering the multiple character faction. He had also discovered that he might really be quite rich at the moment.

"Skybreak Technique willpower text, mythic destruction beast skull, top-tier yellow-grade cultural weapon, Lightning Source Blade willpower text, and 146 merit points..."

If he included the mountainbreak bull blood essence that he had used previously...

He didn't feel anything before making this calculation, but after adding them all up, holy shit. He had earned over 5,000 merit points this month! What a terrifying number! At the black market, he could get 50,000 dollars per merit point. So that would be like around 250 million dollars?

Su Yu's jaws dropped.

In truth, he might have earned even more than that.? There was the top-tier earth-grade War God Art and the 1,300 merit points he was about to get...

The more Su Yu thought about it, the more stunned he was. Sure enough, the capital was filled with rich people. To the side, Bai Feng was completely oblivious to what Su Yu was thinking. He was having a headache. His student was growing too fast.

"I thought things could stay calm for a bit, but it looks like that's not the case anymore..."

But when he saw Su Yu giggling to himself, he couldn't help but be amused.

Suddenly, Su Yu said, "Oh, right. I formed a new Divine Character last night, Teacher."

Bai Feng blanked out slightly. "New Divine Character?"

"Yeah." Su Yu said, "I was reading a willpower text last night..."

Bai Feng immediately knew which willpower text Su Yu was talking about.

He did not give Su Yu the chance to finish and said, "Which character?"

"Kill."

"Kill?" Bai Feng frowned. He looked at Su Yu and said, "I gave you a fragment previously. It's the Arm Slash technique. Do you remember?"

/p>

"Yeah. I read it. It already broke down."

"Did you form any Divine Characters from that?"

"No..."

"But you formed Divine Characters after reading the Source Opening Codex, Lightning Source Blade, and the other willpower text?" Bai Feng's frown grew deeper. "All your Divine Characters came from the human language?"

"Yeah."

Bai Feng was feeling more and more troubled.

"Divine Characters...Human language...You only need a single attempt to form a human character. But you can read myriad race texts multiple times without forming anything..."

Bai Feng's pupils shrank, "Don't tell me your body rejects myriad race characters!"

Su Yu blinked in confusion. He had no idea.

"Are you someone with great talent in human characters but incapable of forming myriad race characters?" Bai Feng was starting to get nervous, "In that case, things will be troublesome."

"Troublesome?"

"Kid, you need to know that human characters are actually quite weak. Or to be precise, they are weaker in comparison to the myriad race characters. They are simpler and not tough enough.

"Maybe I'm wrong about you. Maybe you have a better talent in human characters and a normal talent in myriad race characters. That will explain why you can form Divine Characters so quickly..."

Bai Feng felt greatly troubled. What should he do if Su Yu had terrible talent in myriad race characters? Most cultural researchers got their Divine Characters from the myriad languages.

And some of the cultivation methods, martial techniques, and cultivation tricks created by humans originated from the myriad races as well.

Su Yu asked uneasily, "Teacher, are human characters not strong?"

"They are strong, but not strong enough. Bai Feng solemnly said, "At the very least, they are weaker than the characters of the divine and the devil races. Let me give you an example. Of the known Eternal Divine Characters in the Human Realm, not one of them is a human character. All of them are myriad race characters."

"Don't worry. We'll see again." Bai Feng placated, "Calm down..."

"I'm calm."

Su Yu did not care that much. He was happy enough with his human Divine Characters.

Bai Feng rolled his eyes. Nonsense. His student might not be anxious, but he was. The multiple character faction focused a lot more on myriad race characters than human characters.

Things would be troublesome if Su Yu had lackluster talent for myriad race characters. He might even have trouble getting to the Skysoar Realm.

"We'll wait and see." Bai Feng said, "Is your new Divine Character completed as well?"

"No. It's slightly damaged. It is very strong. It has been very troublesome to tame."

"Tame..."

What was that term? For everyone else, they had to form their characters stroke by stroke. But for Su Yu, it was basically a taming process.

Chapter 190: One Hit Knockout (2)

"Continue growing it then." Bai Feng was still feeling troubled, "Stop forming any new human characters for now. Even if you have the chance to form one, give up on it. You have formed too many characters. That might not be a good thing. That is especially true when you're only forming human characters."

Su Yu was unhappy to hear that. He wasn't unhappy with Bai Feng, but he disliked hearing that human characters were weak.

When Bai Feng saw Su Yu's expression, he gloomily said, "When my teacher told me the same back then, I was unhappy as well. But this is the truth. We can't change it. Not a single Eternal Divine Character in existence is a human character. That is the strongest proof of that."

"Also..." Bai Feng paused slightly and continued, "Generally, each cultural researcher would make a character their master character. You can't make a human character your master character or you won't be able to get beyond the Mountainsea Realm."

Bai Feng's tone turned heavy, "Human characters can't be advanced into Eternal characters. And Eternal characters can only be formed by those beyond the Mountainsea Realm. If you specialize in human characters, the Mountainsea Realm might be your limit. Mountainsea cultivators are strong, and a lot of people don't aim to go further than that, but those are all ordinary people. We are different, Su Yu. We aim beyond that."

"Teacher..."

"Listen to me." Bai Feng solemnly said, "There is no rush. You will only need to think of picking a master character at the Skysoar Realm. You still have time. But you need to be ready to make all your human characters subsidiary characters. You can't make any of them your master character."

Su Yu wanted to say something, but he decided to hold his tongue. He was a newbie in the path of cultivation. He naturally didn't know as much as a Skysoar like Bai Feng. But he was still unwilling to accept that. Nevertheless, he understood that Bai Feng meant well.

"I understand."

Su Yu answered gloomily. Bai Feng did not say anything else. In a short few moments, his emotions had gone from joy to excitement to helplessness before settling on solemnness. Did Su Yu really lack talent in myriad race characters?

If that was the case, could he still become an expert who was unrivaled within his realm? Would he be able to bring the multiple character faction back to glory? Bai Feng had no answer for that.

He felt both discouraged and dispirited. If Su Yu only had a lackluster talent in myriad race characters, even reaching the Skysoar Realm would be difficult for him. He wouldn't be able to become the next successor of the multiple character faction.

...

Third underground floor.

Bai Feng was in no mood to research anything. He was both lethargic and indignant.

After a long while, he clenched his teeth and said, "Even if he can only form human characters, he can still be an expert. Even if he can't go beyond the Mountainsea Realm, reaching the peak Mountainsea Realm is enough! How many people can get above that realm? I shouldn't ask for that much from him. As long as he can get into the Mountainsea Realm, he can still pass on the torch of our inheritance."

Bai Feng took a deep breath and said, "I don't even know if I can get beyond the Mountainsea Realm. I shouldn't force others to do what I can't. Even Teacher is stuck at the Mountainsea Realm. Why bother talking about the realm beyond? I was being too wishful."

"Even with only human characters, he can still grow strong. As long as he has enough Divine Characters and a complete character technique, he can still grow strong and stand tall above his peers."

Despite saying all that, the sense of loss was still torturing him. He didn't know if his speculation was right. He would have the answer tomorrow. Earlier, he was filled with expectations for their visit to the books depository tomorrow. But now, only grief filled his heart.

...

Su Yu spent the night repairing the kill character. He was still in an indignant mood. Were human characters really so weak? But his characters felt strong to him! His Little Blood and Little Lightning were both strong.

"The kill character is strong enough to defeat the other two characters alone. Are human characters really weak? Eternal characters...Only the non-human characters have hope to become Eternal characters. Above the Mountainsea Realm?"

...

That night, Su Yu couldn't sleep. That night, Bai Feng couldn't sleep either. He threw himself into his research, trying to forget his troubles through work.

Morning.

With a pulse of Su Yu's willpower, a small saber flew out of the blood essence pool and floated in front of him for a bit before vanishing into thin air. A black small saber appeared in his sea of willpower.

With five drops of source qi liquid and eight drops of Infinite Strength iron-winged bird blood essence on him, Su Yu left the research center. In his sea of willpower, three Divine Characters orbited the small black saber.

All four of them were sent into the beast skull for further nourishment. At a different corner of his sea of willpower, a golden book floated silently. Nothing dared to approach it.

...

The challenge ring of the academy was located near the Heart Cultivating Pavilion. The place was already packed with people early in the morning.

"This batch's students have quite the temper. It is their first month here and there is already a challenge?"

"I heard the two little fellows are both fresh Mental Tempering Stage cultivators."

"Is that so? Then this would be a boring fight."

"Nah. I'm already bored of watching the fights of old fogeys and top 100 students. It can be quite refreshing to watch the fight of some newbies."

People could be seen all around the ring.

While everyone was talking about the upcoming fight, someone was running through the crowd. Suddenly, he stopped beside a student and whispered, "Student, do you want to place a bet? I'm offering the odds of 1.3 if you bet on Su Yu and 1.2 if you bet on Lin Yao."

"Did the odds change?" The person asked curiously, "I thought the previous rate for Su Yu was 1.5."

/p>

"He has entered the Mental Tempering Stage so I naturally have to adjust the rate accordingly. So are you betting, student? I'm a member of the Xia Family. You can trust me. Look over there. That's Xia Chan, a freak of this batch. That's my little sister..."

"Your little sister? I know Xia Chan. Isn't she the granddaughter of Marquis Xia?"

Xia Huyou grinned and said, "Yeah, she's not my true little sister, but our relationship is closer than the relationship between actual siblings. Place your bet with me. I won't run away with your money. Trust me. I'll let you know that there are even researchers placing bets with me."

"Researchers? Are you kidding?"

Someone else whispered, "Are you not afraid of getting raided? What would you do then?"

Xia Huyou beamed and said, "Don't worry. I have already reached an agreement with the relevant personnel. Unless an elder personally orders the raid, not even an intermediate researcher can do anything to me. The Xia Family can at least do this much. I even have intermediate researchers placing their bets with me."

"Really?"

"Of course." Xia Huyou said, "If you don't believe me, you can ask their students..."

After hearing the names he gave, their trust in him grew. This little fatty seemed to be quite capable. As for the appearance of an elder, forget it. This is a small matter. It wouldn't attract the attention of an elder. There had even been bets for fights between top 100 students and none of those bets had ever been raided by elders before.

Xia Huyou was busy promoting his betting services when his eyes lit up. He hurriedly said, "Alright, I got to go. I'll be back. Wait for me."

He then ran away.

...

A short while later, Xia Huyou squeezed through the crowd and arrived beside Su Yu. While panting heavily, he said, "Su Yu, you're finally here! So? Are you confident? Don't screw me over, brother. If you lose, it's over for me."

Su Yu was already in a bad mood. He frowned and said, "Did you use my fight to do some business?"

"No..."

"Liar! Don't even dream of selling anything to me anymore after this."

Xia Huyou coughed awkwardly and came clean, "I started a small betting pool..."

Su Yu glared at him.

After a short while, he said, "I want a six four split of your profit. I'm getting six and you're getting four."

Xia Huyou cursed inwardly. What a greedy bastard! He must be crazy. He didn't need to invest anything and he was asking for 60 percent of the profit?

Su Yu did not care. He said, "If you disagree, I'll concede..."

"Please don't joke. If you concede, how are you going to pay up? Su Yu. Don't mess around. I'll really go bankrupt."

Su Yu gave him another glare before asking curiously, "My performance yesterday was decent. Are you telling me that there are still more people betting on Lin Yao's victory?"

That didn't make any sense! He had managed to get first place in the examination. He had also entered the Mental Tempering Stage. Why would nobody bet on him?

Xia Huyou grinned, "What do the outsiders know? They only know that you're a fresh Mental Tempering Stage cultivator. First place in the intermediate class is nothing for them. Nobody bothered to ask around about you too. Even if they did try, all they would find is information about you being a fresh Mental Tempering Stage cultivator. That does not sound as impressive as it actually is.

"Lin Yao is different. He has been in the Mental Tempering Stage for quite a while. And he's also near the Great Strength Realm. And he also has a cultural weapon..."

Xia Huyou anxiously asked, "Do you have one? You would be disadvantaged without one."

He could see the saber Su Yu was carrying. That was a standard-design saber, a middle-tier yellow-grade martial weapon. That was not enough!

"You don't have a cultural weapon while Lin Yao is rich enough to own a cultural weapon, good martial techniques, and a good cultivation method. Also...watch out for the talismans that he might have stocked up on."

"Hmm?" Su Yu was alarmed. "Talismans?"

"Yeah. Why else would that kid drag the fight until today? He must have gone to buy some talismans. If he did, things would be troublesome for you."

"Are talismans...really that powerful?"

Su Yu recalled the talismans he saw during the faculty registration day. A single talisman was able to unleash countless swords. That was a very powerful option.

Su Yu frowned, "What's the point of these challenges if the students can use talismans? The one without a talisman might as well concede directly."

"That's not necessarily the case." Xia Huyou explained, "Talismans are split into different ranks as well. Those at the Mental Tempering Stage would only be able to use Great Strength and Infinite Strength talismans. And I doubt Lin Yao is strong enough to use Infinite Strength talismans yet. He needs a lot of talisman to use that. He could probably manage only one activation, but he wouldn't have enough willpower to fight after that.

"Furthermore, talismans are very expensive. An early-stage Great Strength offensive talisman is worth over 10 merit points. Double that price for middle-stage talismans. As for late-stage talismans, you need around 50 merit points each. Even if that fellow is rich, I doubt he'd waste his money like this..."

"You're going to jinx it!" Su Yu cursed. "He is probably scared of me. He might really get himself a powerful talisman as a trump card. What's the price of Infinite Strength talismans?"

"Over 100 merit points for one early-stage Infinite Strength talisman." Xia Huyou hurriedly added, "If he really has an Infinite Strength talisman, you should just concede. That would be too dangerous."