Myriad 191

Chapter 191: One Hit Knockout (3)

Su Yu did not say anything. With an Infinite Strength talisman, Lin Yao would be able to unleash the damage of an Infinite Strength cultivator. But Su Yu was also capable of that! Now that he was thinking about it, his blood essence ability was quite similar to talismans.

Of course, his ability was much cheaper to activate. He could get a drop of blood essence for only three merit points. Talismans were way too expensive. Would anyone actually buy them?

"Are there restrictions on the usage of talisman in the ring?"

"No. After all, some students major in talismans. You can't limit their usage of talismans, right? Don't worry. The activation of talismans requires willpower. He won't be able to use talismans beyond his level too much. Even if he could, he would still need some time to toss the talisman at you. You can just move aside. At times, using too many talismans would only drag you down...

"If talismans are really that easy to use, the Top 100 Ranking would have been dominated by the Talisman Faculty already. However, there are only about four or five of them in the ranking."

Su Yu was relieved. Xia Huyou was right. If talismans were really so overpowered, then nobody else would be able to get into the Top 100 Ranking. Anyone with Skysoar talismans would be able to easily get into the top 10.

Su Yu looked around but Lin Yao was nowhere to be seen. However, he could see Chen Qi not far away. He asked curiously, "Have you told Lin Yao?"

"About Chen Qi?"

"Yes."

"I did." Xia Huyou lowered his voice, "I told him. He's not that dumb so he would definitely watch his back after that. He will be fine."

Suddenly, a group of people rushed over from afar. Lin Yao was one of them. Even before arriving, Lin Yao shouted, "Su Yu, you despicable snake! You actually got someone to drug me last night?" Lin Yao was in a sorry state. There were even some bloodstains on his clothes. "Despicable! You hired someone to mix some Technique Confusion Powder in my tea last night. You're playing foul to win against me!" Boom! A ruckus erupted. Someone immediately said, "That's impossible. If you're scared, don't accept the flight. Why are you slandering our class monitor?" Lin Yao snorted, "I'm scared? Why would I be scared of Su Yu? I'm already near the Great Strength Realm. The shameless Su Yu colluded with Xia Huyou to drug me. Both of them are working together to

Su Yu frowned. Xia Huyou's expression changed too. Lin Yao wasn't a fool after all. He was cooking his own scheme against Su Yu as well!

make me lose and win big from the bets."

Lin Yao roared, "I never lie. If you don't believe me, you can investigate it. I'll also be reporting this matter to the guards. They will be making an official investigation as well. I was really drugged last night. My willpower nearly collapsed because of the drug."

Not far away, Chen Qi's heart thumped. But he quickly calmed down. It wasn't him. It was Su Yu. Yes, it was Su Yu!

Also, the Technique Confusion Powder was no poison. After consuming it, one's willpower would recover in a day or two. Thus, even if his involvement was found out, he wouldn't be punished too heavily.

Su Yu and Xia Huyou instantly understood what happened. Lin Yao knew that Chen Qi was the culprit but instead of exposing Chen Qi, he was throwing the blame on them. Even if the truth was revealed, he would still be the victim. It would be perfectly understandable for him to get the culprit wrong. And it was perfectly reasonable for him to suspect Su Yu since they did have a fight today.

Xia Huyou clenched his teeth. Lin Yao was actually using him as a prop. He had really looked down on Lin Yao too much.

Su Yu gazed at Lin Yao for a while before slowly saying, "Lin Yao, do you mean that you're not fighting anymore? Are you saying that I drugged you because I was afraid of losing to you?"

"Yes." Lin Yao coldly said, "You're too shameless. You pretend to be innocent and kind, but you're secretly treacherous and despicable. Luckily, I reacted in time and didn't take in too much of the drug. In truth, I still have the confidence to defeat you. But I disdain sparring against a shameless person like you. You're not worth my time."

After saying all that, Lin Yao's aura erupted, showing that he entered the Great Strength Realm. Apart from his physical cultivation, his willpower was very strong too. But everyone could sense that his willpower was pulsing erratically. It was rather unstable at the moment. That was the sign that he had consumed the Technique Confusion Powder.

After that demonstration, many people looked at Su Yu, including some of the students in the intermediate class. They were still in disbelief, but was there a need for Lin Yao to do this to himself just to avoid the fight?

"You think I drugged you because I was afraid of losing..." Su Yu laughed. "Is this what a high-high genius of the cultural research academy amounts to? This is enlightening. A small city kid like me really knows too little before. This is my very first time learning that someone can be this shameless."

Lin Yao snorted coldly, "No matter how you act, you can't hide the fact that you had conspired against me."
Su Yu exhaled lightly and smiled, "What if I can prove that I didn't drug you? Would our bet still count?"
"And how are you going to prove that?"
"Just answer my question. Would our bet still count?"
"Yes." Lin Yao sneered, "Feel free to take out your proof."
Su Yu smiled. He slowly said, "Isn't that simple? In my eyes, you're merely a crazy dog that is barking furiously. Apart from having a loud voice, you have nothing. Why would I need to resort to underhanded tricks against you? I didn't even know about the existence of the Technique Confusion Powder before today"
Su Yu laughed, "Forget it. I honestly couldn't care less about sore losers. Proof? Heh. You're not worth even that much effort from me. But I'll generously show you the proof."
Next, Su Yu looked at Chen Qi and nonchalantly said, "Chen Qi, the mountainbreak bull blood essence used to be yours. Now, as a top three student of my intermediate class, I challenge you. If you win, you can get the blood essence. If you lose, pay me 1,000 merit points."
Chen Qi was stunned.
"I'll get the blood essence if I win? No other requirements?"
He was dumbfounded. In their previous agreement, he still had to pay a price even if he won.
Su Yu calmly said, "Nope. If I lose, I lose. Some losers take defeat with bad grace. I am Su Yu. I am not a sore loser. Chen Qi, are you better than this shameless dog?"

Chen Qi frowned. After a while, he smiled, "Su Yu, you're a very interesting person. You want to defeat me and prove that you're stronger than him? Is there a need to prove this? Even in his peak condition, I can defeat Lin Yao in three moves. Ask everyone here. Nobody will deny that. Lin Yao, what do you think?"

Lin Yao had an unsightly expression. But he didn't say anything.

Su Yu smiled, "That's good to hear. If I win, does that mean that this dog has been lying all along? He was afraid of losing so he arranged for such an act and made a fool out of himself."

Chen Qi smiled and said, "Of course. If you can defeat me, why would you need to use trickeries against Lin Yao? What a joke would that be. Su Yu, are you really challenging me?"

Chen Qi was starting to get excited. Su Yu had actually challenged him first. And even the terms of their challenge had changed. Su Yu would either pay up with his blood essence or gain 1,000 merit points from the fight. If Chen Qi won, he no longer needed to pay what he had promised previously.

His scheme against Lin Yao had failed, but Su Yu had still taken the bait. Even the heavens were helping him! In his plan, Lin Yao was supposed to be drugged early this morning. But Lin Yao had discovered the plan in advance and turned it against Su Yu instead.

At this moment, Chen Qi could no longer be bothered to think too much. He only knew that he seemed to be the big winner in all this. A big smile appeared on his face. The expressions of the students around them changed.

A student from the intermediate class said, "Class Monitor, don't be rash. They are colluding to provoke you!"

"Shameless! They are doing all this for Class Monitor's blood essence!"

Many of the students were furious. This was obviously a scheme against Su Yu. And Su Yu was so furious he wasn't thinking straight. He had actually challenged Chen Qi, a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator? That was a hopeless fight.

for something I didn't do. If I win against Chen Qi, Lin Yao would need to give me an explanation. I won't let this slide."
Su Yu jumped into the ring.
"Great Strength!"
Someone exclaimed in shock.
"Chen Qi, get in here!"
Chen Qi was also stunned. Su Yu had actually reached the Great Strength Realm as well. This kid was growing too quickly. His expression changed slightly, but he still jumped into the ring. A few researchers landed from the sky. Liu Hong and Huang Yao were among them.
Huang Yao looked at Su Yu and sternly said, "We heard everything. Are you sure you want to use this method to prove yourself?"
"Yes. I need to tell Lin Yao that he will never understand the world I am in. He doesn't understand the world of geniuses. The strong do not need to use trickeries against the weak. And definitely not against a worthless dog like him."
"You" Huang Yao frowned. This was too rash.
He sighed and said, "I have nothing to say. The challenge is allowed. It will continue until one party concedes."
Su Yu did not say anything. Chen Qi also stayed silent.

Su Yu waved his hand and calmly said, "Don't worry. This is great. These shameless clowns have

succeeded in angering me. I, Su Yu, have always treated others with sincerity. Today, I am being framed

ask again, are you sure you want to initiate this challenge?"
"Yes."
"Yes."
"Ok. Let the match begin."
Immediately after, Su Yu swallowed a drop of iron-winged bird blood essence. His aura surged. A black saber flickered into existence. Thick killing intent spread out of the saber, causing the hearts of all who looked at it to palpitate.
Lightning flashed and thunder rumbled while a murderous pressure spread.
Lightning, blood, and killing intent. All three became one. Source qi seethed as the aura of an Infinite Strength cultivator erupted.
"Wallbreaker!"
"Kill!"
The expression of the seventh-stage Great Strength Chen Qi changed. Even Liu Hong and Huang Yao were shocked. The saber shot forth. It was fast. Incomparably fast. It was a top-tier yellow-grade culture weapon. Three Divine Characters were imbued in it and it was wielded by someone with the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator.
Everything happened in the blink of an eye. The black saber pierced through Chen Qi's shoulder and nailed him onto the floor. Su Yu's face paled slightly, but he snorted and removed his attention from Chen Qi. He turned and looked at Lin Yao who was standing outside the ring.

"Piece of trash. Completely worthless. How are people like you worthy of competing against me?"

Everyone was in stunned silence.

In the ring, Chen Qi was nailed on the floor with a dazed expression. This was the same expression Hu Wensheng had not long ago. Liu Hong and a few others couldn't help but to recall the sight of Bai Feng defeating Hu Wensheng with one hit.

This was basically a repeat of that.

Chapter 192: Too Many Idiots (1)

Su Yu's declaration resounded throughout the area.

A seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. A middle Mental Tempering Stage cultivator. Someone with the potential to enter the Top 100 Ranking. Chen Qi. He had been defeated by a single move. It happened instantly. Not a single person had expected that.

Nobody had imagined that Su Yu would win so easily. Everyone's gaze landed on Lin Yao. He had a dazed look on his pale face. Would Su Yu need to use tricks against him? A Su Yu powerful enough to defeat Chen Qi with one move needed to use tricks against Lin Yao who had just reached the Great Strength Realm?

Su Yu drugged Lin Yao? Who would believe that? Nobody! This whole thing was an act by Lin Yao himself. He was a clown. How ridiculous.

Su Yu did not need any other proof. His strength was the strongest proof. He could defeat someone like Lin Yao with a flick of his finger.

After a momentary silence, the intermediate class students roared, "Long live Class Monitor!"

"Our class monitor is amazing!"

"Class Monitor!"

Excitement, Exhilaration,

The students couldn't keep calm. Just a moment ago, some of them were starting to wonder if Su Yu was really the one who had drugged Lin Yao. All their doubt on him vanished. Someone capable of defeating Chen Qi with one move was beneath using tricks against Lin Yao. That would only dirty his hands.

Like Su Yu said, Lin Yao was merely a worthless dog. Was there a need for trickeries against such an opponent?

...

Outside the ring.

This year's freaks were all looking at Su Yu with solemn expressions. Some of the previous batch students who were here for fun also had heavy expressions. Even some of the top 100 students had intense expressions..

Somewhere in the crowd.

Wu Lan's mouth was wide agape. Her usual prideful expression was gone as she muttered in disbelief, "He...defeated Chen Qi?"

Even if she looked down on Chen Qi, she still knew that she wasn't Chen Qi's match for now. But that same Chen Qi had been defeated by Su Yu with one move.

Lin Qing, who was here accompanying her, stood beside her with a solemn expression. She said, "For a moment, he had unleashed the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator. He seemed to have swallowed some blood essence to do that. He personally doesn't have that level of strength. However, he's still a third-stage Great Strength cultivator. Lan, what was his strength back when you saw him in Nanyuan?"

[&]quot;He was a fresh ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator..."

"He's growing so quickly?" Lin Qing was astonished. "He opened 36 acupoints in only 2 months?"

Su Yu had entered the ninth-stage Source Opening Realm on the 25th of June. That signified that Su Yu had opened 36 acupoints in the past 2 months. On average, he had opened an acupoint every 2 days or so.

As for Lin Qing herself, she was a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. She was also at the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage with 90 percent willpower. In terms of physical cultivation, she had opened 48 more acupoints than Su Yu.

But with Su Yu's speed, he would be able to catch up to her in around three months. As for his willpower cultivation, it seemed to be growing at an even more terrifying speed.

...

"Xia Chan, this fellow...seems to be a terrifying opponent."

Somewhere else near the ring, the freaks were also in shock.

Wan Mingze asked, "Xia Chan, do you have the confidence to defeat him?"

Xia Chan frowned as she sank into thought. After a while, she said, "If this is all he can do, I won't know before truly facing him in a fight."

She calmly asked, "How about you?"

Wan Mingze smiled, "That burst of strength after consuming blood essence is probably related to the multiple character faction's research. He naturally isn't my match without blood essence. With blood essence, it would depend on how long his burst of strength can last. If he can keep attacking for a long time, I might not be able to last all the way until the end."

In other words, he was confident he could win in the end if Su Yu's burst of strength couldn't last long. This was his confidence as a freak. The act of defeating Chen Qi was nothing special.

After saying that, Wan MIngze's gaze landed on Lin Yao. He smiled and said, "At least this idiot did one good thing. Without him, Su Yu would probably still be hiding his strength."

Lin Yao was simply no match for Su Yu. Thus, without the accusation, Su Yu might still be able to keep his strength hidden.

In truth, according to Su Yu's original plan, he wouldn't reveal too much during his fight with Lin Yao even if he didn't intend to appear too weak. After all, he was afraid that he would scare Chen Qi off.

But after a twist, Chen Qi became his first opponent. Due to the anger that had been brewing in his heart, he held nothing back against Chen Qi.

...

Further away from the ring, Jia Mingzhen and the other elderly genius students were also spectating the match. However, their focus wasn't on the result of the match. Rather, it was on that drop of blood essence.

Jia Mingzhen frowned and said, "Has the Wentan Research Center completed the blood essence ability research? If that's the case, it would be better if the academy can get involved as well."

"Hong Tan won't allow it." Someone said, "And even if Infinite Strength blood essence abilities can be used, that is still not that big of a breakthrough. Of course, things would be entirely different if they have Skysoar blood essence abilities as well. The Infinite Strength Realm is the average strength in the Allheaven Battlefield while the Skysoar Realm is the above average strength. If they can produce Skysoar blood essence abilities, then that would be worth investing in."

Infinite Strength cultivators were simply too common in the Allheaven Battlefield. Thus, Infinite Strength abilities were really not that important. It would be a different story if they could allow Infinite Strength cultivators to unleash the strength of Skysoar cultivators. A Skysoar cultivator could easily kill an Infinite Strength cultivator.

Another elder said, "I wonder if the production cost is high. If the cost isn't that high, the Infinite Strength blood essence ability would still be worth promoting to the masses. After all, there are still a lot of Great Strength cultivators in the military."

"I doubt it's cheap. Ignoring the research cost, just the processed blood essence alone would be 10 times the price of regular Infinite Strength blood essence. If you need to pay 50 merit points per drop just for the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator, it wouldn't be worth it. This is not suitable for mass production."

The cost was too high. In the Allheaven Battlefield, killing an early-stage Infinite Strength cultivator would only grant one a reward of 10 merit points. But the blood essence ability required to make the kill would take 50 merit points. That wouldn't be worth it.

They moved on from the topic.

Jia Mingzhen beamed as he looked at Su Yu and said, "This kid's growth is a tad bit too crazy. His confidence is at its peak right now. Should I take this chance to step on him for a bit?"

"..."

The others looked at him speechlessly. Could he be less of a bastard? The kid had just reached the peak of his life. If you brought him down to hell right this moment, he might end up not rising from that failure again.

"Cough, cough. Wait. He is still in his growth phase. Xia Chan and the others are still holding back. He's not even in the Top 100 Ranking yet. It's not a good thing to step on him too harshly right now. We wait."

Even if they were here to provoke the genius students, they still needed to do it step by step. It would be too cruel to do it right now. Only an utter scumbag would do something like that.

. . .

ın	the	ring.
	UIIC	11115

Su Yu shifted his gaze from Lin Yao and looked at Liu Hong before asking, "Teacher, did I win?"

Liu Hong nodded. He said nothing else.

Su Yu did not ask anything else. He walked toward the dazed Chen Qi and crouched down. The black saber instantly vanished from Chen Qi's shoulder, allowing more blood to flow out.

Su Yu silently took out a drop of source qi liquid and used it on the wound. Slowly, the wound started closing up. When that happened, Chen Qi looked up at Su Yu. He still had the same dazed look in his eyes.

Su Yu calmly said, "I did not use you to vent my anger. Our match has been agreed in advance. I am not a fool. How would I agree to a match I have no confidence in winning? I can only say that you were the one who had underestimated me too much.

.

"Since you were the one underestimating me, you can't blame me for defeating you in a ring. The mountainbreak bull blood essence was something my teacher won fair and square. I didn't rob it from you or anyone else. If your teacher had not agreed to the bet, all this naturally wouldn't have happened. Don't be a sore loser. Why pester your opponent endlessly after losing? How can someone with such a mentality grow into a true expert?"

Chen Qi was speechless. His expression changed repeatedly. After a while, he spoke hoarsely, "Su Yu, so you have been confident you can defeat me since the very beginning? Is it because of that blood essence?"

Su Yu replied, "Not really. I'm a third-stage Great Strength cultivator who is also at the Mental Tempering Stage. I have three Divine Characters and a cultural weapon. I'm here today to prove myself. It is beneath me to waste further time on a piece of trash like Lin Yao. If I have to fight you for real, even

without using my blood essence, you would definitely underestimate me. And if I suddenly use my real strength in the middle of the match, are you sure you can handle me in time?

"Since you're looking down on me, even if I'm weaker, I still have a chance to win. Chen Qi, do you think you would be cautious toward me from the very beginning?"

Chen Qi looked even more discouraged. Su Yu was right. Even without using the blood essence, Su Yu could still act weak in the beginning before suddenly taking out the cultural weapon to catch Chen Qi by surprise. He might not necessarily be able to win as he had been underestimating Su Yu since the beginning.

Su Yu said nothing else and helped Chen Qi up. Chen Qi's head was lowered in a crestfallen manner. Su Yu then ignored Chen Qi and looked at Lin Yao again.

"Lin Yao. Right now, I'm out of source qi and willpower. Didn't you claim that I drugged you? Get in the ring. Let's see if I can still defeat you in my current condition. Against a worm like you, I can still defeat you with a flick of my finger even in an exhausted state."

Su Yu's presence surged as his voice loudly echoed around the ring. Didn't Lin Yao claim that he disdained fighting Su Yu? Didn't Lin Yao claim that his willpower had been damaged? Fine. Now, Su Yu's willpower and source qi were exhausted as well. Get in the ring. Su Yu could still defeat him!

Lin Yao's face was flushed red. Get in the ring? Even if he could defeat Su Yu now, he would still be reduced into a joke. His reputation would further plummet and he would only be known as a despicable snake.

He would only prove that he was indeed someone who feared the strong and bullied the weak. If he won, he would kill his reputation. And if he lost...things would be even worse for him. Why? Because he was worse than someone who had just fought a match, someone who was completely exhausted. He would prove that he was a waste of air.

This was a match that wouldn't benefit him regardless of the result. In that case, how could he get into the ring? Also, he had never imagined that Su Yu was this strong. He had thought that at most, Su Yu would only be slightly stronger than him. But it was clear that Su Yu was much stronger than him. Even without using any blood essence, Su Yu was still far stronger than him.

...

The crowd looked at both Su Yu and Lin Yao.

Someone said with admiration, "Well done. Su Yu is a gentleman even toward his defeated opponent. From his words, a match had already been arranged between him and Chen Qi long ago. Chen Qi is also quite a shameless one. He had actually secretly challenged Su Yu as well."

They had realized something after hearing Su Yu's words. A match was already arranged between Su Yu and Chen Qi. The match today was only supposed to be a warm up for Su Yu. In that case, why would Su Yu need to drug Lin Yao? What a joke.

Su Yu did not even view Lin Yao as a threat. His match with Chen Qi was clearly something arranged for the blood essence in his possession. Su Yu had never expected himself to lose against Lin Yao.

"This is the kind of grace us cultural researchers should have..."

A different person praised. Just look at him. After defeating his opponent, he healed his opponent before helping his opponent up. With Su Yu's strength and talent, he could always walk away with disdain. Nobody would say anything if he did that.

After all, Chen Qi was the loser here. He did not have the right to demand respect from his opponent. But instead of being arrogant, Su Yu remained humble and graceful in victory.

Chapter 193: Too Many Idiots (2)

Meanwhile, Xia Huyou was thinking of an entirely different matter. He looked somewhat pale as he shouted, "Lin Yao, didn't you say that your bet with him would still stand if he could prove himself? So are you conceding or are you going to fight Su Yu?"

Lin Yao had to say something! Holy shit! If Lin Yao stayed silent, what about the bets he had accepted? The match would remain inconclusive! In that case, wouldn't he have to refund all the bets? The pot had grown quite large!

That reminded the rest of the crowd. Someone who had placed a bet on Lin Yao hurriedly said, "Forget it. Cancel the match. Lin Yao, you're not his match. Su Yu has exhausted his source qi and willpower so there is no point in fighting now."

"Yeah. Forget it!"

"Lin Yao, don't go!"

"..."

"No way! How can we cancel it? If you don't want to fight, concede! Are you really a sore loser?"

Those who had placed their bets on Su Yu started speaking up as well. How could they cancel this match? Even if Lin Yao didn't want to fight, he had to concede first! What would happen to their bets if Lin Yao did not concede?

Lin Yao's face became redder and redder. The people who had arrived with him were all staying silent.

After a while, someone who was standing beside him sighed upon seeing that Lin Yao was still not saying anything. He said, "I'll concede on behalf of Lin Yao."

That man looked at Su Yu and said, "Lin Yao is able to accept his defeat. Our Great Xia Club is also able to accept our defeat. Su Yu, in cultivation, winning and losing are commonplace. But there is no denying that Lin Yao has been drugged.

"The Great Xia Club will continue investigating this. If this is all an act by Lin Yao, he would be expelled from the club. But if we found out that this was really the work of a different person..."

His tone turned cold, "The Great Xia Club would not let this slide. The culprit will pay a price!"

"It's Dai Qing! He's finally taking action!"

.

Someone in the crowd recognized the young man. His face was solemn as he said that.

Some of the new students had no idea who Dai Qing was. One of them asked, "Who's Dai Qing?"

"Don't you know the Top 100 Ranking? He holds the 75th place. He is also the deputy president of the Great Xia Club. This club mainly accepts the genius students from the capital. They have their own network and community in the academy. As a high-high student, Lin Yao is naturally one of their members. I did not expect that Dai Qing would still be willing to help him after all this."

In short, Dai Qing was similar to Hu Zongji's elder brother who was the deputy president of the Tianshui Club. These clubs would normally organize their own club activities and missions in the academy. And when their members encountered trouble, they would also provide assistance. An example would be this incident involving Lin Yao. They had only accompanied Lin Yao here today because Lin Yao had been drugged. They were supposed to get justice for him.

Unfortunately, Su Yu had defeated Chen Qi easily before they could even do anything to him, turning the accusation into a joke.

In the ring.

Su Yu calmly replied, "Feel free to investigate. If I'm really the culprit, don't hesitate to come after me. But don't even think of throwing the blame on me if I'm not the culprit. I don't like to create trouble, but I don't fear trouble."

Su Yu scanned the crowd and continued, "I joined the academy not for fame and attention. I only want to cultivate in peace. Yes, I have considered trying to enter the Top 100 Ranking. I am aiming to reach the Skysoar Realm. However, I am not interested in pointless conflicts.

"By entering the Top 100 Ranking, I can gain resources, recognition, and more support. That's why I'm willing to give that a try. But these personal fights...I honestly wouldn't have bothered if they hadn't offered me a large number of merit points as the bet.

"I don't like to bully others, but I won't let others bully me either. I don't even have the mountainbreak bull blood essence on me anymore. I already used it. Anyone still thinking of trying to get it from me can give up now. If I had been defeated in the match, my teacher would naturally think of a way to pay up. But now, after making this clear, if anyone still tries to come after me with the mountainbreak bull blood essence as the excuse, I can't promise that my saber will stop at only your shoulder next time."

After saying all that, Su Yu leaped off the ring and walked away. The crowd parted, allowing him to pass through.

As Su Yu walked, hundreds of students followed behind him.

One of them loudly declared, "The Character Faculty's intermediate class fully supports our class monitor! Don't even dare to think that you can bully us freely. Before trying to slander our class monitor, you have to get through us first."

"You guys don't own the Great Xia Club. My elder brother is in the club too. But I can see now that your club is worth nothing since you accept even someone like Lin Yao. I'll tell my elder brother to exit the club after this."

"That's right. My elder sister is in the club too. She was trying to get me to join after entering the senior class. But if that means I have to associate myself with someone like Lin Yao, I would rather give up."

A bystander smiled and said, "That's right. The Great Xia Club is getting more and more messy these days. You guys should join our Beifeng Club instead. We promise equal treatment to all students regardless of where you come from."

"Tianshui Club welcomes everyone. We are not the kind of people that would allow rot to fester in our club."

The other clubs were quick to take the opportunity to step on the Great Xia Club. Dai Qing's expression was unchanged. He didn't say anything. But when he looked at Lin Yao again, his eyes were much colder.

He had no choice but to do what he did earlier. If he had stayed silent, there would be trouble as well. After all, they had arrived with such great fanfare earlier. How would others view them if they did nothing?

But the crowd's reaction was clear that even doing something would still bring him trouble. Lin Yao alone had ruined their reputation. If their investigation revealed that this was all an act by Lin Yao, he would not hold back.

Even in defeat, one must be graceful. If Lin Yao was really the kind of person to drug himself to avoid a fight with Su Yu, he wouldn't be a member worth keeping. This was the kind of person you had to watch your back against if you ended up side by side with him in the battlefield.

After all, a large number of the Myriad Race Cult members were actually army deserters. Lin Yao was showing the potential of being one of these deserters in the future.

Lin Yao was still pale. He softly said, "I'll pay the merit points myself. But I really didn't drug myself. I wasn't even aware that Su Yu is this strong before. Why would I be afraid of him? Someone else must have drugged me!"

He glanced at Chen Qi and continued, "Someone else must have been worried that I would defeat Su Yu and get the mountainbreak bull blood essence for myself and secretly challenged Su Yu to another match..."

The moment Dai Qing heard that, his eyes flickered. He had been too distracted earlier to think too deeply about this. But if Lin Yao wasn't the culprit, then Chen Qi would be the biggest suspect.

At that thought, Dai Qing glanced at the dazed Chen Qi coldly. That was also a member of their club. If he was really the culprit...

Dai Qing cursed inwardly. Even if they had to expel him, they had to do it secretly. It would be too humiliating if news of that spread. After all, that would basically be an internal conflict in the club. To make things worse, Chen Qi and Lin Yao were both members of the same faction.

"Fuck!"

Dai Qing cursed. He felt like killing both of them.
Bastards!
Meanwhile, Lin Yao heaved a breath of relief. Although he had made a fool of himself, all the smart people would soon come to a different conclusion. Chen Qi simply held the biggest suspicion.
He naturally knew that Chen Qi was the one who had drugged him. But he was also afraid of losing to Su Yu. That was why he had taken the chance to throw the blame on Su Yu.
He did not want to fight Su Yu. He was scared of losing and embarrassing himself. But since he had already thoroughly embarrassed himself, it no longer mattered. The only blame he couldn't take was being the one to drug himself. Otherwise, that would turn even the Great Xia Club against him.
He was the one who had brought them out to seek justice. If he turned out to be the actual culprit, he might as well quit the academy now.
"Chen Qi"
Lin Yao also glanced at Chen Qi and snorted inwardly. At the very least, he was not the only one who had been humiliated today. Chen Qi even had to face the club's punishment next. Seeing that someone else would suffer a worse fate than him, Lin Yao did not feel that bad anymore.
The two should have hated Su Yu for everything that had happened, but right now, Lin Yao hated Chen Qi more. That was the person who had drugged him. If it wasn't for Chen Qi, he wouldn't have gained the inspiration for the act today and ended up humiliating himself.
In the ring.

Liu Hong had a clear guess as to what had happened. In fact, from the moment Su Yu and Chen Qi entered the ring, he had guessed the entire chain of events. The only thing that had surprised him was the fact that Chen Qi actually had the courage to drug Lin Yao.
"Idiot."

That was Liu Hong's judgment. Even if Chen Qi could defeat Su Yu and gain the blood essence, his role in drugging Lin Yao might still end up exposed in the end.

"As idiotic as your teacher."

Liu Hong added.

Hu Wensheng might be dumb, but at the very least, he was courageous and magnanimous. As for Chen Qi, he was even worse than Hu Wensheng.

Liu Hong said nothing else and left the ring. He walked toward Lin Yao and patted his student's shoulder before saying, "I believe in you. You won't do something like drugging yourself. Defeat and victory are commonplace in cultivation. Don't worry too much about it."

Those words greatly moved Lin Yao.? When the entire world was doubting him, his great teacher alone stood beside him. His teacher was the sole person in the world who believed in him.

"Teacher..."

Liu Hong said, "Don't be discouraged. Su Yu is really a talented genius. Among the new students, no more than three students have the hope to defeat him."

Of course, the abnormal new students were not included in his calculation.

"You are only slightly too prideful. Let down your pride and cultivate one step at a time. I believe that you will be able to catch up to him soon!

"Lin Yao, back then, your teacher wasn't the match of Su Yu's teacher, Bai Feng, either. Even now, I might still be weaker than him. But I am still an eighth-stage Skysoar. No more than five students from my generation are better than me. We might not be able to get the first place, but we can still grow into experts, becoming geniuses in the eyes of others. There is still a long path ahead of us. We will keep walking our path. If we can't defeat them at the Skysoar Realm, we can wait until the Cloudbreach Realm. If that doesn't work, there is also the Mountainsea Realm."

Liu Hong's encouragement successfully lifted Lin Yao's spirits.

Yes! His teacher was right! He might have lost today, but he wouldn't lose forever! He could do it!

"Go back and cultivate hard. Ask me if you have any questions. I will try to get more opportunities for you. Unfortunately, I'm not strong enough and I'm only an assistant researcher. There are things that I wish to do but can't do."

Liu Hong sighed helplessly. He was basically saying that it wasn't that he didn't want to grab more benefits for Lin Yao. He was simply too weak to do so.

"Teacher..."

Lin Yao was extremely touched. All his negative emotions from before vanished. His teacher would grow strong. And at that time, his teacher would fight for more benefits for him.

"My grandpa can..."

Liu Hong frowned and tightened his grip on Lin Yao's shoulder before saying, "Don't say those words. For cultivation, it is better to rely on yourself. Lin Yao, you still don't understand that external forces will forever remain external forces. Only your own strength is truly yours."

Liu Hong had never expected to gain any benefits from Lin Yao. If he wanted something, he would look for Lin Yao's grandfather instead. Lin Yao was still not qualified to talk on behalf of his grandfather.

In truth, Liu Hong had his eyes set on one of the promotion slots this year. As far as Liu Hong was concerned, Lin Yao's grandfather should get ready to support his bid for that position. Otherwise, well, that grandfather would have to get ready to collect his grandson from Liu Hong.

Liu Hong did not intend to tell Lin Yao too much. That was just a stupid kid. He only needed to focus on cultivating.

After walking together for a bit, Liu Hong transmitted his voice to Lin Yao, "Watch out for Chen Qi. I suspect he's the culprit. Hu Wensheng had gone into seclusion after his defeat in the hands of Bai Feng. I am the flagbearer of the single character faction's Skysoar cultivators. However, there might be someone else behind Chen Qi. Perhaps...I am the true target for this scheme. You might have been implicated by me. But don't be afraid. I'll deal with this.If I can survive this attack, my position would be stronger. As my student, you would be able to gain more support as well.

"They are unwilling to see your teacher become the leader of the Skysoar cultivators in our faction. Someone is trying to snatch this position from me. They want to use you to threaten my position. Lin Yao, hang in there! Your teacher is fighting alongside you!"

Lin Yao's eyes lit up. So that was the truth! So the mountainbreak bull blood essence was not the sole catalyst for all that had happened. There was another scheme behind the scheme. They wanted to suppress his teacher. They wanted to snatch his teacher's position.

He understood!

He finally understood!

Lin Yao was even starting to get excited. Liu Hong had finally acknowledged his worth by telling him all this. In that case, as long as Liu Hong could strengthen his current position, as his student, Lin Yao would be able to gain even more benefits than before.

"Grandpa...I need to look for grandpa and ensure that they can't suppress Teacher! Damn it! Chen Qi and those on his side are actually trying to rise back up? Even Hu Wensheng had been defeated. Who else but Teacher can take over the position of the Skysoar leader? Are we supposed to rely on some garbage instead?"

Lin Yao was furious. Damn Chen Qi and the others. They were too shameless!
•••
"The world is truly filled with idiots"
Liu Hong muttered to himself while walking away from his student. This time, he had given very little to gain a rather large benefit. This was quite good for him. This was the way he enjoyed living.
As for losing face, what a joke. Lin Yao was the one who had lost. It wasn't him. Why would he lose any face?
Since Bai Feng's faction was proving tougher and tougher, this was his perfect chance to ask for even more benefits from his faction. How was he supposed to continue suppressing Bai Feng without more support?
Chapter 194: A lesson For You (1)
"I won!"
Su Yu did not let his classmates walk him all the way back. He walked with them for a bit before taking his leave. When he was alone, he finally showed his excitement.
He won!
It felt great!
This was a good day for him. Not only had him vented his anger, but he had even earned a large profit.
"Serves you right for bullying and looking down on me!"

The only thing making the day less perfect was the fact that he had to waste a drop of source qi liquid. He didn't intend to help heal Chen Qi, but he had to protect his persona. He was an honest and kind person. He had only done something like this after being pushed beyond his limit by his opponents. Look at how he helped heal his opponent after the fight. He was totally a good person.

As for the fact that he was the one who had dealt the injury, well, it was a fight. It was normal to suffer injuries during a fight. Furthermore, Chen Qi was the one who had challenged him first. He had taken the chance to make it clear to the crowd that Chen Qi was the challenger, not him.

He definitely couldn't let anyone get the idea that he was the one who had intentionally approached Chen Qi and tricked him into a match.

"I wonder if there will be any consequences for this. In any case, I have thoroughly offended Lin Yao this time. I might have offended their club as well."

As for Chen Qi, Su Yu had no idea what that person would feel, but at this point, it no longer mattered.

"Sigh. I did not ask for the merit points on the spot because I wanted to act graceful. Would they renege on the debt?"

Su Yu started worrying. What could he do if they refused to pay? Also, someone else had conceded on behalf of Lin Yao. Would that count? They hadn't actually met each other in a ring.

"I'm quite worried. Also, how about Xia Huyou's betting pool? He must have earned a lot, right? Would he share the profit with me?"

...

Numerous worries rose in Su Yu's mind, so his previous excitement faded. He had used a drop of blood essence and source qi liquid for this. If they ended up reneging, he would make a loss. In Su Yu's opinion, he was too poor to withstand such a loss.

...



Wu Yuehua. Naturally, Su Yu would have to be the one to go looking for her, not him.
He asked, "So you won 300 merit points?"
"1,300."
Su Yu blinked. Was Bai Feng not aware of that?
" "
Bai Feng was stunned.
What?
"1,300 merit points?"
"Yeah!" Su Yu softly said, "300 points from Lin Yao. Didn't Chen Qi make a bet of 1,000 points with me as well? Didn't I tell you that?"
" "
Bai Feng was still dazed. He asked, "You fought Chen Qi as well?"
Weird.
This kid had returned quite early. Did he finish two fights so quickly? Were the two fights supposed to be a joke? Did both fights end instantly?

Bai Feng already had everything planned. If Su Yu really ended up losing, they would have to go look for

Su Yu had taken less than an hour to return after leaving the research center earlier. And he also needed time to travel between the research center and the ring. There was also the wait before the fight. Was everything over already?

Furthermore, Bai Feng was really unaware of the bet of 1,000 merit points with Chen Qi. He only knew that the two had agreed to fight, but he did not know about the bet.

Su Yu had never told him that!

"1,300 merit points..." Bai Feng suddenly turned solemn and said, "I'll go collect your debt with you! Damn those bastards! How dare they not pay after losing? Are they still worthy of being a student of our academy?"

"..."

Su Yu rolled his eyes. His merit points must have caught his teacher's attention.

Bai Feng was clearly still indifferent just a moment ago, but right after hearing about the 1,300 merit points, his eyes started shining.

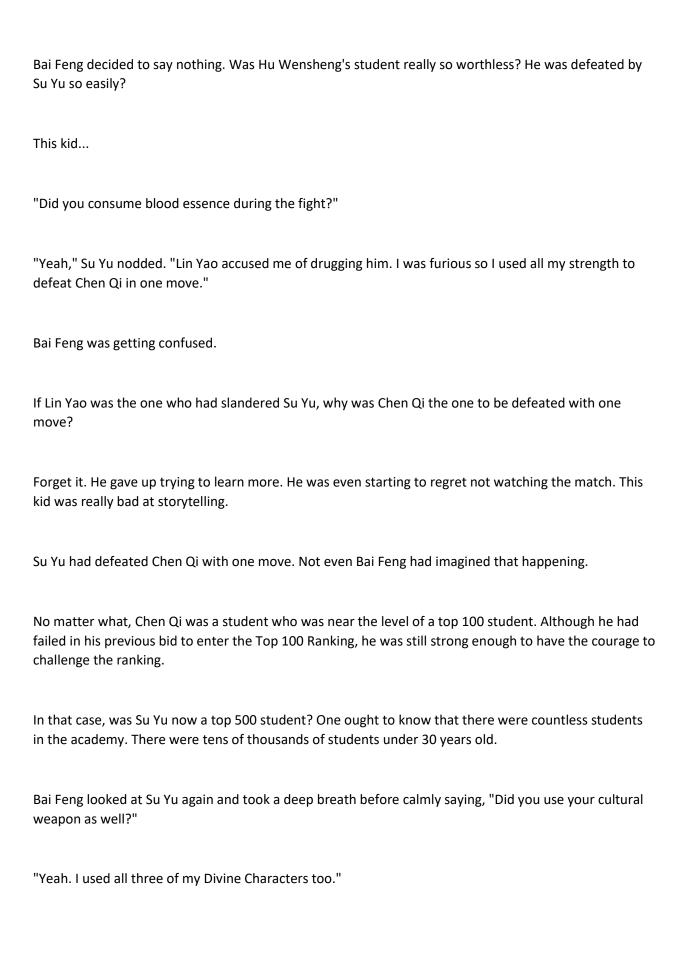
Bai Feng asked, "You defeated Chen Qi?"

"Yeah."

"How did you win?"

"Uhm..." Su Yu thought about it and waved his hand, "Like this. I impaled him on the ground with one attack. The end."

"..."



"Hmm?" Bai Feng's eyes flickered, "Three Divine Characters? Didn't you defeat him with one move?"
"Yeah. I fused all three characters into the cultural weapon before defeating him with one move."
"Fuse?"
Bai Feng was alarmed.
Su Yu had fused his Divine Characters?
Su Yu coughed and explained, "Teacher, I have enough confidence. This is not my first fusion. During my entrance exam, I tried fusing the lightning and blood characters. I succeeded. That was why I did so well in the exam"
Bai Feng wanted to shout at someone. Su Yu had never told him about that!
Bastard!
This kid had learned to fuse Divine Characters long ago!
Bai Feng was really unaware of that. He knew that Su Yu did well in the Mark of Culture test. But he had assumed that Su Yu had performed so well thanks to his two Divine Characters. Thus, Bai Feng had never bothered asking.
But it turned out that Su Yu had already attempted Divine Character fusion before.
Damn this kid! What a bastard! Why hadn't he mentioned that earlier?
The official examination records wouldn't mention Su Yu's character fusion, so only Su Yu and the proctors present would be aware of that.

Bai Feng calmed down and resisted the urge to crush Su Yu's head and gently patted Su Yu's head. However, that action caused Su Yu to pale in fear again.
Was his teacher having one of his episodes again?
"Fusionso you already tried fusing Divine Characters before. And this time, you even fused three Divine Characters?"
"I didn't fully fuse them." Su Yu cautiously said, "It's more like I overlapped them. I didn't even fully make use of their abilities. According to my initial intention, I should have been able to confuse Chen Qi with illusions, paralyze him with lightning, before killing him with my sabercough, I mean defeat him with my saber.
"The three Divine Characters have different abilities. I should have been able to use those abilities if the fusion had been perfect. Unfortunately, I didn't manage to do it. After wounding him with my saber, my bleeding ability should have activated as well, but nothing happened. Therefore, that was only a simple overlap of characters, not true fusion. Am I right?"
"Yes."
Bai Feng was tired. His student had deduced everything. There was nothing left for him to say.
"Therefore, I'll teach you true character fusion after this."
Bai Feng decided to change the topic. He was afraid that if he continued asking, he would get a heart attack from anger.
Was this kid really not capable of getting into the top 100 by the end of the year?
Not necessarily.

His sense of loss from the previous day vanished. Even if Su Yu really had a bad talent in myriad race characters, it wouldn't matter. Even if this kid really ended up stuck at the Mountainsea Realm in the future, he would still be a super expert among those in that realm.

Furthermore, Su Yu hadn't even read that many myriad race texts. Who knew if he was really incapable of forming myriad race characters?

"Come on. We're going to the books depository."

"Teacher, aren't we going to collect our debts first?"

"This is too fast. Wait a day. If they don't send the points over by tonight, I'll look for them tomorrow."

Bai Feng decided to give them a little bit of time so that he wouldn't seem too desperate. He couldn't act like someone who had never seen merit points before.

Su Yu nodded. Fine. He would give them one day. If they waited any longer to pay up, he would have to visit them with his teacher.

Chapter 195: A lesson For You (2)

While walking behind Bai Feng, Su Yu suddenly recalled something else. He cautiously asked, "Teacher, I defeated Chen Qi with the Skybreak Technique."

"I see." Bai Feng nodded and indifferently asked, "Did you buy the technique or did you get it through a fortuitous encounter?"

"Fortuitous encounter. I picked up a Skybreak Technique willpower text before..."

Bai Feng's face twitched as he listened to the story. If he didn't know the truth, he would have thought that Su Yu was lying to him. But he knew the true story. Nobody else would believe that Su Yu would just pick up a willpower text randomly.

"I understand. Pay me 200 merit points and I can register the technique under your name with me as the teacher."

Su Yu nodded. He curiously asked, "Teacher, are you the one getting the 200 merit points or is it the academy?"

"The academy." Bai Feng said, "There are limits to transfer of knowledge. Things I create myself can be freely taught. But the War God Art and Skybreak Technique are created by someone else. Sure, they are selfless enough to let the public practice their creations, but they can't do it for free. Spreading their creations without permission will get you in trouble. It's only fair to pay 200 merit points for the right to teach the techniques they created."

Su Yu nodded. That was reasonable. Who would be willing to spread their techniques or methods without any benefit?

Nobody created their method or technique out of thin air. To create a reliable method or technique, a large amount of time was required. One might even need to risk cultivation deviation to test the technique before completing the creation.

"Teacher, are we visiting Martial Uncle at the books depository?" Su Yu asked longingly, "Is Martial Uncle rich?"

"..."

Su Yu had a very good impression of that martial uncle he had never met before.

Even after fusing three Divine Characters earlier today, he was still feeling mostly fine. He only felt a little unwell instead of feeling like his head was going to burst apart. That was all thanks to the mythic destruction beast skull.

When he was attacking, he could feel that thing protecting his sea of willpower. That was a treasure. Otherwise, he would have probably been on the verge of fainting before he could even get off the ring.

"Rich?"
Bai Feng rolled his eyes. "If he's rich, would he still need me to sell all our stuff to plug the holes? Give up. Apart from the mythic destruction beast skull, your martial uncle has nothing else. He is penniless. He is as poor as us."
Su Yu had nothing to say. But he was touched. Basically, his martial uncle was a pauper. Even so, he had still given the mythic destruction beast skull to Su Yu. What a good guy!
The two continued walking toward the books depository.
At the same time, near the ring.
A group of guards suddenly appeared.
Crack!
Xia Huyou was instantly handcuffed. A Skysoar guard coldly said, "Audacious! Xia Huyou, how dare you organize illegal gambling within the academy? You're under arrest!"
Xia Huyou blanked out for a long while before hastily saying, "Please don't do this. Brother, please. I did no such thing. Just ask"
He was about to mention a name when a nearby researcher urgently shook his head. The researcher

But immediately after, a realization hit him. He hurriedly cursed, "Damn that shameless Wan-cough. Damn it! Someone screwed me over! Wan Mingze, was it you? Did you sell me out? I was only starting a

was basically telling Xia Huyou to shut up and not implicate anyone else. Xia Huyou was stunned. Not even that person could solve this for him? Just what was going on? Not even an intermediate researcher

could solve this?

tiny betting pool for everyone's entertainment. How can you be so shameless and get the Heart Cultivating Pavilion involved? What an asshole!"

He kept cursing. He must have caught someone's attention. Otherwise, a small matter like this would not be able to catch the Heart Cultivating Pavilion's attention. Since even that intermediate researcher wasn't willing to get involved, it was clear a big shot was involved in this.

/p>

Damn it!

Wan Tiansheng was definitely the culprit! Xia Huyou was infuriated. Was that old fart not ashamed of setting his eyes on the pocket money of some kids?

Not far away, Wan Mingze looked completely confused. He looked at Xia Chan, who was beside him, and said, "This is unrelated to me. I have no idea what's going on. Xia Chan, don't misunderstand."

Xia Chan indifferently said, "It's fine. He asked for it. Before coming, grandpa told us to not attract too much attention. We need to keep an even lower profile when it involves merit points. A lot of eyes are on us. Despite that, he still did all this. He deserves to be caught."

The guard shouted loudly, "Xia Huyou, you have intentionally broken the academy rules. All your illegal profits will be seized. The entire pot will be seized as well. Does anyone object?"

Nobody said anything.

Those who had lost their bets were delighted to see others suffer alongside them while those who had won didn't dare to utter a word.

Everything would be fine if the academy wasn't involved. Now that the academy had gotten involved, there was no way they could get their money back. They could only try to get compensated by Xia Huyou.

Xia Huyou felt aggrieved.

He wasn't the only one in the academy doing this. Why was the academy paying so much attention to him? It was over. He was going to lose a lot of money this time.

Sure, he had not invested anything in this gambling operation, but he would definitely need to compensate his customers for their losses.

Even if he didn't pay them their winnings, he still had to return them their bets, right? Otherwise, he could forget about doing any business in the academy moving forward. Would anyone still dare to do any business with him?

As a reliable and honest businessman who wanted to expand his business, he had no choice but to pay up.

Xia Huyou might feel terrible, but his brain still worked splendidly. He hurriedly shouted, "Everyone, if you won, keep your receipts. After I am released, I'll compensate all of you. It's only money. For a businessman like me, nothing is more important than trust!

"Even if I have to sell myself, I would still save enough money to pay all of you. Remember my name! I am Xia Huyou! Someone from the Xia Family! I am a reliable businessman! I am open for all sorts of transactions!"

" "

The guards were stunned.

Holy shit. This kid was quite a gutsy one. He was basically advertising himself right in front of their eyes. Was he asking them to raid him every single day?

"Hahaha! Boss Xia is truly reliable!"

"Well said!"
The winners all started praising Xia Huyou.
Not bad at all. He was actually willing to pay up even after being raided.
"Nicely said, Boss Xia! You have my respect. When you are released, we have plenty of business to do with each other!"

One after another, the people in the crowd joked with him while laughing. This was no big deal. He was only raided for illegal gambling. He would be released before long. And he would be a trustworthy partner for any business they wished to do in the future.
The Xia Family had basically monopolized the supply of certain resources in Great Xia. Thus, working with the Xia Family was a good idea as they could get their hands on things they couldn't otherwise get
While being dragged away by the guards, Xia Huyou continued shouting at the crowd, "Everyone, take my number!"
After shouting his number to the crowd, he said, "As for the brother who had snitched on me today, remember to claim your reward. The pot has reached 12,000 merit points. You can get one percent of that for reporting me. Therefore, you are eligible for a reward of 120 merit points.
"Everyone, if nobody ends up claiming the reward, it means someone else is targeting me. In that case, get a random person to snitch on me and claim the report. If the academy refuses to pay, ask for the name of the one who had reported me. Or maybe some big shot has personally reported me? In that

case, I'll be paying close attention to see who's the one shameless enough to take from a bunch of

children.

"Brothers, you can get 120 merit points! Don't let others get it! You might as well take it for yourself!"
Xia Huyou had barely finished his sentence when Wan Mingze, Xia Chan, Hu Qiusheng, and the other freaks ran off.
There was even a Skysoar cultivator hurriedly flying away.
That little fatty was right! They needed to go and claim the reward!
And if the academy refused to pay up, they would demand for the name of the one who had made the report. After all, the one who had made the report would be rewarded.
Even if the academy wanted to protect the identity of that person, they still had to show proof that such a person actually existed. If not, hehe, then they couldn't be blamed if they ended up escalating the matter!
п_п
Meanwhile, the students were stunned to see that even a Skysoar cultivator was trying to claim the reward. How could they be faster than a Skysoar cultivator?
That was quite a sizable reward.
Jia Mingzhen and the others looked at each other speechlessly. After a while, one of them laughed and said, "This little fatty is really very similar to that Fatty Xia. Look at how he created trouble for us even while he was being dragged away."
"Old Zhang, why don't you go claim the reward."

"Hell no. I'm not going to do something so shameless. Forget it. Let the kids get the 120 merit points."

"What? No! If you let one of those kids get the reward, isn't that the same as telling everyone that there is an issue with the raid? Why don't we...secretly give the reward to Liu Hong?" suggested Jia Mingzhen.

"..."

The others looked at Jia Mingzhen speechlessly.

"That kid has been keeping a close eye on us instead of spending his time doing something productive. Let him have the reward and leak the information. Xia Huyou would find out soon. The other black market traders would find out too. Those people hate snitches the most.

"Hehe...That way, we can even perform another raid on Liu Hong's black market transactions. He will make a loss even after getting the 120 merit points. The other black market traders will start fearing him. Doing this, not only can we shut his business, we can even slow the black market down for a bit."

"..."

The elders continued looking at him speechlessly.

What a ruthless scoundrel.

Jia Mingzhen did not mind. He smiled and said, "Giving Su Yu the reward is quite good too, but I've decided to give up on that idea. Su Yu is still not capable of handling that much pressure. Those black market traders could actually make it so that he couldn't even cultivate anymore. Liu Hong is still the better scapegoat. He is strong enough to take the pressure. He would only lose some money, but it doesn't matter since the black market has always been a high risk market."

Jia Mingzhen grinned, "12,000 merit points...is everyone fine with getting 2,000 points each?"

There were five of them. After taking their cut, the remaining points would be given to the academy.

But immediately after, a voice rang out beside their ears, "All of you are currently students. Why do you need that many merit points? You can get 120 merit points as a reward for reporting this. As for the rest of the points, I have use for them."

Jia Mingzhen's face changed as he cursed, "Wan, you're the biggest scoundrel here!"

"Remember to keep a low profile..." Wan Tiansheng's voice rang out again, "I sent you to act as new students. I didn't send you there to mess around. Suppressing the geniuses isn't your main goal. Your main mission is to look for traces of the Myriad Race Cult. Don't mess around so much that you ruin my plan.

"Elders, since you like to play around, you can play somewhere else. Use your identities as students to get in touch with the hidden cult members and try to get into their network. It is much easier for students to do so. Also, don't stay together all the time. It almost looks like you guys have known each other for years."

Chapter 196: A lesson For You (3)

The look on Jia MIngzhen's face changed as he said, "Why didn't you say that earlier? I really thought you only sent us here to mess around. Myriad Race Cult? Is something else happening in the academy?"

"Not the academy. The Allheaven Battlefield. Something happened in a few armies. Some people tried instigating the soldiers to betray humanity. And a lot of these instigators were from the academies. We need to take this seriously. I don't want to see the graduates of our academy doing so as well."

"Alright. I understand." A cold look appeared in Jia MIngzhen's eyes as he said, "Don't worry. We'll keep an eye out. By the way, is Xue'e from the Blood Fire Sect captured yet?"

p>

"No." Wan Tiansheng replied, "Almost all the cult members who had attacked the Beifeng convoy were killed. This fellow was the only one to escape. He had been missing for a bit, but recently, there are rumors that he has gotten in contact with the divine skywing race. He is probably trying to rebuild the Divine Skywing Sect. This fellow will show his face again sooner or later."

One wouldn't be able to escape so easily after killing the students of a cultural research academy.

In recent days, two elders of the academy had personally set off to search for Xue'e. He was only a Cloudbreach cultivator, but he had two Mountainsea experts personally hunting for him. Even if Xue'e were to die, he could probably die proudly now.

"Rebuilding the Divine Skywing Sect?"

The elders were shocked. What a gutsy fellow.

If he really did so, Great Xia wouldn't be his only worry anymore. Even the Blood Fire Sect would start hunting for him as well.

Before long, Wan Tiansheng's voice faded away.

When Wan Tiansheng was finally gone, Jia Mingzhen laughed and said, "That fellow sure is good at changing topics. Looks like we had just worked for free again."

They had clearly been talking about merit points earlier, but Wan Tiansheng had skillfully changed the topic in the blink of an eye.

The elders didn't really care about the merit points, but they were rather unhappy about how shameless Wan Tiansheng was.

After joking around for a bit, Jia Mingzhen said, "But we do need to take this seriously. It would be even better if we can dig the cult out from its roots. We also need to keep working on these geniuses. They need more provocations. These little fellows feel too relaxed."

"Sure. I know what to do. I'll find a chance to pick a fight with Xia Chan and beat her up. If we encounter any of them outside, just look for any excuse to beat them up. Beat them until they doubt themselves and even the entire world. Everything would be fine after that."

As far as this elder was concerned, the lack of pressure was simply because those geniuses had not experienced the cruelty of the society yet. In that case, they only needed to give these geniuses the experiences they needed.

While the elders were at it, they could use the chance to demonstrate their talent. Maybe they could catch the cult's eyes that way. And after that, maybe the cult would bring them back to their hideouts to be trained?

As for their identities, they weren't afraid of being investigated. They were all using true identities of individuals who had simply been relatively unknown before this. As elders, they had no lack of identities to assume. Who would expect that the great elders would pretend to be a bunch of students?

The elders looked at each other and grinned treacherously.

"Myriad Race Cult, geniuses, here we come!"

...

Books depository.

This was Su Yu's first visit.

The books depository was a large and ancient building with centuries of history behind it. It was among the first batch of major buildings constructed during the founding of the academy. It was also a very tall building.

Su Yu looked up at the building that was at least 50 meters in height. There were 10 floors in total. Its architecture was simple yet refined and mysterious. That was the first impression he had of the place.

Bai Feng did not urge Su Yu on. He gave Su Yu some time to take in the place before introducing, "The books depository is one of the most important places in the academy. It is almost as important as the Grotto District and the Heart Cultivating Pavilion. Inside, numerous myriad race willpower texts are

collected. Willpower texts from the Great Strength Realm to the Mountainsea Realm or even the stronger realms are available inside."

"Stronger?" Su Yu nodded. This was indeed an expensive-cough, cough, important building.

After a short silence, Bai Feng continued, "Back then, the head manager of this place was my teacher, your grandteacher. Subsequently, your martial uncle became the head manager. This place was supposed to be something like our own backyard as the majority of the texts inside had been gathered by the experts of the multiple character faction in the past."

After a slight pause, he continued, "Fifty years ago, the academy had seized a bunch of texts. All those texts were sent here. And most of those texts were left behind by my martial uncle and the others..."

"Teacher Liu?"

Su Yu blanked out slightly.

Bai Feng said, "Yes. Back then, my grandteacher, also the fifth principal, had left a lot of things behind. But when my martial uncle and his peers left the academy, they brought nothing with them."

Or to be precise, they only took those Divine Characters with them.

Fast forward until now, very few people still remembered that a majority of the collection in the books depository actually came from the multiple character faction. Humans could be very forgetful. Even those who should still remember that fact had selectively forgotten those memories.

While walking, Bai Feng said, "Your martial uncle has been the head manager of this place for 20 years."

Bai Feng sighed, "Ninth-stage Cloudbreach...Your martial uncle had been stuck at this level for around eight years. He has not been able to enter the Mountainsea Realm. In truth, he had planned to head for the Allheaven Battlefield for an extended period of time and pursue his breakthrough there. But he had no choice but to stay behind and watch over the books depository since both Teacher and I were busy

with the research center. We have too few people in our faction so he couldn't leave. If he had left for the Allheaven Battlefield, he would have probably reached the Mountainsea Realm by now."

Bai Feng was feeling very helpless. There were really too few of them. Including Su Yu, there were only five of them. If Chen Yong left, they would be in a lot of trouble. Without the books depository, the multiple character faction would not be able to continue existing.

While talking, the two arrived before the entrance. The entrance was massive. Several guards were standing around the entrance. When Bai Feng swiped his researcher card, the door opened.

The guards looked at Bai Feng before looking at Su Yu. The leader asked, "Assistant Bai, are you heading to the 10th floor?"

"Yeah."

"You may go, but not him."

Bai Feng frowned, "Why? He's not going to a restricted section. He's only here to visit my martial brother. Is there a problem with that?"

The guard leader bowed, "Assistant Bai, please don't make our job difficult. We're only following orders. Su Yu is still a student. The sixth floor and above aren't open for students."

"I know." Bai Feng frowned, "But back then, an agreement was made to allow anyone from the multiple character faction to go to the sixth floor and above."

"Assistant Bai..." The guard leader struggled for a bit before saying, "Officially, the multiple character faction no longer exists in the academy."

11 11

Bai Feng trembled.

After a while, he muttered, "The multiple character faction no longer exists? Who said so?"

"I don't know if you've checked the updated student manual recently, but the multiple character faction has been officially shut down this year. The faction has not been able to attract more than 10 students for 10 consecutive years. According to the academy rules, the faction can be canceled this year."

The guard leader lowered his head and said, "You can check the rules established during the founding of the academy. According to the 62nd provision, if a faction fails to attract more than 10 students for 10 consecutive years, the faction will be shut down. That is for the purpose of avoiding a bloat in the academy. In accordance with the law of the survival of the fittest, irrelevant factions will be shut down."

"Irrelevant..." Bai Feng laughed. "So our multiple character faction is now an irrelevant faction. No, we're not even considered an official faction anymore."

There was no anger. He only had a complicated feeling. It had been 10 years since they last managed to recruit more than 10 students. He sighed regretfully.

At that moment, someone walked by to enter the building. That person only nodded at Bai Feng without saying anything. Just like that, Bai Feng stood silently before the entrance.

Standing beside Bai Feng, Su Yu was feeling somewhat lost. He could sense that his teacher was in a downcast mood.

"Teacher..."

Bai Feng recovered from his daze.

He smiled and said, "Well done. They are actually trying to sever all our paths. They are not going to allow our students to enter the sixth floor and above anymore."

Bai Feng looked at the guard leader and slowly said, "If I remember correctly, I saw a few students on the ninth floor a few days ago. Those are students, right?"

"They have the unique permission slip from the faculty head, so they can be considered special talents"
"Is that so?"
Bai Feng smiled, "Is my student not a special talent as well?"
The guard leader did not say anything.
Bai Feng smiled, "By the way, my senior brother is still the head manager of this place. This place is still under his management."
Bai Feng then called a number, "We are being stopped at the ground floor. Come get us."
Chapter 197: The Path Of Offense (1)
A short while later, Chen Yong walked out.
He had a slightly wrinkled face.
Su Yu had an excellent first impression of this martial uncle. This was a refined person who also looked genial and kind. He was around 40 years old with a scholarly and easy-going look.
"Head Manager!"
The guards greeted Chen Yong.
Chen Yong smiled. He did not make any remarks about the guards' actions nor did he lash out at them. He softly said, "Let Su Yu up. I'll issue a permission slip later. I forgot that the multiple character faction has been canceled."

The guards said nothing else and stepped aside.

Chen Yong smiled and looked at Su Yu. He nodded and said, "Su Yu, not bad. Bai Feng mentioned you a lot. Come on up."

Su Yu hurriedly greeted, "Hello, Martial Uncle!"

"Don't be a stranger. Come on. We'll talk upstairs."

Behind him, Bai Feng said, "Senior Brother, when was our faction shut down? Why am I not aware of that?"

"You..." Chen Yong helplessly said, "When have you ever paid any attention to things like this? It happened not long ago. We have failed to attract more than 10 students for 10 consecutive years. If they want to shut us down, so be it."

"Senior Brother." Bai Feng was indignant, "How can they do this to us? Are they going to erase the very last proof of our existence? Have they forgotten that the first principal and the founder of the academy was also from the multiple character faction? The third and the fifth principals were all from the multiple character faction as well. Have they gone mad? They're shutting down the faction that has produced three principals. Why don't they shut down the entire academy while they're at it?"

Chen Yong calmly said, "Why are you getting all agitated? When we can finally recruit more than 10 students for 3 consecutive years, we can reinstate our faction. For now, this does not affect us as it's not like we're doing much with the official status anyway."

Bai Feng was still dissatisfied, but after thinking about it, he decided to shut up.

It was pointless to keep complaining right now.

While they were walking, an individual walked out from deeper inside the building. That person looked slightly older than Chen Yong. When he saw Chen Yong and the others, he nodded and smiled, "Head Manager Chen, Teaching Assistant Bai."

After greeting the two, the newcomer looked at Su Yu and smiled, "Head Manager, is this Assistant Bai's new student?"

"Yes."

Chen Yong smiled, "Are you going out, Manager Zhou?"

"Yes. I need to take care of something."

With a friendly smile on his face, Manager Zhou had a short chat with Chen Yong. After a short while, he mentioned something while pretending like it was a random topic he had just recalled, "By the way, the books depository has been losing a lot more resources than it has been able to obtain. Because of that, I opened the sealed First Fusion Hall you sealed previously. There are some people in there right now. We're running out of space so I have no choice but to make the First Fusion Hall available as well..."

Chen Yong gazed at Manager Zhou, the smile on his face vanishing.

With a perfectly calm tone, Chen Yong said, "For the past several hundred years, only those from the multiple character faction can enter the First Fusion Hall. Have you forgotten about this, Manager Zhou?"

Manager Zhou smiled, "No, but the multiple character faction no longer exists, right?"

With a calm and soft voice, Chen Yong said, "Get those people out of the room immediately and restore the room to how it was. Half an hour later, I'll be there with Su Yu. If there is still someone there or if even one item is missing, Zhou Pingsheng, I'll kill you right where you stand for the offense of theft of important ancient text."

Zhou Pingsheng's expression changed.

He wanted to say something, but Chen Yong was smiling again. Looking at Su Yu, Chen Yong said, "Come on. Let's have a chat with your martial uncle. This is our first meeting. Your teacher has never bothered taking you here to visit me..."

Chen Yong led the group away, completely ignoring Zhou Pingsheng.

Su Yu was greatly alarmed by what he had just witnessed, but he did not say anything and followed silently behind his martial uncle.

Beside him, Bai Feng sneered at Zhou Pingsheng.

With a mocking tone, he said, "They have the guts to occupy even the First Fusion Hall? Tsk, tsk. How incredibly foolish. My teacher is not dead yet. And my senior brother is still the head manager. For your sake, I really hope that everything in the room will return to how it was after half an hour. Hahaha!"

Bai Feng's voice was laced with derision. As he walked away, his laughter resounded in the corridor. After they left, Zhou Pingsheng's expression changed a few more times before he snorted and went back upstairs. He was going to deal with the matter concerning the First Fusion Hall. He had to restore it to how it was in half an hour.

...

While climbing the stairs, Chen Yong saw that Su Yu was being really silent. He smiled and said, "Don't be afraid, Su Yu. Your martial uncle was merely joking with that person earlier. That is the Deputy Head Manager Zhou Pingsheng of the books depository. He is a seventh-stage Cloudbreach cultivator. When you see him in the future, be sure to greet him politely. Scholars like us should always be well-mannered."

"I understand, Martial Uncle."

That was a joke? Was that true?

When his martial uncle stopped smiling and said those words, Su Yu felt a chill creeping up his spine. It was as though Zhou Pingsheng would really be killed in the books depository after half an hour had he dared to say no.

...

Before long, Su Yu and company reached the top floor.

Tenth floor.

There was only a large office on the tenth floor. That was the head manager's office. It also acted as Chen Yong's home. He stayed and had all his meals there. He would rarely leave the building.

Su Yu had just arrived when he heard a series of coughs.

While Su Yu was looking around curiously, Chen Yong's face fell for a split second before his smile returned, "That's your senior sister. She's feeling unwell right now so she's recuperating from it. You can get to know her in the future. For now, we'll let her rest."

Su Yu's curiosity was answered. However, Bai Feng's expression changed as he asked, "I thought she's recovering? Why does it sound like her injuries are worsening?"

It sounded like she was going to cough her lungs out. Bai Feng couldn't help but to worry about her.

"It's fine. That girl..." Chen Yong was feeling both helplessness and guilt as he said, "I didn't notice it but two days ago, she insisted on cultivating despite her injuries. She ended up harming herself more. Because of that, I brought her here to rest and recover. With me here, I won't allow her to act recklessly."

"That's too rash!" Bai Feng said, "Does that stinky lass not know that this is the time for recovery?"

"Jia...sigh. That's my fault too," Chen Yong sighed. "That girl found out that I would be subjected to a second audit at the end of year after she dropped off the top 100. That's why..."

Realization dawned on Bai Feng. To not implicate Chen Yong, Wu Jia was trying to get back into the top 100 again. That was why she had forcefully cultivated even before recovering from her injuries. In the end, her injuries got worse.

Bai Feng gloomily said, "This is all my fault. I shouldn't have challenged Hu Wensheng. I'll try to find some good stuff to help her recover faster. We can't allow her injuries to worsen."

Su Yu, who was listening silently, couldn't help but to feel gloomy. This was a terrible feeling. In fact, he had been feeling the repressive mood since entering the books depository. That feeling hadn't been too strong previously.

After all, there weren't really that many people targeting Bai Feng. Or to be precise, there really wasn't much people could do to Bai Feng. He was not holding any positions in the academy and he spent all his time living as a shut-in in his research center.

And he didn't even have any money people could try to take. Neither did he have any entries into any of the grottos. A Bai Feng that had only strength and nothing else to lose was basically an unrivaled existence in the academy.

Meanwhile, Chen Yong was in a precarious position. His position as the head manager of the books depository was coveted by many people. He was having difficulties maintaining his position. Even if he was still the head manager, it was obvious that he was slowly losing control of the books depository.

Su Yu took a deep breath and said, "Martial Uncle, I still have quite a lot of merit points with me. If Senior Sister needs money for medicine, I can buy some for her..."

"Kid..." Chen Yong smiled, "Things aren't that bad yet. Your teacher and I are not in such a terrible position that we have to start taking from our juniors. I'll thank you for the thought, but you're at a stage where you need a lot of merit points as well. Sigh. You have actually joined us at a bad time. There are a lot of things we wish to do but couldn't, especially in terms of support for our students."

Chen Yong spoke apologetically, "With your talent, you can definitely gain a lot more support in any other faction. What a pity. I'm really sorry about this."

"Martial Uncle!" Su Yu hurriedly said, "It's not that serious! I am honored to join the multiple character faction. There are benefits to being in a smaller faction. At the very least, I don't have to worry about internal conflicts. Just look at the single character faction. They are busy stabbing each other in the back."

Chen Yong smiled, "That's normal when there are too many people. They won't have enough resources to satisfy everyone so they naturally have to start competing among themselves."

Bai Feng coughed and said, "Senior Brother, why are you saying all that? We have not done this brat any wrong. He has only joined the academy for a short while yet we have already spent thousands of merit points on him. He should be happy."

Su Yu nodded in agreement with an honest smile on his face. Yes, he naturally had to agree to protect his teacher from losing face. But then again, he had indeed gained quite a lot from their faction.

Cultivation methods and martial techniques, mountainbreak bull blood essence, unlimited access to the fragment and filter rooms, and also the mythic destruction beast skull. If a value was attached to all those things, it wouldn't be low. He definitely wouldn't be able to get that much if he had joined any other faction. There were too many geniuses and people in the other factions. There weren't enough resources for everybody.

Chen Yong smiled and moved on from the topic. He invited the two to sit down on the couch.

Chapter 198: The Path Of Offense (2)

When Chen Yong started making tea for Su Yu, Su Yu hurriedly stood up and took over. He poured a cup of tea for both himself and Chen Yong. To the side, Bai Feng's face turned stiff as he wondered if his student was ever going to serve him tea.

If Su Yu realized what Bai Feng was thinking, he would swear that he really wasn't neglecting his teacher intentionally. He had only neglected Bai Feng because Bai Feng had already poured himself a cup of tea.

Bai Feng looked at Su Yu speechlessly. Why was Su Yu never so polite toward him when the two of them were in the research center?
"Senior Brother"
Chen Yong interrupted Bai Feng with a wave of his hand. He looked at Su Yu and said, "Have your teacher given you a detailed introduction on the multiple character faction?"
Su Yu hurriedly answered, "Yeah. I understand that our multiple character faction only allows our members to advance into the Skysoar Realm after forming 10 or more Divine Characters."
When Chen Yong heard that, he glared at Bai Feng.
"What an unlearned person."
п п

Bai Feng blinked in an aggrieved manner. What was wrong with that?

"Don't listen to your teacher. He only told you the unimportant stuff." Chen Yong explained, "You can't be a true member of the multiple character faction just by forming more than 10 Divine Characters. The defining trait of our faction is the different techniques we cultivated. Divine Characters can also be cultivated similarly to acupoints.

"The combination and fusion of different Divine Characters will create a different battle technique, something we call a character technique. This is the essence of our multiple character faction.

"It doesn't matter how many Divine Characters you have. If you can't use them in a systematic manner, you won't be considered a true multiple character cultivator. Our official name is Multiple Divine Character Fusion Faction. Having multiple characters is merely one of the requirements to be a part of us. The fusion of characters is even more important."

Realization dawned on Su Yu. So that was the case! When he looked at Bai Feng again, he suddenly had a feeling that his teacher was...really not that impressive. His teacher had talked to him about their faction several times, but never once had his teacher told him anything important. Bai Feng had an ugly expression. He argued, "Senior Brother, I was intending to tell him more at the Mental Tempering Stage. Who knew this brat would..." He wanted to say that who knew that the brat would reach the Mental Tempering Stage so quickly. He didn't even get the chance to tell the brat anything. "Mental Tempering Stage..." Only then did Chen Yong realize something. He looked at Su Yu blankly and asked, "You've reached the Mental Tempering Stage?" "Yes, Martial Uncle." Chen Yong looked at Bai Feng blankly and asked, "A few days ago, you told me that he'll take some time to reach the Mental Tempering Stage. What happened?" Bai Feng: "..." How was he supposed to know that?

Chen Yong shook his head, trying to shake his shock away and said, "No, I should have realized that since

you're here. I nearly overlooked that fact."

He did not know whether to laugh or cry. It would seem like he was quite slow today.? Since Bai Feng had brought Su Yu to him, wasn't it clear that Su Yu had reached the Mental Tempering Stage? How could he not realize that earlier?

Evidently, he had stayed in the books depository for too long, to the point even his brain was starting to slow down.

"Good. Very good!"

Chen Yong nodded with a satisfied smile.

He did not waste any time saying anything else. He said, "Your teacher has probably not gotten the chance to tell you all that yet. I know that he has been very busy recently. If you have any questions in the future, feel free to look for me. Comparatively, I have more free time than him. Back when your teacher first joined the academy, I was also the one in charge of teaching him. Your grandteacher...is similar to Bai Feng. He is an absent teacher as well.

"Although your teacher didn't have the time to teach you the basics yet, he is also better than me in regards to some of the more advanced topics. In terms of character fusion, he is better than both your grandteacher and me."

Bai Feng feigned humility and said, "Senior Brother is too kind."

Chen Yong laughed. He continued, "Bai Feng is good at the path of offense. I know that youngsters like you love this. And you should have witnessed his path of offense before. Hu Wensheng is no ordinary ninth-stage Skysoar. He is also one of the geniuses of his generation. But he has been defeated by your teacher with one move."

"Senior Brother is praising me too much."

Bai Feng was still acting humble. In his opinion, it wouldn't be too proper for him to praise himself too much. Good thing he had a good martial brother who knew the right thing to say.

Chen Yong couldn't even be bothered to entertain Bai Feng. He continued, "Today, your teacher brought you here to determine your future path. Our faction has three main paths: offense, defense, and balanced. "Don't think that the balanced path would be the best because it covers both aspects. With that path, you will be average in both offense and defense. You might end up a mediocre cultivator because of your choice. "Bai Feng walks the path of offense. His combat prowess is incredible, but he can't last too long during combat. For him, one-hit-kills are very important. If he fails to defeat his opponent promptly, things will get troublesome for him." "As for me, I walk the path of defense." Chen Yong did not care about trying to act humble. He spoke bluntly, "Although I am only a ninth-stage Cloudbreach, even a third-stage Mountainsea would have trouble killing me unless they specialize in offense. Of course, with my lack of offensive capability, I will have a lot of trouble killing my opponent as well. I can only drag the battle out." Su Yu blanked out slightly before saying, "Martial Uncle, why do your words sound so familiar? I think I heard the same words from Teacher Zhao before." "Who?" "Zhao Li," Bai Feng answered. "This brat is minoring in weaponsmithing. He's Zhao Li's student." "Zhao Li?" Chen Yong was stunned. He hurriedly asked, "Su Yu, you're Zhao Li's student?" "Yeah."

Su Yu nodded.

Chen Yong looked at Bai Feng and asked, "You made that happen?"

Bai Feng was speechless. He said, "That has nothing to do with me. The brat did it himself. That Zhao Li has been trying to snatch my student."
Chen Yong sank into silence.
Meanwhile, Bai Feng looked at him in confusion.
After a short silence, Chen Yong slowly said, "Su Yu, you should walk the path of offense. Don't bother with the defensive or balanced approach. Of course, there is a premise for this choice. You betteruhmbetter"
"What are you trying to say, Senior Brother?"
Bai Feng was flabbergasted. What was his senior brother doing?
Chen Yong took a deep breath and said, "Zhao Li! You're truly ignorant! Do you need me to spell everything out for you? Don't you know who the fourth principal was?"
"Of course I know."
Bai Feng rolled his eyes, "Principal Zhao Yunchuan. After he was killed in battle, he left the source character behind. How can I not know him? He fell in battle 115 years ago. Of course I know him."
"Zhao Li is the fourth principal's son."
ш_ш
Bai Feng was stunned. "Impossible! Zhao Li isn't that old, right?"

"He's almost 120 years old."
ш_ш
Su Yu was dumbstruck. Bai Feng was dumbstruck as well. He asked, "He's 120 yet he's only a seventh-stage Cloudbreach?"
Chen Yong glared at his junior brother and said, "He doesn't like to cultivate his Divine Characters. He focuses fully on weaponsmithing. Because of that, his cultivation speed is rather slow."
"Butwhy haven't I heard of that?"
"That's why I said that you are ignorant. If you have been paying attention, you should be aware of this, said Chen Yong. "Zhao Li is the son of the fourth principal. The fourth principal was known for his robust and thick willpower. That is related to his source character and his special cultivation method."
"With the source character as the base, the fourth principal had created a cultivation method called the Soul Expanding Art."
Chen Yong looked at Su Yu and solemnly said, "For the path of offense, the biggest weakness is the drain on your willpower. You can easily find yourself in a weakened state after attacking, opening yourself up to be killed by your enemies. Because of that, some of us choose to walk the path of defense. But with the Soul Expanding Art, the drain will no longer be an issue."
Bai Feng asked dazedly, "Is that true? Why had nobody told me about that before?"
That was something very important. Why had nobody told him about that?
Su Yu looked at his own teacher with pity. So it turned out that his teacher knew nothing as well. Poor guy.

Bai Feng sensed his student's gaze and rolled his eyes. What was that brat thinking about?

He, Bai Feng, was still a youngster as well! He wasn't even 30! And he had only been in the academy for 9 years. Wasn't it normal that there were things he didn't know?

Chen Yong laughed with amusement when he saw the antics of the two. He said, "It's pointless to tell you this anyway. Zhao Li is an eccentric. After the fourth principal's death, the Soul Expanding Art almost went extinct. He alone repaired the incomplete copy left behind by his father. When his father passed away, he was still a child."

Chen Yong explained, "Strictly speaking, the current Soul Expanding Art is basically a creation of Zhao Li as the original version has been mostly lost. And he is too eccentric. Even though he had accepted a few students, he would not teach them the Soul Expanding Art if he believed that they were unsuitable for that cultivation method. The outsiders say that he is too stingy with knowledge, but he doesn't care.

"In truth, Teacher looked for him a few years ago for his Soul Expanding Art. But after taking one look at you...he said that you were a piece of trash that was unworthy of his Soul Expanding Art. Teacher had no choice but to give up..."

"..."

Bai Feng was stunned. Him? A piece of trash? That was the very first time someone had ever called him that. Was his senior brother serious?

Chen Yong ignored Bai Feng. He looked at Su Yu and said, "Since you've caught Zhao Li's attention, you might be able to get the Soul Expanding Art from him as well. With that, you would be able to solve the issue of willpower exhaustion. At that time, you will truly become an expert on the offensive path. With the ability to attack continuously, your opponent won't be able to defend against your attacks forever."

The more Chen Yong spoke, the more excited he became. "I never paid too much attention to that, but it is quite a surprise that Zhao Li has actually accepted you as a student. I only realized that after you said that my words sounded familiar. Zhao Li must have mentioned his Soul Expanding Art to you before, telling you about his endurance in combat, right?"

"Yes." Su Yu nodded, "He didn't mention any specific cultivation method, but he did mention that he can last long in combat. Even Mountainsea experts might not be able to outlast him."

"He's right." Chen Yong smiled, "Since he has told you that much, it is clear he has the intention to teach you the Soul Expanding Art as well. But the fact that you're only minoring in weaponsmithing is holding him back. He might be thinking that it's not worth teaching his trump card to someone who isn't his main student."

Chen Yong sternly said, "Grab this opportunity! Since you have caught his attention, it proves that you have the aptitude to learn what he has to teach. There must be some limitations to the Soul Expanding Art, making it something not everyone can learn. Zhao Li is eccentric, but I believe he's definitely not someone stingy with knowledge.

"There must be a reason as to why he had not taught anyone that method. Even Bai Feng failed to catch his eyes back then. This is a good opportunity for you. Su Yu, you need to visit Zhao Li more. If you manage to learn that method, you would be able to grow into the strongest attacker of the multiple character faction. The strongest defense is offense. Everlasting offense."

Listening to all that, Su Yu was starting to get excited. Meanwhile, Bai Feng was getting the urge to sit in the corner by himself.

What was the meaning of this? Why did his senior brother insist on comparing him against his student? He was a piece of trash? That old fart was truly a bastard.

"Path of offense! Soul Expanding Art!"

Su Yu's excitement did not last long as his mood turned somewhat downcast soon after. Teacher Zhao had made it clear that he wouldn't teach someone who wasn't his main student his trump card. In Su Yu's opinion, Chen Yong had overestimated his importance.

Chapter 199: Character Technique (1)

This was Su Yu's first time hearing about Zhao Li's background.

As the fourth principal's son, Zhao Li definitely had a high status in the academy.

Su Yu recalled something and asked curiously, "Martial Uncle, Teacher said that the first, third, and fifth principals were from the multiple character faction. How about the fourth principal? Was he from the weaponsmithing faction?"

"No." Chen Yong smiled, "The fourth principal was in the single character faction. He majored in Divine Characters and he had formidable willpower. Because he hadn't formed any character technique prior to the Skysoar Realm, he wasn't considered a member of the multiple character faction despite having formed many Divine Characters during the late stages of his cultivation. As for the second principal, he was from the taming faction. Back then, he managed to train a powerful beast beyond the Mountainsea Realm."

Chen Yong proceeded to give a simple introduction of the two principals.

Su Yu had a lot of questions. He cautiously asked, "Martial Uncle, our multiple character faction used to be so powerful. We even have three ex-principals. Do we not have any experts anymore?"

Where were the remaining members of such a powerful faction? Was the effect of the incident 50 years ago really that big?

Chen Yong's expression turned downcast as he softly said, "Some things are a lot more complicated than you know. The fifth principal, my grandteacher, was the leader of the multiple character faction. He was someone who had truly walked beyond the Mountainsea Realm. During his era, the multiple character faction reached its peak. More than 50 years ago, the fifth principal was on the cusp of reaching the Invincible Realm."

Chen Yong paused to take a deep breath before saying, "Invincible Realm...the multiple character faction has never produced one such expert before. None of the Invincible experts that had emerged over the past several hundred years were from the multiple character faction. Although the multiple character faction has a long history, its cultivation system early on was incomplete. It can't be called a true fusion faction."

"Most of our early experts were stuck at the Sunmoon Realm..."

"Sunmoon?"

Su Yu blanked out.

Chen Yong explained, "The realm after the Mountainsea Realm. They are also commonly known as Supreme experts. Beyond the Mountainsea, one could peak at the sun and the moon. Beyond the sun and the moon, one could grasp eternity. The Invincible Realm is the unofficial term for that realm, but it is officially known as the Eternal Realm. Of course, that isn't really that important."

Those were merely the names of the realm. Invincible or Eternal, they were the same. Both represented the peak of cultivation.

Chen Yong did not linger on that topic. He continued, "Prior to the fifth principal's time, the leaders of our multiple character faction would mostly stop at the Sunmoon Realm. The fifth principal was the first multiple character faction expert to demonstrate the potential of reaching the Invincible Realm.

"Around 50 years ago, the fifth principal perished during his attempt to advance into the next realm. Back then, a large number of experts from the multiple character faction volunteered as his dao protectors. Some were Sunmoon experts, some were Mountainsea experts..."

Chen Yong sighed, "The fifth principal walked the path of offense. He was known as the strongest Sunmoon back then. The moment he broke through, humanity would gain another super expert.

"But in the end...he encountered great trouble during his breakthrough. On that day, Great Xia King, Great Zhou King, Great Ming King, Great Shang King, and many other Invincible experts were attacked and held back by the experts of the myriad races. That day, rivers of blood flowed in the Allheaven Battlefield. During the battle to stop the advancement of the fifth principal, more than three Invincible experts perished.

"The multiple character faction was forced to face two Invincible experts without help. The fifth principal joined hands with the experts of our faction and used his life as the cost to kill an Invincible expert. Ultimately, he fell short of success and perished. Many other experts perished alongside him. Great Xia King had rushed over immediately after beating back his opponent, but he was too late..."

Su Yu swallowed and asked, "Killing an Invincible?"

"Yes." Chen Yong nodded, "As a Sunmoon, he killed an Invincible."

"If the fifth principal was so strong, even after the heavy losses, why would the multiple character faction decline so much?"

Chen Yong smiled bitterly and said, "In the beginning, things weren't that bad. The fifth principal might have perished and we might have lost a lot, but we still have our previous accumulation with us. But the geniuses of that era, the successors of the fifth principal's generation, all of them encountered trouble. It was really sad. I'm not going to say much about it. It won't change anything."

"As for the multiple character faction experts, of course we had some left." Chen Yong explained, "In truth, most of the initial multiple character cultivators of the Human Realm came from Great Xia. Eventually, our teachings were spread all over the Human Realm. The main branch of the faction was located in the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy, but there are other multiple character cultivators in the other academies and the military."

"However, those in the military won't get involved in factional struggles. As for those from the other academies, the position of the multiple character faction was greatly weakened after that incident. Even now, those people are barely surviving. Add to the fact that most of our experts from the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy were dead..."

Su Yu finally understood, but he was still slightly doubtful.

He asked hesitantly, "Since we were once so great, to the point where we had proven that we are strong and have the potential to reach the Invincible Realm, shouldn't we receive more support? After all, the fifth principal had killed an Invincible. Why would the academy..."

At this question, Chen Yong looked somewhat awkward as he said, "How do I say this? The generation before us had offended too many people. We had exhausted countless resources for our cultivation, using countless willpower texts, source qi liquid, blood essence, and so on. All those resources were used like water. Because of our excessive spending, the other factions had a hard time surviving..."

Chen Yong spoke fairly, "Our faction had exhausted too many resources. The fifth principal himself had emptied the academy's coffers for his advancement. Even so, there were still countless students trying

to walk the path of multiple characters...If the fifth principal had succeeded, if Martial Uncle and his peers had successfully broken through, everything would naturally be fine."

"Alas. They all failed." Chen Yong regretfully said, "Not one or two of them, but all of them failed. The academy could no longer tolerate us as it was on the verge of shutting down. At that time, Principal Wan stepped forth and assumed the position of the sixth principal. He expelled Martial Uncle and his peers and reallocated the academy's resources. That was the start of our faction's decline.

"Eventually, some other factions started rising to prominence. The academy found that nurturing a single Mountainsea of a different faction would take only a third of the resources a multiple character Mountainsea would need. Some even need as little as one fifth of what we need. We were viewed as a faction who needed a lot of resources without being able to provide the academy with sufficient benefits. Slowly, our resources were cut down..."

At this point, Bai Feng interrupted, "Their actions during the early years were understandable. After all, the academy had suffered a lot during that time. The failure of Martial Uncle and his generation had also left a stain on our reputation. A lot of geniuses were starting to fear our faction because of that."

"Therefore, Martial Uncle and the others did not resist. They accepted the academy's arrangements silently. They agreed that they had brought the crisis upon the academy, nearly causing the academy to shut down. But after the academy recovered from the damage dealt by that incident, things started to change."

Bai Feng sneered, "The academy discovered that there were more Mountainsea experts in the academy than before. With the same amount of resources, they could produce more Mountainsea experts than before. In that case, why should they continue supporting the multiple character faction? Thus, our life became more and more difficult."

.

Chen Yong softly said, "You can't blame them for everything. We need to take some of the blame as well. We can't provide the academy with enough benefits yet we require far too much resources. In that scenario, we will naturally be viewed as a threat to the benefits they have been getting."

He looked at Su Yu and advised, "Do not focus on hating anyone. A lot of things they do are reasonable. After all, we have too few experts. We can't provide too many benefits to the academy. A lot of the resources of the academy are obtained by our elders from the Allheaven Battlefield. People naturally won't agree if you want to take more without giving more."

Bai Feng disagreed, "You're right. But the truth is that we never tried to get too much. Both Great Xia and the Knowledge Seeking Realm would allocate some resources to the academies at fixed intervals. Are those resources meant only for them? We should have our share, right? Be honest. How much of the resources we currently use are given to us by the academy? We have been earning our own resources for quite a while now."

"Take Teacher's research center as an example. A majority of our resources were earned by Teacher himself. Only a small amount of the resources were allocated to us by the academy. In return, hadn't we provided the academy with some valuable research results?"

Bai Feng indignantly said, "Also, we're not only facing the issue of resources. The issue is that they are trying to completely exterminate us from the academy. We have been keeping silent about our lack of resources. We have been making do with whatever we can get and cultivate by ourselves. Had we tried to take from them?

"Furthermore, they can't deny that a lot of the things left in the academy had been obtained by the predecessors of our faction. But those people are the ones using those things while we are stopped from using those things. That does not make any sense."

Bai Feng sneered and said, "For example, this books depository. Most of the texts here were left by the past experts of our faction. Why can't we use a little bit of these texts? Why must they stop us from using it? Over the years, they have used a lot more of these texts than us..."

Chen Yong stopped Bai Feng with a gesture and frowned, "Stop saying all that. It's pointless to turn fully aggressive against them. This is how things are. The Great Xia Cultural Research Academy is the root of our faction. Are you going to leave the academy? If you do leave, then you can forget about reclaiming our past glory."

Bai Feng curled his lips with contempt, but he didn't say anything else. It wasn't like they would do any better at the other academies. As for the option of leaving and cultivating independently, their growth would be even slower without the grottos and willpower texts of the academy.

It would be too difficult for a Mountainsea expert and a few other people to cultivate by themselves. At the very least, they would still have a backer if they remained in the academy. There was still hope that they could recover in the future.

Chen Yong looked at Su Yu and said, "Your current priority has nothing to do with all that. Let your seniors handle all that. Your only mission is to cultivate. Before the Skysoar Realm, ignore everything else. Do not take part in anything."

Su Yu nodded. It wasn't like he would be able to do anything even if he wanted.

"Come on. Let's go to the First Fusion Hall." While walking, Chen Yong introduced, "The First Fusion Hall was supposed to be a private property of the multiple character faction. There are many precious texts in that room. Those texts are extremely suitable for the cultivation of the members of our faction. Members of our faction need to form many Divine Characters during the Mental Tempering Stage and pick a path of our character technique. Generally, that choice will be made in that room."

•••

They went downstairs. The First Fusion Hall was located on the ninth floor.

When they reached, they saw Zhou Pingsheng leaving with a group of people. Chen Yong acted like he didn't see them. Zhou Pingsheng had a dark expression, and he didn't even bother greeting them. He silently left with the group of curious students.

"A bunch of clowns."

Bai Feng looked at Su Yu and said, "Even if we allow them to use the First Fusion Hall, they wouldn't be able to do anything with it. They would only waste their time."

Su Yu did not say anything. There really wasn't anything he could say in this situation.

Chapter 200: Character Technique (2)

A short while later.

Su Yu was brought into a large room. The room looked rather crude and ordinary.

There were some bookshelves in the room. The bookshelves were filled with all sorts of willpower texts. Some were made of bone, some were made of jade, and some were made of hide.

When Chen Yong saw Su Yu looking at the texts, he smiled, "These texts aren't the core of this room. They are merely some unimportant books. Zhou Pingsheng and his people have no way of accessing the true core of this place."

Suddenly, the space in front of him lit up brightly. One golden Divine Character after another appeared out of nowhere. Su Yu glanced at the Divine Characters and couldn't help but be impressed. There were dozens of them.

Before long, the Divine Characters started melting. Yes, they were melting away. They melted and fused into one. In the blink of an eye, a key appeared in front of Chen Yong. Holding the key in his hand, Chen Yong waved it at the wall in front of him.

Su Yu couldn't resist rubbing his eyes when he saw what happened next. The wall had...melted into nothingness.

Chen Yong's voice rang out, "Come on. Get in."

Su Yu followed Chen Yong forward in a daze. Behind the wall was yet another room.

When he looked behind after entering the room, the previous wall had reappeared. The First Fusion Hall was no longer visible. They had entered a different room.

Bai Feng grinned and asked, "Are you surprised? This is the real First Fusion Hall. Only those from our multiple character faction can enter. The other room is merely a cover."

Su Yu nodded. He was so impressed that he didn't even react to Bai Feng's smugness.

He looked around and noted that this was a sealed room.

At around 40 square meters, it wasn't too big.

Several bookshelves could be seen in the room as well. But apart from these bookshelves, he couldn't see anything else. He failed to see what was so special about the room.

"Look at the walls." Bai Feng said, "Those books aren't the core of the First Fusion Hall. It's the walls. These walls can be considered a unique myriad race willpower text. Or to be precise, they are walls made of countless willpower texts combined together."

Chen Yong said, "Su Yu, like I said, the multiple character faction focuses on the fusion of Divine Characters. Like acupoints, we can join all our characters to form a technique. That is the so-called fusion of our faction.

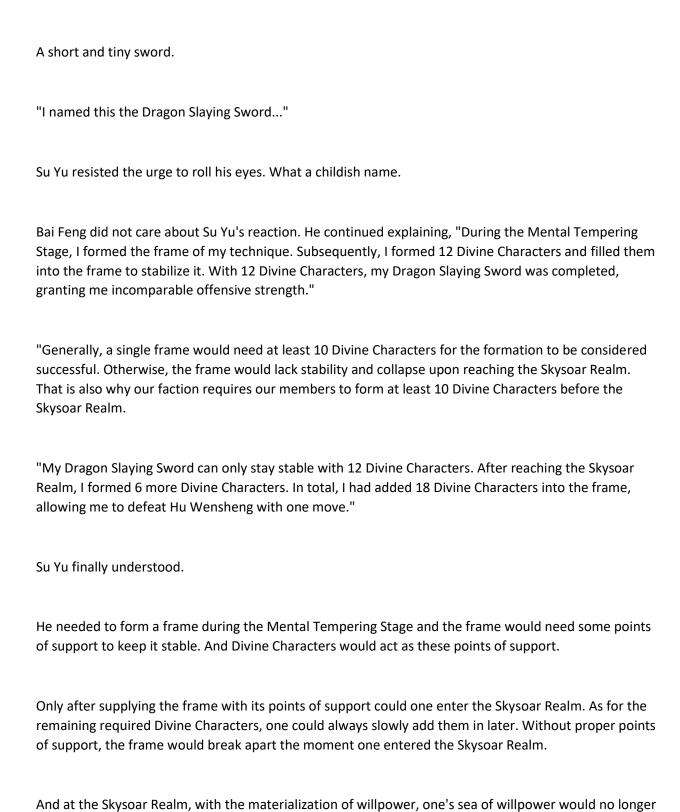
"Our characters are connected in a systematic manner, not random. For example, after opening 108 acupoints, the War God Art would connect your acupoints in a specific manner instead of in a random manner. Without a proper cultivation method or martial technique, you won't be able to properly display your strength even with 1,800 acupoints."

With the explanation of Chen Yong and Bai Feng, Su Yu finally understood what the multiple character faction was all about. He also finally understood the purpose of the First Fusion Hall. This was where he would pick his path.

After picking his path, he would need to form a frame for his future character technique in his sea of willpower. In the future, he would slowly fill the frame with his Divine Characters, slowly completing his character technique.

As part of the explanation, Bai Feng even demonstrated his character technique to Su Yu.

It was a sword.



be as malleable as before. Thus, forming a new frame at the Skysoar Realm was impossible.

After the explanation, Chen Yong solemnly said, "A frame is not something you form casually. These walls are basically unique willpower texts that serve as a unique guide for the formation of a character technique frame.

"When you send your willpower into a wall later, a character technique suitable for you would form in your sea of willpower. You would be able to start filling the frame of that technique up to form a complete character technique."

Bai Feng added, "Different character techniques require different numbers of support points. It could be as low as 10 support points, which means you only need 10 Divine Characters for it. It could also be more, like 13 or maybe 14 Divine Characters, but remember this. Just because the technique requires more Divine Characters does not mean that the technique is better."

"Remember to assess your capabilities accordingly before making your choice. At the Mental Tempering Stage, you will have limited willpower. You won't be able to complete a character technique that requires too many support points. If you end up getting a character technique like this, it would be troublesome. You might end up stuck in the Mental Tempering Stage for years.

"For example, if you end up forming a sword that requires 50 support points, you would have to form 50 Divine Characters during the Mental Tempering Stage. And not every Divine Character might be suitable for your character technique, so you still need to aim for specific Divine Characters as well. How many years would that take?

"Even if you do manage to accomplish that feat, would your willpower be strong enough to take this burden at the Mental Tempering Stage? Even if your willpower is strong enough, 30 years might have passed since then. Sure, you are unrivaled within the Skysoar Realm. But what's the point if all your peers have reached the Mountainsea Realm by then?"

Chen Yong agreed, "Your teacher is right. You need to make your choice according to your own capability. Do not only aim for a high number. You only need to pick a frame that you can confidently complete. If you really want a character technique with more Divine Characters, you can always grow your character technique by filling it with more Divine Characters at the Skysoar Realm."

Su Yu asked curiously, "Martial Uncle, Teacher, as long as I am picking a frame I can complete, would higher support points be better?"

Chen Yong smiled and said, "Yes. There are some advantages to that. For example, your teacher's Dragon Slaying Sword needs 12 Divine Characters as the support. With 12 support points, his character technique is naturally more stable than one with only 10 support points. It also allows him to add more abilities to his character technique. If a character technique is filled with 10 support points, one would only be able to add 10 abilities to the technique. But your teacher's technique can house 12 abilities.

"The abilities of the Divine Characters used as the support points of your character technique can be transferred to your character technique, allowing them to exist as the basic abilities of your character technique. For example, abilities such as sharpness, concealment, armor piercing, blood absorption, baleful aura, explosion, burning, and so on."

Bai Feng interrupted, "Offensive character techniques generally focus on strengthening their attacks. The basic abilities of my Dragon Slaying Sword are all offense oriented. For offensive character technique cultivators, sharpness is an ability almost all of us would pick. The second most popular ability is the strength ability. It will give the technique more destructive power. Agility is also a useful ability as it allows you to attack faster."

"..."

With Bai Feng's explanation, Su Yu understood even more.

"Teacher, do you mean that if I put all three of my Divine Characters into a character technique, the technique would possess abilities such as illusion, blood absorption, lightning, and killing intent?"

"Yes."

Bai Feng nodded, "Exactly. All three of your Divine Characters can be considered offensive characters. They are quite suitable for the path of offense. Of course, your Divine Characters won't be stuck the moment they are fused into the technique. You can always take off these characters to use them independently. Generally, you only use your character technique as the trump card that will kill once unleashed. The drain on your willpower would be too heavy if you intend to use it for normal combat. In other situations, it is more advisable to use your characters independently and adjust accordingly depending on the combat situation."

"I see."

Su Yu finally understood. The so-called character technique was similar to cultivation methods and martial techniques.

For cultivation methods and martial techniques, the number of required acupoints would determine their strength. A character technique sword requiring 15 Divine Characters would possess 15 abilities. In most situations, this sword would be stronger than a sword with 10 Divine Characters.

Su Yu looked at the walls around him. To his left was a wall with defensive character techniques. To his right was the wall with balanced character techniques. And in front of him was the wall with offensive character techniques.

These walls were made by the predecessors of the multiple character faction to help the newcomers of the faction lay down their foundation.

"Teacher, Martial Uncle, I'll be starting."

Su Yu wasted no time and stood facing the offensive wall and sent his willpower over.

When Su Yu entered the state of concentration, Bai Feng inhaled deeply and transmitted his voice to Chen Yong, "Senior Brother, what do you think he will form?"

"That depends on him." Chen Yong said, "There are many things in there. What he gets will depend on what he can see, what he can catch, and what he can form. His luck and talent will play a big role here. There is nothing we can do."

He smiled and continued, "Back then, the frame of your Dragon Slaying Sword required 12 support points. That is already a very decent character technique. The path of offense has always been harder than the path of defense. I will be satisfied if Su Yu can form a frame with the same number of support points as you."

Bai Feng rolled his eyes. He then sighed, "I told him several times to not get too greedy. Having a higher number might not necessarily be a good thing. But I'm worried that this brat would disregard our advice. If he ends up picking one with too many support points, it would get troublesome."



Bai Feng rubbed his chin. Was he still underestimating Su Yu when he made an estimate of 15 support points?

Sigh. It was really hard being the teacher of such an unpredictable student.