

Myriad 221

Chapter 221: Everyone Has A Plan (1)

Senior class.

Su Yu was the first to arrive. He had just entered the senior class so he was aiming to keep a low profile. The moment he arrived, he sat down and focused on reading, acting like a good student.

Today, the usages of Divine Characters would be taught, so a lot of students were attending the class. It was very quiet inside the classroom. Only a few students familiar with each other would occasionally speak softly to each other.

The senior class was as cold as ever. While everyone was staying silent, someone stepped through the door. The newcomer went straight toward Su Yu.

Su Yu sensed a figure standing beside him. He raised his head to look at the newcomer. Nearby, when Wu Lan saw that it was Zheng Yunhui, she snorted and proceeded to ignore him. Generally, she would view those stronger than her as targets to surpass instead of showing them contempt.

Wu Lan had just finished snorting when Zheng Yunhui slammed his palm onto the table. A loud sound rang out, alarming the whole class.

"Su Yu." Zheng Yunhui furiously said, "Give it to me!"

Su Yu frowned and calmly said, "Student Zheng, what are you talking about?"

"You know what I'm talking about!" Zheng Yunhui coldly said, "You're the first person to ever have the courage to take something belonging to me. Hand it over. Don't force me to make a move against you."

"This is a cultural research academy. Are you going to attack me openly?" Su Yu frowned, "Furthermore, I have no idea what you're talking about."

"Cut the act." Zheng Yunhui said, "I spent 1,000 merit points to buy that thing. I paid for it! Are you going to take it from me just like that? Su Yu, do you really think I don't know about it?"

Su Yu's expression changed. Meanwhile, many other students still looked confused. What was happening between the two?

Xia Huyou, who was busy chatting with another student, heard those words and his expression instantly changed. 1,000 merit points! He suddenly thought of something. Not long ago, Su Yu had looked for him to ask about the lost Skybreak Technique. During his fight against Chen Qi, Su Yu had used the Skybreak Technique.

In truth, Xia Huyou had started to suspect Su Yu since then. And sure enough, the real owner of the technique had appeared. Su Yu had really found the lost Skybreak Technique and Zheng Yunhui had learned of it.

"Su Yu...is truly too lucky!"

Xia Huyou muttered to himself. Immediately after, helplessness sank in. Su Yu wanted to challenge the single character faction while Xia Huyou wanted to find an opportunity to start a gambling operation around Su Yu's fights. But Su Yu was obviously not Zheng Yunhui's match.

Zheng Yunhui was a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator! His physical cultivation was even stronger than Xia Chan's. She was still two acupoints away from that level. Previously when Xia Huyou told Su Yu to challenge Xia Chan, he was merely joking. At the very least, he had not expected Su Yu to challenge such an opponent this early.

While thinking about all that, Xia Huyou rushed over. With a hearty laugh, he tried to calm the situation, "Friends, calm down. You can always talk it out. There is no need to make a fuss and make things difficult for both of you."

Su Yu calmly said, "I didn't provoke him. He was the one who had slammed his palm on my table and started scolding me out of nowhere. Zheng Yunhui, do you think I'm a pushover that can be easily bullied?"

"Bully?" Zheng Yunhui coldly said, "I disdain bullying a weakling. Since you have taken what's mine, just return it. I won't lower myself to do anything to you. Otherwise, I won't hold anything back."

"I don't know what you're talking about..."

"Su Yu, don't waste this chance I'm giving you. You understand what I'm talking about. You know very well what you used against Chen Qi. Do you want me to say everything clearly?"

It was still better to not talk about an item from the black market openly. But many in the class were starting to realize what he was talking about. Black market...Zheng Yunhui...Su Yu...defeating Chen Qi...

These people were no fools. Before long, they recalled something they had heard about. Skybreak Technique! A willpower text written by a Mountainsea. The looks in many eyes turned odd. Su Yu sure was lucky. Did he pick up the lost willpower text somewhere?

No wonder Zheng Yunhui was flipping out. He had paid 1,000 merit points for that. That was by no means a small sum of money. However, not everyone in the class was aware of what was happening.

Wu Lan was one of them. When she saw how loud Zheng Yunhui was speaking, she was offended. She said, "Zheng Yunhui, if you want to shout, go shout somewhere else. Don't shout near me."

Zheng Yunhui glanced at her and coldly said, "Shut your mouth. This is unrelated to you. Wu Lan, don't think that you're a big deal just because you have a Mountainsea senior in your family. My grandpa is the principal of a war academy. So what? If you're not strong enough, learn to shut your mouth."

"You..."

Zheng Yunhui did not let her finish her words. His aura surged, his source qi erupted, and his willpower pressed forth as he said, "Are you going to challenge me? I will accept the challenge. Wu Lan, do you think I won't dare to beat you up so badly you would be bedridden for five months?"

He sneered, "This is a private matter between me and Su Yu. It has nothing to do with you. A weakling like you can only take part in something like this after defeating people like Lin Yao and Chen Qi, but not now. A weakling is unworthy of participating in the disputes between the strong."

Wu Lan's face was flushed red from anger. She was furious.

At that moment, Su Yu released his third-stage Great Strength Realm aura and barely counteracted Zheng Yunhui's suppression. Since Wu Lan wasn't even in the Great Strength Realm yet, she was naturally not Zheng Yunhui's match.

"Zheng Yunhui, we're all classmates. A true genius would not run from the strong and only bully the weak."

"Hehe." Zheng Yunhui did not bother paying Wu Lan any additional attention. He sneered and said, "I can't be bothered to waste my time on weaklings. Su Yu, you defeated Chen Qi, right? You can unleash the strength of an Infinite Strength, right? Do you think I'll be afraid of that?"

Their words gave Wu Lan the urge to hide inside a hole on the ground. She had been completely overlooked. They viewed her as a weakling, someone unworthy of even speaking. Her face was flushed red with anger. She felt humiliated and embarrassed.

"I want to grow stronger!"

Wu Lan roared inwardly. She wanted to reach the Great Strength Realm as well.

Zheng Yunhui was stronger than her. Su Yu was stronger than her. Under Zheng Yunhui's suppression, she couldn't even move. However, Su Yu was actually able to counteract that suppression. The gap between her and Su Yu was growing larger and larger.

Back at Nanyuan, both Su Yu and her were still eighth-stage Source Opening cultivators. She raised her head and looked at Zheng Yunhui before looking at Su Yu. The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. The angrier she was, the redder her face became. She looked like a cooked lobster from how red her face was.

Zheng Yunhui glanced at her out of the corner of his eye and was alarmed. She wouldn't be angered to death, right? Breath, damn it! Breath! If she was really angered to death here, he would be in deep shit!

Wu Lan was furious, but not far away, Lin Yao was furious as well. People like Lin Yao and Chen Qi? What was the meaning of that? Damn that Zheng Yunhui! His words were truly infuriating.

But when Lin Yao saw how Wu Lan couldn't even move under Zheng Yunhui's suppression, he could only sit there helplessly. He couldn't afford to provoke Zheng Yunhui as he wasn't a match too.

"Seventh-stage Great Strength Realm and high willpower..."

Xia Chan and a few others had solemn expressions. Zheng Yunhui was already strong enough to challenge the Top 100 Ranking.

If his Divine Character was strong as well, then he would really have the strength to stand against those in the Top 100 Ranking.

Xia Chan, Wan Mingze, and the other freaks were prideful and confident. But even they weren't confident they would be able to defeat Zheng Yunhui. In terms of physical cultivation, they were all weaker than Zheng Yunhui. He was one of the only two students in the class that had reached the seventh-stage Great Strength Realm.

The other student was Zhao Shiji. But since Zhao Shiji's willpower was weaker, Xia Chan and the others had the confidence to defeat him. Zheng Yunhui was different. His willpower was very strong as well, making him a very difficult opponent. He could very well be the current strongest combatant in the class.

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At the corner of the classroom.

Jia Mingzhen and the other fake students were enjoying the show.

"Su Yu took his stuff...don't tell me it's the missing Skybreak Technique."

"That should be the case. I sensed some of Old Fart Qiu's aura on Su Yu's body a while ago. I was confused, but now, I understand why."

The so-called Old Fart Qiu was the Mountainsea expert from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research academy, the person who had written the Skybreak Technique willpower text.

They conversed while enjoying the show, "Would Su Yu return the text?"

"No way. If it's me, I wouldn't do it too. Who would return something the black market lost?"

"True. But this kid from Zheng Family won't let this rest. Well, it looks like a great show is about to unfold."

"That might not be the case. Su Yu is too weak to put up a good fight..."

The elder glanced at Su Yu. He didn't dare to perform a deeper scan on Su Yu as they still needed to hide their identity. But something still felt odd as he said, "Guys, look at Su Yu. Has he grown? Why do I feel like the source qi around him is much denser than before?"

"He broke through again?"

The others looked at Su Yu. They did not send their willpower over and only looked with their eyes. After a while, Jia Mingzhen said doubtfully, "I think someone sealed his source qi undulations, deliberately hiding his true strength. This aura...feels similar to Old Huang's aura. Has this kid been to the source grotto?"

"In that case, has he really broken through into the fourth-stage Great Strength Realm?"

"..."

These elders had sharp eyes. Even without using their willpower, they were able to reach a rather accurate conclusion. Su Yu might have really broken through.

"With his new strength and blood essence abilities, he might really be able to put up a fight. But this kid from the Zheng Family is very strong. Su Yu is probably still not his match."

"Yeah."

That was the conclusion they reached. Even with his blood essence abilities, how long could Su Yu keep the abilities active? Based on what they knew, Su Yu wouldn't be able to last longer than a minute. And it was unlikely that he would be able to defeat the grandson of the Great Xia War Academy's principal in only a minute.

Slowly, Su Yu's expression turned unsightly.

"Zheng Yunhui, don't push it too far! Even if I really have that thing, it's something I obtained myself. Are you going to rob it from me?"

"Rob?" Zheng Yunhui sneered, "You have the nerve to say that? That thing has always been mine! Su Yu, cut the crap. Return it to me! You're very confident, right? You can even defeat Chen Qi, right? I'm challenging you to a match. If I win, return it to me. If I lose, I will forget about this."

Su Yu calmly said, "My apologies, but I am not interested in fighting you. It's pointless."

"Coward!" Zheng Yunhui sneered, "You're just scared of losing. You're a coward!"

Su Yu ignored the provocation and continued reading his book.

Zheng Yunhui shouted, "Coward. Do you think you can escape me? Even if you refuse now, I can still cripple you the day you enter the Top 100 Ranking. I'll make sure to let you suffer the same fate as your senior sister. You'll stay in your bed for months!"

Bang!

Su Yu slammed his palm into his table and looked up with a sinister gaze. A short while later, calm returned to his face.

"Zheng Yunhui, class is starting. There are things we can talk about in private. Why do you insist on putting on a show for everyone else?"

Zheng Yunhui snorted coldly.

"Fine. I'll be waiting for this talk. Su Yu, don't even dream of running off with my stuff. I am not a piece of trash like Lin Yao. I am better than him in both background and strength. Normally, I can't be bothered to waste my time on you. Don't think that you're a big deal because of that."

Su Yu clenched his fists. His face fell. Nobody said anything. Some looked at Su Yu with pity. They were sure that he wouldn't be Zheng Yunhui's match. Only when the instructor arrived did Zheng Yunhui return to his seat. The classroom was so silent it felt oppressive. Su Yu maintained his unsightly expression.

Near Su Yu, Wu Lan even noticed him trembling. He did not look like he was trembling from fear. He looked more like he was trembling from anger. Upon seeing how furious Su Yu was, Wu Lan suddenly felt less angry.

When the class was over, Wu Lan suddenly said to Su Yu, "When I break through into the Great Strength Realm, I'll reach the third-stage in one day too. At that time, I'll beat up that bastard. Su Yu, I'll let you know that I'm stronger than you!"

She then rushed away. Clearly, she was rushing away to grow strong.

Su Yu was speechless. If she wanted to prove that she was stronger than him, why was she aiming to beat Zheng Yunhui up instead of him? What an odd logic.

Su Yu lifted his schoolbag and silently walked away.

Behind him, Zheng Yunhui said, "Su Yu, this isn't over yet. You need to return my stuff. Don't force me to challenge Wu Jia as well. As a student who has been in the academy for a few years, would she refuse the challenge of a new student like me? You can act like a turtle, but would your senior sister act like a turtle as well?"

"You dare?" Su Yu turned around with fury in his eyes and said, "Zheng Yunhui, you have successfully angered me."

"Hehe." Zheng Yunhui appeared indifferent, "You have to return my stuff. If you refuse, fight me. If I lose, I will naturally let this slide since I'm not your match. Su Yu, does a coward like you have the guts to accept my challenge?"

Su Yu clenched his fists tightly. Right that moment, Xia Huyou pulled him aside and dragged him away.

While walking away, he said, "Don't let him provoke you! He's a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. His willpower is strong too. You're not his match. If you accept his challenge, you would lose both the Skybreak Technique and the fight. What's the point? Just keep a low profile for a period of time..."

Su Yu did not say anything. He had a sinister expression.

This was Xia Huyou's first time seeing such anger in Su Yu. he said, "You are growing quickly. Although he's growing quickly too, he's only relying on his background. Su Yu, be patient..."

"I understand." Su Yu said, "Thank you. You don't need to console me. After today, I will find a chance to repay him."

After leaving those words behind, Su Yu left.

Chapter 222: Everyone Has A Plan (2)

After Su Yu and Zheng Yunhui left the classroom, sounds of discussion broke out.

"Su Yu is in trouble. Zheng Yunhui is from a warrior family. He has a fiery temper. That's the characteristic of the Zheng Family. If Su Yu refuses to return his stuff, he would probably challenge Wu Jia. And if Wu Jia refuses the challenge, the reputation of the multiple character faction would be ruined."

"How is Wu Jia supposed to fight? She's still nursing her injuries. Zheng Yunhui is already as strong as some top 100 students. Meanwhile, Wu Jia has been greatly weakened. If she accepts the challenge, she will only make her injuries worse."

"Will Su Yu return it?"

"I don't know. But if it's me, I won't. That's something the black market lost. Who would return something like that? Also, Su Yu isn't even from a well-off family. That is something he wouldn't be able to afford even after years of hard work. Now that it is already in his possession, why would he return it?"

Everyone discussed spiritedly. Normally, they did not like to talk because there was nothing to talk about. Now that there was fresh gossip, they were more than happy to talk about it.

Wan Mingze had a thoughtful look as he said, "Su Yu might not be able to resist accepting the challenge. He has just defeated Chen Qi not long ago. Now that Zheng Yunhui has provoked him, he might really decide to fight."

Beside him, Zhao Shiji smiled, "I wonder if they would fight privately or openly. If it is an open fight, we will have the chance to see Zheng Yunhui's strength. With blood essence, Su Yu can release the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator and force Zheng Yunhui to show some of his strength."

Wan Mingze said, "It is unlikely that the match would be public. After all, this is related to the black market. They would also be afraid of having the Skybreak Technique seized by the academy."

"True."

Their eyes flickered as they sank into thought. They had to pay more attention to Su Yu and Zheng Yunhui. Those two might really agree to a private match. Of course, they all believed that Su Yu would most probably lose. Sure, the combat prowess of an Infinite Strength cultivator was strong.

But Su Yu would only be able to unleash that strength momentarily. And he couldn't increase all aspects of him into that of an Infinite Strength cultivator. His speed, martial techniques, and experience would still be far behind a true Infinite Strength cultivator.

Thus, a warrior like Zheng Yunhui who came from a family of experts was not afraid of that momentary burst of strength. When Su Yu first demonstrated that trump card of his, Chen Qi had been caught by surprise. But now that the trump card had been revealed, its threat level had dropped significantly.

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Inside an office.

Liu Hong was still busy worrying about the problems of the black market when someone knocked on his door. His worried look vanished, replaced by a friendly smile as he said, "Come in."

Lin Yao rushed inside and told Liu Hong everything that had happened earlier. He seemed to be taking joy in Su Yu's suffering.

After telling his story, he asked in excitement, "Su Yu, is that thing really with Su Yu?"

"I guess so." Liu Hong smiled, "I did guess that Su Yu might have obtained that text. When he defeated Chen Qi, his Skybreak Technique was already beyond the beginner level. In that case, a feud would definitely form between him and Zheng Yunhui."

Liu Hong wasn't too surprised, but he was slightly doubtful. Why hadn't Zheng Yunhui looked for Su Yu privately instead of making a ruckus in class? Was he not afraid that he would escalate the matter too much and catch the academy's attention? Then again, it was understandable for a young man to be hot-blooded and rash.

Liu Hong knew Su Yu quite well too. That kid would definitely not accept the challenge if he wasn't confident of winning. It was clear Su Yu wasn't intending to return the text. That was great. Everything was going according to plan.

And Zheng Yunhui...was actually quite smart as well. At the very least, he was smart enough to provoke Su Yu using Wu Jia. Even with her injuries, Wu Jia would most likely still accept the challenge by Zheng Yunhui. At that point, Su Yu would be put in a very difficult position.

"Interesting. What would Su Yu choose to do?"

Liu Hong was amused. He didn't care about the result of the match. Neither did he care about Wu Jia. He only wanted to see Su Yu's choice between the Skybreak Technique and Wu Jia.

Continuing to ignore Zheng Yunhui was a reasonable option. And Wu Jia could also reasonably reject the challenge since everyone knew she had been injured. Nobody could say anything if she rejected the challenge.

Naturally, if both Su Yu and Wu Jia refused to fight, then the multiple character faction would still suffer some loss in reputation. As a result, they might find themselves in an even worse position. After thinking about all that, Liu Hong waved his hand, sending Lin Yao away.

After Lin Yao left, Liu Hong rubbed his chin and called a number, "A conflict has formed between Zheng Yunhui and Su Yu. Looks like our plan is working well. But it's a pity that I have to sacrifice my Skybreak Technique to make it happen..."

A joyful voice rang out, "Got it. Su Yu and Wu Jia are the only successors of their faction. It's better to drag the Zheng Family and Hong Tan in as well. Let them go at each other. That way, we will have someone else deal with the multiple character faction on our behalf."

Liu Hong smiled, "I hope so. But for this plan, I lost a lot. To lose the Skybreak Technique reasonably, a lot of my products in the black market were seized as well. Senior Brother Zhou, can you talk to Elder Zheng about this? Money is getting tight for me."

"Nothing concrete has come out of your plan yet." Zhou Pingsheng said, "It's only some juniors feuding against each other right now. To be honest, it's not worth spending too much just to turn some juniors against each other."

Liu Hong said, "But Bai Feng is in seclusion while Chen Yong never leaves the books depository. There is nothing I can do apart from working on their juniors. If we couldn't handle this well, we might end up getting the Zheng Family as our enemies instead..."

"Principal Zheng and Hong Tan might not get into a feud just for a Skybreak Technique..."

Liu Hong hurriedly said, "That's why I need more support to do more."

"We'll see."

"..."

The call ended. A sinister look appeared in Liu Hong's eyes. Damn that bastard. He lightly rapped on his desk and thought for a bit before calling another number.

"What do you want?"

Bai Feng's impatient voice rang out.

"Your student is feuding with the kid from the Zheng Family."

"Oh..."

When Liu Hong heard that reply, he said, "You guys need to strike back at them! You guys have been acting like a turtle. Because of that, my worth is dropping as well. Bai Feng, why don't you let Chen Yong flip out one time and remind the academy of his existence. With all of you turtling up, I can clearly feel that those people are losing interest in my plans..."

Bai Feng was speechless. And what was Chen Yong supposed to do then?

"Let's wait and see."

"..."

Liu Hong was furious. "Wait? How long are you going to wait? Damn it! Why am I more worried about your faction than you people? Who's the actual multiple character faction member here? You guys are too weak. You look like you have completely given up. Nobody would care about you. And nobody will be willing to support me if they stop caring about you."

The condition of the multiple character faction concerned his own condition. If his opponent was too weak, his higher ups would not be bothered to invest too much on him.

Liu Hong could clearly sense the recent change of their attitude. Back when Bai Feng had just defeated Hu Wensheng, Liu Hong's treatment had improved considerably. Everyone was hoping that he could suppress Bai Feng.

Bai Feng rolled his eyes and said, "There is nothing I can do for now. Wait until I'm done with my research and Su Yu is down growing. At that time, I'll be sure to have some fun with you guys. What's the rush?"

"You..."

Liu Hong was tired of speaking with Bai Feng. He helplessly said, "It's a pity Su Yu is still too weak. If he can defeat Zheng Yunhui, he can prove that he has the potential to enter the top 100. That way, he can give those fellows some pressure. It would be even better if he can cripple a few fellows in the top 100. At that time, your faction will stand out more..."

"That won't happen anytime soon." Bai Feng said, "He's already growing fast enough. His foundation is still too weak compared to Zheng Yunhui. Give him more time. He can grow quickly. Liu Hong, I'm not in a rush. Why are you so impatient?"

"Bullshit!"

Liu Hong cursed. How could he be patient?

It hadn't been easy for him to get some support from his higher ups. But now, he was on the verge of losing that support. How could he stay patient? Ever since news of his teacher reaching the end of his lifespan spread, his treatment had been.

His teacher was now deep in seclusion to break through and gain more lifespan. Because of that, his line no longer has much power in their faction. Most benefits would first be given to others, such as someone as useless as Hu Wensheng, before they would even think about Liu Hong. Otherwise, how would Hu Wensheng be able to surpass him in cultivation?

"Bai Feng, why are you taking this so lightly? So be it. Your faction deserves to end. Damn you all. Even an outsider like me is more worried about your faction than you guys."

Liu Hong was furious.

Bai Feng was feeling very aggrieved. He cared a great deal, but they were not strong enough so what could they do?

"How about...I leave seclusion and defeat you? What do you think about that plan?"

"..."

Liu Hong was completely speechless. Bai Feng was actually right. If he left seclusion, it was only logical that his first target would be Liu Hong. There was indeed no good way to solve their current predicament.

"Sigh. I wonder if sending the Zheng Family against you guys is the right move. Maybe you should get Su Yu to return the Skybreak Technique?"

After returning that text, Zheng Yunhui would probably not waste any more time on Su Yu. The Zheng Family had always been that straightforward.

Bai Feng gave it some thought and said, "We'll see. I need to ask Su Yu about it first. It's good to give that kid a little pressure. I don't want him to get too cocky."

Bai Feng believed that it was a good thing for Su Yu to suffer some setbacks. Everything had been going smoothly for that kid since he joined the academy. Perhaps after this setback, that kid would be able to grow even faster.

The call ended.

At the same time.

Su Yu had just returned to the research center. The gloomy look on his face was replaced by excitement. He wondered if his acting was on point. Did anyone suspect him?

Zheng Yunhui might look like a barbarian, but he was actually quite good at acting as well.

"Liu Hong has definitely heard of this by now. I wonder if he will fall for it. But putting the research center's data as the wager out of nowhere is too suspicious. I need to make it logical. It would also be too suspicious for Zheng Yunhui to offer the blood essence straight away. It's better if we first talk about merit points. He can take his blood essence out since he lacks merit points. And since I lack enough money to bet against his blood essence, I wagered the research center's data out of greed."

Su Yu started perfecting his plan. He had to make it as believable as possible. Every time he thought about scamming Liu Hong, he got excited. These days, the shameless Liu Hong had been making things difficult for a new student like him. He was running out of patience.

"It would be even better if Teacher could work with me. Yeah, this should work."

Suddenly, Su Yu had a feeling that he had forgotten something. But he couldn't recall what it was.

Prison zone.

The golden lion roared weakly. He said, "Is that kid dead somewhere? Are those bastards trying to starve us to death and research our corpses instead?"

The shadow said, "Talk less and save more of your energy. Otherwise, you would die even faster."

The lion shut his mouth. He looked somewhat pitiful. Before he could even start to instigate Su Yu to help him, he was going to starve to death. Damn it! Just what was that kid doing?

Chapter 223: A Good and Honest Man, Su Yu (1)

Su Yu had only stayed in the living area for a short while when Bai Feng came up.

"Teacher!"

Bai Feng nodded. He walked over in an unhurried manner, acting like he was some refined sage as he sat down and poured himself a cup of tea. He looked at Su Yu who was sitting there without doing anything.

Excellent. This kid had indeed never thought of pouring his teacher a cup of tea.

What an unfilial kid!

"Has the matter been exposed?"

"What?"

Bai Feng asked, "Did the kid from Zheng Family look for you?"

"Teacher, you..."

"Why do you think you can hide that from me?" Bai Feng nonchalantly said, "I sensed the text from the first day you found it. See, trouble is coming for you now."

Su Yu wanted to say something but he hesitated.

Bai Feng smiled and said, "The Zheng Family is very big. And powerful. This is very troublesome. Even your teacher..."

"Teacher!" Su Yu looked at Bai Feng who was still acting like an unfathomable expert and awkwardly said, "It's fine. The Zheng Family won't be an issue..."

"I know you're feeling pressured. Don't be afraid. With your teacher around, everything will be fine." Bai Feng said, "Don't forget that we have a Mountainsea expert in our faction as well. Our backer is an eighth-stage Mountainsea character master. We don't have to fear their ninth-stage Mountainsea warrior."

"Teacher, it's really fine. There is no need to make a big fuss out of this." Su Yu hurriedly explained when he saw that Bai Feng was about to drag Hong Tan in, "It's really fine. I already came to an agreement with Zheng Yunhui. He will be paying me 30 merit points each time he reads the Skybreak Technique willpower text."

"Pu!"

Bai Feng spat a mouthful of tea. He frowned and said, "Overnight tea? Did you not brew a fresh pot of tea today?"

"..."

Su Yu wanted to laugh, but he was able to hold it in. He hurriedly played along, helping Bai Feng cover his embarrassment, "Yes. It's overnight tea. I'll make you a fresh pot immediately, Teacher."

Su Yu then ran off to boil some water, leaving a befuddled Bai Feng behind. What was going on? Weren't the two kids supposed to be feuding with each other? But Su Yu was telling him that Zheng Yunhui had agreed to pay to read? That information was completely different from what he had learned.

"Damn that Liu Hong! Is he even aware of what is happening? Or perhaps that text does not belong to Zheng Yunhui after all?"

Bai Feng was confused. Just what was going on?

Before long, Su Yu returned. Bai Feng coughed and calmly said, "Tell me. What's up."

"Teacher, isn't Liu Hong our enemy?"

Su Yu started explaining his plan. After he was finished, Bai Feng remained silent for a long while. His student...A brat who was only a third-stage Great Strength cultivator was planning to scam an eighth-stage Skysoar cultivator. And the plan even sounded feasible. Of course, nobody knew if it would ultimately work. But there was no denying that his student was truly gutsy.

Bai Feng started thinking about his past. Had he ever thought of making a move against Skysoars when he was still at the Great Strength Realm? The two brats were not only thinking about it. They were actually doing it. The brats of this generation were truly gutsy.

And they weren't even aiming to scam a small sum from Liu Hong. They were aiming to get over 10,000 merit points from this plot. If they succeeded, Liu Hong would probably go bankrupt. He would even be forced to sell even his own underpants.

No!

Bai Feng suddenly realized something. If Liu Hong really became so poor he had to sell his underpants, who would be supplying Bai Feng with money in the future? Wait, that wasn't right. At that point, everything Liu Hong had would be in their hands. At that point, why would he still care about Liu Hong?

Liu Hong would have to take care of himself. If that fellow was really that useless, then Bai Feng should probably stop wasting too much time on him.

Bai Feng took a sip of his cup of overnight tea and looked at Su Yu. After a while, he asked doubtfully, "You might not be Zheng Yunhui's match. But you insist on fighting him and are going to even put the research center's data as the wager. Are you sure people would take the bait?"

That was basically the same as offering to give the data away. Would anyone fall for it?

Su Yu explained, "Teacher, I still have some confidence. I can also give others the feeling that I am sure I can win."

Bai Feng laughed, "Even if you use your blood essence ability, that is no longer a secret. Everyone is already aware of that..."

"No." Su Yu hurriedly explained, "Teacher, this is my plan. Everyone believes that I'm still a third-stage Great Strength cultivator with three Divine Characters and blood essence abilities. But in truth, I am much stronger. In that case, things would be completely different.

"Teacher, what if I'm a sixth-stage Great Strength cultivator with four or more Divine Characters? Would I have a higher chance of winning?"

"Of course. If you're only a stage lower than him, with blood essence and more Divine Characters, you will definitely have a higher chance of winning. Even an idiot knows that for our faction, the more Divine Characters we have, the stronger we get..."

"Then it will be fine!" Su Yu smiled, "If everyone believes that I stand a chance against Zheng Yunhui, it would be understandable for me to accept his challenge. After all, he's offering three drops of Cloudbreach divine blood essence. How can something that valuable not move me?"

"But Zheng Yunhui will continue growing even while you are growing."

Su Yu immediately said, "That won't be an issue, Teacher. I'm already at the fifth-stage. Can't you see that?"

"..."

Bai Feng's body turned stiff.

He looked at Su Yu. And he really couldn't see it. Wait. Some bastard had helped Su Yu conceal his cultivation. With the same awkward expression, Bai Feng unleashed his willpower. Since he was Su Yu's teacher, there was no taboo in him scanning his own student. His willpower broke through the concealment and next, he stood up in shock.

"61 acupoints..."

Bai Feng rubbed his chin and pretended to be calm, "I'll go check some data. I'll be back."

"Teacher..."

Whoosh!

Bai Feng was gone.

...

Third underground floor.

Bai Feng threw a punch at the wall.

The pain woke him up. He checked the calendar on the wall and sank into deep thought. Had he been too focused on his research and forgotten the passage of time? Perhaps he had been researching for a few months?

At that thought, he called a number, "Senior Brother, what date is today?"

"9th. Why?"

"Wait. What month is it currently?"

"..."

Chen Yong frowned. Had his junior brother gone mad from too much research?

"Bai Feng, are you fine?"

"Yes. I'm fine. Senior Brother, answer me. What month is it?"

"9th of September. Year 350 of the Anping calendar. Junior Brother, are you really fine?"

Bai Feng muttered to himself, "So it's really 9th today. I have only been in the lab for less than a week..."

"Bai Feng..."

"Senior Brother, what's the date Su Yu left his seclusion?"

"4th. This is the fifth day after his seclusion. Just what is going on?"

Bai Feng looked at the ceiling with despair and said, "Senior Brother, he has only opened 37 acupoints previously, right?"

"Yes."

"Is it possible for someone to open 24 acupoints in 5 days? Basically he has to open 5 acupoints per day. Senior Brother, does such a person exist?"

"..."

Finally, Chen Yong realized something. He said in disbelief, "Don't joke around with me!"

"Senior Brother, I'm not joking!"

Bai Feng laughed dryly and said, "I even thought that a few months had passed while I was in my lab. But you told me that I was wrong. Just a moment ago, that kid told me that he has grown stronger. And when I checked, he had opened 61 acupoints!"

"..."

Chen Yong was stunned. What? Opening 24 acupoints in 5 days? How?

"How did he do that?"

"I want to ask you the same question too," Bai Feng rolled his eyes. How was he supposed to know the answer for that?

He had been in seclusion for a few days! He had been in his underground laboratory! How was he supposed to know anything?

"Are you sure you didn't check wrongly?"

"Of course." Bai Feng said, "Also, someone helped conceal his cultivation. When I checked, it was a Cloudbreach cultivator. I don't know what's going on..."

"Ask him."

Chen Yong hurriedly said, "Don't waste any time. I'll be there shortly. Just what is going on? How is it possible that he can grow so quickly? There isn't anything wrong, right?"

"I'll ask him."

Bai Feng felt very helpless. He was completely clueless as to what his student had done. He had been too shocked to ask before calling his senior brother. That was simply too shocking a growth.

...

After spending some time calming down, Bai Feng changed into a different set of clothes and returned to the living area with a calm and composed appearance.

"You're at the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm now?"

"Yes." Su Yu happily said, "I went to the Source Qi Secret Grotto last night. I bought some blood essence for my cultivation. Surprisingly, I was actually able to reach the fifth-stage in the grotto. The grotto is really a good place. Teacher, when I earn more money, I'll go there often! But that place is really expensive. I'm almost out of merit points now..."

Bai Feng nearly crushed the cup in his hand when he heard that. The brat was nearly out of merit points?

Holy shit!

Was the brat the Skysoar or was he the Skysoar? Why did it feel like the brat was a lot more extravagant than Bai Feng, a proper Skysoar? But when Bai Feng thought of Su Yu's growth speed, he understood. This kid was very willing to spend his money. Then again, if Bai Feng could grow so quickly just by spending money, he would probably make the same decision.

"Did you get the seal on you from someone at the Grotto District?"

"Seal?" Su Yu nodded, "Yeah. Teacher Huang left it on me when I was leaving."

Bai Feng curled his lips. Did Su Yu think that the old man from the Grotto District was doing it out of kindness? That old man was probably curious as well. He had only used that as an excuse to check Su Yu's condition.

"Fifth-stage Great Strength Realm..."

Bai Feng asked, "Did you use mountainbreak bull blood essence for your cultivation?"

"Yeah. Infinite Strength mountainbreak bull blood essence." Su Yu nodded, "It feels the same as Great Strength blood essence. Teacher, I feel like the Infinite Strength can be used for body forging as well. Why does everyone insist on using the Great Strength blood essence?"

Bai Feng had the urge to beat someone up. He said, "Do you think everyone is like you? Do you think everyone can withstand Infinite Strength blood essence at the Great Strength Realm? A drop or two might be fine, but no Great Strength cultivator can take dozens of Infinite Strength blood essence."

Just look at Su Yu. He was acting like nobody knew that Infinite Strength blood essence was better. Did he really think that everyone was stupid?

The issue was that at the Great Strength Realm, one would need to be careful when absorbing Infinite Strength blood essence lest one end up bursting apart from absorbing too much. Everyone wanted to absorb powerful blood essence, but everyone was limited by their own strength.

"Because of your Divine Character?"

Bai Feng looked at Su Yu's head, resisting the urge to split that head apart and dig his sea of willpower out. It was that Divine Character again?

Su Yu nodded with an honest look on his face, "Yes, Teacher. The blood character is incredible. Teacher, this character is too helpful. I even have a feeling that it's going to reach the second tier soon."

Crack!

The cup in Bai Feng's hand was crushed, the tea splashing onto Bai Feng's clothes, leaving tea dregs everywhere.

Chapter 224: A Good and Honest Man, Su Yu (2)

Bai Feng did not say anything. He raised his head and smiled at Su Yu.

"Dear student, your Divine Character is going to break through?"

Su Yu trembled with fear and nodded, "I think so? It feels so."

"What month did I visit Nanyuan?"

"April..."

"Oh. It has been less than five months..."

Bai Feng smiled. In less than five months, Su Yu had grown from a clueless kid until this point where his Divine Character might be breaking through into the second tier. Hehe, hehe. Did this brat think that he would believe that lie?

Would he believe that lie? Generally, Divine Characters would only reach the second tier at the Skysoar Realm. Was this kid at the Skysoar Realm yet? How long would most people take to reach the Skysoar Realm?

It could be as short as two years like Wu Qi, or three years like Bai Feng, or half a year like that fellow from Great Zhou. This period of time referred to the time the cultivator had spent in an academy.

However, these geniuses had mostly formed Divine Characters before entering an academy. Thus, a Divine Character would probably take no less than five years to grow into the second tier.

And here, Su Yu was saying that his Divine Character was reaching the second tier in only five months? And it was the same character he had gotten from Bai Feng's willpower text?

"It can absorb blood essence to speed up cultivation, it can allow you to use blood essence abilities, it can even cultivate by itself to break through in five months..."

Bai Feng suddenly had a feeling that the blood character was an omnipotent Divine Character. It could even strengthen one's body and open more acupoints.

The look in his eyes turned dangerous as he said, "Beloved student, when you're able to materialize your Divine Characters, be sure to let your teacher study that character for a few months. Or else...I'll tear you apart!"

Bai Feng was going crazy. What sort of Divine Character was that? Was that an Eternal Divine Character? Damn it! If a character written by him was so powerful, was he an Eternal already?

He was starting to doubt Su Yu, but he had no proof that Su Yu was lying. Divine Characters could stay completely unknown unless the owner materialized it and allowed it to be researched.

He had just finished those words when someone berated, "Bai Feng, what nonsense are you saying? Divine Characters are the foundation of a cultural researcher. Even a teacher can't forcefully observe the Divine Characters of their students unless it was under the request of the students."

Chen Yong walked into the room. After giving Bai Feng a glare, he looked at Su Yu and said, "Ignore your teacher. In the world of cultural researchers, Divine Characters are one of the most important secrets one can have. You don't need to show your Divine Character to anyone if you don't want to, including your teacher."

"Senior Brother..."

"Hello, Martial Uncle!"

Bai Feng glared at Su Yu. He looked helpless, but at the same time, he also looked like he was losing his mind as he said, "Senior Brother, I wasn't serious. This kid...his Divine Character is really very different. And it was a character written by me. He's telling me that the character is reaching the second tier. That's why I was so curious."

"What?" Chen Yong blanked out slightly. He hurriedly asked, "Su Yu, do you know what second tier characters mean? You have not seen one before so are you sure you're not misunderstanding something?"

Su Yu himself was unsure so he scratched his head and said, "I don't know. I only have a vague feeling. The blood character is very strong now. Even its color has changed deeper. It feels completely different from the other characters."

"But that doesn't mean that it's on the verge of advancement."

That was the only reasoning Chen Yong could come up with. Otherwise, raising a character to the second tier in only five months was too scary. Even he was getting the urge to study that character. And there was even more about Su Yu that he didn't know.

On the other hand, Bai Feng, who knew more, was being driven crazy. He felt like his blood pressure had increased since accepting this student.

Chen Yong stopped talking about the Divine Character and scanned Su Yu with his willpower. He sank into silence.

61 acupoints.

Fifth-stage Great Strength Realm.

Bai Feng wasn't lying. His martial nephew had really reached the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm. This was too fast. It felt like a dream.

"He's really at the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm..." Chen Yong took a deep breath. He was both gratified and helpless as he said, "With your talent, if you join a war academy, you could probably reach the Skysoar Realm or even the Cloudbreach Ream in non time."

Su Yu flashed his trademark honest smile and said, "Martial Uncle, it's the same. I can cultivate here as well. With you and Teacher here, I have more motivation to cultivate."

Bai Feng rolled his eyes. What a boot-licker. Why had that kid never acted like that with him? The kid had immediately transformed into a boot-licker the moment Chen Yong was here. When he saw how Su Yu was fawningly pouring tea for Chen Yong, Bai Feng felt like someone was stabbing his heart with needles.

Bastard!

Was Su Yu his student or Chen Yong's student?

He stopped looking at Su Yu and said to Chen Yong, "Senior Brother, do you think his Divine Character is the reason for his fast growth? Or perhaps this kid has an unknown bloodline inheritance?"

"Bloodline inheritance?"

Chen Yong sank into thought. After a while, he said, "It's hard to say. Unless it's really obvious, there are many different levels to bloodline inheritances as well. I'm not seeing any bloodline characteristics on Su Yu so it's really hard to judge."

Su Yu asked curiously, "Martial Uncle, Teacher, what are bloodline inheritances?"

This wasn't his first time hearing this term.

Bai Feng snorted and said, "It basically refers to those with mixed bloodline. Back when the Human Realm first connected with the Allheaven Battlefield, the myriad races were not as hostile toward humanity. At the time, we had a much better relationship with them. Some of their experts would frequently visit the Human Realm and inadvertently left some of their bloodlines behind."

Su Yu was hit by a realization. So that referred to mixed blood.

Chen Yong smiled and added, "That's not the only possibility. Some experts might have modified their bloodline for power, and that bloodline might have been inherited by their descendents. For example, some human experts had replaced their own blood with the blood of divines or devils. That bloodline might end up being passed down..."

Bai Feng coldly said, "But only the Myriad Race Cult would do something like that. A lot of people in the Myriad Race Cult want to transform the human race into the divine or the devil race. Those are all traitors."

Chen Yong waved his hand, "You can't generalize all of them. Some people don't change their bloodline for the sake of it. Some only did it for the sake of research. These were the people who had paid a large price to make great contributions to humanity. We can't mix those people up with the cult members."

Su Yu nodded in understanding.

Bai Feng did not continue the topic. He said, "This kid plans to have a match with Zheng Yunhui. Do you think he stands a chance, Senior Brother?"

"Fifth-stage Great Strength Realm...and blood essence abilities. Yes, he has a chance to win." After a short pause, Chen Yong added, "And if his Divine Character is really going to advance, he would have an even higher hope of winning. At that time, Zheng Yunhui might not be Su Yu's match with his current strength."

Chen Yong suddenly thought of something as he muttered blankly, "If Su Yu reaches the seventh-stage, he would definitely be strong enough to enter the Top 100 Ranking."

"..."

Bai Feng and Chen Yong looked at each other. They had nothing to say.

The seventh-stage Great Strength Realm would give Su Yu the strength to guarantee his entry into the Top 100 Ranking.

In other words, Su Yu could already try challenging the ranking with his current strength. Naturally, he was probably going to lose. But at the very least, he was already strong enough to put up some fight, making him one of the strongest students of the academy outside the Top 100 Ranking.

Su Yu had always believed that he was weak. But that was because he had been surrounded by geniuses. If he had compared himself against the intermediate class students instead, which of them could even take a single hit from him?

In truth, even the senior class did not have too many students who could take a hit from him. Su Yu's strength had already reached a level that was near the Top 100 Ranking's level. Nobody had expected that.

Previously, Bai Feng had predicted that Su Yu could reach this point in a year. Then, he changed his prediction to half a year. Then, he shortened his prediction to the end of this year.

It was only September, but Su Yu was already not far away from the Top 100 Ranking. It was as though Su Yu was the favored child of the heavens.

After recovering from the reverie, Bai Feng coughed and said, "Senior Brother, we're still a few months away from the end of the year. Maybe we can get this kid to challenge the Top 100 Ranking and try to open a path for Jia?"

Chen Yong frowned and said, "Those kids are not weak. They might be new to the ranking and are only placed around the 70th place, but their real strength might be higher."

Even if Su Yu already had the strength to challenge the ranking, he was only strong enough to challenge those at the bottom. But there were 100 opponents in the ranking. Not everyone in the ranking was the same.

"We'll see."

Bai Feng wasn't too worried about that. He softly said, "I have one more matter. Senior Brother, do you think this would work?"

He then told Chen Yong about Su Yu's plan to scam Liu Hong. Once again, Chen Yong looked at Su Yu in astonishment. This martial nephew of his looked refined and gentle, but the kid was actually bold enough to scheme against Liu Hong.

Chapter 225: A Good and Honest Man, Su Yu (3)

Looking at Su Yu who was scratching his head with an honest smile, Chen Yong didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

After some thought, he said, "A lot of people are keeping their eyes on the research center. Previously, when Su Yu erupted with the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator, a lot of people were starting to wonder about the existence of Skysoar blood essence abilities."

He looked at Su Yu and said, "Su Yu, the main purpose for our research center's existence is to serve humanity. However, there are many humans around us and everyone has their own thoughts. There are things that we can't fully reveal to the public, such as some secret techniques and martial techniques..."

Bai Feng interrupted, "Simply put, we have invested too much into our research. Even if we have to release our result, we need to receive something from it. That is only fair as our faction has spent decades on this research. Countless resources have been invested into this research, reaching hundreds of thousands of merit points in value. Or maybe that value has even risen to millions of merit points."

Bai Feng snorted coldly, "Some people want to reap without sowing. Some want to buy us off with only a tiny bit of merit points. Dream on. We would rather keep our result for ourselves than to take that insult. This thing involves more than the research alone. It also involves benefits. If someone manages to get the result and submit it to the Knowledge Seeking Realm and War Shrine before us, everything we have done would have been for nothing."

"Maybe some people will say we shouldn't be so calculative since we're all working for the good of humanity. Ridiculous. Easy for them to say that when they're not the ones being expected to make the sacrifice. Try asking them to release their cultivation methods and their family wealth for the good of humanity. Would they agree?"

"Su Yu, remember this. Don't let anyone poison you with so-called righteousness. That is nothing but a joke. In fact, there are some people like this in the Myriad Race Cult. They have never contributed to humanity but have been demanding that the various academies and prefectures release all their secret cultivation methods and martial techniques. They are also requesting for all research results to be made public."

Bai Feng sneered, "Why don't they ask themselves if they have contributed anything to humanity? Even more hateful is the fact that a bunch of ignorant sheeps have actually been incited. Those people started demanding fairness, demanding to have the things that others have."

Su Yu scratched his head and awkwardly said, "Teacher, our faction..."

Bai Feng glared at Su Yu and said, "Scram! Are we the same as those people? We are only requesting for impartiality within the academy instead of the current suppression against us. We only want to get the same for the same amount of effort. It's not like we have not been using any merit points in the academy. And the fact that we actually have merit points to spend proves that we have contributed to humanity. We are not asking for free things to be handed to us."

Bai Feng scolded, "Don't be stupid and lump us alongside the cult members. Also, why do you think that we haven't contributed anything? Your martial uncle is running the books depository. Is that not a sort of contribution? Your grandteacher is focused on research. In the whole academy, very few researchers are so focused on research. They forget that a researcher's main task is research. Why call themselves a researcher otherwise? We all contribute in our own way."

"Our research is only a problem because those people have been intentionally picking faults with us. Every faction out there is doing some sort of research, but those people turn a blind eye on the resources burned by the others and only attack your grandteacher."

"Over these years, although our research center has not released a lot of results, we have released enough to maintain our research center. But those people have been using the lack of results regarding blood essence abilities as an excuse to look for trouble."

"Even if we ignore the rest of our results, things like ability transfer, Divine Character removal, blood essence storage, usage of broken willpower text...all these are the results of our research. They have deliberately ignored all that. But those results have proved useful in many aspects.

"Today, the masses see us as a faction that has only been relying on our past glory to survive until today. What a joke. We rarely receive any resource allocation from the academy. Most of our resources have been earned by your grandteacher himself. How dare they call us useless?"

"Any random result of our research center could be far more useful than all those so-called high-tier research centers. Those research centers are the ones actually relying on their past glory to survive. They can't research for shit but they are pretty good at cooking instead. I've tried the fire hog they cooked before. It tasted pretty good."

"..."

Su Yu resisted the urge to laugh.

Chen Yong was also rather speechless. He cleared his throat and said, "It's pointless to say all that. As for Su Yu's plan, it is feasible. I'll try to see if we can use this plan to lure out a bunch of fellows, including some cult members.

"I reckon the researchers of the academy aren't the only ones interested in our research. Perhaps some other people with unknown intentions are also interested. A blood essence ability technology at the level of Infinite Strength Realm is not that big of a deal, but if it reaches the Skysoar Realm, then everything changes."

Chen Yong thought about it for a bit before saying, "Bai Feng, we can try doing this. Of course, we're going to use some fake data for this. If it fails, so be it. If it works, we can lure a group of people out of hiding. Even if we can't do anything else to them, we can at least be more on guard in the future."

Bai Feng hesitated, "Would they fall for this?"

"It's hard to say..." Chen Yong suddenly had a new idea and said, "How about this? You should take a short break from your research. Go to a grotto for a secluded cultivation session. Don't stay in the lab all the time. After reaching the seventh-stage, you have been neglecting your cultivation. Try to reach the eighth-stage. Even Liu Hong is at the eighth-stage already. You're too slow."

"With you away, it would be more believable for Su Yu to be able to take out some data from the research center."

"Would people suspect me for the timing of my departure?"

"Don't worry." Chen Yong smiled, "Su Yu can wait a few more days before agreeing on a match with Zheng Yunhui. You will go into seclusion earlier than that. With your departure, it is only natural that Su Yu finally has the chance to get the data he needs for the bet, right?"

Bai Feng nodded. "But there is still a flaw to this plan. Su Yu is still not strong enough. If he's at the seventh-stage already, then all is fine. But he's still at the fifth-stage..."

"If he's at the seventh-stage, he would win for sure. In that case, how is he supposed to release the fake data?"

Bai Feng nodded again. He said, "Senior Brother, I'm worried that the kid would get in trouble because of this. Would someone try to take a risk and make a move on him directly?"

"Unlikely. We're still in the academy. Here, they can only employ some acceptable tricks to get what they want. Those experts will not make a move personally. Otherwise, do you think the Heart Cultivating Pavilion is only there for decoration?"

"If Su Yu's plan works out, he will definitely get some merit points. Also, a goal of 5,000 merit points is too small. You're looking down on our research center. But it would be hard to get anyone to bite the bait if we add a zero to that number. But I think we can easily push it above 10,000 merit points."

When he looked at Su Yu once again, he was feeling both gratified and melancholic. This martial nephew of his was truly gutsy. He was most certainly not as honest as that smile on his face suggested.

"Fine, I'll listen to you..." Bai Feng nodded. He looked at Su Yu and said uncertainty, "You won't suddenly reveal a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivation during the day of the match and screw Zheng Yunhui over by winning his blood essence, right? Kid, if you do that, the Zheng Family might really come after you. Those are three drops of Cloudbreach divine blood essence. Even I covet something like that. If you're really planning something like that..."

Bai Feng shivered, "Zheng Ping would definitely go crazy. I can't take his anger. You would need your grandteacher to come back and deal with that."

"..."

Su Yu had an innocent look on his face. No way. He had never thought of that. But then again, his teacher made a lot of sense! What if he won? Was he going to get the blood essence?

"Teacher, what's the price for a drop of Cloudbreach divine blood essence?"

Bai Feng grimaced. Damn it! Why was the kid asking him the price? Was the kid really planning to do something like that?

"At the Skysoar Realm, it's at least 1,000 merit points per drop. And you can only get it from the black market as it is a restricted resource. As for Cloudbreach blood essence, it is slightly higher in price since it's similar to the Great Strength body forging situation as it has less specific usage than the Skysoar blood essence. But it's still not cheap. You probably need to pay at least 1,500 merit points for each drop. It is also very rare in the market. Thus, getting one isn't only a matter of money as not even money can guarantee you something like that. Do you understand?"

"I see."

Su Yu nodded. His eyes were shining. How valuable! So the three drops Zheng Yunhui was going to take out would be worth at least 5,000 merit points? Also, this was a commodity where the demand was much higher than the supply, so its true value might be higher than that.

"Teacher, what if I accidentally win?"

Bai Feng was going crazy, "Just give up on the plan, kid. I won't be able to withstand the backlash of that. Not even your martial uncle can withstand it. The Zheng Family has been bragging about the divine blood essence for a few years. If you take it from them, they will definitely come after you."

"Of course, things would be different if your grandteacher is around. After all, you're still relying on your own ability to set them up..."

Basically, it wasn't that they couldn't scam the Zheng Family. It was a matter of timing. Hong Tan wasn't around and they weren't able to withstand Zheng Ping's fury. Even if they could look for the academy to help, they would only end up benefiting the academy with their scam.

Why? Because that was a private match with illegal items as the wager. The academy was well within its rights to confiscate everything.

Su Yu was feeling regretful. Fine. He would give up on that plan. He told himself that he wasn't the kind of person who would do something like that. Yeah, he would feel too bad to scam Zheng Yunhui. After all, both of them were currently in the same boat.

Chapter 226: Great Intelligence May Appear As Stupidity (1)

Bai Feng was the type who would like to do things in a straightforward manner. The moment he agreed to enter seclusion, he wasted no time and left after a short preparation.

Su Yu was very curious. Could Bai Feng even afford entering a grotto? He greatly doubted his teacher. Of course, there was always the possibility of his teacher having some free entries around so he didn't bother asking.

Before Bai Feng left, he recalled something and said, "Don't forget to feed those fellows. If they starve to death, you'll have to explain to your grandteacher. The source qi liquid is in the storeroom. You know where it is, right?"

At those words, Su Yu's expression turned complicated. Very complicated. Bai Feng stopped walking and stared at his student. The teacher and student pair looked at each other.

Shortly after, Bai Feng muttered, "It should be fine. I remember the last time I fed them was on the 30th. It has only been 10 days. They should still be alive, right?"

Su Yu was stunned. His teacher had last fed those fellows last month? He had thought that his teacher had fed those fellows on the 4th when they visited the prison zone. It had been 10 days! Were those creatures still alive?

After thinking about it, Bai Feng seriously said, "In any case, those fellows were still alive on the 4th when I handed the task over to you. If they have really starved to death, you will take responsibility when your grandteacher returns. Su Yu, you're dead."

Su Yu had a sullen face. He asked, "Teacher, they should still be alive, right?"

"How am I supposed to know that?" Bai Feng was very irresponsible. He said, "That no longer has anything to do with me. I'm leaving. For now, you're the leader of this research center."

Bai Feng then left. To be precise, he ran away. How was he supposed to know if those creatures were still alive? In any case, they were Su Yu's responsibility, not him. If his teacher was angry about it, he could go and beat up his own grandstudent.

"He sure is fast..."

Su Yu felt very helpless. He was still comforting himself that those fellows should still be alive. Even the weakest of them was at the seventh-stage Skysoar Realm. It had only been a few days.

"Whatever. I'll go take a look."

...

Prison zone.

The room was completely silent.

The golden lion was sprawled on the ground. Gone was his imposing look from the past. He was staring ahead blankly, looking like he was completely out of energy. A weak voice could be heard coming out of his mouth, "Are you guys hungry?"

He was ignored. What a stupid question. Here, they couldn't even absorb the ambient source qi in the air. They would have their blood extracted and flesh harvested every now and then. And that had been going on for many years.

These creatures were already in a greatly weakened state. Thus, they were currently being badly tortured by their hunger. Previously, Bai Feng would still feed them every now and then. But this newcomer seemed very unreliable. Just how many days had it been? If it wasn't for their high cultivation bases, they would have been starved to death already.

"Save your energy..." The shadow said, "Just get used to this. I have been here longer than you. Back before Hong Tan took Bai Feng as his student, there was a period of time when Chen Yong left on an errand. During that time, Hong Tan forgot to feed us for three whole months."

Yeap. They only needed to get used to it. He had even survived three months of starvation back then. Thus, this was nothing. It had only been a few days. This little suanni was too impatient.

He had ignored their advice to not mess around and ended up struck by the lightning talisman around his cage. That had exhausted too much of his energy. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been in such a terrible state after only 10 days without food.

Just look at the water creature. He was doing just fine. Why? Because he never spoke much. He would also stay as a puddle of water most of the time, saving a lot of his energy. He could probably stay alive for even a year without food.

Suanni did not say anything. He was too exhausted to muster a reply. Hungry. He was really hungry.

And he wasn't even the strongest among the creatures here. He was only a ninth-stage Skysoar. He naturally wasn't comparable to the shadow. After all, the shadow was a third-stage Cloudbreach.

While thinking about that, the suanni's big ears flicked.

"He's here!"

The suanni felt like crying. Someone finally remembered them! Someone was coming! He was really going to die if this continued any longer.

Su Yu's footsteps rang out from the stairs as he rushed into the room. When he saw the suanni gazing at him expectantly, he heaved a breath of relief. The big lion was not dead.

"Are all of you alive?"

Nobody answered.

Su Yu frowned, "#1 through 5! Call out your numbers. If you stay silent, I'll assume you're dead so you won't receive any source qi liquid. You should be happy that you're being fed source qi liquid when I don't even have enough for my own use. How dare you ignore me?"

"One."

"Two."

...

All five of the creatures replied. They couldn't take the hunger anymore. They had no choice but to lower their heads. Su Yu was relieved. All of them were still alive.

While tossing source qi liquid into the cages, he said, "I have been busy so I forgot about you guys."

While swallowing the drop of source qi liquid, the suanni said, "Kid, what are you busy with? There are so many experts here. Tell us your troubles. Maybe we can be of help. Just remember to come on time."

"Yeah, Little Su Yu. Do you have any questions? Let big sister help you."

The white civet spoke as well. Instead of speaking in a flirty tone, she was speaking with a pure and sincere tone. She sounded like a girl next door.

Su Yu rolled his eyes, "All of you are prisoners. What can you help me with? A seventh-stage Great Strength bastard has been creating trouble for me. I'm cultivating hard to get my payback."

"Great Strength..." The suanni said with disdain, "A mere weakling. If I can leave this cage, I can kill someone like that by merely breathing on him."

"What a stupid thing to brag about. My grandteacher can kill you by merely breathing on you as well." Su Yu said, "This is a competition between those in the same cultivation level, do you understand? Do you think you're very impressive just because you're a ninth-stage Skysoar?"

A savage glint flickered in the suanni's eyes, but it vanished quickly. He said, "It is easy to defeat an opponent with a higher cultivation level. It's only the Great Strength Realm. At that level, speed is king. Let the white civet teach you some Divine Characters of the white fox race. Their race has some speed-related characters that can greatly increase your speed. With a character like that, nobody in the Great Strength Realm would be your match."

Su Yu asked in astonishment, "Divine Character? This white cat know Divine Characters?"

"Little Su Yu, your big sister is not a cat. She's a white civet." Inside the cage, the white kitten looked at Su Yu while walking around gracefully. With a smile, she said, "The civet race is not comparable to the other races in terms of strength. We are even weaker than some smaller races. But our speed is known throughout the Myriad Realms. As for our white civet race, we're the kings of the civets. After comprehending wind-related Divine Characters, our speed can reach incredible levels..."

"White civet race..." Su Yu asked curiously, "You guys are cultural researchers?"

"Based on the definition of humans, yes, we are cultural researchers." The white civet said, "We control Divine Characters as well, but our studies are a lot more focused compared to humans. Generally, we

only control a few Divine Characters. For example, I only have two Divine Characters. Both are related to wind. One is the wind character, the other is the gale character."

"Gale and wind?" Su Yu asked, "Are you fast?"

"Of course. Although I'm only an eighth-stage Skysoar, back then, not even Cloudbreach cultivators could catch me in the Allheaven Battlefield."

"And you have a way of passing your Divine Characters on?" Su Yu's interest was piqued. "Just look at your sorry state. Can you still teach me your Divine Characters? You don't even have willpower texts..."

"Silly little brother," the white civet laughed. "I can write one. I'll write one on the spot. You only need to supply me with the materials and I can write one for you."

"Hehe." Su Yu said with disdain, "Do you think I'm dumb? To write a willpower text, you definitely need blood essence. What if you consume it instead of writing a willpower text? My teacher wrote me a willpower text before. So I know you can write without blood essence. Fine, I'll give you a piece of paper. If you can write one with just a paper, I will trust you."

The white civet cursed inwardly. She would only write a willpower text without the assistance of blood essence in her current weakened state if she was crazy. That was basically suicide.

The shadow suddenly said, "Yes, willpower texts can be written without blood essence, but the text written that way would be much weaker. Su Yu, if you're willing to give me a few drops of source qi liquid, I can write a shadow race willpower text for you."

Su Yu asked in astonishment, "You can write willpower texts as well?"

"Of course." The shadow said, "Shadow race members are natural cultural researchers."

"And you're going to write me one?"

"Yes. I only need a few drops of source qi liquid."

"You aren't scheming against me, right?" Su Yu frowned. "I'm not stupid. Maybe you will write a fake willpower text. After trying to cultivate using that text, my willpower will sink into disorder, causing me to die. No, no, no. Stop talking to me. Teacher is right. Your words are poisonous!"

Su Yu turned around to leave. When the creatures saw that, they grew agitated. It wasn't easy for them to see Su Yu once. After this meeting, they had no idea when their next meeting would be. They weren't sure they could survive much longer here.

"Su Yu, calm down!" The shadow said, "How about a trade? Ten drops of source qi liquid for a willpower text..."

The white civet suddenly said, "Don't trust him. The shadows are known for being crafty. He is also very strong. Ten drops of source qi liquid might be enough for him to regain his strength. I can write you a willpower text for only five drops."

She hurriedly added, "The shadow race has a unique racial ability. They can attach themselves to the shadow of others. But I know that they can also attach a part of them onto some other items. For example, willpower texts. If you accept his willpower text, he might use it to escape or transmit a message to someone outside."

Su Yu's expression changed.

The shadow furiously said, "White civet, why are you talking nonsense?"

The white civet snorted, "We're all prisoners here. You want to leave. I want to leave too. And I'm not even asking to escape entirely. I only want better treatment. Little Brother Su Yu, I won't ask for a way to leave the academy. I only hope that when the day comes for me to be killed, plea for leniency for me. Even if they send me over to the Beast Taming Faculty to be turned into a pet, that is better than dying. I'm unlike these fellows with grand ambitions who only want to leave..."

"White civet, stop pretending to be innocent. You want to escape as much as we do."

"I'm not as stupid as you guys. Escape? Where can we go? This is the Human Realm, not the Allheaven Battlefield."

The white civet looked at Su Yu again. On her kitten-like face, sorrow appeared as she said, "Little Brother Su Yu, you know what I want. In truth, five drops of source qi liquid won't be enough to make up for the energy I need to use for the willpower text. I'm only offering this for your pity in the future."

Su Yu frowned, "I can't believe any of you. Every last one of you is a schemer. I need to ask Teacher before making any decision."

The white civet hurriedly said, "I'm not lying to you. If you tell Bai Feng about this, he might want to take our willpower texts for himself. Would you still get the willpower texts then? We heard very clearly how he had deducted your merit points during your previous visit..."

Su Yu's expression changed again. With a snort, he turned around and left.

Behind him, the white civet shouted, "Trust me. If you want to grow strong, you have to be decisive. Only after you grow strong would I have the chance to leave this place. Trust me..."

Chapter 227: Great Intelligence May Appear As Stupidity (2)

Su Yu left.

The door shut with a loud rumble.

After a while, the shadow said, "This little fellow is very cautious. If we don't offer him something good, it will be very hard to move him."

"I really have nothing left. Do any of you still have anything good? At this point, you're basically waiting for death. You might as well take your treasure out and make a gamble. We need to let him enjoy the benefits of working with us first."

He looked at the water elemental and said, "Water, don't you want to escape?"

The puddle of water in one of the cages slowly took a humanoid form. The water elemental softly said, "I do, but you guys are too impatient. Also, you guys are also too on guard against each other. How can you succeed?"

"This little fellow is still very inexperienced. This is our only chance. Perhaps by the time this place welcomes the next newcomer, all of us would have been reduced to piles of bones already. Furthermore, when this kid matures after a few years, he will no longer fall for our lies anymore."

The shadow said, "You mean..."

"Give him some actual benefits. Of course, we can't do it now. We need to wait for good timing to give him some proper benefits. Just wait."

"Wait until he is in a bad mood. Wait when he is feeling dispirited. Wait until his moment of need. Not now. He gives off the feeling of someone who doesn't lack anything for now. He is too cautious toward us. Hadn't he said that he has a seventh-stage Great Strength rival? Just wait. This is a good chance. Let his hatred consume him. When his desire for strength grows to the peak, our chance will come."

After a while, the shadow said, "Then we wait. Wait until he badly needs strength. At that time, I hope that everyone will stop holding back. This might be our very last chance."

The golden lion impatiently said, "Are we going to wait longer? Fine, fine. The next time the kid visits, I'll teach him a heaven-grade martial technique. All of you better take out something good as well."

"Heaven-grade martial technique?" The others were surprised.

The suanni snorted, "A human technique. I used to be a top genius too. Seventeen years ago, I went to the Luminous Domain Mansion and killed a human genius there. The human came from the War Shrine and I obtained a human heaven-grade martial technique from him."

"You went to the Luminous Domain Mansion before?" The shadow was surprised.

The suanni coldly said, "What's so surprising about that? The suanni race is also a top 100 race. Of course we can enter that place."

The shadow replied, "The suanni race is naturally qualified. But 17 years ago, your strength..."

"I was an eighth-stage Skysoar. Is that weak?" The suanni was furious, "I was supposed to be able to enter the Cloudbreach Realm a few years after that. But 15 years ago, I met a monster called Hong Tan."

Less than two years after he left the Luminous Domain Mansion, he was captured by Hong Tan. Otherwise, he would have reached the Cloudbreach Realm already. The shadow said nothing else.

Eighth-stage Skysoar Realm wasn't too high a cultivation level, but the suanni race did not have a lot of members. Because of that, it wasn't surprising that this suanni was given an opportunity to enter the mansion. But this suanni was truly unlucky to be caught not long after.

None of them further mentioned the Luminous Domain Mansion. That was a place where the geniuses of the myriad races reigned. It wasn't surprising for someone to obtain a heaven-grade martial technique after killing a human genius there. That might be a willpower text as well since people wouldn't normally bother with taking regular books with them when traveling.

As for willpower texts, some people would carry them when leaving for long journeys so that they could cultivate while traveling. In fact, that was also how the human race had obtained many of the myriad race willpower texts in their possession.

After all, most people would only feel safe keeping their willpower texts on them. And that also made it easier for them to cultivate while on the move.

...

"I still need 11 acupoints to reach the sixth-stage. I also need to increase my willpower. As for the Skybreak Technique, I can now learn the second move. I need to take some time to learn it. I wonder if I can form more Divine Characters out of this willpower text..."

"I should study the Lightning Source Blade a few more times too. The willpower text is on the verge of falling apart. The final moves have no willpower left in them."

Su Yu felt really helpless.

The Lightning Source Blade might not be a high-grade technique, but that was the first willpower text he had received from his Teacher Liu. Also, the Lightning Source Blade only required 40 acupoints. He was capable of opening a few more of those acupoints.

If he could open those acupoints, he would be able to use the ninth move. That move could be stronger than the Skybreak Technique's third move. The 40 required acupoints included the Source Opening acupoints as well, so he only needed 31 more acupoints.

He had already opened a decent number of them previously. And some overlapped with the War God Art's acupoints. After looking over the technique, he found that if he could reach the sixth-stage Great Strength Realm, he would only need 12 more acupoints to complete the Lightning Source Blade. At the seventh-stage, that number would drop to 8.

"After reaching the seventh-stage, I only need to open 8 more acupoints to cultivate the complete Lightning Source Blade. The ninth move is probably as powerful as the attack of an Infinite Strength cultivator."

At the thought of that, Su Yu grew agitated. He had no money left to cultivate! He couldn't afford to buy more blood essence. He also couldn't afford to enter the grotto any more. That night, Su Yu continued his bitter cultivation. Since he couldn't enter the grotto, then he just had to work hard in the filter room.

He intended to buy some iron-winged bird blood essence with his remaining 246 merit points. That was still the cheaper option. He would stick with it for now. At the price of 3 merit points per drop, he could get 82 drops of them. At worst, he would only need to use more blood essence per day to make up for the speed.

Late at night, a battered Su Yu finally returned to the living area. Looking at the filthy living area, he could only helplessly clean up. He was starting to miss Chen Hao. He wondered how that fellow was doing in the Martial Dragon War Academy.

"Has he reached the seventh-stage Source Opening Realm?"

It had been a month since the new semester started.

...

Martial Dragon War Academy.

Late at night, Chen Hao was busy doing housework. After cleaning the house, he brewed a fresh pot of tea before moving on to do the laundry. He wasn't cleaning his own room. He was cleaning a teacher's residence.

Inside his room, Old Xie couldn't take it anymore. He walked out and scolded, "Chen Hao, scram! Who told you to come again?"

"Teacher!"

Chen Hao smiled, "Yu said before that a small favor received should be repaid many times over! Teacher gave me a good saber before I joined the academy. I need to repay that debt! Yu said that I don't have any other talents but I'm very good at cleaning..."

"Are you acting stupid or are you really stupid?" This was giving Old Xie a headache. He said, "I'm not accepting students. I am only a Skysoar. I have no time to teach students. Like I said, I am only in charge of recruiting new students but not teaching new students."

"It's fine, teacher." Chen Hao had a silly smile as he said, "It doesn't matter. I have nothing to do at night anyway..."

Old Xie wanted to curse. Chen Hao was free, but he needed to cultivate! Holy shit! How did he catch the attention of this silly kid? There were so many experts in the academy. Why couldn't he go bother those people instead? Old Xie could no longer be bothered to say anything. He slammed his door shut and started cultivating.

After Chen Hao was done with cleaning the house, he grinned and walked out of the living room and shut the door behind him. He then sat down cross-legged in front of the door and started cultivating.

"Yu! I have discovered a good opportunity! There are a lot of Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators here! When they cultivate, source qi will be stimulated and gather around them. This is great!

"It is really pitiful to cultivate at the dorms. But here...hehehe, I can absorb a drop of source qi liquid's worth of source qi after an entire night. The other students are so dumb! I'm a genius to think of this method of insisting to stay and clean the place for Old Xie. He thought I wanted to be his student? Heh, dream on. There are so many Skysoars around here. Nobody cares about him! I'm only here to cultivate!"

"Yu is right. I need to create opportunities for myself. By cleaning here, the teacher will feel embarrassed to chase me away. Cultivating here is even better than staying in the special zone. I can save hundreds of merit points per year cultivating here!

"I'm only at the sixth-stage Source Opening Realm when joining the academy. Now...hehehe..."

Chen Hao was overjoyed. He was catching up with Yu. It was a pity Yu wasn't around. Otherwise, he would be able to tell Yu that there were a lot of fools here. These fools would willingly gather source qi for him to cultivate on a daily basis. This was incredible.

"And it has only been about a month. If I cultivate for one or two more months, I might be able to reach the ninth-stage. One month would probably be enough. Yu...after this semester, I might be able to reach the Great Strength Realm!"

He had joined as a sixth-stage Source Opening cultivator. That was definitely not a bad cultivation level, but that also wasn't good enough to put him at the top. Only those at the seventh-stage and above would be picked by the teachers as personal students.

And Chen Hao did not have such a cultivation level. Fortunately, he had latched onto Old Xie. It didn't matter if he had the support of merit points. He could cultivate for free at Old Xie's place.

He only needed to clean the place as the price, but he was already used to doing that. He only needed to spend about an hour per day for that. And cleaning this place wasn't even as tiring as cleaning Yu's place. He was very good at cleaning!

Not long after joining the academy, he had discovered this secret holy land of cultivation. Thus, he used the excuse of repaying Old Xie's favor to visit everyday. He didn't even feel like returning to his dormitory anymore. It was too barren there!

As for the lack of bed here, that did not matter. He found sleeping outside to be quite comfortable as well!

Chen Hao happily cultivated and absorbed the ambient source qi around him. At the eighth-stage Source Opening Realm, he was now able to actively absorb source qi, so his cultivation speed was quite fast.

...

Inside a room.

Old Xie opened his eyes, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. That kid was waiting outside again.

"Is this an example of great intelligence that appears as stupidity?"

Old Xie couldn't help but to wonder about that. Chen Hao looked simple and honest, but that kid could also be extremely astute at times.

He had picked the Teacher's District as his place of cultivation.

What a genius!

In truth, most of these new students were very fearful of the teachers. And this was a district only those at the Skysoar Realm and above could reside in. Even geniuses was not willing to have too much interaction with these teachers at this point in time.

As for Chen Hao, he was fearless. He even came up with the idea of cleaning the place before...settling down in the district as well! What a shrewd kid!

Here, Chen Hao had spent only about a month to advance from the sixth-stage to the eighth-stage, overtaking the other students in terms of cultivation speed. And he had at least saved about 20 or 30 drops of source qi liquid by cultivating here. That was worth over 100 merit points. Very few new students could take out that much resources.

Chen Hao had surpassed the other students by gaining something that was equal in value to all that before any of the other new students. And this was a great example of how the world of cultivation worked. At times, opportunities were available for everyone, but only those who could grab them would obtain them.

"Eighth-stage..."

Old Xie hesitated. Should he take Chen Hao as a student?

"But...I'm only a sixth-stage Skysoar. I only have an ordinary background. I don't have additional merit points to raise a student. I will only slow him down...If this kid can quickly enters the Great Strength Realm, he might even catch the eye of a Cloudbreach cultivator."

The Martial Dragon War Academy had recruited 2,000 new students this year. Only 500 of them had reached the Great Strength Realm so far.

Chen Hao had joined the academy as a sixth-stage Source Opening cultivator. If he could quickly enter the Great Strength Realm, a stronger cultivator would definitely be willing to take him as a personal student.

"Stinky brat...how dare you use this trick on me..."

Old Xie laughed as some of the gathered ambient source qi outside dispersed. That silly kid...just how much source qi did he think he could absorb when he was in such close vicinity with a Skysoar?

As a Skysoar, if Old Xie's control over source qi he had gathered was so bad that a brat could absorb a large portion of it, he might as well give up on cultivating. Then again, the ambient source qi of this place was indeed denser than some other places, so this kid had still made a correct choice.

"This kid has been mentioning Yu all the time. I wonder how Su Yu is doing in the cultural research academy. What a pity. I heard he joined the multiple character faction."

Old Xie shook his head. In the cultural research academy, one could reach for the heavens in a single bound if one did well. And if one did badly, one would be worthless.

Chapter 228: We Need To Take Acting Seriously (1)

Bai Feng had entered seclusion. He did not make news of his seclusion public. But as a genius teaching assistant, every move Bai Feng made would attract the attention of many people. Thus, news of his seclusion started spreading before long. As long as one reached the seventh-stage Skysoar Realm, reaching the eighth and ninth stages weren't difficult. It was only a matter of time.

Even Liu Hong, someone who had reached the seventh-stage after Bai Feng, was now at the eighth-stage. Thus, many believed that Bai Feng would be able to leave his seclusion as an eighth-stage Skysoar.

But some people were curious about Bai Feng's seclusion. He had been staying in his research center and had even done his previous breakthrough in his research center. This time, he was breaking through in the grotto. How about his research? Had he stopped it?

Was it because the research had failed? Or was it because the research had been completed? Many were curious, but not many people suspected anything. As for Su Yu, his recent performance had been decent but not too many people cared about him. He wasn't in the Skysoar Realm yet so it was pointless to pay him too much attention.

...

Senior class.

The atmosphere had been off recently. The hostility between Su Yu and Zheng Yunhui was increasing.

Zheng Yunhui had provoked Su Yu for a few days in a row while Su Yu had been maintaining his silence. As a result, Zheng Yunhui was getting impatient and was seemingly getting ready to challenge Wu Jia.

12th of September. After the afternoon class.

Zheng Yunhui stood up and looked at Su Yu with anger in his eyes. But instead of challenging Su Yu, he left without saying anything. Over the past few days, Zheng Yunhui would pick fault with Su Yu every day after class.

This time, he wasn't doing that. When the other students saw that, they understood what was happening. Su Yu's expression was changing rapidly.

Beside him, Wu Lan asked curiously, "He's not picking a fight with you today? Is he looking for your senior sister instead?"

She had just finished saying that when Su Yu rushed out.

The other students looked amused. Jia Mingzhen smiled and said, "Is Zheng Yunhui really looking for Wu Jia? Wow, the multiple character faction is in a pretty bad situation. They can't even do anything against Zheng Yunhui."

Yes, they couldn't do anything to Zheng Yunhui. Bai Feng and Chen Yong couldn't act against him. Wu Jia was too injured to deal with him. Because of that, a faction that used to be the strongest faction in the academy was finding themselves incapable of dealing with even a new student that had yet to enter the Top 100 Ranking.

That was a massive loss of face. If this continued, would the multiple character faction be able to recruit more geniuses? They were too miserable. And nobody was protecting them.

Some pitied the multiple character faction, but even more wondered if Zheng Yunhui and Su Yu would really fight. Despite having a chubby body, Xia Huyou was very fast. He had already vanished from the class without making a sound. Were those two going to fight today? He had to be on top of that.

...

Downstairs.

Su Yu caught up with Zheng Yunhui with rage in his eyes and said, "Zheng Yunhui, where are you going?"

"Why do you ask? Are you finally losing your patience?" Zheng Yunhui snorted coldly, "Return my stuff or I'll challenge Wu Jia today. If she refuses, I'll make sure the entire academy learns of how useless your multiple character faction is. After all, nobody in your faction dares to face even a new student."

"Shameless!" Su Yu roared, "My senior sister is still injured!"

"She's injured because of her own uselessness. If you're capable enough, why don't you make me injured as well?" Zheng Yunhui sneered contemptuously.

Su Yu was so furious he couldn't hold his temper anymore.

He said, "Fine. You want the Skybreak Technique? I'll give you a chance. But don't even dream of getting it without putting anything on the line! That thing is worth over 1,000 merit points. You want to take it by only saying a few words? Do you think I'm stupid?"

"What do you want?"

"That thing isn't cheap. And you have a higher cultivation level than me. You want to use a match to determine the new owner of the text, right? Sure. We'll do the usual and set a wager of equal value. Put 2,000 merit points down. If you win, you get the text. If you lose, I get the merit points."

Zheng Yunhui frowned.

Su Yu coldly said, "If you're too scared to place the bet, maybe you should just shut your mouth. I thought you're confident in winning? Why are you unwilling to put down a proper bet? You want me to risk something worth over 1,000 merit points by only talking? Are you dreaming?"

The two weren't speaking too loudly. They were conversing at an empty corner. Not far away, Liu Hong was passing by. This was not a coincidence. His appearance was inevitable.

Every two days, Liu Hong would patrol around the three classrooms and would only leave after all classes ended. This was a route he would definitely take. And today was one of those days where Liu Hong would be here to patrol.

Su Yu and Zheng Yunhui were speaking softly at the corner. But it was impossible for them to hide from Liu Hong. As an eighth-stage Skysoar, Liu Hong was more than capable of sensing them and their conversation.

Glancing at the two, Liu Hong raised his brow. These two had been going at it for a few days, but nothing seemed to have happened yet. He was getting curious as to how this conflict was going to develop.

His ears flickered as he started listening to the two.

"2,000 merit points? Su Yu, do you think I'm Chen Qi? Are you sure you can win? It's pointless even if you use reverse psychology to get me to put a big bet. Strength is the only thing that matters. Do you think you can defeat me with your blood essence?"

"Cut the crap. Do you have the guts to put down the wager? If not, learn to shut your mouth. That text is mine. Maybe you can try to snatch it from me. I would rather submit it to the academy than give it to you for free!"

That managed to cause Zheng Yunhui to hesitate. He looked at Su Yu before sneering, "Have you reached the fourth-stage Great Strength Realm?"

"That has nothing to do with you."

Liu Hong's interest was piqued. Had Su Yu broken through? It was hard to determine Su Yu's current cultivation with only his eyes. But it didn't matter. Sure, he couldn't use his willpower to check as that could be discovered too easily. But that was not the only option he had. Liu Hong's eyes flickered as a Divine Character appeared in his pupil.

That was an extremely precious investigative Divine Character. Su Yu was laid bare to him.

"Holy...shit!"

Liu Hong was alarmed. 61 acupoints! Holy fuck! What was this? Wasn't Su Yu a brand new Great Strength cultivator? He had directly reached the third-stage during his breakthrough. But it hadn't been too long since then. How had the kid reached the fifth-stage already?

"This...does not make any sense!"

Liu Hong was shocked. What was Bai Feng doing with this student of his?

Wait, that fellow had gone off into a secluded cultivation session. And that fellow was broke anyway. What could that fellow do? Thus, the correct question would be what had Su Yu been doing? What was going on?

Liu Hong was stupefied. This was too shocking. The kid was...pretending to be a pig to prey on a tiger!

Nobody knew he was already a fifth-stage Great Strength cultivator. To be precise, there were probably a few people who knew, but nobody was saying it. Thus, most people thought that Su Yu was still a third-stage Great Strength cultivator.

"This kid is already at the fifth-stage. With his blood essence, he might not be so hopeless against Zheng Yunhui after all."

Liu Hong couldn't help but to be impressed by how treacherous that kid was. That kid was obviously preparing to swindle a huge sum of money from Zheng Yunhui. After all, he was not completely helpless against Zheng Yunhui. And if he could win, he would get 2,000 merit points.

Holy shit! That kid was even better at making money than him!

While Liu Hong was entertaining all those thoughts, Zheng Yunhui said, "2,000 merit points? That's too much. Do you think I have an unlimited supply of merit points? I can offer 300 merit points. Su Yu, don't get too greedy."

"Scram!" Su Yu berated, "Are you dreaming? Just go and challenge my senior sister. Don't even dream of getting the Skybreak Technique anymore. Even if I throw it into the toilet, I won't give it to you. Let me see if you love the text more or a useless fight more. I'm only a third-stage Great Strength cultivator. What are you afraid of?"

Zheng Yunhui sneered, "Third-stage Great Strength? You have probably reached the fourth-stage. And you must have probably formed a new Divine Character as well. Do you really think that I'm not aware of the kind of people you are? You can't repeat the same trick on me after using it against Chen Qi."

"Hehehe. The great Zheng Family can't even afford 2,000 merit points. Why are you still running your mouth in front of me? Just fuck off if you're too poor to play."

Zheng Yunhui smiled, "Are you trying to use reverse psychology on me? Congratulations, it's working. I'm a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator with 85 percent willpower. I am stronger than you in every aspect. You think you can deal with me with your blood essence? I refuse to believe that. Fine. I accept the bet."

"Do you even have enough merit points?"

"Of course."

"I want to confirm it. Show me your merit points."

"Su Yu, don't push it. Nobody would willingly let you check their account."

"I don't trust you."

The two continued bickering while walking deeper into the corner, trying to hide themselves from the public eye.

Not far away, Liu Hong laughed in amusement. Zheng Yunhui probably didn't have that many merit points. At most, he would only have 500 merit points on him. And the Zheng Family would probably not supply him with unlimited merit points. 2,000 merit points...that was really not a small sum of money.

"Looks like both these kids are very confident in themselves..."

Liu Hong got ready to leave. It would be sufficient for him to take a look when the two finally decided to fight. But right that moment, he heard something that piqued his interest. He stopped leaving.

"Su Yu, I admit that I don't have that many merit points. How about this? This is just a bet. You might not necessarily win anyway. I'll use a cultural weapon as the stake..."

"Ptui. Do you think I'm an idiot? Cultural weapons are all custom-made for different Divine Characters. After winning, I won't be able to even sell the weapon. Do I look stupid?"

"Su Yu, don't push it..."

"Who's pushing it? You were the one forcing me! If you don't even have money, why are you running your mouth in front of me? Do you spend all your time dreaming of getting free money? Wake up from your dream!"

Now that they were out of the public eye, Su Yu was no longer the kind and honest student. He had transformed into an overbearing person. Liu Hong wasn't surprised. As far as he was concerned, that kid had never been a simple and honest man.

Su Yu continued, "Your family is rich, right? This is only a bet. You might not lose. Why don't you steal your grandpa's martial weapon out and use it as the stake. At the very least, that is something I can sell after winning..."

"You're courting death!"

Zheng Yunhui was furious.

Martial weapon. His grandpa was a peak Mountainsea expert. Although martial weapons weren't as valuable as cultural weapons, they were much easier to use. Anyone proficient in the same type of weapon would be able to find value in a martial weapon of the same type. And the weapon his grandpa used was a top-tier earth-grade weapon. Su Yu was truly greedy.

Liu Hong was getting more and more amused. It would seem like Su Yu had quite a big appetite. He actually had the guts to set his eyes on Principal Zheng's weapon and was instigating Zheng Yunhui to steal that weapon. This kid...was a scumbag through and through.

"Fine. I can change it to mountainbreak bull blood essence. Just place 200 drops as the stake..."

"Hmph!" Zheng Yunhui snorted coldly, "Do you think all families are the same as your puny family? Our family's storeroom would be inspected daily. Nothing can go missing unnoticed. Steal? Are you dreaming?"

Zheng Yunhui said with an impatient tone, "I'll place a bet of 500 merit points, a low-tier profound-grade martial weapon, and a low-tier profound-grade martial technique."

"Hehe." Su Yu directly walked away, ignoring Zheng Yunhui.

Zheng Yunhui's expression changed several times as he struggled with himself before running over to Su Yu, "I don't have that many merit points. I can agree to owe you the merit points first. It's not like you can win for sure. Su Yu, if I lose, I'll pay you in installments."

"Don't even think about it. Our bet can only be carried out in private. The academy won't be acting as the guarantor for it. If you end up renegeing on the debt, what am I supposed to do? The entire deal must be completed on the spot."

Liu Hong almost laughed out loud. That kid...was really good at instigating someone to do something bad.

"Just find something that nobody would notice even if it goes missing for a year or two..."

Zheng Yunhui frowned, but he soon thought of something and his expression changed. When he saw that Su Yu was leaving again, he hurriedly said, "Wait. I have something like that."

"Hmm?"

Zheng Yunhui looked nervous. He looked around to ensure that nobody was near them. Liu Hong was nowhere to be seen. He lowered his voice and said, "Su Yu, I have a treasure I can use as the bet. However, your Skybreak Technique is not enough if you want me to put that down as the bet. Also, that thing can't be separated. Thus, even if I can win, your Skybreak Technique is basically not comparable in value to my treasure."

"What is it?"

"Divine blood essence."

That answer stunned even Liu Hong. Divine blood essence. The divine blood essence of the Zheng Family. Had that kid gone mad?

Liu Hong recalled something. The Zheng Family had some Cloudbreach divine blood essence in their possession. That was indeed a treasure that they wouldn't inspect daily. The blood essence was mostly sealed away and unless they needed to use it, the seal would not be removed to prevent the blood essence from dissipating away.

This kid...was truly gutsy! He was actually thinking of stealing his family's divine blood essence?

"Divine blood essence?" Su Yu grew excited, "Are you serious?"

"Yes. But that is Cloudbreach blood essence. It is a lot more valuable than Skysoar blood essence. A single drop is already far more valuable than the Skybreak Technique in your hands. Unless you can take out something of equal value, then you should just agree with my previous proposal. Otherwise, don't even dream of getting away easily. At worst, I'll report you to the academy and have the text confiscated. I refuse to believe that you won't be afraid of that."

The two started wagging a battle of words. Clearly, Su Yu was tempted. Divine blood essence! But he did not have something of equal value to stake in the bet. He did not have more merit points, so he tried using his cultural weapon instead. Naturally, Zheng Yunhui disagreed.

Chapter 229: We Need To Take Acting Seriously (2)

"This fight...is not going to happen."

Liu Hong shook his head. I doubt that Su Yu would be able to take out something of equal value. He could agree with Zheng Yunhui's previous proposal of adding a martial weapon and martial technique to the bet, but those things were not equal in value with the Skybreak Technique. Furthermore, none of them were truly that useful for Su Yu.

"Divine blood essence..."

Liu Hong sighed. That was a treasure. Unfortunately, he didn't have anything like that in his possession.

The two kids continued arguing. After a while, Zheng Yunhui impatiently said, "You told me to steal something from my home. Can't you do the same? Your teacher is in seclusion, right? You're the only person left in the Wentan Research Center. Don't tell me there is not a single treasure in such a big research center? You're confident you can win, right? In that case, put something that is really valuable down as the stake."

"Research center..."

Su Yu's expression changed repeatedly as he seemed to have thought of something.

Liu Hong was getting more and more shocked. The nerves of these two! One wanted to steal the divine blood essence from his family. And the other...seemed to be contemplating stealing from his research center.

Su Yu was different from Zheng Yunhui, who was from the main branch of the Zheng Family. If what he did was exposed, even Bai Feng would not be able to let it slide. At that time, even expelling him would be letting him off lightly. He might even end up with his cultivation base crippled.

"Have they gone mad?"

Liu Hong was greatly shocked. Was that kid really going to do it? Should he notify Bai Feng about this? Wait, why should he do that? If...if the kid really did manage to steal something that was also useless for him, then...maybe he could try to get it for himself!

Su Yu struggled for a long time before finally saying, "The research center's data can't be leaked or it would be very troublesome. I will be in deep trouble."

Zheng Yunhui was indifferent, "Who's asking for the data? I don't care about some stupid data. I want things like blood essence and willpower text. Don't tell me your multiple character faction is so poor that you don't have those things anymore."

Yes, they were really that poor. Liu Hong knew that very well.

Su Yu clenched his teeth and said, "I don't have those things. I only have the data. But...if I really use the data as the wager, you're not allowed to leak it. I can provide you with a set of data secretly, but you must not leak it! If you dare to leak it, I'll tell everyone that you stole it from me! At that time, you'll have to face the fury of my grandteacher."

Liu Hong couldn't believe what he was hearing. These kids were crazy. For the sake of a minor match, they were escalating the value of their bets to insane levels.

"What data?" Zheng Yunhui frowned. "Not all data are valuable."

"The data is related to the research of blood essence abilities. It concerns the blood essence abilities at the Skysoar Realm, allowing Infinite Strength cultivators to consume blood essence and unleash the combat strength of Skysoar cultivators. Of course, it's not perfect yet. I can only provide you with a part of the data. I know where the data is being kept. Also, if I'm taking this out, a drop of your blood essence won't be enough. You need to take out 10 drops to match the value of my data!"

"Fuck off!"

"Eight drops. If you disagree, forget it. Do whatever you want."

Su Yu started walking away again.

Zheng Yunhui frowned. This time, he did not chase after Su Yu. Instead, he muttered, "Is that thing even valuable? He wants eight drops of blood essence for it? Dream on."

Zheng Yunhui stood there in deep thought, looking like he was wondering if the data was really that valuable. Meanwhile, Liu Hong was going crazy. He really wanted to run over and tell the kid to agree. Eight drops of blood essence? That was nothing! What a fool!

Sure, Su Yu had assigned a rather high price for the data by asking for 10 drops of blood essence. But even that was nothing compared to the true value of the data. Hong Tan's faction had probably spent millions of merit points for this research. And 10 drops of divine blood essence would only have a value of 10,000 to 20,000 merit points.

Meanwhile, the data's value could not only be measured by the resources that had been used to produce it. The amount of effort a Mountainsea expert had put on it for decades had to be taken into consideration as well.

"Damn that kid! Damn these two lunatics! Holy shit! If Bai Feng is willing to make a bet like this with me, I can even sell my own organs to accept the bet!"

Liu Hong's agitation didn't last long. The entire bet did not seem to have anything to do with him.

"Should I raid them and take everything for myself? No, if that happens, the two kids might really spread rumors that they were robbed. That would get me in a lot of trouble. Only if they lose their bet to the other party from the match would they stay silent about it."

Numerous thoughts surfaced in Liu Hong's mind. His first thought was to raid and seize everything for himself since the two would definitely have an unsanctioned private match considering the contents of their bet.

He might really succeed in that. But if he did that, he would need to leave the academy after.

"Will they stay silent if I take everything?"

Liu Hong sank into thought. He was still confident that the match would still happen. As long as Zheng Yunhui found out about the value of the data, he would agree.

"No, that won't work. Su Yu might not dare to say anything, but after losing the blood essence, Zheng Yunhui would only need to endure some scolding from his family. And he would then expose everything. What if I wait until Zheng Yunhui gets the data before taking it from him? No, that still won't work...What if I offer to buy from Su Yu?"

This was tempting. Su Yu would be gutsy enough to sell it if he was gutsy enough to use that as the stake in the match.

"No...he won't sell it."

Suddenly, Liu Hong realized something. Su Yu wouldn't agree to sell the data as he was confident he would win. That was the only reason he was offering to use the data as the stake.

Su Yu was no fool. If he sold the data, it was only a matter of time before he was exposed. That would be the same as ruining his own future.

"He is confident he can win. He has never considered losing the data. He is only aiming to get the blood essence for free...Can he win?"

Liu Hong looked at Su Yu. The kid had reached the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm. That was quite good for a student. With 10 more acupoints, Su Yu could reach the sixth-stage. His cultivation speed was truly too fast. He might really be able to reach the sixth-stage before the match. That way, he would have a lot more confidence in winning.

"This kid...is trying to feign weakness and swallow Zheng Yunhui up! If he wins, he will get the blood essence. As for losing...Zheng Yunhui was still under the impression that he would face a fourth-stage Great Strength cultivator. He would probably underestimate this opponent and end up in a disadvantageous position."

Liu Hong kept thinking. He also wondered if this was a scam by Su Yu using some fake data? That could happen. Sure, Zheng Yunhui was no fool and would definitely inspect the data. But things like research data weren't easy to verify.

"It won't be easy to verify. But the chances of Su Yu taking out some fake data won't be too high, right? After all, he is confident in winning. There is no need to risk exposing himself and losing the chance to win some blood essence..."

Thinking about all that was giving Liu Hong a headache. But he was also very tempted. The bet of two kids below the Infinite Strength Realm had reached a sum of over 10,000 merit points. To be precise, they were betting with treasures that even money couldn't buy. It was only natural that Liu Hong would be so tempted.

"I'll need to wait and observe more..."

Liu Hong decided to wait a bit. He was going to pay more attention to the two kids.

On the next day, he concluded that the two had finally reached an agreement. That day, Zheng Yunhui had not looked for Su Yu. Su Yu had also ignored Zheng Yunhui. The two acted like their previous conflict had never happened.

Zheng Yunhui had also stopped talking about challenging Wu Jia. Some people guessed that Su Yu might have returned the text. But Liu Hong knew that Su Yu had definitely not done that. Both of them must be maintaining their silence for a different reason.

...

On the third day, nothing happened either.

But on that day, Liu Hong's little brother visited him.

"Big Brother!" Liu He called out loudly. Liu Hong had been having trouble sleeping recently so he answered impatiently, "What is it?"

"Someone from the black market has a message for you."

"What's the message?"

"That person said that he has a set of data that you are definitely interested in. He's asking if you want it..."

Liu Hong said, "Tell him to piss off. I'm not interested."

"Oh." Liu He did not mind. He said, "Any data sold in the black market is most likely fake. I told that fellow to not bother, but he actually has the nerves to ask for 50,000 merit points for the data. He must be crazy."

"What did he ask for?"

"50,000 merit points." Liu He said, "That fellow claimed that you will definitely be interested in the data. He said that he doesn't need the data, but the data would be very valuable for you."

"Who is that person?"

Liu Hong thought of something and hurriedly asked.

"Zheng Yunhui." Liu He said, "That bastard is very cocky. He said that I'm not qualified to discuss this with him. He demanded that you personally talk to him."

"Zheng Yunhui?" Liu Hong was alarmed. "Why hasn't he looked for me personally?"

"He said that he wanted to see if you're actually interested. If not, forget it."

Numerous thoughts surfaced in Liu Hong's mind.

Liu He continued, "He even said that you might not be able to afford it. I saw him talking to Zhou Pingsheng's student as well..."

Liu Hong's eyes flickered. Was he looking for buyers? If that was the case, then Liu Hong's faction would be the perfect choice. The Zheng Family was filled with brutes. The data wouldn't be too useful for them. But if Zheng Yunhui could sell the data for merit points, he would be able to convert the merit points into his strength.

"He's looking for me..."

Liu Hong sank into thought. But why him? He wasn't strong enough. Neither was he rich enough. And he was the same person who had lost Zheng Yunhui's willpower text. Was the kid not afraid that history would repeat?

Liu Hong rapped on the table with his fingers as he thought. Suddenly, Liu He said, "Oh, right, he also said that you might not be able to afford it so he offered to trade it for the things left by Elder Zhao..."

Liu He curiously asked, "Big Brother, just how many willpower texts did Elder Zhao left behind?"

"Scram!" Liu Hong's eyes turned sharp, "Damned bastard! Is that the kind of question you should be asking?" Before Liu Hong's teacher went into seclusion, he had left a lot of things behind. He was afraid that he wouldn't be able to leave the seclusion alive.

Things like willpower texts, myriad race willpower texts, cultivation methods, blood essence, cultural weapons, and so on were left behind. Elder Zhao had been very kind toward Liu Hong, leaving all those things with Liu Hong. However, Liu Hong had never touched those things.

Unless his teacher really ended up dead, those things still didn't belong to him. He would not touch them rashly.

With a cold look in his eyes, Liu Hong snorted.

"Liu He, I'm warning you. You can't covet those things. Scram! Also, tell Zheng Yunhui to scam as well. How dare he set his eyes on me?"

Liu He left fearfully. His elder brother was quite fierce when angry.

"Zheng Yunhui...that kid has quite a big appetite."

He finally understood why that kid was looking for him. That kid had his eyes on Elder Zhao's things.

"But are you so sure you can win?"

Liu Hong sneered. That fellow was already looking for a buyer before even winning. If he really ended up losing, his fate would be miserable.

"But this is still an opportunity for me. Zheng Yunhui must win. If he loses, I won't be able to get anything."

Liu Hong gave it some thought. Perhaps he could sell a piece of information for a good price. Zheng Yunhui was wrong. Su Yu was not a mere fourth-stage Great Strength cultivator.

Chapter 230: It's Good To Be Prudent (1)

15th of September.

On the way back to the Mental Tempering Garden.

Liu Hong flickered into existence beside Zheng Yunhui.

Zheng Yunhui wasn't surprised to see Liu Hong. He nonchalantly said, "Teacher, you're finally here. I was starting to think that you were too shy to meet me."

"Yunhui..." Before Liu Hong could finish speaking, Zheng Yunhui sneered and said, "Stop acting friendly. I'm merely being polite when I address you as a teacher. I didn't look for you after you lost my Skybreak Technique. Do you really think I'm a fool because of that? I actually suspect that you had deliberately lost it."

Zheng Yunhui snorted unhappily. But immediately after, he seemed to have recalled something and smiled.

That expression of his was basically saying, "Good thing you lost my stuff or I wouldn't stumble upon something this good."

Liu Hong knew what Zheng Yunhui was thinking about. He did not mind Zheng Yunhui's words and smiled, "Yunhui, it wasn't my intention to lose the Skybreak Technique. Because of that, my business in the black market is basically dead..."

"Don't even dream of putting the blame on me."

This excuse was clearly not working on Zheng Yunhui, who was acting like an arrogant young master. Relying on his taller height, he looked down on Liu Hong and said, "I know what you're thinking. I don't have a power base in the cultural research academy so you're naturally not afraid of me. Because of that, you did not hesitate when setting me up. After all, there is no way for me to retaliate."

"Yunhui, you have truly misunderstood me." Liu Hong sighed, "Do you think that I really need to make use of you like this? Your Zheng Family is still a family with a peak Mountainsea expert in it. Can a Skysoar like me challenge your family?"

Liu Hong hesitated for a bit before shaking his head, "Sigh. There is no need to keep talking about this. Fine, believe what you want to believe. I had deliberately lost your Skybreak Technique."

"Hmm?" Zheng Yunhui raised his brow, "Were those fellows the true culprit?"

He was unsure. But Liu Hong was right. Would someone like Liu Hong dare to challenge the Zheng Family? In that case, was he ordered to do so instead?

Liu Hong smiled, "It's all in the past. Let's not talk about it anymore. Don't worry. I'll give you an explanation you can accept one day. For now, I just want to ask you about what you told Liu He. What is that about?"

"Was I not clear enough?" Zheng Yunhui smiled, "I have a set of data. You will definitely be interested in it. I'm selling it to you for 50,000 merit points. Of course, you might not be able to afford it. Therefore..."

Liu Hong laughed, "Yunhui, if you want to get another Mountainsea willpower text of the Skybreak Technique, I can try to look for one. As for the data, keep it for yourself."

Liu Hong was an expert at feigning retreat to advance. He was acting like he was completely uninterested.

Zheng Yunhui frowned, "I'm not joking around. I'm being serious."

"Yes, yes. Of course." Liu Hong nodded, "But since I can't afford it, forget it. I'm here today to ask if you want to buy another Mountainsea willpower text. This time, I promise that you don't need to pay a deposit. You can pay on delivery instead. I'm doing this to cover your previous loss..."

"I'm not buying." Zheng Yunhui replied impatiently. He solemnly said, "I'm really being serious. Liu Hong...fine. Forget it. If you're not buying, so be it. I'll think of something else."

He turned around and started walking away. Liu Hong's face twitched.

Dang! This kid was quite confident in his data. He had no doubt that he could find a different buyer. Then again, that was understandable. If this kid really announced what he had to sell, he might really be able to find a new buyer.

"Wait..." Liu Hong said, "You're asking for 50,000 merit points and are so confident I would be interested. Kid, you have been feuding with Su Yu lately. Don't tell me that the two of you have come to a private agreement?"

The moment he said those words, Zheng Yunhui trembled. He wasn't entirely pretending. He was trembling in excitement as he had basically confirmed that Liu Hong had indeed eavesdropped on their conversation.

Damn it! This Liu Hong guy was indeed a scumbag!

Prior to this, he had not suspected anything at all. He wouldn't have thought of anything if Su Yu hadn't mentioned that Liu Hong had deliberately lost his willpower text. Su Yu had said that as long as they talk nearby the classroom, Liu Hong would find out about it.

And sure enough, Su Yu was proven right! This Liu Hong was clearly aware of their so-called private agreement. Otherwise, he wouldn't have bitten the bait so easily.

In truth, Zheng Yunhui had also offered to sell a set of data in the black market, but nobody took him seriously. Most people were entirely dismissive of him. Liu Hong was the only one who was so eager to deal with him.

And Liu Hong was even bringing Su Yu up! Zheng Yunhui cursed inwardly. This was truly a shameless bastard. And he had indeed deliberately lost the willpower text. Just wait, Liu Hong!

Zheng Yunhui did not let his thoughts show. He turned around to look at Liu Hong and gloomily said, "Teacher Liu, I don't understand what you're talking about. I'm offering to sell you something and you refused to buy. How does this relate to Su Yu?"

Liu Hong calmly said, "You're certain I would be interested. You even quoted such a high price. Logically speaking, you definitely have something I want. That something is definitely very valuable. But your Zheng Family doesn't have something like that."

Zheng Yunhui had an unsightly expression. What was the meaning of that? Was he looking down on the Zheng Family?

"You have been involved with Su Yu the most recently. As for Su Yu, what a coincidence. He has something I'm very interested in."

Liu Hong started acting like a genius strategist and smiled, "Perhaps...it's something from the Wentan Research Center?"

Once again, Zheng Yunhui trembled. With an ugly expression, he said, "Your imagination is too wild, Teacher Liu."

"Oh? Tell me, then. What are you trying to sell?"

"I'm not selling anymore."

When Zheng Yunhui tried to walk away, Liu Hong smiled and said, "But who else can you sell to if not me? Who would dare to buy it? Are you thinking about my Senior Brother Zhou? Or Elder Zheng? Be careful lest they seize your stuff in the name of the academy."

Zheng Yunhui sneered, "Seizing my stuff? Sure. If they do that, they can wait for an eighth-stage Mountainsea expert to visit them. Are you trying to scare me with this thing? Sure. If you guys really don't care about it, feel free to seize it from me."

He was absolutely not buying Liu Hong's words. The single character faction would definitely not seize the data. And they most certainly wouldn't do so in the name of the academy.

Not to mention Hong Tan, even Wan Tiansheng would not allow something like that to happen. Of course, things would be different if the academy could come into possession of the data. In any case, nobody would allow the single character faction would not be allowed to monopolize the data.

But if they weren't acting in their official capacity as the elders of the academy, they wouldn't dare to privately take the data from Zheng Yunhui. After all, Zheng Yunhui was not a nobody. He did not need to be afraid even if a Mountainsea ended up involved. He would not hesitate to further escalate the matter.

Zheng Yunhui looked at Liu Hong and said with disdain, "Don't bother trying to scare me. I'm not afraid. I'll be frank. Even if I look for somebody else, I will still be able to sell it. If you dare to expose me...hehe. Your own single character faction would probably be very eager to teach you a lesson."

Zheng Yunhui was completely fearless. He continued, "I'll be completely honest. I need merit points while you guys need what I have. This is a form of cooperation. Would it benefit you to mess with me until none of us can get anything?"

Liu Hong laughed, "Yunhui, you are truly an odd one. You're different from everyone in the Zheng Family. I had thought that those from the Zheng Family could only talk with their fist."

Zheng Yunhui was furious, "Are you provoking the Zheng Family?"

"Of course not." Liu Hong smiled, "To fight, strength is required. Only those without strength would need to put more effort doing things differently. I am praising you guys."

He then changed the topic, "Is this really related to Su Yu? Is that kid really so gutsy?"

Zheng Yunhui stopped trying to hide it. He sneered and said, "That kid thinks he can defeat me just because he's hiding some of his strength. I am confident he won't be able to refuse my offer. The multiple character faction is too poor. If he let go of this chance, he might not be able to get another chance to earn this much."

Liu Hong smiled, "In that case, you must have offered something really valuable to tempt him. I have one more question. Their research center is involved in a lot of subjects. What does the data you're selling concern? And how are you sure you won't be given fake data?"

"Blood essence abilities." Zheng Yunhui smiled, "I asked around about it. This has been a major research of their faction for a few decades. Of course, I'm only getting a part of the data. But 50,000 merit points is definitely a cheap price. The single character faction is still one of the factions of the academy. It's fine for me to sell to you guys. I'm also afraid that I would be in trouble if I sell to outsiders."

Zheng Yunhui's tone turned smug as he said, "I'm not stupid. If I end up selling to the wrong people, such as the Myriad Race Cult, I will be fucked. At that time, I will probably be right beside Su Yu as his life falls apart. Therefore, your faction is the most suitable buyer. You guys have been going at each other for so many years. Both of you are the factions of the academy. Even if they found out about it, they won't be able to do anything to you guys."

"You're smart."

Liu Hong praised. This kid from the Zheng Family was definitely not stupid. He was right. The single character faction was a very safe choice. After all, this was one of the core factions of the academy.

If the kid had leaked the data outside the academy instead, the Myriad Race Cult might be able to get their hands on it. And if that happened, not even Principal Zheng would be able to protect Zheng Yunhui. They had to ensure that the Myriad Race Cult would not get the data.

"And how are you going to ensure that you're not getting fake data?"

Zheng Yunhui smiled, "You don't have to worry about that. I have my ways. Su Yu said that the result will be out soon. He can even produce a Skysoar blood essence according to the steps in the data in front of me. Of course, that's not a perfected method yet. Even so, I only need to consume a drop of the blood essence to know if the data is genuine or not."

Liu Hong couldn't help but ask, "Are they really capable of producing Skysoar Realm blood essence abilities already?"

"We'll know after trying." Zheng Yunhui indifferently said, "But even if it doesn't work, they definitely have a way to produce Infinite Strength blood essence abilities. I don't really have that high of an expectation when it comes to Skysoar blood essence abilities. But even the Infinite Strength blood essence is good enough of a harvest. Su Yu has used it before so that definitely works. This formula alone is worth a lot of money. Hehehe, 50,000 merit points is definitely a cheap price, right?"

Jia Mingzhen and the other elders believed that the formula for Infinite Strength blood essence abilities wasn't that valuable. But there was no denying that this formula would still be a precious treasure for countless Great Strength cultivators.

How many Great Strength cultivators were there in the Human Realm? Probably billions. If even a tenth of them purchased a drop of blood essence for only one merit point, that would still be a business worth hundreds of millions of merit points.

Of course, real business could not be calculated so simplistically. But there was no denying that even the ability to produce Infinite Strength blood essence abilities would bring one countless benefit. Thus, the formula and associated data could very well be sold for hundreds of thousands of merit points.

Liu Hong nodded. He took a deep breath. The kid was right. Sure, Infinite Strength blood essence abilities wouldn't be helpful to him, but that was not the case for other people. Even if Su Yu could only take out the data for Infinite Strength blood essence abilities, it would still be extremely valuable.