

## Myriad 241

### Chapter 241: Terrible Feeling (2)

The observing experts were speechless. They all cursed inwardly. Damn that kid! This was a fight between cultural researchers! Why was he saying those words? That kid...was truly worthy of being a descendent of the Zheng Family.

Bang!

Zheng Yunhui launched another stomp, but this time, Su Yu wasn't able to move away. Zheng Yunhui's foot landed on Su Yu's chest, causing him intense pain. With a resolute look, Su Yu grabbed Zheng Yunhui's leg and bit down on it.

"Ahhhhh!" Zheng Yunhui wailed in pain. "Let go of me!"

Spurrt!

During his momentary distraction, the saber in his hand turned small and stabbed through his palm before flying toward his throat.

With a crazed roar, Zheng Yunhui opened his mouth and bit down on the saber, catching it with his own mouth. His teeth shook, and more blood poured out of his mouth. Both combatants were already fully soaked in blood.

This was an act? Nobody would believe that now. At that moment, even Liu Hong believed that he had been too suspicious. This was not an act. The two kids were really fighting with everything they had.

In fact, it looked like one of them would be killed if nobody stopped the fight. Both of them were too ruthless.

Zheng Yunhui was going crazy as well. He ignored Su Yu's bite and applied more strength on his leg that was stepping on Su Yu's chest. He did not say anything. Well, it wasn't like he could speak. He was still biting Su Yu's cultural weapon.

Blood continued pouring out of Su Yu's mouth as his bite slowly weakened. After about a minute, he finally released his bite and weakly said, "I surrender."

He wasn't going to fight more. He did not have the strength to keep fighting. If he continued, this bastard would probably beat him to death. Of course, if the fight continued, Zheng Yunhui would probably suffer more injuries as well. Strictly speaking, at this moment, Zheng Yunhui was still slightly stronger than him.

Su Yu had attacked again and again with multiple trump cards, but every single time, he had been beaten back by Zheng Yunhui.

In fact, Zheng Yunhui had been holding a mostly defensive position during the fight. Even so, he was still able to deal such serious injuries to Su Yu. Thus, Su Yu decided that this was the perfect time to stop fighting. If he continued, his injuries would be heavy enough to even slow down his cultivation for a period of time.

Right after that announcement, Zheng Yunhui retracted his leg and crouched down. He hugged his leg, tears dripping out of his eyes. Yes, he was crying. Looking at the part of his leg that had been bitten by Su Yu, a chunk of flesh was missing. He then looked at his chest. A chunk of flesh was also missing there. A few of his bones were broken as well.

Next, he looked at his scarred and bloody hands. He clenched his teeth furiously.

"Pu!"

He suddenly coughed a mouthful of blood. A big, white, tooth flew out with that mouthful of blood. His back was hurting badly too. The attack Su Yu had landed on his back through the help of an illusion seemed to have caused an injury there.

With one missing tooth, when Zheng Yunhui spoke, his speech slurred somewhat. He looked at Su Yu who was busy gasping for breath. His face fell as he resisted the urge to beat Su Yu to death.

How he wished he could beat Su Yu to death then and there. Yes, he did win the fight. But the victory felt terrible!

Su Yu could recover after a month of rest. But he would need at least three months of rest since he had used a secret technique. Who was the actual loser here? He had even lost a tooth!

He was an eighth-stage Great Strength cultivator! Yet he had suffered such a heavy beating! And this wasn't even a real battle to the death. Otherwise, Su Yu wouldn't surrender. If they fought until the very end, Su Yu might end up dead while he would end up crippled.

Zheng Yunhui clenched his teeth in anger. When Su Yu glanced at Zheng Yunhui, he became speechless. What was a grown ass man like him doing crying like this? Zheng Yunhui ignored the look in Su Yu's eyes. He was in too much pain. The pain was excessive.

"Stop pretending. I refuse to believe you're not in pain as well." Zheng Yunhui sounded exasperated, "The fight is over. Why aren't you crying?"

"Crazy."

Su Yu said.

Why should he cry?

He had only sustained some injuries, not dead. And even if he was dead, he wouldn't be able to feel any pain. The process would end in a split second. As far as he was concerned, that actually felt somewhat great as he would finally escape the torture of pain.

The two stopped talking. The silence was suffocating.

After a while, Zheng Yunhui said in a dispirited manner, "This victory is upsetting. We need to fight again next time..."

"There won't be a next time." Su Yu indifferently said, "If this is your strength, the next time we meet...I'll probably be strong enough to defeat you in one move."

"..."

Zheng Yunhui was completely speechless. He clenched his teeth harder, causing his teeth to hurt even harder as well.

Finally, when all the secret observers were getting increasingly impatient, Zheng Yunhui remembered why they were here today. He said, "I won. Bastard, it's time for you to show proof that your data is real."

"Wait."

"Are you trying to renege on the debt?"

At that moment, multiple groups of secret observers were being driven crazy. Was Su Yu going to renege on the debt?

Su Yu weakly said, "How the hell am I supposed to produce anything for you in my current condition? At the very least, wait for me to stand up."

He didn't even have enough strength to stand up yet! This was the very first time he had ever exhausted himself to such a level.

...

After half an hour, Su Yu was finally back on his feet.

The secret observers were so happy to see him standing again they felt like crying. If it wasn't for the fact that they had to hide themselves, they would have rushed over to heal Su Yu long ago.

That half an hour had been a torturous wait for them.

When the old instructor returned and saw the damaged training center, he was speechless. These kids...were too strong!

He had been in the Mental Tempering Stage for many years. His physical cultivation had yet to reach the Infinite Strength Realm, but he was already at the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage. But even he started wondering if he could defeat these kids after seeing the devastation in his training center.

Spar? What manner of a spar was this? Just look at the blood and wounds on their bodies. Who in the world would end up like this from a spar?

"These two...are already as strong as top 100 students!"

The old instructor had sharp eyes. He had never heard of these two. Neither had he seen them around. They were probably new students. Were new students so powerful nowadays? Their spar had even attracted so many experts. He did not dare to say anything. After leaving behind the materials, he left.

Zheng Yunhui stared at Su Yu with a burning gaze. Su Yu wasted no time and tossed the jade pendant over, "It has been unlocked. Check yourself..."

When Zheng Yunhui checked the pendant, he was assaulted with a wall of text.

He then looked over the recently purchased materials and nodded, "All the materials are here. Are you sure you can produce the special blood essence with these?"

"What a stupid question." Su Yu looked around and whispered, "I'll do it now..."

He paused and looked around again, "Nobody is observing us, right?"

Zheng Yunhui said doubtfully, "I don't think so, right?"

"Whatever. It's already yours."

Su Yu then set a basin aside before pounding several chunks of ores into powder. He also took the time to show his arms to Zheng Yunhui like he was performing a performance and said, "Look carefully. I'm not hiding a previously produced blood essence on me. Don't you dare to claim that I lied after this."

Zheng Yunhui nodded. That was completely pointless. He wasn't blind. He would be able to see it if Su Yu was hiding some previously produced blood essence on him.

Su Yu continued working with the materials. He poured some soy sauce into the mold. He mixed some spices in it. He even added some drugs...

All the secret observers were looking with full concentration. But the longer they watched, the more confused they were.

More and more materials were added. Finally, Su Yu said, "This also requires the help of Divine Characters. In the pendant, a way to pulse your Divine Characters have been described. Remember, if you make even a single mistake, the production will fail."

He then started pulsing his Divine Characters in a unique manner. With his willpower, he shook the mold in the basin. After a while, the mold had been turned into something akin to a clump of dough. A few drops of blood essence had been added into the mold as well.

At that moment, Su Yu's face turned solemn as he roared, "Go!"

His willpower assumed the shape of a hammer. The hammer slammed down on the dough again and again. And the manner in which they were descending...was a complete copy of how Old Zhao would use his hammer when forging weapons.

The mold started shrinking. It became smaller and smaller. Finally, the mold burst apart, revealing several drops of blood essence. One of them was a drop of iron-winged bird blood essence.

Su Yu frowned and said, "I can't promise a 100 percent success rate. Not every single drop of blood essence would be successfully turned into unique blood essence. Let me try them out..."

He swallowed a drop of blood essence.

Su Yu's face turned red and his blood vessels swelled. His body also started trembling. But after a short while, a look of disappointment covered his face as he said, "This drop isn't working."

Zheng Yunhui was getting agitated.

Everyone else was getting agitated as well.

It failed?

"This kid must be fooling everyone." Jia Mingzhen cursed, "If he can produce the special blood essence with this method, I'll eat this table! Is this kid trying to say that this...something like this...is a product of decades of hard work by Hong Tan?"

Everyone was stupefied. This must be fake. What in the world had they just witnessed?

Su Yu swallowed another drop of blood essence. His face turned red again as he absorbed the blood essence's power. After a while, he exhaled and gloomily said, "This isn't working..."

"Are you playing me for a fool?" Zheng Yunhui roared, "Why is it failing again and again? Did you give me a fake formula?"

That was what all the observers were thinking too.

Su Yu frowned, "Why so impatient? There's another drop. I'll give it a try. If it doesn't work, I'll produce another set of blood essence..."

"Piss off! This is the end result after spending so many merit points?"

In fact, Zheng Yunhui was starting to get really angry as well. What was Su Yu doing? If he couldn't do it, he shouldn't insist on demonstrating the production method. That way, the others might still be doubtful. But now, it was clear the formula was fake.

"Be patient," Su Yu rolled his eyes, "Different blood essence has different success rate. I'm the most familiar with the iron-winged bird blood essence since I've experimented on it the most. I am confident this drop will be a success."

He then swallowed the final drop of blood essence. This time, his blood vessels were swelling. His expression merely changed slightly. The observers could sense that this time, the blood essence aura on him wasn't as thick as before.

Everyone watched nervously. Suddenly, Su Yu clawed out. Zheng Yunhui was sent flying away. Then, Su Yu grabbed a random chunk of ore and crushed it in his palm.

"Infinite Strength!"

"Rip ability!"

"..."

Everyone was stunned.

It...worked?

It...fucking worked?

That bullshit production method...actually worked?



What the fuck?

Holy shit!

That was a real formula!

...

At the same time, at the top of the Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

An old man spat a mouthful of tea out in shock.

"Are you kidding me?"

Wan Tiansheng was dumbstruck.

Was this a joke?

Did Su Yu think that he was a little child that could be easily scammed?

Su Yu had merely produced a dough from a bunch of random materials before striking it with Old Zhao's smithing technique and pulsing his willpower for a bit. Just like that, he produced a drop of special blood essence?

Was this a joke?

But he was certain that the blood essence was newly purchased. As the principal, he wouldn't see wrongly. If he could be wrong in even something like this, he might as well blind himself.

"I..."

Wan Tiansheng wanted to scold someone, but he had nobody to scold.

Was that the real deal? Wan Tiansheng was completely stupefied. Next, his gaze landed on someone else: Chen Yong. He tried sensing Chen Yong's condition...and he saw the calm Chen Yong smash the teapot on the table before standing up to smash the table apart as well.

Even a calm and collected man like Chen Yong was in complete disbelief. Had his teacher created a second production method? Why wasn't he aware of that? And the second method was...so simple? It was almost like Su Yu was baking some bread instead of producing some blood essence.

Chen Yong was so shocked that he had lost control of himself and broke several items in the room. Wan Tiansheng was stunned to see that. What was going on? Chen Yong was clearly unaware of this production method as well. Chen Yong was just as shocked to see what Su Yu did.

"Is that data...real or fake?"

Suddenly, he recalled something. Previously, when he went to the Mental Tempering Garden, he saw this kid cultivating by consuming blood essence.

"Is it...the effect of a special Divine Character?"

Su Yu had pulsed his Divine Character during the production process! Was that the reason? Everything else he did was an act?

In any case, Wan Tiansheng would not believe that this was the way to produce the unique blood essence. That did not make any sense whatsoever. In fact, it was an insult to Hong Tan. If Hong Tan had spent decades just for something as simple as this...Wan Tiansheng couldn't imagine it.

In fact, even Hong Tan would probably feel like killing himself if this was what he had spent decades of effort pursuing.

"This kid...is a scammer!"

Wan Tiansheng was speechless.

Since Chen Yong was nearby, Wan Tiansheng was sure that this was a scam. Just look at Chen Yong's reaction. That fellow looked like he was starting to doubt his entire life. What could this be if not a scam?

Wan Tiansheng rubbed his chin as he sank into thought. Shortly after, he smiled. Fine, he would allow those fellows to have their fun.

But he had also taken note of all the hidden experts that had appeared today. He snorted. The Myriad Race Cult was most definitely hidden among them as well.

"Whatever. I won't ruin your plan. What can I do if you guys are so poor? But that Zheng kid will probably have a hard time leaving after this..."

Wan Tiansheng would not stop them from buying and selling. But...hehehe, the divine blood essence must be left behind. Su Yu's data was most definitely fake, but the divine blood essence was the real deal.

"I'll continue watching the show and wait to reap the harvest at the end. Nobody will know that I'm the final owner of the divine blood essence."

The treasure had been delivered right into his home. Those fellows were getting involved in an unsanctioned fight and black market transaction. It was well within his rights to seize everything they have.

He was already being very kind by not setting his eyes on their merit points as well. After all, acting was quite tiring too. He had to at least let them earn some money for the performance. If he wiped them clean this time, how was he supposed to earn more from them in the future?

Wan Tiansheng nodded as he told himself that he was a good person. Since those fellows had put so much effort in fighting and acting, he would let them keep their merit points. Ahhh, he was such a nice person.

He reckoned he was the kindest principal to have ever existed.

"I'll make five drops of divine blood essence today. What a profitable day..."

Wan Tiansheng muttered to himself. That was acceptable. He hadn't wasted his time watching this show, after all.

Chapter 242: Transaction (1)

Inside the training center.

Zheng Yunhui was completely stupefied. The blood essence was actually working!

He checked the data Su Yu gave him again, comparing the materials with what Su Yu had used. He also compared the production process. Everything was the exact same. Su Yu had changed nothing!

When he first saw the formula, he was rather dumbfounded. He was certain that the formula was fake so he hadn't thought too much about it.

But now...

Zheng Yunhui looked at the formula again and again, comparing the formula with what Su Yu did, and finally...he was completely stunned.

He even started doubting that Su Yu had taken the real formula out. As for the fact that Su Yu had sent him flying with a claw strike, that was nothing. He couldn't be bothered to care about that.

"Su Yu..."

Zheng Yunhui hurriedly crawled back up and looked at Su Yu in stupefaction. He held a questioning gaze, wondering if he should really sell this formula. Selling it would cause a major incident!

They had attracted quite a lot of attention with this little act of theirs. Why was Su Yu using the real formula now? Was he tired of living?

Su Yu calmly said, "You have the stuff. Take good care of it. Have you checked? Is everything right? Of course, this is a simplified production method. In truth, the research center has some special devices that can increase the success rate of the production. With our special devices, it is also much easier to determine the result of the production. There won't be a need to consume the blood essence like I did. But I can't provide you with all those devices. You will have to think of something yourself."

Zheng Yunhui wanted to speak, but he didn't know what to say.

Su Yu stood up and took the rest of the materials with him. He smiled, "We shouldn't be wasteful so I'll be taking these with me. You're fine with that, right?"

"Yeah..."

Zheng Yunhui did not care. He was still in a state of shock. What should he do now?

"Alright then. I'll be taking my leave. Remember, keep this secret!" Su Yu solemnly warned, "Zheng Yunhui, you already have the stuff. But after I walk out of this building, I won't admit to leaking the data. You have no proof to drag me down anyway. If you dare to leak this, I'll be sure to accuse you of stealing from our research center!"

"Even if my teacher suspects me, he won't have any proof. The only thing everyone will know is that the data is in your hands. Zheng Yunhui, don't blame me for not warning you if you end up doing something stupid!"

Zheng Yunhui rolled his eyes, "How am I capable of stealing from your research center."

"Heh, don't be too sure about it. If I'm desperate enough, I'll just admit to being a spy of your Zheng Family. After they kick me out, you guys will need to sponsor my future cultivation instead. Otherwise, I'll tell everyone that your Zheng Family has abandoned me after making use of me! Everyone will know how untrustworthy your Zheng Family is!"

Zheng Yunhui was completely speechless. Damn it! This scumbag! He couldn't even be bothered to say anything in response. He was still busy wondering if the data was real. He really didn't know what to think anymore.

He was sure that the blood essence Su Yu had consumed earlier had all been purchased alongside the other materials earlier. In that case, why had he been able to use the racial ability of the iron-winged bird with it?

Had he opened the required acupoints in advance? Impossible! It was far too easy to see that those acupoints had only been opened temporarily. He could feel a headache coming.

Zheng Yunhui was very troubled. If the data was real, things would be troublesome after selling it. That was especially true since so many people were already aware of it. If Su Yu had notified him earlier that the data was real, he would have found someone to buy it in secret. But now, there were far too many eyes on him.

"Bye."

Su Yu did not say anything else. He was still badly injured. Although he had absorbed a few drops of blood essence, he still needed some time to heal. Zheng Yunhui watched helplessly as Su Yu left.

Third floor.

Right after Su Yu left, Zhou Pingsheng said, "Go! Get the data immediately!"

Liu Hong was still dumbfounded. He was even starting to get angry at himself. If he had known that the data was real, he wouldn't have spread the news and snatched the data for himself instead.

The data was worth more than the price Zheng Yunhui had asked for. But it was too late for regret.

While walking out of the room, Liu Hong was still questioning himself. Why was the data real? Were both Bai Feng and Chen Yong fools? Why did they let Su Yu obtain something so valuable?

That kid had only joined the research center for slightly over a month. Were those two fools for trusting him so easily? Bai Feng might be an asshole, but he definitely didn't look so stupid.

Liu Hong still couldn't fully believe that the data was real, but unlike before, he was no longer so sure that it was fake.

"Whatever. I'll just make a little bit less money. Tens of thousands of merit points are still a decent sum of money."

Liu Hong could only comfort himself that way. He decided to report an even higher price to his superiors and claim more money from them for the deal.

At this point, he would take what he could get. It was also good for the data to be real. This way, there wouldn't be any other problems cropping up for him after the deal. After all, if the data was fake, he would still need to think of a way to rid himself of the blame.

When Liu Hong left the room, he saw that the middle-aged man from the Xia Family and Xia Huyou had just left the opposite room as well. Both parties were now face to face with each other.

They stared at each other in silence. Suddenly, Zhou Pingsheng smiled and said from inside the room, "Brother Xia, it has been a while since we last met. Why don't you come in for tea?"

The middle-aged man frowned, but he soon smiled and said, "Huyou, you'll take charge. I'll have a chat with Manager Zhou."

Xia Huyou nodded and said nothing. He went downstairs alongside Liu Hong.

At the same time.

Outside the training center.

A few other individuals had arrived. These people were completely covered up from head to toe, hiding their true appearances. Even their presence felt illusory with willpower undulations covering their bodies.

They did not seem to be in the same group. Outside the training center, they merely gave each other a glance before silently entering the building. In the restaurant beside the training center.

Jia Mingzhen focused on the newcomers for a bit before frowning, "I can't see through their identities. Should we act? We're still inside the academy!"

They had to be alert since a group of unknown individuals had sneaked into the academy.

The female elder shook her head, "No. Just wait for them to leave before tailing them. We can act after we know more. We can easily scare some people off if we move too early."

"How about the data?" An elder asked, "That Su Yu is too brash! It would be very troublesome if the data is leaked outside the academy."

Jia Mingzhen indifferently said, "There's nothing we can do if the data ends up in the hands of the single character faction or the Xia Family. They're using their own money to buy the private data of a privately owned research center. What can we do to them? If they are our enemies, we can probably still find an excuse to deal with them. But it's hard for us to make a move against the Xia Family and the single character faction."

They sank into silence.

Yes. This was quite a thorny issue.



Jia Mingzhen laughed, "It's fine. The multiple character faction is the only one who will suffer a loss from this. And Su Yu is the culprit. They can only blame themselves for being blind and recruiting such a student. I don't pity Hong Tan, but I do feel like it is a waste for a talented student like Su Yu to be such a person."

The elders sank into silence again.

Yes. It was a waste. A genius like this had betrayed his faction out of greed. Who would dare to accept him in the future? Even if the multiple character faction spared him, he would no longer have any future.

The mood was somber. These elders weren't too happy after witnessing the ruin of a freakish genius. Originally, they had been looking forward to the exposure that this was a lie. But now...they really couldn't describe how they were feeling.

After a while, Jia Mingzhen was the first to recover. With a smile, he said, "Keep watching the show!"

They did not return to the previous topic. Suddenly, one of them recalled something and said, "And it's time for someone to eat this table."

"..."

Jia Mingzhen acted like he hadn't heard anything. What? Who was going to eat a table?

Had he said those words? Nope!

The others rolled their eyes. They knew that this fellow was going to go back on his words.

Chapter 243: Transaction (2)

Second floor.

After packing up his stuff, Zheng Yunhui was about to leave when he saw Liu Hong entering the room. He wasn't surprised to see Liu Hong.

But he frowned when he saw Xia Huyou.

"Brother Yunhui!" Xia Huyou had a warm smile on his face as he said, "Don't worry about me. The Xia Family is the number one family of Great Xia. If you want to do business, I am naturally your best option."

"Xia Huyou, why are you getting involved in this?" Zheng Yunhui rolled his eyes, "You have been a little bastard since you were a kid. You're just like your second granduncle."

Xia Huyou smiled, "Brother Yunhui, you are too prejudiced against me. Also, my granduncle is a good man. Who doesn't know about his impeccable moral standing?"

"Cough, cough." Liu Hong coughed and said, "Yunhui, we already reached an agreement previously. You have even received the down payment. And I have the rest of the payment with me. As the strongest of your generation in the Zheng Family, your word is still worth something, right?"

Xia Huyou said, "When it comes to business, everything needs to be handled in accordance with the contract. As per your agreement, how much is the down payment? And how much do you need to compensate for breaking the contract? The Xia Family will take on the payment! Brother Yunhui, you won't lose a single cent by dealing with us!"

Liu Hong glanced at Xia Huyou and asked, "Xia Huyou, are you in charge of the Xia Trade Company already?"

Xia Huyou smiled, "No. But I have enough authority to take charge of a small transaction like this."

Small transaction!

Liu Hong caught on to that term. And when he recalled the so-called second granduncle Zheng Yunhui mentioned earlier...

The Xia Family was very big. They had a lot of members. Liu Hong wasn't very familiar with the Xia Family. He only knew that Xia Huyou was from the Xia Family, but he didn't know Xia Huyou's exact identity.

But after this interaction, he started suspecting Xia Huyou's identity. Second granduncle...Ranked second among his siblings...and someone from the Xia Family. Marquis Xia?

And Xia Huyou was from Xia Chan's generation. Was he Marquis Xia's grandnephew? How many nephews did Marquis Xia have? There were a lot of them. The most famous of them all was Xia Longwu, his direct nephew. The other nephews were all from the branch families.

"He can't be the prefect's son, right?"

A certain idea rose in Liu Hong's mind. That shouldn't be the case, right? He knew that the prefect had a son, but he had never seen that person before. An individual at the level of Xia Longwu was too far away from Liu Hong.

Even in the academy, only those Mountainsea experts would be privy to information like that. Maybe some of the senior Cloudbreach experts would know as well. As for someone like him who had been in the academy for less than 10 years, he was unqualified to learn more about the personal affairs of those top experts.

He was suspicious, but he didn't ask anything. He looked at Zheng Yunhui and said, "Yes, contracts are important when doing business. But Yunhui, you are no businessman. You are someone who will grow into a strong cultivator in the future. A strong cultivator must be firm with their words instead of being indecisive and changing their minds all the time. That will only harm your faith in yourself and ruin your path to the top.

"Furthermore, after selling it to the Xia Family, they would definitely mass produce the blood essence and spread them everywhere. Elder Hong will definitely learn of this. It will be different if you sell it to us. We will only perform our own research secretly. Our main goal isn't profit. That will give you more time to get ready for the backlash from Elder Hong..."

Xia Huyou smiled, "You must not be serious. So what if you research it in secret? Do you think this will stay secret? Furthermore, Su Yu is the one who has leaked the formula. That has nothing to do with Yunhui. Thus, he naturally has to maximize the profit he can gain from this. Brother Yunhui, the Xia Family is willing to offer you 10,000 merit points on top of whatever Assistant Liu is offering you."

Yes. Being rich gave him a lot of confidence in this negotiation. He didn't even need to ask about Liu Hong's offer. He could directly add 10,000 merit points on top. Liu Hong was rather speechless. The Xia Family was too rich. If they really competed in terms of money, the single character faction wouldn't be a match.

He was about to speak when he frowned. Some other people had arrived.

A few mysterious individuals appeared in the room. One of them spoke with a hoarse voice, "We're interested in buying the data as well. How about this? We'll compete fairly. The one capable of offering a higher price can get it."

Liu Hong coldly asked, "Who are you? Why don't you dare to show your face? We're inside the academy! Do you want me to report you to the guards?"

One of the mysterious visitors said, "Liu Hong, don't forget that this isn't an auction. This is a black market transaction. As for our identities, as long as we aren't from the Myriad Race Cult, why do you care who we are?"

A different person said, "I'm from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy. We're interested in the data as well. As for who I am, there is no need for you to know."

Liu Hong's face fell. He looked at Zheng Yunhui and sternly said, "You will be in great trouble if you sell it to the wrong person. I reminded you of this before."

Zheng Yunhui looked at the newcomers. He was somewhat speechless. He said, "I don't remember notifying so many people. I intend to sell this off in secret. But with so many of you here, is this still a secret? If Elder Hong or the principal ends up attracted, are you guys going to compensate me for my loss?"

He was feeling very gloomy as well. Why were there so many people? Liu Hong did not say anything. He was partly at fault for this. But he naturally couldn't admit that or Zhou Pingsheng wouldn't spare him.

Zheng Yunhui looked at the newcomers and said, "Those who are hiding their faces can forget about this. I'm not selling to you guys. I don't dare to sell to you guys. I'm not stupid. If something bad happens as a result, are you going to take responsibility on my behalf? I would rather earn less. You may leave."

He looked at Xia Huyou and Liu Hong and said, "Let's go somewhere else..."

He had just finished speaking when one of the mysterious individuals released their aura.

Zheng Yunhui was alarmed. But before he could say anything, a voice rang out from outside the room, "Time to leave, guys. This is not a transaction you can afford to get involved in."

That was the middle-aged man from the Xia Family. The person who had released their aura earlier had their face hidden, so nobody was sure if that person's expression had changed. But they did withdraw their aura.

The middle-aged man from the Xia Family smiled and said, "I am not a member of the academy. I am but a simple trader. Therefore, I am not interested in pursuing your identities. But if you don't leave, the experts of the academy might arrive soon."

The self-proclaimed member of the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy said, "Xia Xinyi, I have nothing to fear. I'm here for business, not creating trouble. If you want to kick me off, I'll make sure none of you can complete this transaction."

"The academy experts are going to come? So be it. Since we can't get it, nobody can get it!"

The middle-aged man frowned, "Why push it that far? The Wentan Research Center has sealed their research result. Nobody can get the data through any other channels. If the Xia Family obtains it, we will disseminate it widely. Everyone will be able to buy blood essence abilities in the future. With your strength, once the blood essence is available for purchase, it is only a matter of time before you can reverse engineer it.

"If we wait for Hong Tan to release it, either it will be released after his research is complete or it will remain sealed forever. This is our only chance. After obtaining it, we will share it with everyone. The Xia Trade Company focuses only on profit. As long as you have a normal identity and aren't a member of the Myriad Race Cult, you will have no problem buying the blood essence from us. And if you're willing to pay, you might even be able to buy the data from us. Am I wrong?"

Xia Xinyi spoke earnestly, "Between waiting for Hong Tan to complete the research or waiting for us to disseminate the blood essence, which do you think is the better option?"

"..."

They all sank into silence.

Xia Xinyi added, "Of course, it would be an entirely different story for the Myriad Race Cult. There...isn't a cult member here among you guys, right?"

When he said those words, Xia Xinyi's presence changed.

"If there is...then you might not be able to leave today."

The mysterious individuals appeared indifferent. The person from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy said, "Even if they're here, they won't expose themselves. Everyone here naturally has a proper identity on paper. There is no need to scare us with this excuse. If you want us to leave, it's easy. Give us a copy of the list of materials and a recording of Su Yu's demonstration."

Xia Xinyi frowned, "Don't tell me you haven't recorded the process."

"With you guys present, we can count ourselves lucky for being able to spy even a bit. How can we still record the process? If you can't even agree to such a simple request, none of us shall get anything today."

Xia Xinyi sank into silence. After a while, he tossed a few jade talismans over. After checking the talismans, they hurriedly left. They knew that with the Xia Family and the single character faction here, it was very unlikely that they would be able to get the data.

But with the recording, they could slowly deduce the formula. After the mysterious visitors left, Xia Xinyi looked at Zheng Yunhui.

Zheng Yunhui flashed an awkward smile and said, "Uncle Xinyi..."

"You sure are bold nowadays. You dare to even steal your family's divine blood essence?"

Zheng Yunhui laughed dryly, not saying anything in reply. Inwardly, he thought that how would they be here if he wasn't bold enough? Beside them, Liu Hong was feeling very helpless. It did not look like his plan was going to succeed.

After thinking for a bit, he smiled, "Yunhui, can we have a chat privately?"

Zheng Yunhui thought about it before nodding.

The two walked to the corner. After throwing Xia Yinyi and Xia Huyou a glance, he transmitted his voice, "Stop acting. This is definitely a ploy by both you and Su Yu. Are you really thinking of scamming the Xia Family? Are you not afraid that they would look for you after this?"

Zheng Yunhui's heart thumped. His expression remained the same, but he couldn't control his heartbeat.

Liu Hong continued transmitting his voice confidently, "So is Su Yu trying to scam me or the single character faction?"

"Assistant Liu..." Zheng Yunhui could only speak since he wasn't capable of transmitting his voice, "You must be kidding..."

"I'm not!"

Liu Hong paid close attention to Zheng Yunhui, including his heartbeat. He also paid close attention to Zheng Yunhui's breathing and said, "The two of you are too bold. That was quite good acting from both of you. Even Zhou Pingsheng and Xia Xinyi were fooled. But you can't fool me. In fact, this plan has probably started since the first time you allowed me to overhear your conversation..."

Liu Hong continued focusing on Zheng Yunhui as he continued, "But...you need to know that I've personally witnessed the production of those special blood essence."

"What?"

Zheng Yunhui trembled instinctively. At that exact moment, Liu Hong cursed inwardly. Holy fucking shit!

Damn it! It was really a lie! What an impressive scam!

He was only saying all that as a last minute effort to test Zheng Yunhui. In truth, he was almost convinced that this was not a lie as well. But Zheng Yunhui was not seasoned enough a liar and ended up exposing himself.

"You don't believe me? I have known Bai Feng for so many years. Do you think I've never seen the production process before? Do you think I'm a fool? Scamming the Xia Family is basically courting death. As for me, I'm too poor. What's the point? Your only choice is Zhou Pingsheng. If you agree to ask for a price of 80,000 merit points from them, I can let you keep 40,000 of those."

"You..."

Zheng Yunhui's eyes widened.

Holy fuck!



This fellow was trying to make a killing from this as well! To be precise, this fellow was asking for an even bigger slice of the cake!

#### Chapter 244: Transaction (3)

"Without my cooperation, who can you sell it to? Do you want me to expose you?" Liu Hong spoke bluntly, "Be happy with 40,000 merit points. That's a lot of money. And I need to take a higher risk than you too. After the sale, I still need to think of a way to avoid taking the blame. I might even ruin my future from this."

At this point, he was already certain that this was a scam. But that was even better. After all, things would be too troublesome if the data was real. Also, with the Xia Family around, it would be too hard for him to actually outbid them.

"Don't be too greedy. There are only two of you. Why do you kids need that much money? I will try to drag this out as long as possible. I'll let the people from my faction spend a long time researching the formula. If they fail, they will only suspect that their understanding is not deep enough. I will convince them that they need more time and research. That will give you more time before the scam is exposed. This is the benefit of working with me.

"Otherwise, even if you manage to fool Zhou Pingsheng, I will report to Elder Zheng or even Elder Zhou. The moment they start suspecting the formula, they won't need too much time to discover that this is a scam. Sure, they can't make a direct move against you. But do you think the single character faction won't be able to suppress you?"

"..."

Zheng Yunhui cursed inwardly. This fellow was such a scumbag. Previously, he had only asked for 20,000 merit points. But this fellow was telling him to ask for 80,000 merit points instead. That was crazy.

Liu Hong continued, "If you agree, we can work together. If not, you might as well give up now. Don't even dream of making a killing without my help."

"You..."

Zheng Yunhui's face turned ugly. Damn it! Wasn't Liu Hong their target? Why did he feel like he had turned into Liu Hong's lackey instead? This felt terrible. His victory earlier had given him a bad feeling. And now, he was feeling even worse.

Even if Liu Hong was offering him 40,000 merit points, which was more than what he could have earned previously, he was still unhappy that his plan had failed.

Liu Hong continued convincing his prey, "Yunhui, think about it. If we work together, we will be fellow conspirators. With this relationship, I will be able to secretly give you some benefits or help in the academy. Of course, this is only available for you, not Su Yu. You can tell him that you only sold the data for 20,000 or even 10,000. How is he going to find out about the truth? A poor kid like him will probably be happy with a few hundred merit points from you..."

Zheng Yunhui rolled his eyes. Did Liu Hong think that Su Yu was a fool?

Liu Hong smiled. Inwardly, he was relieved. This was a very favorable development for him.

He suddenly spoke out loud, "I need to leave and ask someone else about this. I can't make this decision."

A short while later, Liu Hong arrived on the third floor.

Zhou Pingsheng frowned and asked, "What did you talk about? What did Zheng Yunhui say?"

Liu Hong showed an upset expression as he said, "That bastard raised the price when he saw the Xia Family. He's asking for 80,000 merit points now. And he's being really stubborn about it. Senior Brother, I think we should give up. We don't even know if the data is real. I'm quite worried about it. Everything feels too easy."

"When I asked him why he wouldn't let us and the Xia Family bid for it, the little bastard claimed that he's acting on his grandpa's order. Senior Brother, what is the meaning of that?"

"His grandpa..."

Zhou Pingsheng blanked out before sinking into thought. After a while, he snorted, "It's obvious. They want us to get into an even bigger conflict with the multiple character faction. Over the years, our academy has snatched a lot of resources from their war academy. He has never gotten along well with Principal Wan. Now, he finally has a chance to intensify our internal conflict."

Liu Hong nodded with admiration. Well done. Zhou Pingsheng had come up with that story all by himself. It had nothing to do with him.

"No wonder he refuses to allow you to bid for it with Xia Xinyi." Zhou Pingsheng coldly said, "What a big appetite. 80,000 merit points...what a surprise. Those brutes from the Zheng Family have finally learned to use their brain. With this move, they can get money and also worsen the internal conflict in our academy. But they are overestimating the multiple character faction. The only person we fear is Hong Tan."

"But Hong Tan alone is not enough. The multiple character faction only exists in name now. And now, even their most important research subject has been leaked to us. There goes their final chance to rise up again."

Liu Hong hurriedly asked, "Senior Brother, are you saying that we should agree? But from Su Yu's demonstration, it looks too simple."

"That's normal." Zhou Pingsheng wasn't worried, "Accidents play a great role in research as well. Oftentimes, an accident might be the spark required for a successful research. Take the birth of cultural researchers as an example. The first cultural researcher has also appeared accidentally. Back then, that first cultural researcher had comprehended their first Divine Character accidentally while reading a normal book. But if someone tells you today that they have formed a Divine Character through a regular book, would you even believe it?"

Liu Hong nodded. But he still seemed uneasy, "But that's too expensive. If there is a problem with the data, we won't be able to take the responsibility for losing 80,000 merit points. Senior Brother, maybe we should ask Elder Zheng and the faculty head first."

"Teacher is in seclusion. Senior Brother Zheng said that as long as the data is genuine, we must get it at all costs. 80,000 merit points...this price is still within our limit. Go. Tell Zhou Pingsheng that we agree. Complete the transaction immediately. If we wait longer, more troubles might arise. With me here, he won't have the chance to exchange the data for a set of fake data."

He was worried that Zheng Yunhui would replace the data with fake data after leaving this place. At that point, determining the authenticity of the data would be even harder. They should complete the deal before Zheng Yunhui could change the data.

"Senior Brother..."

"Enough!" Zhou Pingsheng impatiently said, "I know what you're worried about. But everything has happened in front of our eyes. Liu Hong, stop wasting time. It would be very troublesome if the academy finds out about this. You don't have to pay for it anyway. Are you saying all this to prove that you're smarter than me?"

"I wouldn't dare!" Liu Hong hurriedly said, "I don't mean that. I only feel that this is too expensive. Maybe I should try to lower the price?"

"There's no need. The Xia Family is still here." Zhou Pingsheng angrily said, "This is not the time to be worried about a minor matter like this. You have this weakness of thinking too much while you lack vision. You view the world with that narrow vision of yours. You should learn to prioritize the more important goal."

Liu Hong had a pensive look, as though he had just learned something profound. He said, "Thank you for your guidance, Senior Brother. Maybe this is really my problem. I will reflect on myself. Then...I'll complete the transaction?"

"Go." Zhou Pingsheng tossed a card over and said, "Use this. Transfer the money into your card before transferring to him."

"Alright."

Liu Hong left with the attitude of an obedient underling.

He already tried advising against the transaction! Zhou Pingsheng was the one insisting on buying. Zhou Pingsheng even said that he had a narrow vision. What could he do? As for the fact that this was a scam...well, that had nothing to do with him! He wasn't the person in charge!

At worst, he would only receive a tiny punishment such as a reduction in his allocation of resources. That was nothing. He was going to earn 40,000 merit points from this. He would normally need several years to earn that much money.

Second floor.

Xia Xinyi looked at Zheng Yunhui with a frown, "Yunhui, are you not going to think about this?"

Zheng Yunhui smiled, "Uncle, I still need to stay in the academy. Furthermore, I am technically part of the single character faction right now. The Xia Family is strong, but you guys aren't the ones running the academy."

"You..."

Xia Xinyi was feeling helpless. He looked at Liu Hong furiously and said, "Liu Hong, it's a waste for you guys to get the data."

Liu Hong innocently said, "I'm just a Skysoar. I don't have the authority to change or decide anything."

Yes, this had nothing to do with him. With a snort, Xia Xinyi left.

Xia Huyou looked at Zheng Yunhui and Liu Hong. He scratched his head and thought about what Su Yu told him previously. He really wasn't sure if the data was fake or real.

Liu Hong did not waste any time and tossed a bottle to Zheng Yunhui, "This is 6,000 drops of source qi liquid. Including the down payment, consider 20,000 merit points paid."

He then transferred another 20,000 merit points over. His expression unchanged, he said, "This is the remaining 60,000 merit points."

"..."

Zheng Yunhui cursed inwardly.

He wanted to roar in anger. Damn it! He knew that someone must be observing them. But they couldn't see the number of the merit points being transferred.

Liu Hong said, "The number is too large. I'll need to split the transfer six times..."

Another merit card appeared in his hand. He transferred 40,000 merit points into that card.

He said, "I'll give you two cards so that you can store your funds separately. Otherwise, if your card has too much money, you might catch the academy's attention..."

He took out another card.

Zheng Yunhui asked, "Can I even use this card?"

"Of course. These are unregistered cards. It used to be the standard card used by the academy many years ago. Nowadays, production has stopped and only some seniors have them. These cards are very valuable."

He then moved his hand around for a bit before tossing the second card to Zheng Yunhui. The card was completely empty.

Liu Hong had not transferred any money into the card! He was only doing this to prevent his higher ups from checking his account and discovering that he had not transferred 60,000 merit points out of his account.

Zheng Yunhui's face was unsightly as he held the empty card. Damn it! This Liu Hong was doing all that right in front of his face. What a bastard!

Liu Hong ignored Zheng Yunhui's expression. After receiving the jade pendant, he said, "You may leave."

He had to hand the jade pendant over to his senior brother right after receiving it from Zheng Yunhui. He wouldn't give his senior brother the opportunity to accuse him of having changed the jade pendant.

Zheng Yunhui clenched his teeth. He did not have the joy of someone who had just earned 40,000 merit points. He was feeling furious, wronged, and bleak.

Liu Hong was a scumbag!

Su Yu was a scumbag as well!

Sure enough, only villains loved smiling!

For some reason, this money-making session felt incredibly terrible for him.

#### Chapter 245: Scamming Too Much (1)

With his injured body, Zheng Yunhui slowly left the training center. He had a cautious look on his face. Right after he stepped outside, a masked man appeared. Alarmed, Zheng Yunhui was about to shout when the masked man showed him something.

Zheng Yunhui shut his mouth and followed the masked man away.

In the restaurant next door.

A few elders had departed to tail the mysterious visitors earlier. Only Jia Mingzhen was left. When he saw another masked individual, he was stunned. Why were there so many people? And why was Zheng

Yunhui following that person away? Who was this person? He was suspicious. His body flickered and vanished from the room.

At the same time.

Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

Wan Tiansheng had an odd look in his eyes. He smiled and sat back down. He was just about to leave, but he smiled and decided to wait further. There was no rush.

...

Zheng Yunhui followed the mask man doubtfully. This person had appeared with Su Yu's cultural weapon. Was this Su Yu's helper? Otherwise, there was no way he would give his cultural weapon away so easily. Of course, there was also the possibility that Su Yu had been murdered and robbed...

But that possibility was too small. Assassinating a genius student within an academy was basically a declaration of war that would not end until one party was dead. The academy would do everything they could to hunt down such killers.

"Where is Su Yu?"

After walking for a while, Zheng Yunhui felt tired and asked. His injuries were quite heavy.

"We're nearly there."

The masked man replied. A short while later, the two arrived in a restaurant. They went upstairs and entered a room.

There, Su Yu was nursing his injuries. When he saw Zheng Yunhui, he smiled and asked, "Is it done?"



Zheng Yunhui looked at the masked man curiously before looking at Su Yu. With a frown, he asked, "Who's this?"

The masked man took off his mask. Zheng Yunhui was still curious. He did not recognize this face.

"My martial uncle," Su Yu replied indifferently. "Don't worry. I'm just worried that you would run off with the money so I had my martial uncle bring you over."

"..."

He was way too blunt.

Zheng Yunhui was speechless. But since he knew who the masked man was, he hurriedly greeted, "Greetings, Head Manager Chen."

Chen Yong nodded but didn't say anything. Instead, he was looking at Su Yu curiously. Clearly, the data was fake. In that case, how had Su Yu produced the special blood essence? Bai Feng had not told anyone about Su Yu's special ability.

Su Yu wasn't too worried. He knew what the two were thinking so he said, "Teacher wrote me a willpower text before. I formed a unique Divine Character through that text, allowing me to temporarily extract the ability within blood essence."

Understanding dawned on the other two.

Zheng Yunhui asked in astonishment, "Such a Divine Character exists?"

"There are too many different Divine Characters in existence. How many of them do you know?"

Su Yu sounded confident. In the past, he didn't know too much about Divine Characters. But now, he knew that there were simply too many Divine Characters in existence. All sorts of abilities existed. Even two identical characters could produce different abilities once formed.

Thus, although a Divine Character capable of extracting racial abilities was quite special, it was still acceptable. He had even heard that some Divine Characters could travel through time. That was even more unbelievable.

"How much did you get? Who did you sell to?"

"Liu Hong..." Zheng Yunhui spoke angrily, "That asshole saw through our ploy..."

"Hmm?" Su Yu blanked out. "What do you mean?"

"He saw through us!" Zheng Yunhui explained everything that had just happened. He sullenly said, "Then, he reported a price of 80,000 from Zhou Pingsheng and only gave me 30,000. He swallowed 50,000 merit points himself!"

"Looks like the dogs are starting to turn against each other."

Chen Yong snorted coldly.

Liu Hong was truly too bold. He actually dared to report a fake price to his higher ups. He even dared to complete the transaction after knowing that it was a scam.

Su Yu frowned and said, "And you agreed?"

"What else could I do?" Zheng Yunhui helplessly said, "If I had disagreed, he would have exposed us. We would have earned nothing."

"Bullshit!" Su Yu frowned, "That fellow is extremely greedy. How would he give up on this chance? But he is really quite bold. Is he not afraid that we would snitch on him?"

Chen Yong said, "He's not afraid. The single character faction wouldn't trust us..."

He sighed, "Even if we look for Zhou Pingsheng right away, he would think that we're only trying to get the data back instead of believing that the data is fake. Liu Hong has nothing to fear. Even if the lie is eventually exposed, Zhou Pingsheng would take all the blame, not him."

Su Yu frowned, "He sure has a big appetite, eating 50,000 merit points all by himself..."

He looked at Zheng Yunhui and asked, "So you only accepted 30,000 merit points?"

"Yeah!" Zheng Yunhui sighed, "6,000 drops of source qi liquid and 10,000 merit points. The rest have been paid as down payment...Since we managed to sell it for more than we had expected, I won't ask for more. Apart from my down payment, I'll be happy with taking only 4,000 drops of source qi liquid."

Beside them, Chen Yong was out of words.

These kids...were crazy.

They had actually scammed so much money with a single ploy.

Tens of thousands of merit points!

Su Yu shot Chen Yong a glance and thought for a bit before saying, "According to our original agreement, we need to split the profit three ways. So you're entitled for 10,000 merit points. Since you've already accepted the down payment worth 2,000 merit points, you only need to take 8,000 merit points..."

Zheng Yunhui said pitifully, "But I'm badly injured, right? I need money to heal up or it will take me months to make a full recovery. Can't I get more after receiving these heavy injuries? Be thankful that I'm being honest. I could have told you that I had only received 20,000 merit points. It's not like you would check with them..."

Su Yu said, "You can take 3,000 drops of source qi liquid. I'm not going to bother asking how much you have actually swallowed behind us. The remaining 3,000 drops of source qi liquid and 10,000 merit points are mine."

"That's too little..."

But Su Yu merely stared at Zheng Yunyui without saying anything, to the point Zheng Yunhui felt a chill crept up his spine.

"Zheng Yunhui, do you really think I'm a fool?"

Zheng Yunhui coughed awkwardly and said, "I'm telling the truth! I only took 30,000 merit points! Liu Hong took the rest of the money!"

Su Yu ignored Zheng Yunhui and tossed a card out as he said, "Transfer 10,000 merit points to me. No, scratch that. Transfer 5,000 merit points to me. My martial uncle can take the rest. Give 3,000 drops of source qi liquid to my martial uncle as well."

"Su Yu..."

Chen Yong was about to say something when Su Yu interrupted, "Martial Uncle, use the money to plug the hole. I'm giving Teacher's share to you. I only need 5,000 merit points for myself."

Chen Yong was speechless. He was feeling quite awkward. It was truly embarrassing to have a student giving them money.

"Martial Uncle, you can't lose your position in the books depository. I intend to enter the Top 100 Ranking before the year ends."

Su Yu solemnly declared, "I will avenge Senior Sister. I will get payback from Huang Qifeng. After I clean up the Top 100 Ranking, Senior Sister only needs to win a single challenge to get back into the ranking. And if you can also plug the hole in time, then you should be able to keep your position."

Chen Yong nodded. He looked at Su Yu and sighed, not saying anything else. He didn't know what to say. Today, Su Yu had surpassed all his expectations.

Su Yu returned his attention to Zheng Yunhui and asked, "Why are you still here?"

"I..." Zheng Yunhui gloomily said, "Are we going to forget about Liu Hong? Su Yu, he was our initial target. But now, he is the one who has profited the most!"

"You profited a lot as well." Su Yu rolled his eyes, "Don't think that I'm completely clueless. I'm merely letting you off because of your injuries."

Zheng Yunhui had an awkward expression. Damn it! Was he so bad at lying? Why was everyone capable of seeing through his lies?

"As for Liu Hong..." Su Yu softly said, "I guess it's not a bad idea to have him help conceal this matter. We will get more time and grow as much as possible. It is only a matter of time before the single character faction discovers the lie."

"So we're letting him off so easily?"

"Yes." Su Yu smiled, "Isn't it good that we have someone else helping us out?"

"But..." Zheng Yunhui was unhappy, "I still feel terrible. That bastard was the one who had lost my Skybreak Technique."

"It's mine now."

Su Yu had nearly forgotten about that willpower text. He had given Zheng Yunhui the text as part of the act after losing the fight. He did not hold back and directly took the text off Zheng Yunhui's body. Zheng Yunhui was speechless. Why was Su Yu acting like this?

"You can leave now. 3,000 drops of source qi liquid, the stuff you used as down payment, and the merit points you had swallowed behind our backs can probably add up to around 20,000 merit points. You made a killing, Yunhui!"

"That's not true!"

Zheng Yunhui denied vehemently.

Su Yu sneered, "Would you be so calm if your share is actually smaller than mine? I can see through people like you with a single look."

"..."

Right after saying those words, Su Yu coughed and reinstated the silly smile on his face. His martial uncle was still there. He couldn't appear too sly.

Looking at Su Yu's fake smile, Zheng Yunhui felt like he was looking at a copy of Liu Hong's face. Disgusted, he scolded, "Don't smile at me! Yes, I took a little bit extra, but I deserve it! I took a big risk coming here with my family's blood essence! But I only took 3,000 extra merit points..."

Yes. He was still trying to lie. Su Yu couldn't even be bothered to give a reply and waved him away. Naturally, Su Yu did not forget to make sure that Zheng Yunhui had paid up before leaving.

...

Zheng Yunhui left while leaving a string of profanities. Su Yu had received 5,000 merit points.

Chen Yong had received 5,000 merit points and 3,000 drops of source qi liquid. All in all, everything he had received was worth 14,000 merit points in value. He was feeling very awkward.

Su Yu did not seem to mind. He smiled and said, "Don't be like this, Martial Uncle."

"Su Yu, why don't you take the source qi liquid? Just 5,000 merit points are enough for me. That is not a small sum of money."

Chen Yong seriously said, "Your teacher and I had not given you much. We have only given you many troubles. How can we have a student giving us money?"

"Martial Uncle, I call this risk sharing." Su Yu smiled, "With my puny strength, I won't be able to withstand the single character faction's wrath alone. Once you take the money, you have to face them alongside me."

"Sigh." Chen Yong sighed again. He felt like a bleak hero that had grown old.

"Zheng Yunhui had probably kept a lot of the money for himself. Are you really letting him off? If you had asked for more earlier, he would agree."

"Nope." Su Yu smiled, "Zheng Yunhui is taking a high risk doing this as well. There is no guarantee that he can leave with his family's blood essence."

"Hmm?" Chen Yong blanked out.

Su Yu explained, "This is supposed to be a secret transaction, but in truth, many parties are already aware of this. Is the academy still totally unaware of this? The academy generally loves catching the big fish and sparing the small fish. Our transaction is too big. I suspect the academy is already paying attention to us."

"That was why I had you escort him here. I don't want him to get captured right after leaving the building. Of course, the possibility of that happening is quite small. The transaction is over. He is leaving with his own stuff. The academy has no reason to create trouble for him."

Su Yu wasn't too bothered about that. What happened to Zheng Yunhui had nothing to do with him.

Instead, he gnashed his teeth and said, "Liu Hong is the real bastard here. He had not put any effort into this whole plan and had instead taken the biggest cut. Both Zheng Yunhui and I had to fight desperately to make the act convincing while he only needed to sit there, watch a show, and rake in the profit. In his dreams!"

Chen Yong sighed, "You can't do anything to him. The only thing you can do is get your teacher to challenge him, but even if your teacher can defeat him, you won't be able to get much from him. Even reporting him is pointless. The single character faction won't trust us."

Su Yu nodded, "I never thought of reporting him. It's pointless. That would only expose us. In fact, I intend to thank him. Thank him for not exposing us."

"Huh?"

Chen Yong was getting confused. What was his martial nephew trying to say?

Su Yu smiled, "Hadn't I earned 5,000 merit points from this? I am going to pay Lin Yao his 300 merit points back. I also need to look for Liu he and fawn over him with 1,000 merit points. Next, I'll give Assistant Liu 1,000 merit points as a gift."

Su Yu said with earnest gratitude, "Without his help, I wouldn't have gotten anything! I need to thank him properly. I only need to leave a little bit of money for myself. He can have the rest! I will give him the money with great fanfare...of course, all that would only happen if he's not tactful enough."

Su Yu clenched his teeth and said, "If he didn't spit out some of the money he had swallowed, I would kneel in front of his office and call him my master. Martial Uncle, remember to explain this to Teacher. I might have to betray our faction for a bit. Assistant Liu is too kind to me. Without him, I would have never reached this far. I must thank him for all his help!"

"..."

Chen Yong was dumbfounded.

Chapter 246: Scamming Too Much (2)

Downstairs.



Jia Mingzhen who was "accidentally" passing by overheard the conversation and was completely stunned.

Holy shit! He was really falling behind the times! This whole thing was actually multiple schemes layered together. And he had been completely clueless. From the very beginning, this was a scam.

The data was fake. Liu Hong found out. Zheng Yunhui had swallowed 10,000 merit points for himself. And Su Yu...was going to become Liu Hong's student! Jia Mingzhen really felt like he was falling behind the times.

Su Yu was going to become Liu Hong's student. He was going to fawn on Liu He. He was going to throw money at them. Holy shit! Would Liu Hong dare to accept his money? Would he dare to take Su Yu as his student?

The single character faction had just paid 80,000 merit points for a set of data when they found out that Su Yu, the leaker of the data, was Liu Hong's people. In that case, how about their merit points?

Since Su Yu had already joined the single character faction, why should they pay so much for the data? They should be thankful for receiving only a few thousand merit points! They had to return the rest of the money to the faction!

And Liu Hong wouldn't even be given the opportunity to say no. And once they found out that the data was fake, Liu Hong wouldn't be able to shirk responsibility no matter what he did. Everyone would view him as Su Yu's fellow conspirator.

"The youngsters nowadays...are getting scary."

Jia Mingzhen muttered to himself as he left. There was no need to keep listening. He only needed to know that every single participant of the matter today was a scumbag. Every single one of them was a swindler, busy swindling each other and the world.

Inside the training center.

Suddenly, Liu Hong had a bad feeling. What was wrong? Nothing seemed to be wrong? Why was he suddenly feeling uneasy?

Back in the restaurant.

Chen Yong thought about a lot of things. He couldn't help but to say, "But if you do that and the scam is exposed, you would be in trouble as well..."

"It's fine. Liu Hong won't let it spread." Su Yu clenched his teeth and said, "Can he bear to let it happen? If the truth is exposed, we have always been at odds with the single character faction anyway, so I would be fine. How about him? His life would be finished. He would have to spit out all he had swallowed. He would also need to withstand the rage of the single character faction. He would be in a much harder position."

"He thought I would report him?" Su Yu flashed a silly smile and said, "I am a good man. An honest man. How would I do that to my benefactor? I need to repay my benefactor tenfold for the help he has given me. The next time I meet my dear benefactor, I will be sure to kowtow and pay my respects to him."

Chen Yong did not know whether to laugh or cry.

If Su Yu really did that, Liu Hong would probably feel like dying. People would wonder what was up. Why was a multiple character faction genius being so respectful to him? In that scenario, even a blind man would be able to see that something wasn't right. At that point, even if there was actually no issue, a fabricated issue would still crop out. Looking at the smile on his martial nephew's face, Chen Yong was completely speechless.

After a while, he said, "I'm getting old so I'm not interested in getting involved in things like this. Apart from my strength, I don't seem to have anything else. If you really encounter trouble, come look for me."

"I will. Thank you, Martial Uncle."

Su Yu was very earnest. He had a bright smile on his face. The smile was so bright that Chen Yong felt uncomfortable looking at it.

When he thought of what Su Yu had done, he felt really weird when looking at this smile of Su Yu's.

Su Yu stood up and said, "Let's not waste any time, Martial Uncle. Tell me my dearest benefactor's address. Let me pay him a visit. If it doesn't work, I'll look for Liu He and give him 1,000 merit points to show my gratitude."

"..."

Chen Yong was getting tired. Fine. Whatever.

Su Yu was a young man. It was good for a young man to be so energetic.

After telling Su Yu the address, Chen Yong doubtfully asked, "Is something really going to happen to Zheng Yunhui?"

"No idea."

Su Yu had zero concern for Zheng Yunhui. Their cooperation had ended. Why should he care about that fellow?

He said, "Even if he does manage to keep his blood essence, I doubt he can keep his source qi liquid. He has a few thousand drops on him. Where did he get them? You need to be careful as well, Martial Uncle. You can claim that you got your extra merit points from a return of loan. But you can't use the same excuse for source qi liquid. Thus, if caught with source qi liquid, you will be forced to think of a logical origin for it..."

Chen Yong muttered, "The academy won't be this scummy, right?"

Su Yu was completely speechless. Was the academy not scummy? His martial uncle had been in the academy for so many years. Why did it feel like he knew the academy better than this martial uncle?

The academy was absolutely scummy! Xia Huyou was the perfect example of that. When he did black market transactions, he was raided. When he started a small betting pool, he was raided as well. As long as the academy found an opening, they would not hold back.

"Forget about him. Martial Uncle, I'll be going."

Su Yu couldn't be bothered to waste his energy thinking about Zheng Yunhui. After taking his leave, he left directly. He had a benefactor to visit!

Liu Hong, his great benefactor!

If Liu Hong did not share some of what he had swallowed today, Su Yu would be sure to look for a carpenter and commission a tablet of honor to be made for him tomorrow.

On the tablet, the following words would be written: Great Benefactor Of The Multiple Character Faction.

Damn that bastard. He was too greedy. Su Yu would have taken the beating for nothing if he allowed Liu Hong to be the one to reap the greatest harvest.

...

Mental Tempering Garden.

Zheng Yunhui's vision suddenly darkened. After an unknown amount of time, he woke up and crawled out of a bush. When he checked his possessions, he cursed, "Shameless! You are resorting to robbing a student in broad daylight? You're utterly shameless! I am going to report this! I am going to report that a student has been robbed in the Mental Tempering Garden!"

After shouting at the thin air for a few minutes, Zheng Yunhui stomped off furiously. He was heading toward the exit of the academy. He wanted to go home.

"I'm finished...I actually lost the stuff. I wonder if I can buy a replacement with 3,000 drops of source qi liquid..."

He had a sullen face as he muttered to himself, "I'm screwed. Grandpa will definitely beat me to death. What should I do now? The academy is completely lawless! They actually robbed me in broad daylight!"

Zheng Yunhui was gnashing his teeth in fury. Only a few specific individuals would have the courage to rob the blood essence from him. After he spent a few minutes shouting around and seeing that nobody was coming, he immediately understood who the culprit was. He wasn't stupid.

Damn it!

He had not expected that person to be so shameless. His grandpa was right! No wonder his grandpa would spend every single day cursing that fellow. Who would his grandpa curse if not that shameless fellow?

Zheng Yunhui ran quickly. Before long, he was out of the academy. Fortunately, he still had the source qi liquid and merit points with him. These things were probably not valuable enough to catch that person's eyes. But his divine blood essence was gone.

Not long after he left the academy, a Cloudbreach cultivator appeared and collected Zheng Yunhui.

...

Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

Wan Tiansheng was rubbing his chin. Something felt wrong about the whole thing.

The new students of this year...were all rather sly!

The moment he removed the stopper from the bottle, a dense blood essence aura erupted from it. A drop of blood essence flew out.

Wan Tiansheng's expression changed as peals of laughter suddenly rang out from the blood essence.

"Hahaha, fuck you! I knew you would be shameless enough to do this! Hahaha, are you embarrassed now?"

Boom!

The top floor of the Heart Cultivating Pavilion was blasted apart.

To be precise, a part of the top floor was blasted apart. Wan Tiansheng had been able to release his willpower to protect the rest of the floor in time. Instantly, about a dozen Mountainsea experts rose into the sky.

"Principal!"

"What happened?"

They were all confused. What happened?

Wan Tiansheng opened his window and calmly said, "Don't worry. It's only a small experiment. What is this excessive reaction?" "Principal, was that Geezer Zheng's voice?"

"You heard wrong." Wan Tiansheng indifferently said, "I was experimenting on a sound-related Divine Character. All sorts of sounds were mixed together. Maybe Geezer Zheng's voice is among them as well."

"..."

Everyone looked at each other doubtfully. Was that the case?

But that was a logical answer. Geezer Zheng was still in the war academy. Why would he be here? This was the Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

They did not ask more questions. Accidents caused by experiments were normal. They had merely been alarmed earlier because they heard Geezer Zheng's voice and thought that Geezer Zheng was attacking their principal or something.

...

Wan Tiansheng shut the window.

He still had a few drops of blood essence in his hand. And a surging power was still leaking out of the blood essence.

But from the surging power, Wan Tiansheng was certain that he was holding no divine blood essence in his hand. These were obviously blood essence bombs created by Geezer Zheng.

Bastard!

Wan Tiansheng clenched his teeth. He had spent his entire life scheming against others, including Geezer Zheng. This time, he had fallen for the scheme of that geezer's grandchild! Zheng Yunhui...

Suddenly, Wan Tiansheng laughed.

"Interesting. An interesting kid has emerged from the Zheng Family this generation."

Everyone thought that the kid was only slightly clever. But the kid proved with his actions that he was incredibly cunning. Wan Tiansheng was plotting for the kid's blood essence, but the kid was already prepared for that!

No wonder the kid had run off so soon after waking up. He was probably afraid that Wan Tiansheng would snatch his remaining stuff.

At the same time.

Within a large residence in the war academy, a burly man sensed something and abruptly roared with laughter.

"Hahaha! Wan Tiansheng, finally, you get your just deserts! Hahaha, my beloved grandchild has really tricked him! The Zheng Family is blessed!"

Zheng Ping laughed madly. He had been losing to Wan Tiansheng his whole life. How about now? Did that bastard enjoy those bombs?

"My many days of hard work to create those bombs have not been wasted!"

Zheng Ping laughed happily. That grandchild of his was amazing!

"Hahaha! Is my blood not better than divine blood essence? After all, that's peak Mountainsea blood!" He was so excited he was practically dancing as he talked to himself.

Of course, he also knew that he wouldn't be able to do much damage to Wan Tiansheng with those bombs. But he was happy enough to embarrass Wan Tiansheng a little. That shameless bastard was actually trying to snatch their blood essence!

Whenever Zheng Ping thought of his beloved grandson, he couldn't stop smiling. How did such a genius emerge out of the Zheng Family?

"His father is dumb as a rock. He is completely unlike his father. But...he seems to have inherited some of my intelligence and wisdom..."



Zheng Ping was feeling very joyous. His intelligence had skipped a generation. Not far away, a middle-aged man looked at his old father who was laughing madly and sighed. This was the sole victory his father had ever tasted against Wan Tiansheng after so many years. Was there a need for him to get so excited?

No wonder Wan Tiansheng looked down on his father. Then again, this was proof that his father had been losing very terribly over the years. Just look at how happy he was from a tiny victory like this.

"Also, it's my son that's the smart one. That has nothing to do with you."

The middle-aged man decided to ignore his father. Clearly, his son had just made a killing again. He wondered who was the unlucky person to be ripped off this time.

"The Zheng Family still needs to rely on my son to rise further."

The middle-aged man also started fantasizing in joy. He told himself that an apple doesn't fall far from the tree. His son was only so smart due to a good father like him.

Chapter 247: Sullen Victors (1)

Mental Tempering Garden.

Instead of going to meet Liu Hong directly, Su Yu went to meet Lin Yao.

...

"Student Lin Yao."

Looking at Lin Yao who was stunned after seeing him, Su Yu flashed a big smile and earnestly said, "I am here today to apologize to you."

"..."

Lin Yao was still stupefied.

What was happening today?

Has the sun risen from the west?

Su Yu was...apologizing to him?

Su Yu softly said, "I have been tossing and turning in my bed for the past few nights. That day, I shouldn't have humiliated Brother Lin that way. I already found out that someone else had set you up that day. It was Chen Qi!"

Lin Yao's face finally changed. He clenched his teeth and said, "Yes! It was him! It was that damned bastard!"

But he was still confused as to what Su Yu was doing here.

Su Yu took out the leftover materials from the fake blood essence production and earnestly said, "I took 300 merit points from you previously and unfortunately, all those merit points have been used up. These things might not be worth 300 merit points, but they should still be able to compensate you somewhat for your losses..."

Lin Yao was stunned yet again.

Just what was going on?

He was still completely clueless.

Su Yu seriously said, "It is better to squash enmity rather than keep it alive. Is there some massive grudge between the two of us?"

Lin Yao shook his head.

"Has any of us done anything unforgivable toward the other?" Su Yu said, "The conflict between the single and multiple character factions is the conflict of the previous generation. We are new students. What is our main goal here? Strength! Growing strong is our ultimate goal! In that case, what do you think we can get by continuing this pointless feud?"

"..."

Lin Yao was completely speechless.

He looked at the things Su Yu had taken out. There were all sorts of materials in that disorderly bundle, but Lin Yao was still quite knowledgeable so he was able to determine that they were worth at least 200 merit points with a simple look.

These materials were quite valuable. That was especially true considering Su Yu's background. Although he had earned a decent amount of money from his previous fight, a cultivator could never have enough merit points. Thus, it probably had been rather hard for him to gather all these things.

This was a truly sincere apology! He wasn't speaking empty words!

Lin Yao was feeling rather awkward. But at the same time, he also felt somewhat uneasy. He said, "Su Yu, just be honest. What do you want?"

Su Yu hesitated for a while before saying, "I only want to meet Teacher Liu once. I am only a student. I hope he can stop targeting me."

He smiled bitterly and said, "I don't want to be a class monitor anymore. It is too tiring. I haven't been able to even find the time to cultivate. But without anyone introducing me, Teacher Liu would probably

ignore me if I go alone. After all, I had humiliated you previously. He probably doesn't like me that much."

Su Yu earnestly said, "I originally planned to look for Liu He, but he...looks down on me. It is pointless for me to look for him. That is the same as asking for humiliation. These days, I have learned more about your personality. In all honesty, the two of us are very similar. We are both here to work hard and grow strong. Even the incident with the mountainbreak bull blood essence is only for the sake of growing strong...We're the same kind of people. Therefore, I believe that you will understand me, Brother Lin."

Lin Yao finally understood why Su Yu was here. His mood turned melancholic. He looked at Su Yu with sympathy and sighed, "Yeah. Growing strong is our ultimate goal. Factional struggles, life and death, suppression and conflicts...Even within the single character faction itself, there are numerous internal struggles."

He was really feeling very melancholic. His teacher was one of those who had been suppressed in his own faction. Lin Yao himself had also been stabbed in the back by Chen Qi who was from the same faction as him. Fortunately, he had been warned beforehand.

Apart from fighting against others, they were also fighting among themselves. As for Su Yu's multiple character faction, it was in too miserable a state for them to fight among themselves.

Despite his sympathy, Lin Yao still frowned and said, "It's not a good idea for me to take you to my teacher. I might anger him..."

Su Yu helplessly said, "No, that won't happen. I don't need you to say anything for me. Just tell Teacher Liu that...I apologized to you. Tell him that I have even compensated you. Teacher Liu is a magnanimous person. He won't bother holding a grudge against a little student like me."

Su Yu once again raised the bundle of materials he was holding. They were worth around 200 merit points.

These were the materials that had all been bought right in front of Zhou Pingsheng and the others. Oh Lin Yao, please accept them. Please do. Everyone knew that Su Yu had left with these materials. Come on, Lin Yao. Accept them.

When Lin Yao saw Su Yu's helpless expression, he said, "It's not that bad to be a class monitor. At worst, you can just go through the motions..."

"That is naturally possible for you, Brother Lin. But not me. I had offended you. For Teacher Liu, that is the same as disrespecting him. A mere student like me couldn't afford to disrespect a Skysoar."

Su Yu clenched his teeth and continued, "Take me to Teacher Liu! I'll kowtow to him and apologize for my behavior!"

"..."

That was too excessive. Lin Yao knew that for a genius, kowtowing was worse than being killed. If he was in Su Yu's position, would he be willing to do so? Absolutely not!

"Su Yu!"

As a child of an influential family, Lin Yao had the pride and grace befitting his identity. He wouldn't have paid 300 merit points to Su Yu despite having their fight canceled otherwise.

Originally, he hated Su Yu. But now, a sense of grief suddenly welled within his heart. Just like this, a genius had been forced into desperation. Surviving in the academy was truly too difficult.

"Forget about the gift. I..."

"No!" Su Yu hurriedly said, "You must accept them! I know they're not enough. I'll pay the rest in the future. Merit points do not fall from the sky. How could I take your 300 merit points when we hadn't even fought?" Su Yu solemnly said, "I won't return Chen Qi his money! He is a treacherous snake who sets up even his own people. I look down on him. But Brother Lin, I misunderstood you previously. I've come to learn more about you. It is understandable that you have your pride as a child of an influential family. But you are not a bad person!"

Su Yu sighed, "I still remember our first meeting. You were willing to pay for the blood essence instead of forcing me to do something I don't want to. I was too narrow-minded. It was my fault for forcing you to fight me."

"..."

The praise was too much. Even Lin Yao was starting to feel embarrassed.

"Uhm...I shouldn't have acted the way I did either," Lin Yao awkwardly said. "To speak the truth, I thought that you're not as talented as me. I believed that it's a waste to let you have the blood essence. I wasn't looking down on you. Good things should always belong to geniuses."

He exhaled and continued, "But subsequently, I learned of your outstanding talent. Thus, I realized that you deserve the blood essence as well. You need it as well! I was too hasty in my judgment!"

"In truth, after you defeated Chen Qi, I came to learn that someone like you will only serve as my source of motivation. As for the grudge between us, it's nothing serious. At most, I only want to defeat you to prove myself. Teacher told me the same thing. I should make you my goal. A victory now is not equal to a victory of a lifetime."

Lin Yao smiled, "Therefore, I have been very motivated to cultivate recently. I'm going to reach the second-stage Great Strength Realm soon."

Su Yu smiled, "I'm happy that there is no longer any misunderstanding between us. I'm honestly surprised that you're so reasonable, Brother Lin. I had thought that you would chase me away today..."

"Why would I?" Lin Yao laughed, "Genius Su is personally here to apologize to me. I should be honored. How about this? It is inconvenient for you to visit my teacher during the day. There are too many eyes around. And my teacher might not necessarily be around. Wait until tonight. I'll take you there."

"Thank you, Brother Lin!" Su Yu hurriedly thanked before insisting that Lin Yao accept his gift.

Lin Yao's face fell as he said, "Brother Su, what is the meaning of this? Are you looking down on me?"

"No." Su Yu shook his head, "I understand what you mean. But even if you don't care about these things, how about Teacher Liu? I need a favor from you. Can you...take these things with you tonight?"

He awkwardly said, "Just let Teacher Liu see them. You don't need to mention them. That would make things awkward. Teacher Liu is a smart man. With one look, he would understand my meaning. I don't want him to think that I'm only saying empty words. That wouldn't be good."

"You're right." Lin Yao gave it some thought and agreed, "I'll be accepting these, then. I might not care about it, but my teacher still cares about face. I'll take these with me tonight. Let Teacher see that you're sincere. I believe he won't hold his grudge against you..."

Then, his tone turned solemn as he said, "Brother Su, there is something I'm not sure if I should say."

"Please do speak your mind."

"The multiple character faction used to be strong, but it has truly declined. In the academy, the single and multiple character factions have been fighting each other for many years. I am not telling you to change your faction, but I need to remind you to not get involved in that fight. For example, there are some individuals in the Top 100 Ranking that you should avoid if possible."

Su Yu nodded and said, "Thank you for the reminder. I don't want all this conflict either. I only want to cultivate peacefully. Alas..."

He sighed. Endless sorrow could be heard in his sigh.

So what if he was a super genius?

So what if he could grow rapidly?

The academy was akin to a bucket of dye. When one entered the bucket, one could no longer avoid being dyed in the color of the academy.

At that moment, Lin Yao suddenly felt thankful for the fact that he was a member of the single character faction. Sure, there were some internal struggles within the faction, but his life was still much better than Su Yu's.

Su Yu's life was truly...too difficult. On one hand, he had to deal with factional struggles. On the other hand, he had to deal with the lack of resources. Furthermore, he had to withstand the suppression of experts while trying to compromise and survive.

He did not have a powerful backer. He did not have enough resources. He did not have a wealthy family. Suddenly, he felt bad for even accepting the materials Su Yu had given him. And when he thought of how Su Yu was going to bend over backwards to apologize to Liu Hong tonight, his sympathy deepened.

Looking at the bleak Su Yu who was walking away from him, Lin Yao muttered to himself, "It doesn't matter if you are a great genius with peerless talent. Even someone like that has to bow in front of the cruel reality. This is the type of grief only geniuses understand."

He felt bad for Su Yu. As of that moment, all the previous hatred he had for Su Yu vanished completely. After witnessing a student who was stronger and more talented than him being forced to lower his head like this, Lin Yao found his mood turning melancholic.

"Damn this world! Can't geniuses just cultivate in peace?"

He slammed his door shut, seemingly trying to vent his anger at the unfair world.

Today, Su Yu lowered his head after being defeated by his teacher. How about him? He felt like he was looking at his future self in Su Yu.

"Teacher, you can't lose!"

Chapter 248: Sullen Victors (2)

Night.



Teacher's residential area.

The sky had turned dark.

On the street.

Su Yu anxiously said, "Brother Lin, is it proper that I'm visiting empty-handed?"

"It's fine. My teacher is not a narrow-minded person. Furthermore, you're a student visiting a teacher. It would be even more improper for you to visit bearing gifts. My teacher is the head counselor of the new students. In that case, he is basically our first teacher of Divine Characters. This is a normal visit. Don't think too much about it."

"But..."

"Brother Su, you weren't this indecisive before." Lin Yao teased, "When you called me garbage previously, you sounded truly awe-inspiring. Don't tell me your backbone has been broken by the weight of reality? Don't worry too much."

Su Yu nodded, took a deep breath, and straightened his back.

"Thank you, Brother Lin."

"Don't mention it."

"Did you tell Teacher Liu about this?"

Lin Yao smiled, "I called him, but he didn't answer the call. He was probably busy. But it doesn't matter. My teacher is very open-minded. He won't mind your visit."

"Then...I can only thank you, Brother Lin. I hope this won't bring you any trouble."

"Don't worry about it." Lin Yao waved his hand magnanimously. This was no big deal for him.

While speaking, they arrived before a small villa.

Not all Skysoars in the academy could stay in a villa. But Liu Hong was a genius teaching assistant who did not lack money, so he didn't need to stay in an ordinary dormitory.

...

Inside the villa.

Liu Hong was busy calculating his gains for the day. He was in a great mood. He had reaped a bountiful harvest. He was also thinking about the potential problem that might crop up in the future. But the problem wouldn't be too serious for him.

As for the anger Su Yu would feel, well, the kid was free to go look for Zhou Pingsheng and confess the whole scam. Liu Hong laughed. Nobody would believe that kid! And by the time his faction finally found out that the data was fake, he would have reached the Cloudbreach Realm already.

At that time, even if they could find a way to place the blame on him, he no longer needed to fear them. What could they do to him? Kill him? He wasn't even the one in charge of the transaction. Zhou Pingsheng was the main scapegoat.

While he was thinking all that, his doorbell rang. When he sent his willpower over, he blanked out

Su Yu?

No, there was also Lin Yao.

What in the world?

Why were these two together? Weren't they supposed to be enemies?

Looking at how friendly Lin Yao was with Su Yu and how they were merrily chatting with each other, it didn't look like they were enemies.

Liu Hong was dumbfounded. Why was Su Yu here? And what was going on with these two?

"Is he here because of the transaction?"

Liu Hong was quite surprised. The kid was quite bold to have the courage to walk up to his front door. He wasn't worried about Su Yu, but he was very curious about Lin Yao. Had that idiot forgotten all the pain and humiliation he had suffered in Su Yu's hands? How had he accepted a student that stupid?

Liu Hong took his time, but he eventually opened the door.

The moment the door swung open, Lin Yao hurriedly said, "Teacher..."

Beside him, Su Yu deferentially said, "Teacher Liu, sorry for disturbing your rest."

"Yes?"

Liu Hong's tone was indifferent. Before Lin Yao could speak, Su Yu earnestly said, "I am here to thank you and apologize to you, Teacher."

"..."

Even Liu Hong was starting to feel confused.

Lin Yao thought about it and took out a bundle in his hand. He opened the bundle, deliberately revealing the contents to Liu Hong.

At first, Liu Hong did not care about the bundle. That was until Su Yu spoke, "I shouldn't have treated Brother Lin that way. I already apologized to him. Most of the 300 merit points I took from him have been spent. I only have some random materials left..."

"Random materials?"

Liu Hong blanked out slightly. When he focused on the bundle again, his face changed. Damn it! What was the meaning of this? Why had Su Yu given Lin Yao all those things? Yes, he finally recognized those materials. After all, all those materials had gone through his hand before being brought to Su Yu.

Su Yu wasted no time and took out another item. He solemnly said, "Teacher, I don't have a lot of money. Please consider this my gift to you for our apprenticeship ceremony. I wish to come under your wing as your student."

When Liu Hong saw the piece of cloth in Su Yu's hand, his face turned green.

Skybreak Technique!

Damn it! Would he even dare to accept this thing? That was supposed to be Zheng Yunhui's spoils of war! It might not be a big deal if the thing reappeared in Su Yu's hands, but if it appeared in his hands and some other people discovered it, everything would be over for him.

No, wait, it shouldn't even appear in Su Yu's hands! His Senior Brother Zhou had personally witnessed Su Yu losing this willpower text away.

With the Skybreak Technique in hand, Su Yu said, "Teacher, I am not betraying the multiple character faction. But I really have nowhere to go. You are my only choice, Teacher. You have shown me great favor. Therefore, I wish to come under your wing."

Even Lin Yao was stunned.

Su Yu was going to change his teacher? If that really happened, things would be very troublesome. From then on, he would become the enemy of the multiple character faction.

Liu Hong's face kept changing. When he saw that Su Yu was about to kneel down, he stepped forth and stopped Su Yu even though he knew that the kid probably wouldn't kneel down for real.

"No, there is no need..."

Su Yu sorrowfully said, "Teacher, are you unwilling to accept me? Is it because you think I lack sincerity? Fine. From tomorrow onward, I will be kneeling in the Dao Preaching District until you accept me as your student. I will show my sincerity to the entire academy. I want everyone to see how serious I am when I say that I want to pick a new teacher!"

Liu Hong: "..."

He finally understood what was going on.

He looked deeply at Su Yu. This kid was here to set him up. Picking a new teacher? What a load of nonsense! If the kid really ended up kneeling at the Dao Preaching District, everything would be over for Liu Hong!

Even Zhou Pingsheng would start doubting the authenticity of the data. And above Zhou Pingsheng were people like Elder Zheng and Faculty Head Zhou. Those two weren't around during the transaction. But the moment they heard about Su Yu coming under Liu Hong, they would definitely order a thorough investigation on him.

Liu Hong hurriedly looked around as the look in his eyes changed. He said, "Come on in. It would be troublesome if others see this."

Su Yu hurriedly asked, "Teacher, are you agreeing to take me as your student? If not, I will spend the night kneeling out here!"

Liu Hong had an unsightly expression.

Beside him, Lin Yao was dumbfounded. But he wasn't completely stunned as he hurriedly said, "Su Yu, talk inside. What are you doing? I thought you're here to apologize to Teacher? Why are you suddenly asking to become my teacher's student instead? Wait, in that case, wouldn't we be fellow apprentices then?"

At that thought, he looked at Liu Hong in anticipation. The look in his eyes was clear. He was basically telling Liu Hong to just say yes.

This fellow was too talented! And he was also such a kind person. If he did end up becoming Liu Hong's student, their previous conflict would no longer be a joke. Instead, it would be a story of a twist of fate that could capture the imagination of countless people.

It would be a beautiful story of rivals turned friends. Also, their line was rather weak within their faction. If Su Yu could join them, their strength would be bolstered.

Seeing the look in Lin Yao's eyes, Liu Hong felt like coughing a mouthful of blood in anger. Fool! Idiot! Was this idiot worthy of being his student? Liu Hong cursed inwardly. Just how blind was he to accept a student like this? In the future, he wouldn't accept a student so stupid no matter how much he was paid.

Just look at Su Yu. That little bastard was clearly here to force Liu Hong into submission. Yet his idiotic student believed that Su Yu was really here to become his student?

If he accepted Su Yu today, he would have to spit out the 40,000 merit points he swallowed earlier the next day. He also needed to pay his faction the other 40,000 merit points taken by Zheng Yunhui. And he also needed to withstand the fury of two Mountainseas and one Cloudbreach.

After all, he had played them all for a fool. No, it was more likely that he would need to withstand the fury of the entire single character faction. He was a traitor who had scammed his own people. And he had scammed such a large amount of money. They would be out for his blood.

While cursing inwardly, Liu Hong maintained the same calm expression as he said, "Come on in. If you really refuse to come in, feel free to kneel outside. If you have something in your mind, we can talk about it. You don't know who you will benefit if you make things too difficult for both of us."

Those words seemed to contain some other meaning in them. Su Yu thought about it and stepped through the door with a nod.

### Chapter 249: Sullen Victors (3)

Living room.

The room wasn't too luxurious, but it was decorated tastefully. It was also very clean and neat.

Seeing the clean living room, Su Yu only found his respect for Liu Hong increasing. An old scoundrel like him was indeed different from Bai Feng. Just his home alone was already much cleaner than Bai Feng's. With one look at his place of dwelling, one could see that he was a good man...just kidding.

Liu Hong sat down on the couch. When he saw that Lin Yao wanted to sit down as well, he smiled and said, "Lin Yao, I'll talk to Su Yu. You may return."

"Teacher..."

"Spend more time on your cultivation. Learn from Su Yu. This kid...has reached the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm long ago. You're too weak. This won't do."

"..."

Lin Yao was stunned. When he looked at Su Yu, Su Yu said with a humble expression, "Teacher is too kind. I had to use up Brother Lin's merit points for my cultivation. I'm truly sorry, Brother Lin..."

Lin Yao was stupefied. Fifth-stage Great Strength Realm. He was too stunned to do anything apart from nodding blankly.

Liu Hong smiled, "Return these things to Su Yu. Don't be too narrow-minded. I have prepared something for you. Since you're already here..."

He took out something from a drawer of a side table.

"This is an earthly source fruit. Don't use it immediately. Wait until you're breaking through before using it. With this fruit, you can borrow the momentum of your advancement and open an additional acupoint or two. You need to reach the second-stage Great Strength as fast as possible or even enter the third stage. You need to narrow down the gap between the two of you."

He gave Lin Yao the fruit with a wide smile on his face before removing the bundle and tossing it back to Su Yu. He then said, "Why are the two of you so courteous to each other? Su Yu, you won the fight so you deserve the merit points. Lin Yao is able to accept his defeat. He would only be an embarrassment if he can't even accept his defeat."

Looking at the earthly source fruit in his hand, Lin Yao grew excited. At the same time, he was feeling very touched by the care his teacher was showing him. He said, "Thank you, Teacher. You're right. I can accept my defeats. I won't embarrass you, Teacher. I will catch up with Brother Su as soon as possible. Even if I can't, I will still grow strong enough to not drag you guys down!"

Yes. He was already saying "you guys" now. He was already viewing both Su Yu and Liu Hong as family. Meanwhile, Liu Hong was having the urge to whoop his student's ass. Damn it! If it wasn't for that bundle this stupid student of his was holding, why would he bother giving that fruit out?

"It's fine. Go back earlier and return to your cultivation. This is the perfect age for cultivation. Don't waste any of your time."

"Yes!" Lin Yao said in excitement, "Teacher, Su Yu, I'll be taking my leave first. Don't worry. I won't embarrass you guys! Su Yu, you're already a fifth-stage Great Strength cultivator. But I will catch up to you!"

With the exact same smile as Liu Hong, Su Yu said, "That is only natural. I believe in you, Brother Lin. I am but a clumsy bird that has the benefit of flying early. I have merely taken that step earlier than you. We still have a long road ahead of us."



"You're right!" Lin Yao was getting even more excited. With a satisfied smile, he left.

His teacher had finally acknowledged him! Why would his teacher give him such a valuable gift otherwise?

Suddenly, Liu Hong's voice rang in his ears, "Don't tell anyone about any of this. After all, he is still a member of the multiple character faction. Some people in the academy are still trying to bring me down. Do you understand, child?"

Lin Yao's heart skipped a beat as he hurriedly said, "Don't worry, Teacher. I won't even tell my grandpa about this!"

"Good. Go back. I'm looking forward to seeing you enter the Top 100 Ranking. When that day comes, I will have another gift prepared for you."

"Thank you, Teacher!"

Lin Yao was both joyous, excited, and nervous as he walked away. He was extremely moved. His teacher was such a good person.

With Lin Yao's departure, the atmosphere turned awkward. The laughter and warm atmosphere in the room vanished.

Silence descended.

After a while, Su Yu smiled, "Teacher, I've decided. Tomorrow, I'll be giving you a tablet with the following words on it: Multiple Character Faction's Benefactor". Thank you for all your help in recent days, Teacher. I will never be able to return the favor..."

Looking at Su Yu, calm returned to Liu Hong as he said, "Do whatever you want. This is an obvious strategy of sowing dissent. I refuse to believe they would fall for it."

Su Yu smiled, "So what if they know that this is a scheme to sow dissent? Someone would still need to take the fall. Are you telling me that Manager Zhou will be taking the fall?"

"Manager Zhou is Faculty Head Zhou's student. They even share the same surname. They are probably related. Having Manager Zhou take the fall is the same as having Faculty Head Zhou take the fall. Teacher, do you think that they will let Manager Zhou take responsibility?"

Liu Hong frowned, "You sure know a lot."

"Not at all." Su Yu humbly said, "I am nowhere as knowledgeable as you, Teacher. You even know that the data is fake. I truly admire you. I thought I did very well. I even fought Zheng Yunhui without holding back and produced a drop of usable blood essence on the spot. Even after all that, you still suspect me. I have no choice but to admire you."

Liu Hong nonchalantly asked, "Are you recording this conversation? Are you perhaps trying to set another trap for me? I have no idea what you're talking about."

"You misunderstand me, Teacher. How would I do something like that?"

Su Yu then smiled and fished out a sound recorder from his pocket. He also fished out a sound talisman from a different pocket. Finally, he patted his pockets and solemnly announced, "That's all."

"..."

Liu Hong wanted to punch someone in the face.

"You...Did Liu Wenyan teach you all this?"

Why was this kid so treacherous? He was completely unlike Bai Feng!

Su Yu had a silly smile as he said, "Teacher, poor kids grow up faster. You know my background. I am too poor. If I only have talent and no resources, I still won't be able to grow into anything. I am different from you. I must fight for some things myself. If I am unwilling to fight for those things, how am I supposed to grow strong?"

Liu Hong nodded in agreement, "You're right. We need to rely on ourselves. Outsiders can never be fully relied on."

"In that case, I believe we're speaking the same language." Su Yu smiled, "I don't want to make things difficult for you. Of the 60,000 merit points you took, give me half. Out of the 80,000 merit points you guys get from your faction, we only received 20,000 merit points. Zheng Yunhui swallowed more than half of that, giving us only 5,000 merit points. I can't accept that."

"..."

Liu Hong looked at Su Yu in stupefaction. After a while, he clenched his teeth and asked, "You...only received 5,000 merit points?"

"Yes. If I lie to you, may the heavens strike me down."

Su Yu took out his merit card and said, "Therefore, I can't accept this. I used so much effort to set up such a plan. In the end, I ended up with the smallest share. Only 5,000 out of 80,000 merit points. How can I accept this?"

"Teacher, I am not being greedy. But I do deserve more than that, right? Zheng Yunhui insisted that he had worked hard as well. And since he is from the Zheng Family, I can't afford to provoke him. I have nothing to say since he insisted on taking 15,000 merit points. But you took 60,000 merit points for yourself. That is too excessive."

"..."

Liu Hong was feeling very tired.

He had thought that Zheng Yunhui would be able to give enough to satisfy Su Yu. With 40,000 merit points in hand, Zheng Yunhui should have given Su Yu at least 10,000 merit points, right?

But he ended up only giving 5,000 merit points. And that fellow had even exposed that 80,000 merit points had exchanged hands in the transaction. In that scenario, it was impossible for Su Yu to stay silent.

If he was in the same position, he wouldn't be able to accept it either. That was too small a share.

Liu Hong was starting to feel aggrieved. He did not know whether to laugh or cry. He said, "If I tell you that I have only taken 40,000 merit points and Zheng Yunhui has swallowed the rest, would you believe me?"

Su Yu softly said, "Of course. Even if I don't believe you, I would have no choice but to believe you."

Liu Hong felt even more aggrieved.

Damn it! He wasn't lying this time! He was speaking the truth!

But Su Yu basically had an expression saying "Sure, whatever" on his face. Liu Hong felt very sullen. He finally had the chance to experience the same sensation of winning yet feeling terrible that Zheng Yunhui had enjoyed. Damn it! He had only taken 40,000 merit points, not 60,000!

"Zheng Yunhui!" Liu Hong clenched his teeth in anger. For the very first time in his life, he felt outsmarted.

Why were there so many crafty foxes around nowadays?

Su Yu, Zheng Yunhui, Xia Huyou, Jia Mingzhen...just what kind of students had the academy accepted this year?

Chapter 250: Battle Of Wits and Courage (1)

In the living room.

Silence descended for the second time.

Liu Hong looked at Su Yu and suddenly smiled. He said, "Su Yu, I've seen a lot of new students, but very few of them are as interesting as you. Your plan was very good. Even I almost fell for it..."

"Thank you for the compliment, teacher."

Su Yu smiled as well. Were they competing in smiles now? Sure, bring it on! This situation was quite amusing, considering Su Yu had learned this fake smile from Liu Hong, a smile that served as a mask for the treacherous schemes in his mind.

This was the very first lesson Liu Hong had given Su Yu. And he had never forgotten that lesson. He could still remember clearly how during their first class, Liu Hong had used his warm smile to gain the good impression of many of his fellow classmates.

Liu Hong felt somewhat uncomfortable looking at Su Yu's smiling face.

He couldn't resist saying, "Uhm...stop smiling. It feels weird. It's like I'm looking at a mirror. I've discovered that you look like a younger me."

Su Yu's face stiffened.

Fine. He would fulfill that wish of Liu Hong. He stopped smiling.

After saying that, Liu Hong looked at Su Yu again. He slowly said, "Su Yu, are you here to get those merit points back?"

At this point, there was no longer any need for Su Yu to keep talking in circles. He went straight to the point, "I wouldn't dare. After all, you need to take some risks as well. I will be happy with half. If you are

really in need of money, I can take a third of what you have as well. But that way, I'll remain indignant. After all, I sacrificed a lot for this plan."

Liu Hong smiled. He didn't say anything, looking like he was in thought. He continued gazing at Su Yu in silence.

After a while, he suddenly said, "You're better than Bai Feng."

"..."

Su Yu didn't say anything. It wouldn't be proper for him to respond to that.

"Why are you silent? Are you afraid?"

"You must be kidding. My teacher is one of the greatest geniuses of our current age. He is a seventh-stage Skysoar capable of defeating a ninth-stage Skysoar. I am nothing compared to him."

"Hahaha!" Liu Hong roared with laughter. "You're not being honest."

After a while, Liu Hong seemed to have reached a decision. He exhaled lightly and said, "Su Yu, if you're willing to listen, I have some advice for you."

"Please educate me, Teacher."

Su Yu remained respectful. He had to stay polite. Even if he inwardly wanted to stab this fellow to death, he had to maintain the friendly look on his face. And even if he was going to stab Liu Hong, he would do it smiling.

"I was born in a small influential family. My family isn't too strong, but we are by no means a poor family. I am not a child of the main line. Instead, I am the child of a concubine."

Liu Hong sank into recollection. After a while, he slowly continued, "During my childhood, I suffered as much as you had. Perhaps I had suffered even more. Do you understand the concept of being the son of a concubine?"

Su Yu frowned. He thought for a bit and said, "So you were basically akin to a stepson?"

"..."

Liu Hong wanted to cuss out. But he nodded, "You can say that. My mother is a concubine. My so-called brothers are basically strangers. My father and grandfather only had their eyes on those main sons. As for me and Liu He...we were raised like servants."

Su Yu frowned, "Prefect Xia once announced that Great Xia would no longer keep the concubinage system. Why..."

"The prefect is the prefect. Those are mere words." Liu Hong said, "This is an era where all men need to serve in the army. Each year, countless men are killed on the battlefield. There are a lot more women than men in our society. It is basically impossible to implement what Prefect Xia said."

"In truth, someone like Prefect Xia is not suited to be a ruler."

Liu Hong spent some time complaining about the prefect before continuing with his story, "Let's continue with my story. I am the son of a concubine. Thus, regardless of my talent, I never earned the acknowledgment of my family. How did I start walking the path of cultural research? Because of a chance encounter with a kind man..."

Once again, Liu Hong sank into recollection. He said, "Sixteen years ago, when I was still studying in a secondary school, I met an old man. He is my first teacher in the path of cultural research. He taught me different languages. He brought me onto the path of Divine Characters. He taught me a lot of things."

"He gave me the ability to join a cultural research academy. He gave me the qualification to walk until where I am today. In my heart, he is my benefactor. Someone who gave me a second chance at life."

Su Yu kept listening. For some reason, that life story sounded very familiar. In fact, he felt like he was listening to his own life story. In his case, Liu Wenyan was his benefactor. He turned somewhat absent-minded.

Liu Hong continued, "Under the old man's guidance, I obtained great results and entered the academy. But on the day I passed the entrance exam, the old man passed away. I was greatly tortured. I even considered giving up..."

Liu Hong had a look of grief as his eyes turned moist. He sighed and said, "Prior to his death, he told me to never give up. He told me to complete his dream for him. To join the academy and complete the grand undertaking he hadn't been able to complete. At the time, I didn't understand..."

Liu Hong had a bitter look, "I joined the academy and entered the single character faction cluelessly. One day, an old man found me. He told me that my benefactor, my first teacher, was his close friend. My benefactor was one of the most important members of his faction. He was one of the leaders back then."

"The old man was very shocked to learn that I had joined the single character faction. He told me to leave the single character faction. But I was no longer the clueless new student. I knew how hard that old man's life was. His faction...was in a very difficult position."

Su Yu's heart thumped as a guess emerged in his mind.

"Thus, I told him I wanted to stay in the single character faction. I am going to be his spy in the single character faction! The old man was unwilling. He was a righteous man who disdained using such methods. But I am different. I am someone who had suffered before. The old man was a gentleman. Someone like him can be a good researcher, but he is not a suitable leader for a faction that wishes to grow. His faction was being subjected to endless suppression. They were on the verge of total destruction."

Liu Hong clenched his teeth and said, "His faction is my benefactor's faction. The grand undertaking my benefactor had not been able to complete was to strengthen the multiple character faction and reclaim their previous glory."



"No matter what, I wouldn't watch on and do nothing as they face destruction, destroying my benefactor's final wish."

Su Yu's expression kept changing as he stared at Liu Hong.

Slowly, Liu Hong collected himself and said, "From then on, I settled in the single character faction. I want to grow strong. Only then would I hold more power. Only then would I be able to fight for more things. Only then would I be able to protect that faction!"

"Now, I'm already an eighth-stage Skysoar. I need to reach the Cloudbreach Realm as soon as possible. The Skysoar Realm is nothing. Only at the Cloudbreach Realm, or even the Mountainsea Realm, would I be able to truly enter the circle of the higher ups."

He looked at Su Yu with a burning gaze.

"Su Yu, I need to grow strong. I need more merit points. Do...you understand me?"

Su Yu had an odd look in his eyes. After a while, he said, "You mean...you're undercover?"

Liu Hong sighed, "You're a smart person. If it's Bai Feng or Chen Yong, I wouldn't tell them anything. I would rather keep this secret until I die. But you're different! I see hope in you!"

Liu Hong's tone was bitter as he said, "Undercover...perhaps you can consider me that. I've almost forgotten that identity of mine. You're right. The old man who had looked for me is your grandteacher, Elder Hong Tan."

"My benefactor was one of the geniuses expelled 50 years ago. Like your Teacher Liu, my benefactor was kicked out. But he was less lucky. He was stuck below the Skysoar Realm for life. Just like that, he died, carrying with him countless regrets."

Liu Hong spoke with a self-mocking tone, "To speak the truth, over the years, I have been slowly sinking into despair. I considered giving up. I wanted to forget everything and focus on my life in the single character faction. Here, I have a Mountainsea teacher. The Mountainsea Realm...is very powerful.

Meanwhile, my benefactor couldn't even reach the Skysoar Realm. He had only taught me for a few years. Should I stubbornly cling to his dying wish?"

"If even those geniuses from 50 years ago had failed, am I supposed to complete their mission for them? Someone as mediocre as me?"

Liu Hong's tone turned more and more bitter, "When I looked at you today, I felt like I was looking at the previous me. Someone foolishly trying to do everything with a burning ambition. In reality, it is only a matter of time before we realize how tiny we are."

Su Yu was in a state of shock.

Undercover?

Was this fellow from the multiple character faction as well?

This person had a similar past as him. Someone who had received the teachings of an ex-genius of the multiple character faction in his secondary school. After entering the academy, unlike him, Liu Hong had not joined the multiple character faction. He accidentally ended up in the single character faction.

Hong Tan eventually found him, but he was no longer willing to leave. He wanted to stay in the single character faction as an undercover. Su Yu felt his lips go dry.

"Do...you have any proof?"

"Proof?" Liu Hong laughed, "Is there a need for me to cook up a lie like this? If you need proof..."

Liu Hong hesitated slightly before softly saying, "Do you think that the Skybreak Technique you picked up was something I dropped to set you up? Do I need to use something worth thousands of merit points to set up a puny student like you?" Su Yu trembled.

"I was only looking for an excuse to give you that." Liu Hong sighed, "Not only that, but I had also blocked a lot of trouble for you. Otherwise, people would start creating problems for you after you reached the Mental Tempering Stage. I had Liu He make a move with the pretext of teaching you a lesson. That was why nobody else had done anything to you. You had been declared a target of Liu He."

"Your Senior Sister, Wu Jia, was seriously injured. I was worried that the same would happen to you. I have been standing in the way of the people itching to start something with you."

"Also, think about the research center. Do you think a fool like Bai Feng can manage his finances? I am the one who has been supplying him with a batch of supplies each month. He foolishly believed that those supplies came from the academy. What an idiot."

Liu Hong smiled, "If all that is still not enough, I can say more. In the research center, there is a suanni, a fire crow..."

He listed all the surviving creatures in the research center and said, "I learned of all this during my casual chats with Elder Hong Tan. No outsider is allowed to enter your place. How would I know that if not from Elder Hong Tan himself?"

Su Yu swallowed, looking at Liu Hong blankly.

This guy was one of his own?

Holy shit!