

## Myriad 251

### Chapter 251: Battle Of Wits and Courage (2)

Liu Hong sighed, "Don't look at me like this. In truth, I have almost forgotten my original goal as well. I call myself a spy, but I have somewhat lost myself in it. Perhaps...the single character faction is really more suitable for me. I really have nothing to say about the multiple character faction's current circumstances."

"Your appearance changed everything!" Liu Hong's eyes lit up as he said in excitement, "Suddenly, I saw hope again! I suddenly felt like after so many years of regression, it is time for the multiple character faction to regain some vigor! You brought me too many surprises!"

Su Yu felt somewhat embarrassed hearing the high praise. He pretended to be calm and dryly said, "Teacher...are you...really?"

"It's normal for you to suspect me. Remember, do not easily trust anyone." Liu Hong smiled, "This is what I like most about you. Those bastards from the Myriad Race Cult are even better at deception. In truth, is there a need to clearly define my position?"

Liu Hong let out a long sigh.

"I am telling you my honest thoughts. If...one day the multiple character faction really shuts down, I...might really remain a member of the single character faction for life. I need to survive as well, Su Yu. You might think that I'm shameless, but I really need to survive!"

Su Yu sank into silence. After a while, he said, "Teacher, I understand."

"I hope so." Liu Hong smiled, "I honestly don't care what others think of me. I only need to stay true to myself. I am only saying all this today because you reminded me of myself. You are really very similar to the previous me. Senior Liu...is probably the same as my benefactor. He is probably filled with expectation toward you."

Su Yu nodded. He couldn't help but to think about Liu Wenyan. A look of recollection covered his face.

When Liu Hong saw that, he smiled and said, "Keep working hard. You did very well this time. Also, I won't admit to any of this outside this room. If you say anything, I will treat that as an unfounded rumor. We will keep treating each other the same as before."

He seriously said, "As for the 80,000 merit points, I have only taken 40,000. Zheng Yunhui has the rest. I was worried that you guys would attract unwanted attention by taking too much money. Of course, I was also selfish as I wanted to enter the Cloudbreach Realm as soon as possible. To do that, I need a certain treasure, and that treasure isn't cheap..."

"But since you're here, I can give you 10,000 merit points. I still wish to stay selfish for a bit. I need the remaining 30,000 merit points for that treasure. I need to advance! Only at the Cloudbreach Realm would I have enough say in the academy and make a change."

At that moment, Su Yu had the urge to refuse even the offered 10,000 merit points. But suddenly, his heart shook. No! He needed merit points as well! Also, just because Liu Hong claimed that he was undercover, he was one? Su Yu struggled. He wasn't sure if Liu Hong was telling the truth.

But certain things that had happened were telling him that Liu Hong might not really be an enemy. The Skybreak Technique was the perfect example. Although it had courted an opponent like Zheng Yunhui for him, it was still quite a valuable item.

Su Yu looked at Liu Hong with uncertainty in his eyes. His mind was clouded. Should he trust this person?

Liu Hong seemed to know what he was thinking about. He smiled, "Like I said, I will forget about all this after leaving this room. Don't put it to heart. I only hope that you won't be a second Liu Hong. Su Yu, stay true to your heart!"

"Teacher..." Su Yu struggled and softly said, "...need merit points as well. I am too weak. I have a father waiting for me in the Allheaven Battlefield..."

"I understand." Liu Hong nodded, "You need merit points. It is easier for me to make merit points. How about this? I'll give you 15,000 merit points. As for the rest, I really need them. Su Yu, I'll repay you after I break through. I will repay you all 25,000 of them. What do you think?"

15,000 merit points! Su Yu thought about it. That was a lot of money. Including what he had on him, he would have 20,000 merit points. He was still unsure, but he believed that even if Liu Hong was lying, that was probably his limit. If he continued asking for more, what was he to do if Liu Hong decided to turn hostile?

Thus, he nodded with a complicated expression. He exhaled and said, "Sure. Then...I'll be accepting your offer. I really need these merit points..."

"I understand." Liu Hong smiled and took out a merit card. "This is an old merit card that is not registered to any names. You can get your 15,000 merit points from it. It is quite a coincidence since I only have 15,000 merit points in this card..."

Su Yu looked somewhat awkward as he accepted the card. After a short hesitation, he asked bashfully, "Uhm...can...I check the balance in the card?"

"..."

Liu Hong was really tired of speaking to this kid. Even after saying all that, this little bastard was still so cautious against him.

"Sure. You're really very good." Liu Hong smiled, "It is never a bad idea to be cautious."

Su Yu looked awkward, but he didn't say anything and checked the card. Fortunately, there were indeed 15,000 merit points in it. After that, the two sank into silence again.

After a short while, Liu Hong smiled, "Go back. Forget everything I told you tonight. Act normally in the future. I won't show you any favor in front of outsiders. Liu He will continue troubling you. And I will continue suppressing your faction."

"Be sure to act the same as before." Liu Hong solemnly reminded, "Just act like none of this had happened. Don't tell Bai Feng anything. He...isn't very smart."

Liu Hong helplessly said, "I don't want to look down on him, but if he finds out, he might ruin my plans and even some of your plans. He is an expert shit-stirrer."

"I understand."

Su Yu then stood up and walked toward the door.

At the door, he hesitated slightly and turned around, "Teacher Liu, can you tell me the name of your benefactor? For him to pass away silently without anyone knowing in a secondary school, that is a tragedy of the multiple character faction."

"Kid..." Liu Hong laughed. He didn't seem to mind as he said, "Zhang Ruoling. An instructor of the Eighteenth Secondary School in Great Xia City. That is a secondary school in a suburban district of the capital. He passed away nine years ago. You...are really good."

Su Yu laughed dryly and left. He still needed to make sure. Otherwise, he wouldn't dare to believe Liu Hong's words.

After Su Yu left, Liu Hong exhaled deeply. After a long while, he grinned, "Interesting. That kid...damn that kid. To fool you, I need to fool even myself!"

He couldn't help but to lament about how difficult his life was.

"This is the power of wisdom! Nobody knows when Elder Hong will return. By the time the kid finds out about my lie, I'll be in the Cloudbreach Realm already. All the money would be spent. The whole matter would have come to an end already. Hehehe..."

Liu Hong laughed smugly. He had no choice but to admire his intelligence. Only someone like Su Yu would still be suspicious after hearing that story. That stupid student of his would have probably believed the entire story immediately and gave up on the merit points. He might even offer some of his own merit points to Liu Hong instead.

"15,000 merit points!"

That was still enough money to cause Liu Hong's heart to ache. But if he hadn't come up with that story, he probably wouldn't be able to send Su Yu off without paying at least 20,000 merit points. This way, he had at least saved 5,000 merit points.

Also, with that story, Su Yu would probably stop trying to scheme against him for some time. In truth, Liu Hong was still feeling some lingering fears from this scheme. Even he had nearly fallen for it.

That little bastard was clearly targeting him!

That little bastard wanted to bankrupt him!

"Hehehe, feel free to look that name up. That is a real person. And Elder Hong is not around. Hehehe..."

Once again, Liu Hong laughed smugly. He truly admired his supreme intelligence.

Yes, there was an Eighteenth Secondary School in the city. He was indeed a student there. And there was indeed someone called Zhang Ruoling there, an old man who had been expelled from the academy. And that old man had truly passed away nine years ago. He hadn't lied about all that.

The only lie he had spoken...was the fact that the old man was his benefactor.

Liu Hong curled his lips. No matter what, he was still the child of a small influential family. No matter how badly the Liu Family treated him, they were still willing to hire some language tutors for him. If these influential families were really so narrow-minded, how would they continue producing talented individuals?

In fact, they had a private school in their own residence. Liu Hong had merely registered for the secondary school as a formality.

Outside the villa.

While walking, Su Yu was deep in thought. Was Liu Hong telling the truth? He was unsure.

"Is Teacher and Martial Uncle unaware of that? Only Grandteacher knows the truth?"

Su Yu's head hurt. Those words of Liu Hong had given him some inner turmoil. If Liu Hong was really on their side, what should he do next?

Of the 80,000 merit points they scammed, he had taken 20,000 merit points, Liu Hong had taken 25,000 merit points, his martial uncle had taken 14,000 merit points, and Zheng Yunhui had taken 19,000 merit points. After including what Liu Hong bought for him, he had obtained 21,000 merit points in total.

In truth, Su Yu had obtained the biggest slice of the cake if what he had given Chen Yong was included. After all, both of them had obtained 34,000 merit points. But Liu Hong had also taken a lot. And if it turned out that Liu Hong wasn't one of them after all, he would definitely make Liu Hong pay for that.

But if Liu Hong was really one of them...even if Liu Hong had told him to pretend he knew nothing, how could he do that? If he was really someone who had endured humiliation and suffering to stay undercover in the single character faction, how could Su Yu ignore such a person?

Back at the research center, Su Yu wasted no time and went straight to a small study in the living area. After searching around for a bit, he finally found a list of names.

"Zhang Ruoling, expelled in the year 300 of the Anping Calendar. Joined Great Xia City's Eighteenth Secondary School as the language instructor. In the year 341 of the Anping Calendar, he died from sickness..."

There was indeed such a person!

He then took out his communicator and called a number. When the call connected, he asked, "Which secondary school did Liu Hong graduate from?"

"Give me a moment. Let me check..."

A short while later, Xia Huyou replied, "Eighteenth Secondary School of Great Xia City. Why?"

"Is he a concubine's son of the Liu Family?"

"Yes."

Su Yu asked nothing else. If Liu Hong was telling the truth, he could easily expose Liu Hong's identity by asking more.

"Why are you asking this?" Xia Huyou asked curiously, "Did you learn something? Also, what exactly happened today? Su Yu, are we brothers? Can't you tell me more?"

Su Yu laughed, "It's nothing. I have merely earned a little bit of money. Huyou, if you want to continue doing business with me, be sure to control what information you leak. Otherwise, we might have to terminate our business relationship early."

Xia Huyou said in excitement, "Of course! So are you going to buy something now?"

Yes. He was getting excited. He could smell a big business coming his way! He had thought that he needed to wait until Su Yu entered the Top 100 Ranking or even the Skysoar Realm before he could start profiting from his relationship with Su Yu. But perhaps...he would be able to start profiting now!

Xia Huyou was feeling very smug. No matter how much money Su Yu earned, the money would ultimately end up in his hands! This was how a true businessman should act! Sure enough, investing in a dark horse was the best method of doing business. As long as he invested in the correct dark horse, he would benefit massively.

"We'll talk again tomorrow. I'm busy at the moment."

"Sure."

After the call ended, Xia Huyou laughed as he clenched his fists in excitement. He was going to get rich! Oh, right, there was also Zheng Yunhui. That fellow was probably quite rich right now as well!

## Chapter 252: Teacher Died A Horrible Death (1)

By the time Su Yu was done with everything he needed to do for the day, it was late at night. His scheme had been carried out successfully. The end result was somewhat unsatisfactory, but it had still gone smoothly. Meanwhile, the chain reactions of the fight had yet to end.

Staff Residential District.

A loud rumble rang out. Next, a figure appeared out of thin air and fell to the ground. The mask on that person's face was dyed red with blood.

"Cough, cough, cough..."

After a series of coughs, the masked man shook the mask off and said, "Stop attacking. I'm Chen Linhai. I surrender. I'll return to the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy immediately. I promise to not step foot here again. May I know which elder am I facing?"

"Leave the recording behind." An indistinct figure appeared in the air and said, "Also, you need to pay an entrance fee for entering the academy. Additionally, our books depository had just lost 10 Cloudbreach myriad race willpower texts. You must be the thief."

"..."

On the ground, Chen Linhai had a helpless expression. Bullshit! How would he dare to intrude upon a place as important as the books depository? They were clearly trying to blackmail some money from him.

But he had no choice. He had tried his best to escape and failed. And he had been defeated in only a few moves. Thus, he had no choice but to agree to their demands. The number one academy was truly



worthy of its prestige. There were simply too many experts in it. In fact, he could consider himself lucky to be able to pay his way out of trouble after getting caught here.

"I didn't take anything..." Chen Linhai explained. He hurriedly continued, "But I deeply sympathize with your academy for losing 10 willpower texts. I am willing to donate 10 Cloudbreach willpower texts to your academy."

He would never admit to being the thief. Otherwise, this bastard might use that excuse to accuse him of an even heavier crime such as the trespass of a restricted zone. At that time, he would probably need to pay more than 10 willpower texts for freedom.

The elder in the air looked regretful that his ploy had failed. He smiled and said, "Fine. You may piss off now. Remember to deliver what you promised tomorrow. If you dare to intrude upon our academy a second time, don't even dream of leaving anymore."

"I understand."

Chen Linhai did not dare to say much. After leaving behind a jade talisman, he left hastily. The talisman contained the recording of Su Yu's production process. He had already memorized everything in it, so it didn't matter if he had to leave the talisman behind.

After the individual from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy left, another person appeared in the air. With a laugh, that person said, "The person I tailed is a transformation cultivator."

"Remember to keep a close watch on him."

"Of course."

After a short conversation, a third person arrived and said, "The person I tailed is a beast tamer."

"Leave that person alone for now. Try to see if he is working alone or if he is merely carrying out the order of their faction."

One elder after another arrived. These were all the elders who had been pretending to be students. And after a while, Jia Mingzhen arrived.

"Old Jia, how's the situation on your side?"

Jia Mingzhen had a complicated look as he said, "I bore witness to a big show. By the way, I found that pretending to be a student is really helpful. It allows you to learn a lot of information that you normally wouldn't. All of you had missed out on a super show."

"What happened?"

Jia Mingzhen sighed and said, "Every single one of them is a hidden expert. Those kids are all super geniuses. Their schemes come in multiple layers. When you peel a layer off expecting the truth, you will only be faced with even more layers."

"Stop being cryptic."

Jia Mingzhen smiled bitterly and said, "In short, you can throw the talismans in your hand away. The data is fake. The single character faction has been scammed. The 80,000 merit points they spent is a complete waste of money. By the way, Zhou Mingren is really quite rich, isn't he? That geezer spent 80,000 merit points without any hesitation. In the end, a bunch of kids benefited. Every single one of them is working hard to empty the pockets of that old bastard."

The elders grew even more curious. So they asked more questions.

Jia Mingzhen gave a short explanation of what had happened. He had a bitter smile as he said, "That was what I saw at the restaurant. I thought that's the end of it. I was still in the middle of lamenting how crafty every single one of them is until I watched an even bigger show tonight."

Earlier, he had some free time in his hands so he decided to tail Su Yu a little bit longer. And what he saw next further stunned his mind.

Holy shit!

Undercover, counter scheme, upfront extortion, threats and promises, creating new relationships, backing down when required...Every single one of those kids was overflowing with schemes and trickeries.

Even Jia Mingzhen was starting to have a hard time understanding everything he saw. He had a complicated feeling. He could only say that he was already behind the times. He had been in his high and mighty position for too long. Thus, he had neglected the youngsters below him.

Now that he was finally spending some time with them again, what he saw shocked him to his core. Was everyone from the new generation so incredible?

The other elders were completely dumbfounded by the time he finished his story.

"Old Jia...is Liu Hong really Geezer Hong's undercover?"

Jia Mingzhen smiled bitterly and said, "Truth and lies are mingled together. How am I supposed to know? According to what Liu Hong said after Su Yu left, that was a lie. But...can you be sure? That is a story crafted with a mix of truths and lies. Who can see through it? In any case, I've decided to never trust these kids easily."

The other elders nodded. All of them had complicated emotions. The youngsters were getting scarier and scarier.

"And there's also Su Yu..." Jia Mingzhen said, "That kid has both talent and wisdom. He only lacks experience, but that is normal. In truth, I never expected him to be so bold. He's not even a Skysoar yet he is already brave enough to scam Geezer Zhou's money. What a courageous kid."

The other elders had nothing to say.

Jia Mingzhen then smiled and said, "This is not a bad thing. This generation really has quite a lot of promising individuals. My friends, it is time for us to carry out our mission. These kids will be our targets. Su Yu, Zheng Yunhui, Xia Huyou, Wan Mingze...all these are the targets we need to suppress. We need to make their life difficult."

The elders nodded. They were brimming with anticipation. It was time for them to beat some people up! They would take this chance to vent some of their anger. After all, those little bastards had fooled even them!

"How are Zheng Yunhui and Su Yu? They were injured quite badly."

"Zheng Yunhui will definitely be fine. Old Fart Zheng is still a peak Mountainsea. After earning so much money, Old Fart Zheng will probably go mad with joy. He is naturally willing to use some of his resources to help his grandson heal."

"As for Su Yu..." Jia Mingzhen smiled, "Don't worry about him. He has 20,000 merit points in his pockets. He has more than enough to heal up."

The elders nodded again. Jia Mingzhen said, "Come on. Let's go. We are supposed to be in seclusion. We can't show our faces in public."

They said nothing else and vanished into thin air. A short while later, a few other experts arrived at the same spot. When they checked around and recognized the aura of the elders, they left without making a ruckus.

Prefect's manor.

The chubby Marquis Xia was busy eating watermelon ravenously while Xia Xinyi reported what he had encountered during the day.

While eating, Marquis Xia said, "You're not my son. You're too stupid to be my son. That is clearly fake data. Why are you so troubled by it?"

"Father..."

Marquis Xia continued eating as he said, "Idiot. How much money did you lose this time?"

"No loss..."

Marquis Xia glared at his son and tossed the watermelon skin aside. After a burp, he said, "Idiot! No loss? We can offer 300,000 merit points. Would Zheng Yunhui sell to us or not?"

Xia Xinyi smiled helplessly and said, "But you said the data is fake..."

Marquis Xia rolled his eyes and said, "Stupid. You only need to make the offer. I'm not saying you need to pay for real. Squeeze more money out of the single character faction before looking for Zheng Yunhui to ask for a share in the profit."

"But father..."

Marquis Xia waved his hand. He couldn't be bothered to hear any explanation. He said, "It's merely a game of children. Forget it. Since you already missed the chance, let it go. It doesn't matter if the data is real or fake anyway. You wouldn't have been able to get it. Also, even if it's real and you managed to get it, that Wan guy would take it from you before you could leave the academy. At that point, you would lose both money and the product."

Marquis Xia knew that person very well. Thus, everything was probably completely under that person's control. If the product was real, it wouldn't have been allowed to leave the academy. There was no need to doubt that.

"Let's move on from this topic. Get Huyou to spend more time with that kid. How interesting. Looks like this batch is filled with interesting students."

Marquis Xia stood up and lumbered off while saying, "By the way, increase the price for the materials Su Yu had used to produce the fake blood essence. Monopolize the supply and sell them to the single character faction at an increased price. Since they are so rich, who else am I going to rip off if not them?"

But suddenly, he thought of something and changed his mind, "No, scratch that. Don't monopolize the market. Secretly monitor the market and take note of everyone buying those materials."

Marquis Xia's eyes lit up as he continued, "Pay close attention to those people. The ones buying those materials in great quantities after this are the ones who had received a copy of the list of materials. Some of them might even be present during the fight. Apart from those from the other academies, the rest are very likely to be from the Myriad Race Cult."

He grinned at Xia Xinyi and said, "Perhaps this is a good chance for us. Let's see if we can take this chance to capture some of the higher ups in the cult. After all, only those with a sufficiently high position will know about this."

Xia Xinyi also grew excited as he said, "I understand, father. You are indeed wise..."

"Scram. Do I need you to butter me up?" He said regretfully, "What a pity. If we do this, we won't be able to capitalize on this to earn a big profit. Whatever. Perhaps I can earn even more from raiding those cult research centers. Oh, this reminds me..."

Marquis Xia muttered, "Should I leak something else instead? If we leak some formulas with main materials that are already under our control, we might be able to use this as bait for a bigger fish."

His eyes became brighter and brighter.

"The Xia Family's heavenly source pill is world-famous! Should I leak the formula? With the main materials under our control, we might really be able to lure out a big fish!"

Xia Xinyi was alarmed, "Father, we can't do that..."

"Shut up!" Marquis Xia impatiently said, "I'm only talking to myself. It's not like I'll really do it. It's not necessarily a good thing to leak what we have. We will only cause others to fear us more. But some other stuff...might work just as well when leaked!"

His eyes were bright, looking like he had just discovered a new money-making strategy. Xia Xinyi said nothing and left silently. His father was scheming against others again! He wondered who the victim would be this time.

...

Su Yu was unaware of all that was happening. And he did not care. He had suffered heavy injuries from his fight with Zheng Yunhui. He even had a decent number of broken bones. Thus, he spent the night healing up. But he could only reset his bones. He would probably need some time for a full recovery. As for his willpower, that was not an issue. His willpower did not take much time to recover.

The advancement of his blood character had further increased his interest in Divine Characters. A second tier Divine Character was much stronger than a first tier Divine Character.

The illusions generated by a first tier blood character could be destroyed by Zheng Yunhui easily. But the second tier blood character could cause Zheng Yunhui to suffer heavily the moment he got careless.

"Second tier characters are strong, but they use up a lot of willpower as well. If it wasn't for my willpower's endurance, I might not be able to last that long in the fight."

From that fight, Su Yu was able to get a clear look at his own strength. He believed that despite being at the Mental Tempering Stage, his willpower was much more durable than Zheng Yunhui's.

"My cultural weapon is very strong as well. The weapon used by Zheng Yunhui would definitely not be a bad weapon, but I nearly broke his weapon..."

Then, Su Yu's gaze landed on the two merit cards in front of him. A wide smile bloomed on his face. 20,000 merit points. That was a large sum of money. This time, he had really gotten rich!

Based on his previous calculation, he needed 50 merit points per acupoint. He had already opened 66 acupoints and was 42 acupoints away from the ninth stage. Of course, the difficulty would only increase the more acupoints he opened. But he believed that he would need no more than 3,000 acupoints to open the remaining 42 acupoints.

At worst, he would enter the grotto a few more times to speed up his cultivation. He was rich enough to do so now!

"I'm rich now...I'm very rich..."

Su Yu was happy, but at the same time, he was also somewhat troubled. Should he share the wealth with his teacher? He had given his martial uncle that much. Should he still give his teacher anything? Earlier, he had already given his teacher's share to his martial uncle.

"Forget it. Teacher is still in seclusion so he won't be needing any merit points for now. I'll use his share for him..."

Su Yu nodded and convinced himself with that excuse. Based on his previous intention, he needed to share half with his teacher. Since he had earned 34,000 merit points in total, after deducting what he gave Chen Yong, he still needed to give his teacher 3,000 merit points.

But since his teacher was in seclusion, he would use the money on his teacher's behalf. They were basically family. His teacher's money was basically his money! Although this teacher didn't need the money, Su Yu still had a second poor teacher. He hesitated slightly before calling a number.

#### Chapter 253: Teacher Died A Horrible Death (2)

"Teacher!"

At Nanyuan, Liu Wenyan was surprised to hear Su Yu's voice. He asked, "Su Yu, did you encounter some trouble?"

"Not at all. I'm doing very well in the academy." While leaving the room, Su Yu laughed and said, "Teacher, Teacher Bai and Martial Uncle Chen are both treating me well. I'm already at the Great Strength Realm. I even used the mountainbreak bull blood essence for my body forging. I have also reached the Mental Tempering Stage. I even have a pseudo profound cultural weapon now..."

Liu Wenyan was stunned. The kid was doing so well? Since when was life so good for the multiple character faction? Hadn't Bai Feng told him not long ago that things were very difficult for them? Had that kid lied to him?



"Are you telling the truth?"

"Yes!" Su Yu said with a joyous tone. "I still have a lot of good stuff. By the way, I already formed four Divine Characters. I also have a Mountainsea Skybreak Technique willpower text. I'm on the verge of reaching the sixth-stage Great Strength Realm. I have even visited the grotto multiple times..."

Liu Wenyan rubbed his temple. Once again, he was stunned. Was he hearing things? Was that really the life of a multiple character faction member? The brat had only been there for slightly over a month. Just like that, he was already a fifth-stage Great Strength and Mental Tempering Stage cultivator?

Cultural weapon, willpower text, cultivation method, grotto...Liu Wenyan had the urge to scold someone. But he knew that Su Yu would not lie to him. Thus, Bai Feng must be the liar!

"Damn him! What a bastard!"

Liu Wenyan cursed Bai Feng inwardly. Did Bai Feng think that he was a good target to scam because he wasn't in the academy anymore?

If even Su Yu was doing so well, how good was Bai Feng's life? How dare he pretend to be poor! He had even claimed that he couldn't even afford food anymore. That was why Liu Wenyan had asked for help on behalf of the multiple character faction.

Bastard! He wouldn't spare Bai Feng! After cursing at Bai Feng inwardly, Liu Wenyan spoke with a happy tone, "You're growing very quickly. Well done! But remember to not get too arrogant. If you have time, think about that fellow from Great Zhou who was able to reach the Skysoar Realm in half a year. Give yourself some pressure. Don't get complacent."

Su Yu replied, "Don't worry. I won't. I know myself. Disregarding those seniors, even my batch has a lot of experts. Yesterday, I fought a new student. And I lose. There are even stronger students in our class. I'm not even the strongest in my class."

"There are people stronger than you in class?"

Liu Wenyan was astonished. Fourth-stage Great Strength Realm, four Divine Characters, Mental Tempering Stage, Skybreak Technique willpower text, a good cultural weapon...

In truth, he believed that Su Yu was probably already comparable to him when he was at that age. And yet there were stronger individuals among the new students? Su Yu had just suffered a defeat yesterday and there were other stronger students in class?

What manner of a class was that? A veteran senior class?

"Yeah," Su Yu replied with a laugh. "But I believe that I can catch up to them soon."

At that point, he remembered the purpose of his call so he said, "Teacher, you need to forge your body after reaching the Skysoar Realm, right? I remember that your body is still stuck at the Infinite Strength Realm. I am doing quite well now and I have quite a lot of good stuff on me. Do you need some divine or devil blood essence?"

"..."

Liu Wenyan was dumbfounded. Was this kid...a rich man now? Divine or devil blood essence at the Skysoar Realm would cost at least 1,000 merit points per drop. Could the kid even afford something this expensive?

"Teacher..."

That brought Liu Wenyan out of his stupor. He was shocked, but at the same time, his feelings were complicated as well. After a while, he smiled and said, "It's fine. Keep your money for yourself. Your teacher is already at this age. I don't need stuff like that."

With a melancholic tone, he said, "You...are very good. Su Yu, cultivate hard, master your character technique, and become an expert..." After nagging on Su Yu for a bit and refusing his offer again, Liu Wenyan ended the call.

He stood there in silence for a long while before shaking his head with a smile. He sighed.

"This is quite a loyal kid..."

He shut his eyes and sank into thought. In his sea of willpower, countless dots of light flickered. A terrifyingly large number of Divine Characters could be seen. They all orbited a certain dot of light. These characters were slowly being pulled over, compressed, and frozen in place...

"Can I...really complete this?"

He muttered before letting out another sigh.

Fifty years had passed. Mending, forming, and nurturing. That was all he had done all these years. If he did not see a result soon, he might not live long enough to see the result.

"Su Yu..."

Liu Wenyan had made a decision a short while ago, but he was starting to waver again. Su Yu was doing very well. He was also growing very fast. Liu Wenyan had initially thought that these characters would be an opportunity for that student of his. But after witnessing his student's growth, these characters might act as obstacles instead.

If he gave these characters to Su Yu and Su Yu failed as well, history would repeat itself. Like Liu Wenyan, Su Yu would transform from a genius to garbage.

"If he has mediocre talent and is doing badly, giving these to him might be helpful on the premise that he also has a good heart. But now..."

Again, Liu Wenyan sighed. It was better to not let the same tragedy he had experienced repeat itself on Su Yu. He could only do so if he was sure that he could complete it in a short period of time. At that thought, he collected himself and called a number.

After a short wait, someone answered.

"So are you begging me again?"

Liu Wenyan's eyes widened in anger as he said, "Who's begging you? I never begged you! Like I said, that bastard Bai Feng was the one begging. I told you to not help, but you insisted on helping. Are you stupid? Why didn't you beat him to death instead? If you can't even beat him to death, I'll have no choice but to look down on you!"

He then ended the call before tossing the communicator aside.

He spent more time scolding Bai Feng for daring to lie to him. Since Su Yu was living such a good life, as the teacher, Bai Feng was definitely living a better life. And that bastard actually dared to lie to him!

What a bastard! Yes, that bastard needed to be taught a lesson!

...

At the same time, somewhere in the Heart Cultivating Pavilion, Wu Yuehua put down her communicator furiously.

Very good.

Liu Wenyan actually dared to scold her.

"Scoundrel! Do you think I will endure your stupid temper every single time? Are you deliberately provoking me? You think you can get me to help Bai Feng by doing this? Dream on! You want me to beat him up, right? Fine! I'll fulfill your wish!"

She was furious. Liu Wenyan was pushing it too far. He actually dared to talk to her like that. How could she tolerate that? She cared about her face a lot as well! Why scold her all the time?

Her willpower swept out, surprising the other inhabitants of the Heart Cultivating Pavilion. Next, she vanished into thin air.

Under the observation of a few curious elders, Bai Feng, who had just left a grotto joyously, fainted before he could take his first step outside.

The people nearby were all stunned. What happened? They didn't even see what happened.

Next, someone exclaimed in shock, "That's Bai Feng! What is this? Is his health so poor that he fainted while walking?"

"..."

That question left the rest of the crowd speechless. He was a seventh-stage Skysoar. How would he faint without reason?

"Is he suffering from cultivation deviation?"

"Someone contact an expert! Don't move him around lest he explode!"

"Sigh. Is it because of pressure? Yeah, Bai Feng is quite pitiful. Without Elder Hong around, the pressure on him is too heavy. He fainted right after coming out of seclusion. Sigh..."

The sigh was filled with sympathy.

A seventh-stage Skysoar had fainted for no reason. Was something wrong with his cultivation? How pitiful. Before long, news of Bai Feng's fainting started spreading.

"Bai Feng fainted after leaving seclusion! I heard that he has suffered from cultivation deviation!"

"Bai Feng couldn't withstand the heavy pressure on him and self-detonated!"

"Bai Feng is dead?"

"Heavens! Assistant Bai Feng self-detonated!"

Su Yu, who was on his way to meet Xia Huyou to talk about his next purchase, heard the rumors. His face changed as he immediately rushed toward the Grotto District. His teacher was dead! Impossible!

"Self-detonated while cultivating..."

While running, he kept hearing rumors about his teacher.

"I heard that's not a natural death. The single character faction had ambushed him and beaten him to death."

"Sigh. What a pity. He must have known this day would come after defeating Hu Wensheng."

"Poor guy."

Su Yu's eyes were turning red from fury. The single character faction had actually killed his teacher! This was not a grudge that he would let go! His willpower boiled while his kill character shook. The character started rising to the peak of its strength.

Su Yu had never felt so much anger and hatred before. They deserved death! They should all die! Those people actually dared to kill his teacher inside the academy? From afar, he saw a crowd gathered around a certain spot. He roared, "Get out of the way!" His killing intent surged.

Rumbles echoed within his sea of willpower. The kill character continued shaking while it grew in size. Suddenly, the rumbling reached crescendo as his vision blurred and his eyes turned red.

Although his teacher wasn't very reliable, but a teacher was akin to a father. Thus, he had to avenge his teacher!

Meanwhile, the crowd was stunned. Who was this? What was going on? This fellow wasn't very strong, but his killing intent was incredible.

A few of them saw a burst of red light that vanished as soon as it appeared. Someone exclaimed in shock, "Second tier Divine Character..."

"A character related to killing intent!"

Just what was going on?

Why did this student's Divine Character advance to the second tier out of nowhere? So many odd things were happening in the academy today.

At the same time, Bai Feng rubbed his head and sat up. First, he was surprised to see the crowd around him. Next, he realized that he had been ambushed! He had fainted from the ambush!

He was just about to start cussing when his jaw dropped in shock. What was going on? Why was Su Yu's killing intent so thick? What was going on? His...kill character seemed to have advanced to the second tier?

Hadn't the kid say that the blood character was the one that was going to break through? Had he sensed wrongly?

In his confused state, Bai Feng forgot about the ambush on him. He was unharmed anyway. Perhaps it was just a bored geezer who decided to give him a punch because the geezer didn't like how he looked. It was no big deal. There was nothing he could do to someone so strong anyway.

He was more concerned about Su Yu's change. He hurriedly stood up and dragged Su Yu back to the research center. What was happening?

Why was the kid here? And why had his Divine Character broken through? This was so weird.

## Chapter 254: Forgetful Su Yu (1)

A bone-chilling killing intent was erupting.

"Teacher!"

Su Yu roared. Slowly, he regained his clarity of mind. That was when he noticed something wrong. He seemed to be flying? He was alarmed. He could also sense that someone was carrying him so he hurriedly turned his head to look at the person beside him. And he was even more stunned by what he saw.

"Teacher, you're not dead?"

Bai Feng was speechless. What type of a question was that? Had this kid been hoping his teacher would die?

A Skysoar couldn't remain in the air indefinitely, especially when he was carrying someone else. Thus, when Bai Feng saw that Su Yu had awakened, he landed somewhere without people and tossed Su Yu aside.

"What happened to you earlier?"

Bai Feng asked curiously. Why had the kid's Divine Character suddenly broken through?

"Teacher, earlier, the people said that you were killed by the single character faction..."

Su Yu gave an awkward reply.

Bai Feng blanked out slightly before saying, "No matter how bold they are, they wouldn't dare to make a move on me in the academy. Where's your brain?"



Su Yu shut his mouth. He had been too agitated earlier. He had not suspected what he heard because at the time, he had just finished scamming the single character faction.

80,000 merit points!

He felt guilty because he assumed that the single character faction had killed Bai Feng out of anger after being scammed by him. In his mind, that was possible. Thus, agitation and guilt tortured him.

Bai Feng was speechless. While walking, he said, "Let's go. Tell me. Did your plan work? That was why you thought they had taken revenge on me?" He laughed, "What were you thinking? Even if they found out the truth, a small sum of money like that is not worth the risk of making a move in the academy."

It was easy for him to say that. He still wasn't aware of just how much money Su Yu had scammed. Back then, Liu Hong was their target. Thus, they hadn't expected to get too much out of him.

Bai Feng felt like his student was quite silly to trust the rumor so easily. But he was also gratified that his student had been so agitated at his death that even his student's Divine Character broke through.

"So your kill character broke through earlier?"

Bai Feng asked curiously. Why wasn't it the blood character?

"Yeah."

Su Yu was starting to feel nervous. His Divine Characters had been growing too quickly. That was especially true for his kill character. He had to grow his willpower as much as possible. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to properly use his Divine Characters.

Bai Feng nodded. When he saw Su Yu deep in thought, he smiled, "That's a pleasant surprise. At times, Divine Characters can indeed break through from emotional stimulation. Willpower, Divine Character, and your mind are all linked."

He gave Su Yu a short explanation before saying, "But what happened to you is quite rare as well. You can say that it's a breakthrough relying on the tempering of your willpower through a lie. I reckon this is the only time it would happen."

Su Yu nodded. He couldn't help but ask, "Teacher, what happened to you earlier? Everyone was saying that you were dead." "..."

Bai Feng's face fell.

He cursed inwardly.

Bullshit! He was still alive and well!

"They were talking nonsense. When I left seclusion, I suddenly had a spark of inspiration so I did a random cultivation session. Those fellows are good for nothing except creating fake news."

Bai Feng did not tell his student about his embarrassing encounter. As for the attacker...he already had a guess of who it was. That fellow had taught him a lesson without injuring him. Thus, that person was definitely not an enemy. But that person wasn't exactly on their side either.

In that case, the attacker must be one of those elders who had some relationship with their faction. He had somehow provoked them? That was why the attacker decided to teach him a small lesson?

The list of potential attackers continued shrinking until eventually, he locked onto a certain name.

Wu Yuehua!

Bai Feng was certain he was right. He cursed that the old woman truly had too much free time in her hands. He hadn't provoked her at all! Wait, previously, his martial uncle had threatened to send some people after him. Was this his martial uncle's work?

Bai Feng was sullen. He could only take this in silence. Sure, he could look for Wu Yuehua, but...he wasn't her match.

"Cultivation?"

Su Yu was doubtful. Why would his teacher lie down on the ground to cultivate? He remembered clearly that his teacher was lying on the ground!

Bai Feng calmly replied, "Of course I was cultivating. I gained a lot during this cultivation session. I'm now an eighth-stage Skysoar! But you! Remember to not believe any rumor you hear. There are a lot of people in the academy with too much free time. These people enjoy creating rumors whenever they are bored. A sage will not be misled by rumors. As a cultural researcher, you should possess sound judgment instead of blindly believing in rumors."

Su Yu nodded. He awkwardly said, "Teacher, I was too anxious. And since I had just scammed them, I thought..."

But he suddenly turned furious as he said, "I only thought of them because they have been too excessive! Just look at what they did to Senior Sister! I thought they were back to do the same to you!"

Bai Feng smiled, but he didn't say anything. He was in a decent mood. It was good that his student cared so much about him.

At that point, the research center was already not far away. Only then did Bai Feng remembered to ask about the plan, "So was the plan successful? I can see that you're injured. You even have a few broken bones. How was your fight with Zheng Yunhui?"

"I lost."

Bai Feng wasn't surprised to hear that. It was only natural that his student wasn't Zheng Yunhui's match.

Little did he know, Su Yu had nearly won. He also didn't know that Zheng Yunhui had also broken through into the eighth-stage Great Strength Realm and had even opened temporary acupoints during

the fight, bringing his strength close to the ninth stage. Even so, he had sustained more injuries than Su Yu.

"Did Liu Hong take the bait?"

"No." Su Yu deflated and said, "He even schemed against us!"

The two finally arrived at the research center. Su Yu gave Bai Feng a simple explanation of what had happened. While listening, Bai Feng's eyelids started twitching.

80,000!

These bastards truly had a big appetite!

80,000 merit points!

"So you only got 5,000 while Liu Hong took 40,000?"

Bai Feng was starting to get impatient. He was prepared to go look for Liu Hong. Damn it! That fellow had taken too much money from his student! Liu Hong alone had taken half the profit!

Su Yu smiled bashfully and said, "No. Subsequently, I went looking for Teacher Liu. There, he gave me some merit points."

"Huh?" Bai Feng blanked out. "How much did he give you?"

Su Yu looked at his teacher cautiously before softly answering, "15,000..."

Once again, Bai Feng was stunned.

Was Liu Hong stupid? Would he give Su Yu 15,000 merit points? Did Su Yu think that he would believe this story? But he had no choice but to believe it. He was confused. Why would a scoundrel like Liu Hong spit out something he had swallowed?

Su Yu gave Bai Feng a simple explanation of what had happened. Toward the end, he hesitated and asked, "Teacher...is there an agreement between us and Liu Hong?"

"What?"

Bai Feng was still in a daze. He was surprised at how capable his student was. But he was also surprised to learn just how treacherous all these people were. Thus, that question from Su Yu caught him by surprise. What had the kid learned?

Su Yu said, "Liu Hong claimed that he might not be our enemy."

Naturally, he didn't mention the matter of Liu Hong being undercover. And he was still doubtful about that. But Liu Hong had also said that only his grandteacher was aware of the matter.

Bai Feng raised his brow and said, "That fellow is very good at talking. Dealing with him is easy. Just ignore everything he says. Be as straightforward as you can when facing him."

"Straightforward?"

Su Yu was confused.

Bai Feng smiled, "It's easy. Be very direct. Don't listen to any of his words. Ignore whatever he says. Only hold on to a single principle. If he provokes you, beat him up. If he doesn't provoke you, beat him up as well. Only stop if he gives you money. That's all."

"..."

Su Yu did not know whether to laugh or cry. Straightforward indeed.

Bai Feng would never care about what Liu Hong had to say. He would never believe a single word that came out from Liu Hong's mouth. That was how he handled things. Since he knew that he was dealing with a treacherous schemer, he would choose to not believe a single word of that person. He would selectively listen to things that benefit him. As for things that wouldn't benefit him, he would ignore them all.

That was the main reason why Liu Hong had suffered more defeats than victories in the hands of Bai Feng. His schemes, his words, all of them were pointless against Bai Feng. His words would only be taken seriously if they were beneficial to Bai Feng.

Bai Feng had not imagined that so many things would happen during his short seclusion. He was regretful for missing such a big show. If he had known, he wouldn't have entered seclusion.

When he thought of how much Su Yu had earned, he was overjoyed. He said, "Dear Little Yu, as you know, your teacher has just broken through. Were you planning to give me a gift to congratulate me? You promised to share half the profit with me, right?"

"Cough, cough!" Su Yu awkwardly said, "About that...Teacher, I already gave your share to Martial Uncle. He said that he would hold the money on your behalf."

"..."

Bai Feng stared at Su Yu blankly.

What was the meaning of this?

"Uhm, Teacher, you do deserve half the split. You can get 17,000 merit points. Thus, I still owe you 3,000 merit points..."

Bai Feng looked at Su Yu gloomily. Just a moment ago, he thought that he was going to get rich. But he was only getting 3,000 merit points? But that was better than nothing. It was already more than what he had expected. Yeah. That was still a decent harvest.

But that thought had just surfaced when Su Yu dryly said, "But this morning, Martial Uncle called me and told me to keep the money for myself. He said that you don't need merit points for now..."

"..."

Bai Feng asked in astonishment, "Who?"

"Martial Uncle."

"Cough, cough!"

Bai Feng nearly choked from anger. Bullshit! He needed a lot of money! But he was too embarrassed to argue about money with his student, so he maintained a calm smile on his face even though he was swearing incessantly inwardly.

Why did he feel like everything was going wrong for him today? His mood was originally pretty good due to his breakthrough. But the good mood had vanished completely.

"20,000...this kid won't be able to finish spending them anytime soon! Forget it. I'll let him keep the money for now. I'll think of what to do when I really run out of money."

Bai Feng was in no rush. Su Yu wouldn't be able to finish spending these merit points anytime soon. He could just wait until he needed money before asking for money from his student.

Bai Feng decided to move on from the topic of money. He had to maintain the dignity of a teacher so he said, "Spend your money wisely. Don't let the single character faction discover anything. It's a good thing to have Liu Hong help hide this matter for now. We can use the time we earned to grow further."

Bai Feng smiled, "Just wait. When I reach the ninth stage and you reach the peak Mental Tempering Stage, we will have nothing to fear. As long as we are the strongest in the same cultivation level, they won't be able to do anything to us. No matter what, there are other elders and the principal in the academy. They won't be able to go too far in here."

Su Yu nodded.

Then, Bai Feng turned solemn again, "Su Yu, it's not necessarily a good thing for your Divine Character to break through. You need to form a lot of characters. Forming 18 characters is already a very difficult feat. Now that your Divine Character has broken through, nurturing your Divine Characters will be even harder. Your sea of willpower might not be able to withstand this burden."

"Try not to advance another second-tier character. Sure, your character will grow stronger from an advancement, but with weak willpower, its strength will still be limited. Your character still won't be as strong as a true second tier character of someone with a proper cultivation level. The gains do not make up for the losses. Do you understand me? There is nothing you can do about an accidental advancement, but don't intentionally seek advancement."

Su Yu nodded again. He understood all that.

Chapter 255: Forgetful Su Yu (2)

After saying all that, Bai Feng stopped talking. He was planning to look for Liu Hong and ask for some money later. Thus, he prepared to leave. Just before leaving, he asked, "Have you been feeding those fellows in the prison zone?"

"Yeah."

Su Yu hurriedly answered, but he immediately trembled. He had only fed them once. And...he had last fed them on the 9th. What was the date today?

"Teacher...is it...the 21st today?"

"You're asking me?"

Bai Feng was speechless. He had just left seclusion!



But he still nodded, "I think...I've been feeding them."

"..."

Su Yu said nothing. Those fellows should be fine, right? Previously, he had let them starve for 10 days yet none of them were dead. This time, he had only starved them for 12 days. Forget it. He would feed them later. They should be fine.

He believed that like him, Bai Feng must have often forgotten to feed them as well. Those fellows were too easy to forget. And they hadn't even given him any benefits. Since he had been busy scheming against others recently, he had completely forgotten about them.

Bai Feng seemed to realize something as he awkwardly said, "Just...make sure they're alive. Otherwise, both of us would suffer when your grandteacher returns!" His student was really excessive! Why did he feel like his student was going to starve those fellows to death?

Su Yu shut his mouth awkwardly. He hadn't been deliberately starving them. He had really been too busy and forgotten about them.

"Teacher, I'll feed them later."

At that moment, his communicator rang.

When he took a look at it, he hurriedly said, "Teacher, I still have something to take care of. If you don't need anything else, I'll be taking my leave."

"Go."

Bai Feng waved his hand. Su Yu immediately ran off. Xia Huyou was getting impatient waiting for him. As for the creatures, he would just feed them later when he came back. He kept reminding himself to not forget those fellows later. It wouldn't be good for him if he really starved them to death.

"Feed them tonight!"

With that thought, he left the research center.

Prison zone.

At this point, even the shadow was starting to lose his patience as he said, "We seem to have encountered an extremely unreliable caretaker. He is too irresponsible. If this continues, we might really starve to death..."

"Next time..." The golden lion said weakly, "The next time he comes, I'll give him something good. I won't even ask for freedom. I only need some food. I'm going to die soon."

What else could he ask for?

Forget about freedom. But please feed them on time! Please!

The others remained silent. They were trying to save as much energy as possible. Nobody knew when that fellow would come. Talking would only waste more of their energy. They were really on the verge of starving to death.

Once again, Su Yu arrived at the Education District.

Xia Huyou helplessly said, "Your teacher is fine. Why did you run off so quickly? Like I said, don't believe any rumors in the academy!"

"Cough, cough." Su Yu coughed awkwardly.

Xia Huyou curiously said, "By the way, I heard that a student's Divine Character broke through over there. Was that you?"

"Nope." Su Yu shook his head, "I only have a single second tier character. You know about that."

"Oh." Xia Huyou nodded. He knew about the illusion-making character.

Well, the crowd must have misunderstood Su Yu. He wasn't too bothered about it. Second tier characters might be strong, but illusions were not too hard to defend against if one was prepared. That character of Su Yu wasn't a particularly powerful one in terms of destructive power.

Su Yu did not waste any time and said, "So according to our previous agreement, I need 500 drops of Infinite Strength mountainbreak bull blood essence. I also need the blood essence of some other races in the Great Strength and Infinite Strength Realms. Give me a drop of any blood essence you can get your hands on."

Xia Huyou said, "You ran off too hastily earlier so I wasn't able to explain. Su Yu, do you know how many races there are in existence? Just the Xia Trade Company alone has access to the blood essence of 879 races.

"Great Strength blood essence is cheaper. You can get it for as cheap as one merit point per drop. Even the more expensive types won't go for more than ten merit points per drop like the mountainbreak bull blood essence. As for Infinite Strength blood essence, some are even more expensive than mountainbreak bull blood essence..."

After making a short calculation, Xia Huyou continued, "You will need over 10,000 merit points to buy that much blood essence. Are you sure?"

Over 10,000 merit points!

Su Yu's jaw dropped. But soon, he understood. There were thousands of blood essence in existence. And he wanted to buy Infinite Strength blood essence. The price naturally wouldn't be low.

But since he needed to pay over 10,000 merit points, he gave up. He still wasn't willing to spend that much money on some random blood essence.

He helplessly said, "Then forget about Infinite Strength blood essence. Collect a sample of each different Great Strength blood essence for me. How much would that cost?"

"That is much cheaper." Xia Huyou said, "Blood essence of races outside the top 100 won't be too expensive. Even the blood essence of top 100 races won't go for more than 10 merit points per drop. Of course, the top 10 races are different. And you won't be able to buy their blood essence anyway. Hmm, if you really want to buy everything I can get, you will need around 2,000 merit points."

Su Yu was still hesitant to spend that much money. That was too expensive.

But he also wanted to activate more pages in his book and gain access to more cultivation methods. Thus, he clenched his teeth and nodded, "Fine. I'll do it!"

Xia Huyou smiled. In that case, this transaction would reach a value of 7,000 merit points including the 500 drops of mountainbreak bull blood essence.

It was obvious Su Yu had earned a lot of money from his recent scheme.

"Anything else?" Xia Huyou suggested, "You have some broken bones. Although you have set your bones back, recovery will still take some time. I can recommend some good pills and natural herbs that can help you recover faster."

"And how much would that cost me?"

"It's cheap. You only need around 100 merit points. I guarantee you will make a full recovery in three days without any aftereffects."

Su Yu gnashed his teeth. Cheap his ass. 100 merit points were absolutely not a small sum of money.

Su Yu exhaled deeply and decided to ignore that offer. He said, "By the way, I need more human willpower texts. What's the price on the market?"

"100 to 300 for Great Strength texts and 300 to 500 for Infinite Strength texts. As for Skysoar texts, they cost more than 500 per text. You need over 1,000 for each Mountainsea text."

Xia Huyou continued his explanation, "It depends on what you want. For example, the Skybreak Technique you got before contains the moves for the Great Strength and Infinite Strength Realms. However, it was written by a Mountainsea. Thus, it was worth 1,500 merit points."

The value of a willpower text not only relied on its writer, but its content as well.

Su Yu nodded. After thinking about it, he said, "I don't care about the content. I only need the cheapest willpower texts. Gather a few dozen of them for me. How much do I need to pay you for that?"

"A few dozen?"

This was another big transaction!

Xia Huyou asked in astonishment, "Why do you need so many willpower texts? Forming Divine Characters? Su Yu, I suggest you attend those public classes. That is a much cheaper option. It's not worth buying so many willpower texts."

Even the cheapest willpower text would have a price of roughly 100 merit points. That was too expensive.

Su Yu took a deep breath. He had no choice. He needed to form a lot of Divine Characters. He wouldn't be able to do anything without willpower texts. And he couldn't even use myriad race texts. He was only limited to human texts.

Unfortunately, human willpower texts couldn't be kept for long. There weren't a lot of human willpower texts in the books depository. Most humans would choose to study a human willpower text during the writing process itself. But Su Yu did not have enough time for that. Furthermore, if he did that, others would know how many characters he had formed.

Why? Because the characters in the text would dim after someone formed the same character from reading the text. It would be fine if he only formed one or two characters. But if others found out that he could form a character from each text he read, he would be in deep trouble.

The entire academy would learn of that. How was he supposed to explain that? And why did he need so many characters? Thus, he could only buy his own willpower texts and study privately.

If possible, he wanted to save money and attend the public classes as well. But his circumstances did not allow that.

"Cut the crap. Just get what I want for me. I'll buy 30 texts for now. I want the cheapest of them. Try to find those that are only worth 100 merit points per text. Also, each copy must be different from each other. Will 3,000 merit points be enough?"

"Yeah. That's doable."

Xia Huyou nodded. He couldn't stop smiling.

A lot of these inferior willpower texts were basically the product created by Skysoar cultivators while practicing to write willpower texts. Most of the time, these garbage texts would remain unsold. Thus, every purchase would be greatly welcomed.

After a short calculation, Xia Huyou realized that this transaction with Su Yu had reached a value of 10,000 merit points! This was truly a big transaction and Su Yu was truly a big customer! And this fellow was very willing to spend his money.

Su Yu sighed. 20,000 merit points sounded like a lot of money. But when he started spending them, he found that they weren't a lot after all.

And he hadn't even bought that much stuff. He had only bought 500 drops of mountainbreak bull blood essence, some blood essence samples, and some garbage willpower texts. And 10,000 merit points were gone just like that.

"By the way, get me some of those healing items as well. Consider them your gift to me."

Xia Huyou had a look of hesitation. After a while, he sullenly said, "Brother, I am only making about 100 merit points from your transaction. With this request, I would earn nothing."

Su Yu stared at him silently. Xia Huyou continued complaining for a long while, acting like he was going to lose 100 million merit points. Finally, he gritted his teeth and said, "Fine. You can have them for free!"

Su Yu rolled his eyes. Who would believe that Xia Huyou was making so little profit? That was a transaction worth 10,000 merit points!

Su Yu exhaled deeply. Even 20,000 merit points weren't enough for him anymore. The willpower texts, in particular, needed a lot of money. More importantly, the willpower texts had no resale value. Human willpower texts could not be kept for long as the willpower would slowly dissipate over time.

Furthermore, he couldn't sell the willpower texts he had formed characters from even if those texts still could be used. He would only leak his own progress doing so. Those dim characters in the text would be obvious giveaways. Reselling those texts would only expose his own secret.

"20,000 merit points..."

Su Yu had a bitter feeling. Previously, he felt that he had earned a lot of money. But now, he found out that 20,000 merit points were nothing. As for the remaining 10,000 merit points, he was planning to keep them around.

After all, he never knew when he would need more money. But the 500 drops of mountainbreak bull blood essence he just bought might not be enough for him.

After the talk with Xia Huyou, Su Yu started heading back. Suddenly, he noticed a familiar face on the street. He noticed that person from far away. His mouth had barely opened when the other person noticed him and hurriedly ran off.

Su Yu swallowed the greeting that was about to leave his mouth. What was going on? He didn't remember provoking that person recently.

Not far away.

Wu Lan was running quickly. She was feeling all sorts of emotions. Sullenness, grief, indignation, despair, pain, and hesitation. Her pride had been smashed apart.

"Why am I only at the second-stage Great Strength Realm? Su Yu is definitely aware of that! He is here to mock me! I saw him smiling! He had a cocky smile on his face!"

Wu Lan was heartbroken. She had broken through recently. And she had even done it in a grotto. She had entered the grotto confidently, expecting herself to reach the third stage. Never once had she doubted herself.

Ultimately, she was only able to barely open 12 acupoints, reaching the second stage. After that cultivation session, she felt like killing herself.

Why?

Thus, when she saw Su Yu, she was certain that Su Yu was here to mock her. In that situation, how could she not run? She was too embarrassed to see anyone!

Su Yu was completely confused, but he wasn't too worried about it. He was only slightly curious.

Whatever. Forget it.

But what was he planning to do later? He was supposed to do something after returning, right? But he had completely forgotten after seeing Wu Lan's odd behavior.

He scratched his head in confusion. He was supposed to have a good memory. Why was he so forgetful recently?



"Are my Divine Characters too strong, to the point my mental strength is being suppressed?"

He muttered to himself. That might be the case. Whatever. The thing he had forgotten was probably something unimportant. Since he had forgotten, so be it.

#### Chapter 256: Heaven-Grade Martial Technique (1)

Back at the research center, Bai Feng had vanished once again. Su Yu didn't know if his teacher had left the research center or returned to the laboratory.

He returned to his cultivation.

Although he could now afford to visit the grotto, he still couldn't neglect his daily cultivation. He also needed to read more books. He had taken a few days of leave to prepare for his fight with Zheng Yunhui. Thus, he was falling behind on many subjects.

Nowadays, he was already used to reading while withstanding willpower attacks. Of course, he was only reading regular books when training his willpower. If he read willpower texts while cultivating his willpower in the fragment room, he could easily damage his sea of willpower. While reading, he suddenly smiled in amusement.

"Shadow race. Resides in the Dark Shadow Realm, excellent at moving in stealth..."

Shadow race!

Was this supposed to be some sort of reminder for him?

Those fellows had been starving for so many days. They should be a lot more obedient now, right? After a while, his willpower was finally drained. His entire body was drenched wet with sweat.

He did not bother cleaning up. With a slightly pale face, he muttered to himself, "I should put on the outfit I wore during the fight. Maybe I should smear some blood on it as well...forget it. That would look too obvious."

He smiled and left the fragment room.

...

"So hungry."

"I'm going to die."

The suanni continued muttering weakly when suddenly, his ears trembled slightly.

His eyes lit up! The human was finally coming! Sounds of movement rang out from a few other cages as well.

A short while later, Su Yu entered the room.

He had a pale face and was favoring one leg when walking. When he saw the suanni staring at him, he impatiently said, "What are you looking at me? Are you dead yet?"

All these creatures were at the Skysoar Realm and above. Thus, they were able to see that he had been injured. Injured? Had he fought the enemy he spoke of previously? No wonder he had been missing for so many days. So he had been busy dealing with his enemy.

The shadow said, "Su Yu, if you have taken any longer to come, you might really end up starving us to death. If that happens, Hong Tan won't be happy when he returns."

Su Yu replied impatiently, "If you die, you die. Accidents can happen at any time. Are you trying to threaten me? Fine. I'm out of source qi liquid. You're strong enough to last half a year without food anyway."

Su Yu looked extremely agitated.

The white civet gently said, "Little brother, did you suffer a loss somewhere? Who bullied you? Do you need your big sister to avenge you?"

Su Yu sneered, "As a mere prisoner, stop playing these tricks on me. I might be feeling terrible right now, but that fellow is definitely doing worse than me. He is only relying on his family and money. Without his family, he is nothing!"

The creatures instantly understood the meaning behind Su Yu's words. He was basically complaining that the world was unfair.

The suanni hurriedly said, "Su Yu, he is from a big family. He is well supplied with resources, martial techniques, and secret techniques. You can't compare with him. Even with your great talent, you won't be able to catch up to someone like that."

"Also, each time someone angers you outside, you would forget to feed us. If this keeps happening, we would eventually starve to death. And you will also suffer for that. Su Yu, if you can give me more source qi liquid this time, I can give you a treasure."

Su Yu merely sneered at the suanni. He couldn't even be bothered to say anything.

The suanni hurriedly said, "I really have a treasure! It's a heaven-grade martial technique. You only need a few drops of source qi liquid to get something so valuable!"

Su Yu was tempted, but he still had the same sneer on his face.

"You? Treasure? Are you trying to trick me into killing myself through cultivation deviation?"

"I'm not!" The suanni was getting more and more anxious. "I got it from the Luminous Domain Mansion! It came from your human race! It was a technique used by a human genius from the War Shrine in the Luminous Domain Mansion!"

Su Yu looked the suanni up and down before smiling, "So where is it? Don't tell me it's in your head. I won't trust you."

The suanni hurriedly explained, "No! It's already with your faction! When I was captured, all my stuff was confiscated, that technique included."

Su Yu rolled his eyes, "In that case, the technique would be in my grandteacher's hands. That has nothing to do with me."

The suanni explained, "Your grandteacher is unaware about that technique. That is a secret technique of the War Shrine. Outsiders won't be able to see through its disguise. Therefore, your grandteacher has been neglecting the book because he believes that it is something useless..."

Su Yu was speechless. In that case, would that technique still be around?

What a joke.

The suanni said, "That secret book was made of silkworm thread so it is not completely useless. I remember that back then, Hong Tan intended to use the book as a material to write a new willpower text..."

Noticing the look of disbelief on Su Yu's face, the suanni continued, "I'm telling the truth! The book is definitely still around! The willpower text he wrote out of the book is probably out of willpower by now, but the original heaven-grade technique is definitely still around. The willpower text written by a Mountainsea wouldn't be thrown away even after running out of willpower. Furthermore, the book was made of silkworm thread! That alone is enough to ensure it won't be thrown away easily."

"Willpower text..." Su Yu frowned and asked, "Is it still in the research center?"

"I'm not certain, but probably yes. I remember that Hong Tan likes the book a lot. He would take it out just to look at it every now and then..."

The shadow chimed in, "Are you talking about the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem?"

Su Yu blinked. Why was that name so familiar?

Suddenly, he recalled something.

Divine Character tournament!

That was the reward for the first place!

Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem!

Su Yu had nearly forgotten about that tournament. His face fell. So hidden within that reward was a heaven-grade martial technique?

"How is this possible? My grandteacher is a peak eighth-stage Mountainsea. How can the secret technique stay hidden from him?"

Su Yu refused to believe that.

The suanni anxiously said, "I'm telling the truth! That is probably a private collection of an Invincible expert! A seal has been placed by that expert on it. If I hadn't opened the seal accidentally once, I wouldn't have found out about its secret either!"

"You opened the seal before?"

The suanni replied awkwardly, "That's not a technique I can cultivate. It is too different from suanni techniques."

"How do I unlock it?"

"Easy. Just use some silkworm blood essence. I was unaware of that at first. One time after killing a silkworm, I used the book as a piece of cloth and wrapped it around the silkworm corpse. It was then that I discovered this secret."

Su Yu's eyes lit up.

Heaven-grade martial technique!

He did not have any heaven-grade techniques in his possession. His strongest technique was the Skybreak Technique, but it was only an earth-grade technique. And it wasn't even a top-tier earth-grade technique. It was only a high-tier technique.

For the first six moves of the technique, he needed to open 96 acupoints.

"What is the tier of this technique?"

"Middle-tier heaven-grade! Using the classification of humans, at the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm, you will be able to unleash the power of 132 acupoints with this technique. It is only barely below high-tier heaven-grade."

"What manner of a technique is it?"

"A kicking technique. It mainly utilizes the acupoints in your legs. It is extremely destructive. It can also increase your movement speed. It is an excellent technique that can be used to kill or escape. If it wasn't for the fact that I couldn't cultivate it, I would have probably been able to escape even from Mountainsea experts."

"If it's so powerful, how did you kill the original owner of the technique?"

"I believe he hadn't finished his cultivation of the technique yet. Otherwise, he wouldn't have needed to carry the book with him. Also, that book is very special. Generally, human willpower texts can't last long."

But that book is always filled with willpower. That might be a willpower text written by an Invincible expert."

Su Yu's eyes lit up.

"You mean to say that it is not a simple book, but it is also a willpower text?"

"Yes!" The suanni was relieved to see Su Yu interested. "Who would bother carrying a regular copy around? They can easily memorize the content after reading it once. Only a willpower text is worth being carried around."

A middle-tier heaven-grade martial technique that might be a willpower text written by an Invincible expert.

Su Yu inhaled deeply and said, "You said it was something carried by a member of the War Shrine? Would the Invincible experts of the War Shrine actually write willpower texts?"

He seemed to have realized something.

The suanni said, "That's not surprising. The experts of the War Shrine might initially be warriors, but at the Invincible Realm, they no longer have any path forward. Thus, it is not surprising that some would walk an additional path at that time."

Yes. That wasn't surprising at all.

Su Yu nodded as understanding dawned on him.

"Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem!" Su Yu muttered to himself. His eyes then turned unfriendly as he said, "We lost that thing long ago. Why hadn't you mentioned this earlier?"

The suanni felt wronged. Damn it! They were enemies! Why should he inform them? Also, if he had informed them earlier, there wouldn't be anything left for Su Yu anyway.

"Lost it..." The suanni couldn't believe it. "That book was Hong Tan's favorite book. How would it be lost?"

Su Yu felt gloomy. How was he supposed to know that? In any case, the book was no longer with them. The academy was currently in possession of it. Or perhaps it was in Liu Hong's hands?

He was unsure. He only knew that the book was being used as a reward for the coming tournament.

Wait, when was the Divine Character tournament happening? Su Yu had completely forgotten about it. He hadn't been too interested in the tournament so he hadn't bothered asking about it.

"Tournament..."

He casually tossed three drops of source qi liquid to the suanni before saying, "I'll try to search for it. If I can't find it, I'll stop coming for three months."

The suanni was tired of speaking to Su Yu. How was this his fault?

If Su Yu really stopped coming for so long, they would really starve to death.

Su Yu ignored the suanni and tossed drop after drop of source qi liquid into the cages. He was about to leave when a hoarse voice entered his ears, "Su Yu, I'm not dead yet. You forgot about me the last time you were here. Are you going to forget me again?"

"..."

Su Yu blanked out and looked around before his gaze landed on a clump of black feathers.

"Fire crow!" Su Yu blinked and said, "You're still alive? Why have you been so quiet? You're even harder to detect than the water guy!"



The fire crow felt wronged. Was it his fault that his dark feathers were good for camouflage? Damn it. Previously, this kid had completely ignored him. This time, the kid was doing the same. If he stayed silent, he would really starve to death.

Su Yu patted his own head and helplessly said, "Right, there are supposed to be six creatures here. I have been assuming that there are only five. It's too hard to notice your existence."

At least the water guy was #1 so that that fellow was easier to remember. This crow was only #6, with dark feathers and tiny size. Furthermore, he had been staying very quiet. Who would notice him?

After a drop of source qi liquid was tossed into his cage, the fire crow complained, "Are you not going to make up for the previous time when you neglected me?"

"Piss off. Take it or leave it." Su Yu impatiently said, "You were the one who had decided to stay silent previously. Since you were so quiet, I naturally assumed you're dead. How can you blame me?"

Su Yu then scanned the room and warned, "Be obedient and don't cause trouble. If I manage to get that heaven-grade technique and defeat my enemy, I'll get you guys something good to eat. If not...well, I'll have to enter seclusion and focus on my cultivation. Don't blame me for not reminding you if you end up starving to death."

The creatures were feeling very helpless. Were they supposed to die if he couldn't defeat his enemy?

The shadow couldn't help but to say, "If you still can't defeat him, you can talk to us more. We have lived for so many years so we can give you some guidance."

Su Yu snorted disdainfully. While walking out, he said, "Don't even dream of tricking me. I'm not that stupid. Suanni, if your information is useful, I'll get some meat for you."

The suanni was so touched he felt like crying. Finally, this kid was no longer as stubborn as before.

Very good. This was a good start. He only wanted to remind Su Yu to not forget to feed them again three days later.

## Chapter 257: Heaven-Grade Martial Technique (2)

Back upstairs.

Su Yu's eyes flickered with joy. A heaven-grade technique! A martial technique! That was a treasure!

Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem...

After thinking about it, Su Yu pressed a button in the room. But nobody appeared. Thus, he called Bai Feng's number.

The moment the call connected, he heard Bai Feng's laughter, "Dear Little Yu, do you need anything from your teacher? Or are you calling because you're missing your teacher?"

"..."

Su Yu shivered. What was wrong with this fellow this time?

At the same time.

Liu Hong was speechless. This bastard was too disgusting.

He was resisting the urge to punch someone in the face. He had just sent this guy's student away not long ago. Now, the teacher himself was here to ask for money. If he had known about this earlier, he wouldn't have cooperated with this bastard.

But now, he had no choice but to continue with the cooperation. Whenever he thought of the large investment he had spent on this pair of teacher and student, his heart would ache. But then again, he wouldn't have earned such a big profit without them either. At that thought, he felt slightly better.

"Teacher, I have a question for you. Is that Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem important? Previously, that bastard Liu Hong said that it is the reward for placing first in the Divine Character tournament..."

Nearby, Liu Hong had a bad feeling. Meanwhile, Bai Feng's face turned unsightly.

He glared at Liu Hong and gnashed his teeth as he said, "Take the first place. We'll talk more later."

He ended the call and continued glaring at Liu Hong.

"Damn it, Liu Hong! Are you asking for death?"

Liu Hong said, "How is that my fault? You were the one who sold it to the black market. Someone from the single character faction bought it. Everyone knows it's from Elder Hong's collection. Plenty of people are aware of how you have been selling your teacher's stuff. It wasn't even my decision to use this book as a tournament reward."

Bai Feng was still gnashing his teeth in anger.

Damn it!

These bastards!

"Return the book to me! You can also choose to not return and guarantee the first place to Su Yu instead. Otherwise, I won't let this slide!"

"Bai Feng, you are being unreasonable." Liu Hong smiled bitterly, "How is Su Yu's performance in the tournament related to me? Also, you did what you did. Why are you so afraid of others finding out?"

"Piss off!"

Bai Feng cursed. That was different. Him selling it was a private affair that only a few know about. But now that the book was being used as a tournament reward, everyone would find out what he did.

Furthermore, this was basically an act of humiliation. They were deliberately doing this!

Bai Feng snorted unhappily and said, "Your single character faction is getting more and more narrow-minded. Are you not bored of doing all these stupid things?"

The book itself wasn't a precious treasure. Sure, it was made of silkworm thread, but that thing had been written into a willpower text once. It could no longer be used as a material for a second willpower text. Thus, its value had decreased significantly.

If it wasn't for the fact that the book was related to Hong Tan, it would only be worth around 20 to 30 merit points. But with the name of Hong Tan and its status as an expired Mountainsea willpower text, its value had increased to around 100 merit points.

It wouldn't have been used as the reward for a new student tournament otherwise. Most of its worth was in its reputation, not its actual value. 100 merit points were not a cheap price, but most people also wouldn't waste their money on something like that.

Liu Hong smiled and said, "I don't know if they're bored or not, but since you're so unhappy, they had definitely not done the wrong thing. But I don't think you need to worry too much. Su Yu's Divine Character has reached the second tier. This tournament is a walk in the park for him."

"Hmph!" Bai Feng snorted, "Do you think I'm stupid? For this tournament, willpower is important as well. Is his willpower strong enough?"

"Who knows? His willpower level is low, but it's very dense and strong. With the Soul Expanding Art, he can even fight Zheng Yunhui evenly. In fact, in terms of willpower, not even Zheng Yunhui is his match. He nearly defeated Zheng Yunhui with the illusion of his second tier Divine Character..."

There was way too much information contained in those few words. Bai Feng maintained a calm expression, but inwardly, he was greatly shocked. Previously, he had assumed that the second tier Divine Character was the kill character. So he was relatively unbothered.

But what was he hearing now? Second tier...illusion? Soul Expanding Art? What? He could understand every single word Liu Hong spoke, but he couldn't quite understand the sentences formed by those words.

The blood character had advanced? Su Yu had even cultivated the Soul Expanding Art? He had nearly defeated Zheng Yunhui? Bai Feng felt like he had been in seclusion for years, not days. He did not ask Liu Hong anything. He would have to ask Su Yu about all that instead.

He looked at Liu Hong and said with disdain, "Idiot. Aren't you supposed to be suppressing my student? I thought you could do something smart, but you're only capable of some shameless schemes. With your suppression, my student is only doing better and better in the academy."

Liu Hong had no way of refuting that. After a long silence, he said, "I'm in no rush. I have discovered that he has a lot more value than you. I'm considering something. Wouldn't it be interesting if he manages to reach the Skysoar Realm? This is probably your peak, Bai Feng. But Su Yu...is very promising. If he can reach the Skysoar Realm, he can probably keep the entire single character faction occupied all by himself. And only by suppressing him at that time would I be able to demonstrate my worth."

Bai Feng cursed inwardly. Was this bastard looking down on him?

"Cut the crap. Give me 10,000 merit points. I'm in need of money."

Liu Hong: "..."

He stared at Bai Feng for a long while. Then, he stood up and said, "I'll give myself up to Faculty Head Zhou. I have truly made a wrong choice. I shouldn't have tried raising a tiger. I'll hide myself in seclusion for a year or two. You guys can keep going at each other."

Fuck this shit. Were they addicted to blackmailing him? Bai Feng was asking for 10,000 merit points like it was nothing. Dream on!

Bai Feng wasn't worried. He smiled and said, "That was a joke! I only want 5,000 merit points. Come on, you earned 25,000..."

Liu Hong blanked out slightly. He then laughed and said, "So you thought I earned 25,000 merit points?"

"Didn't you?" Bai Feng asked doubtfully, "Isn't that the case? Su Yu told me!"

"That kid...is truly interesting. Interesting!"

He suddenly realized something. Su Yu was probably aware that he had not taken 60,000 merit points. The kid had merely pretended to think that he had taken that much.

His eyes flickered as he asked, "Su Yu took tens of thousands of merit points himself. Did he not share any with you?"

"He has only taken 20,000!" Bai Feng raised his brow, "I have naturally received my share. He gave me over 10,000 before. But I need to use the money to plug the hole in the books depository because you guys keep creating trouble for us there..."

Yes. Over 10,000 had been used for the books depository.

Su Yu still had 20,000 on him.

Liu Hong smiled, "Good. Very good."

Well done, little bastard. What an incredible liar. The little bastard had claimed that he had only gotten 5,000. The little bastard had sworn on it. Damn it! Damn that little bastard!

Liu Hong had actually believed that lie! If it wasn't for Bai Feng, he would still be completely clueless.

At that moment, Bai Feng finally realized that he had said something wrong. He blinked and said, "I was joking. We only have 20,000 in total. Zheng Yunhui took the rest."

"Scram!" Liu Hong scolded, "You guys have taken more than half of the share and you have the guts to come act poor in front of me? Get out of here!"

"That was my student's scheme. You took a share of the profit without doing anything. Are you not embarrassed of not sharing some of the wealth with me?"

"Yes, I'm not embarrassed."

Liu Hong was furious.

Why should he be embarrassed? Since Su Yu had a thick enough face to swear that he had only received 5,000 merit points, then what was there for him to be embarrassed about?

Su Yu was naturally unaware of the little argument going on between Bai Feng and Liu Hong.

At the moment, he was busy feeling excited.

Heaven-grade martial technique!

Divine Character tournament!

He hadn't cared too much about the tournament before, but now, it suddenly became very important for him.

"First place..."

He muttered. He had to think of a way to get that book even if he couldn't place first. As for how he could get it, well, it was easy.

A lot of people believed that the book wasn't too valuable. If he put on the face of a student trying to defend the dignity of his grandteacher, he would be able to get the book as long as he was willing to pay a price.

"Yes. I need to get it regardless of who places first. Middle-tier heaven-grade martial technique..."

Su Yu smiled. Finally, those creatures had given him something useful. As far as he was concerned, he could still get a lot of things from those creatures, such as blood essence, fur, martial techniques, and so on.

"But first, I need to strengthen myself."

He still felt like he was too weak. If he couldn't even defeat Zheng Yunhui, how was he supposed to fight others?

"Also, the heaven-grade martial technique requires a lot of acupoints. I doubt that many of its acupoints would overlap with my current opened acupoints. In that case, I also need to open even more acupoints."

He sank into thought. In his mind, that martial technique was already his. It required 132 acupoints. Not even the War God Art required that many acupoints. Even if he had the book in hand, it would be pointless if he couldn't cultivate it.

"Grotto, blood essence, cultivate!"

Su Yu inhaled deeply. Perhaps he could open more acupoints. At worst, he would only need to spend a little bit more time in the Great Strength. More acupoints would give him a stronger foundation and thicker source qi. Thus, he didn't mind staying longer in the Great Strength Realm.



He was in no rush.

After all, he still needed to form 99 Divine Characters before he could enter the Skysoar Realm. He had plenty of time. And prior to that, entering the Infinite Strength Realm or not would not make that much of a difference for him.

"When I receive the blood essence from Xia Huyou tomorrow, I'll go straight to the grotto! I'll only leave before the Divine Character tournament!"

Su Yu reached a decision. He suddenly found that he had too many things to do. Even his remaining 10,000 merit points might not be safe. The 500 drops of blood essence he was about to receive should be enough for him to cultivate the War God Art. But what if he needed to open more acupoints?

"So 20,000 merit points are nothing, after all."

Chapter 258: Third Grotto Visit (1)

22nd of September.

A new day was starting.

When Su Yu arrived at class that morning, he discovered something interesting.

He had gotten used to sitting near Wu Lan, but this time, Wu Lan ran from him.

From the pitiful look on her face, one would even think that Su Yu had done something to her to solicit such a reaction.

With her school bag, Wu Lan ran until the last row of the class. She was clearly trying to stay as far away from Su Yu as possible. Her confidence must have suffered quite a big blow after her breakthrough.

Su Yu laughed in amusement. He wasn't too worried about her. Yet another interesting encounter was the fact that Lin Yao would smile happily whenever he saw Su Yu. Of course, Lin Yao was still putting some sort of effort into hiding the relationship between them so he did try to not make it too obvious.

From his expression, he was basically saying that this was a secret only the two of them knew. Su Yu had to resist the urge to roll his eyes. Did this fellow assume that he had secretly joined the single character faction?

And those two were not the only changes. Right after he sat down, another person appeared beside him.

Jia Mingzhen.

The little fatty wasn't too tall and looked good-natured. But Su Yu was very cautious toward him. This was the same person who had acted incredibly arrogant during the previous monthly examination.

He ate during the examination and even wiped his oily hand on Xia Chan's cloth. Everyone saw that and nobody dared to underestimate him.

Su Yu had barely spoken to him at all. When Jia Mingzhen sat down beside him, he flashed a friendly smile and said, "Student Jia, is there anything I can help you with?"

"Nothing."

When Jia Mingzhen saw Su Yu smiling at him, he smiled as well.

This brat...really looked like a good person when he was smiling. However, Jia Mingzhen knew very well that Su Yu was not a simple person. Just look at the single character faction. Even now, they were busy studying the fake formula Su Yu had supplied them. These two days, their researchers had been tortured so much by the fake formula that they felt like their brains were going to burst apart.

Su Yu smiled and said nothing else.

Jia Mingzhen wasn't able to stay silent so he said, "Su Yu, I heard you defeated Zheng Yunhui? You beat him up so badly that he has to stay in bed for a few days?"

"..."

That instantly attracted the attention of the entire class.

The expressions of Xia Chan, Wan Mingze, and the others changed. Was that true? Had Su Yu seriously injured Zheng Yunhui? Su Yu's heart thumped. His fight with Zheng Yunhui might not be a complete secret, but only the big shots of the academy were supposed to know.

The single character faction was aware of it. The Xia Family was aware of it. And some major players of the black market were aware of it as well. But how did this fellow know about it?

Su Yu did not let his shock show on his face. Instead, he assumed a confused expression and asked, "Student Jia, have you been listening to some unfounded rumors?"

He raised his voice, "Everyone, be wary of rumors. This is one bad habit of the academy I have noticed. Just yesterday, people were spreading rumors that my teacher had been killed. What a load of nonsense."

Su Yu spoke indignantly.

"If it wasn't for the fake that my teacher was magnanimous, I wouldn't have spared those who had spread that rumor. Is it very fun to spread news that someone is dead? We are all future cultural researchers. How can we involve ourselves in something so pointless? Student Jia, the same applies to you. Please keep my words in mind..."

Su Yu solemnly said, "What you did is exactly how fake rumors would start to spread. You heard about it. But who did you hear it from? Do not spread a rumor without being sure of its veracity. Don't spread fake news just for the sake of attention. This is not something a serious cultural researcher should do."

Jia Mingzhen was stunned. Wow, that was excellently done. The kid was able to instantly come up with a counter.

Jia Mingzhen smiled, "In that case, why is Zheng Yunhui missing..."

Before he could finish his words, his expression changed.

Next, a perfectly healthy Zheng Yunhui who was full of vigor stepped into the classroom.

Even Su Yu was shocked. Has he recovered? That was way too fast! Even Su Yu himself had yet to fully recover. This fellow's injuries were even heavier yet he had fully recovered?

Su Yu's shock did not last for long as he said, "Student Zheng Yunhui, someone is claiming that you have been seriously injured by me. After your defeat in my hands, you are nursing your injuries and won't be attending any classes. Why are you here?"

"..."

Zheng Yunhui blanked out slightly. When his gaze landed on Jia Mingzhen who was sitting beside Su Yu, he furiously said, "Which bastard is spreading fake news about me? Are you trying to die? Would I lose to someone like you?"

Zheng Yunhui was very unhappy.

He looked at Jia Mingzhen, snorted, and said, "Those scoundrels who are spreading fake news behind me should stop acting innocent. What are you guys trying to do? If you find me an eyesore, come have a fight with me. I'll be sure to beat you so badly you beg your granddaddy to stop beating you."

"..."

Jia Mingzhen's face fell. Well done. These two were actually working together to cover it up. But their lies wouldn't fool him. He knew exactly the type of people these kids were.

Jia Mingzhen smiled and narrowed his eyes as he looked at Zheng Yunhui, "Zheng Yunhui, are you scolding me?"

"Am I?" Zheng Yunhui sneered, "I'm scolding the person who is spreading fake news about me. What can you do about it?"

Jia Mingzhen said with disdain, "I was merely clarifying the rumor I heard. Do I need your permission before speaking? I don't like to look for trouble, but that does not mean I fear trouble. Why are you so cocky? Do you want to face me in a ring? Sure, bring it on."

At that point, they had attracted the attention of every single student in the class. Everyone was enjoying the show. This was a conflict between Jia Mingzhen, the student with the best performance during the previous monthly examination and Zheng Yunhui, a powerful student.

Even Su Yu's interest was piqued. He also wanted to see the extent of Jia Mingzhen's strength. Zheng Yunhui would be the perfect person to test that fellow's strength.

But at that moment, Zheng Yunhui sneered, "Who are you to fight me? I will be challenging the Top 100 Ranking next month. Do you think you are worthy of challenging me just because of something like a monthly exam? Talk to me after you get in the top 100. If you can't, then you're garbage. And I don't waste my time competing against garbage. Even beating you up would stain my noble hands."

"..."

Jia Mingzhen was infuriated. Stain his noble hands? Why...was this brat so annoying?

Zheng Yunhui was no fool. Jia Mingzhen had easily taken first place during the Mark of Culture test. Why must he be the one to step forth and test this fellow's strength for others?

A smarter choice was to have this fellow challenge the top 100. That way, they would have the chance to see the true strength of this fellow.

Because of Zheng Yunhui's declaration, nobody cared about the conflict between Zheng Yunhui and Jia Mingzhen anymore.

Wan Mingze asked in astonishment, "Yunhui, you're challenging the top 100 next month?"

"Yeah. What about it?" Zheng Yunhui smiled, "I'm already at the eighth-stage Great Strength Realm and 85 percent willpower. Is this not enough? Us of the Zheng Family are very straightforward. Since I feel like doing it, I'll do it. What's the point of acting like a turtle?"

Wan Mingze forced himself to smile and said, "Yunhui, not all of us are as strong as you."

Zheng Yunhui laughed and said, "Is that so? Is someone from Principal Wan's family so weak? You're even weaker than someone from the war academy? How embarrassing."

Wan Mingze frowned and said, "You're now a member of the cultural research academy."

"Yeah. So what?" Zheng Yunhui said, "I am from the cultural research academy while my entire family is from the war academy. What about it? I am going to become the first student of this batch to enter the top 100. What can you do about it? I am going to stand on top of you. What can you do about it?"

Wan Mingze's frown grew deeper.

He stared at Zheng Yunhui silently for a long while before saying, "Yunhui, since you're so confident, we'll see if you can actually get into the top 100."

"Of course I can." Zheng Yunhui said, "Apart from me, who among us can get into the top 100 this early? You guys?"

The moment this fellow arrived, he had insulted one person after another. He was incredibly arrogant. But he was also truly strong. Silence descended. The silence was suffocating. Nobody got involved in the argument between Zheng Yunhui and Wan Mingze. Even the other freaks were staying silent.

Meanwhile, Jia Mingzhen was cursing inwardly. This fellow was too cunning. He had challenged Zheng Yunhui, but the brat had claimed that he was unworthy of it to avoid the fight. Was this brat asking to get a sack thrown over him at night before being beaten up?

The little incident had caused everyone to forget about Su Yu. He was more than happy to see that. He took a glance at Jia Mingzhen cautiously. That fellow seemed really eager to fight Zheng Yunhui.

That was the case even after Zheng Yunhui revealed his strength. In that case, what was the meaning of that fellow's eagerness? What did that mean? Was he stronger than Zheng Yunhui?

"Zheng Yunhui's true strength is already comparable to a second-stage Infinite Strength cultivator. Is that fellow actually stronger?"

Su Yu took note of that.

As for himself, he was naturally still weaker than Zheng Yunhui. Of course, with blood essence, he could reach the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator. But he was still rather weak in all other aspects. His Divine Characters, however, were quite strong for his level.

According to Su Yu's guess, he was probably around as strong as a first-stage Infinite Strength cultivator when all aspects were taken into consideration. Just because he could unleash the destructive prowess of a third-stage Infinite Strength cultivator would make him as strong as one.

"I think Dad is only a first-stage Infinite Strength cultivator..."

Suddenly, Su Yu had the urge to laugh. If his father was still around, perhaps he might emerge a victor in a fight between the two. He could even imagine the look of shock on his father's face after being defeated.

The bickering stopped after the instructor arrived.

With Zheng Yunhui's full recovery, news about Su Yu heavily injuring him had naturally become an unfounded rumor. Nobody took that seriously. Just look at how vigorous Zheng Yunhui was. He was

already preparing to challenge the top 100 next month. How was that someone who had been seriously injured?

When the classes were over, Su Yu rushed out of the classroom and went downstairs before heading toward the corner of the building. Before long, Xia Huyou arrived there as well.

"Su Yu, you have no idea how difficult it was for me to gather all these for you..."

Xia Huyou started complaining, "Last night, I spent over eight trips to the various black market locations and Xia Trade Company branches, begging everyone and using all my connections before I can get everything you want. I spent hundreds of merit points just to bribe the relevant individuals to get all the transactions going..."

"Cut the crap."

Su Yu couldn't even be bothered to listen to all that. He accepted a suitcase and looked around before opening the suitcase. The moment he looked inside, his heart thumped in excitement.

There were numerous bottles in it.

"500 drops of Infinite Strength mountainbreak bull blood essence for 5,000 merit points. There are also samples of 399 drops of different Great Strength blood essence. I can't gather everything in such short notice. Some of them are very rare and come with unique usages so I spent 920 merit points for them. I'll give you a discount and charge you only 900 merit points."

Xia Huyou continued, "I don't have too many willpower texts yet. I only have 20 texts gathered, but some are worth more than 100 merit points. In total, they are worth 2,300 merit points. All in all, you owe me 8,200 merit points."

Xia Huyou then asked, "Do you want me to continue gathering blood essence and willpower texts? If you want more, you need to give me three more days."

"Yes. Keep gathering. There is no rush. I can wait a few more days."



Su Yu checked the stuff, but this time, he wasn't as strict as he had been during his first transaction with Xia Huyou. He had dealt with this fatty a few times now so a certain level of trust had been established between them.

Furthermore, this fellow had never asked for any down payment from him. He could pay after receiving the goods. Thus, it was much less risky for Su Yu to deal with Xia Huyou.

After paying 8,200 merit points, Su Yu had 11,800 merit points left. In the black market, 8,200 merit points were worth over 400 million dollars. With that much money, he had only bought such a small amount of resources.

It was lucky that cultivators generally did not use the regular currency. Otherwise, they could easily ruin the economy for the regular people.

Su Yu had never once imagined that a day would come when he would spend hundreds of millions of dollars just for some things that could only fit into a small suitcase. His father would probably go crazy if he heard about this.

And Su Yu was still only in the Great Strength Realm.

Even someone from a big family like Xia Huyou couldn't help saying, "Su Yu, you need to control your spending. Making money isn't easy. Even if you're strong enough to go to the Allheaven Battlefield and kill a Skysoar each day, you would only make around 100 merit points per day."

The money he had scammed from the single character faction came from the numerous Mountainsea and Cloudbreach experts they had. The money did not come from a single expert.

They were only so rich because of the high number of experts in their ranks. In fact, in the academy, it would be hard for even a Cloudbreach to take out 8,200 merit points in one go.

Chen Yong was an example of that. He was the head manager of the books depository. He was also a seventh-stage Cloudbreach. But he wouldn't be able to take out that much money at once. Not even Zhao Li could.

And Hu Youhui, the Cloudbreach expert that had escorted the convoy with Zhao Li back then wasn't able as well.

Even those Cloudbreach experts from the Myriad Race Cult weren't able to take out so much money alone. If they were so rich, they wouldn't have needed to take such a big risk and attack the student convoys in the first place.

Experts gained their strength from their supply of resources. Thus, they would mostly spend their money as soon as they earned some. Was Chen Yong poor? Was Zhao Li poor? Strictly speaking, they were rich.

If they were willing to sell their cultural weapons and cultivation methods and also spend their time writing willpower texts every single day, they would be extremely rich. But doing so would slow down their cultivation.

#### Chapter 259: Third Grotto Visit (2)

Very few people could afford to spend so much money at the Great Strength Realm like Su Yu. Not even Xia Huyou could spend money in such a manner.

Su Yu exhaled deeply and nodded, "I know. But I need to buy time. I need to grow strong as soon as possible. I wish I could take it slow, but some people aren't willing to give me the time to grow."

"It's up to you. I was only giving you a small reminder." Xia Huyou smiled, "In fact, I am more than happy to see you spend all your money. But us businessmen prefer to do long-term business. Thus, we need to think for our customers as well."

Su Yu laughed, "You're quite a good businessman. By the way, had Zheng Yunhui looked for you?"

"Nope." Xia Huyou was in no rush. He said, "His Zheng Family is a powerful family as well. They don't lack common resources. But a day will come when he will need my services. After all, his family is not a cultural research family."

Su Yu nodded. "By the way, is the Divine Character tournament being held on the same day of the monthly exam?"

"Why?" Xia Huyou asked, "Are you asking because of Master Hong Tan's book?"

Su Yu nodded. He helplessly said, "My teacher told me to win the book back. Although the book isn't too valuable, it is meaningful. We can't allow it to remain in the hands of outsiders."

He doubtfully asked, "These people sure are bold. They actually dare to steal my grandteacher's stuff..."

"Steal?" Xia Huyou blanked out. "Was that what Assistant Bai told you?"

Su Yu gave him a deep look and said, "My teacher said that he brought some guests to visit the research center previously. The book went missing after that. It might have been stolen during that time."

"Do you actually believe that?"

Xia Huyou laughed. But Su Yu smiled and said, "Yes."

He had to believe that. If he didn't believe that, his teacher would not spare him. And since he didn't want to suffer, he chose to believe his teacher.

"Hahaha!"

Xia Huyou couldn't help but to roar with laughter.

He said with amusement, "I think you will encounter even more troubles in the future. This is not the only stuff gone from your research center. There are a few other items. Of course, most of them aren't that important. But some of them are more meaningful than the others. Everyone knows those things belonged to Master Hong Tan. You will encounter more of this in the future."

Su Yu was feeling very helpless as well. But what could he do if he had a teacher like this? Clearly, those things weren't stolen. His teacher was the one who had sold them.

Su Yu understood why Bai Feng did that. Bai Feng had said that he had to sell some stuff because the research center was basically out of money. What Su Yu didn't know was the fact that his teacher had even sold the personal belongings of his grandteacher.

He didn't know whether to laugh or cry. His teacher actually resembled him somewhat. Back in Nanyuan, he had also considered selling his father's house when he lacked money. He had not done so because he couldn't actually do it. But Bai Feng had actually done it.

After a short chat, Su Yu nonchalantly asked, "What's going to happen during the tournament? Is it hard to win?"

"Pretty hard." Xia Huyou solemnly said, "That involves more than the Character Faculty. All the new students of the academy will be involved. The Character Faculty might be strong, but we are far from unequaled. The Willpower, Pillmaking, and Talisman Faculties are also filled with experts."

"Since it is a Divine Character tournament, it naturally is a competition of Divine Characters. But willpower is important as well. You can't separate Divine Characters from willpower. The academy has a unique grotto that is basically an improved Mark of Culture."

Xia Huyou explained, "You have experienced Mark of Cultures before. Within a Mark of Culture's illusion, you can materialize your Divine Characters. You can do the same in that grotto. You can even see the characters of your opponents. In the grotto, you will fight with only your Divine Characters instead of your body. Thus, willpower and Divine Characters will be very important."

"That's why this tournament is called the Divine Character tournament, not the top 100 tournament."

Su Yu asked in astonishment, "So it's going to be held inside a grotto? Will the teachers be able to see our characters as well?"

"No, they can't." Xia Huyou explained, "Only the two combatants can see them. And that grotto is very small. It is basically a Mark of Culture. You will be at one end while your opponent will be at the other end. Both of you will send your willpower into the grotto, and only both of you can see the situation inside."

"There are so many new students. Are we going to fight one match at a time?"

With a short calculation, Su Yu found that there were nearly 2,000 new students.

"You think too much." Xia Huyou smiled, "Only senior class students can participate so there won't be a lot of participants. The intermediate class students aren't even at the Mental Tempering Stage. How are they supposed to participate? Our class alone will probably make up half the participants. In total, there will be around 200 students participating.

"And it won't take that much time either. A match will probably last between dozens of seconds to a minute or two. There will only be around 100 matches for the first round. It will be over in an hour or two. Including the subsequent matches, the whole tournament won't take more than four hours."

Su Yu nodded in understanding. In that case, this would be a short tournament.

Xia Huyou said, "Don't put your focus on our class alone. There are experts in other classes as well. They might not be our match in real combat, but when fighting with only Divine Characters, some of them are pretty strong."

Su Yu exhaled lightly and nodded again. He couldn't afford to lose. He must win!

His Divine Characters were quite strong, but his willpower was not too strong. Even if his willpower had high endurance, its strength still wasn't anything special since he was still at the level of a fresh Mental Tempering Stage student.

He still needed to grow some more before the tournament. Since they wouldn't be fighting with their bodies, all his opened acupoints wouldn't be of any use during this tournament.

"Huyou, do you have any methods of rapidly growing the willpower?"

"..."

Xia Huyou was speechless. Su Yu thought that he was slow?

He had reached the Mental Tempering Stage in such a short period of time! He considered that slow?

"Yeah. Just give up on your Divine Characters and your willpower will grow rapidly."

"..."

Su Yu decided to not ask this fellow anymore. What a load of nonsense. Would a cultural researcher without Divine Characters still be a cultural researcher? Of course, there were actually a lot of students who had chosen to not form any Divine Characters before the Skysoar Realm. But that wasn't a path for those in the multiple character faction.

At the Skysoar Realm, his character technique would be fixed. If he couldn't supply his character techniques with the minimum required characters before the Skysoar Realm, the technique would be thoroughly ruined.

In that case, would he still be considered a multiple character faction member?

Su Yu thought of something else and asked, "Are there any treasures capable of strengthening the willpower?"

"Yes." Xia Huyou grinned, "But I suggest that you don't use something like that. Your cultivation base will be too unstable. To be honest, people at our level should focus on strengthening our foundations. Even with 99 percent willpower, if your willpower is so unstable that it can be blown away with a breath, what's the point?"

"Fine. You're right."

Su Yu was helpless. He could only cultivate properly. Over the past few days, his willpower had still grown somewhat.

Previously, his willpower had dropped to 50 percent. He had pushed it back up to 52 percent. Strictly speaking, he was still growing quickly. He had simply been asking for too much.

After the talk with Xia Huyou, Su Yu left with the things he bought.

Back at the research center, Bai Feng was still nowhere to be found. Su Yu wondered if his teacher was still in the laboratory. After cleaning up the living area, Su Yu started cultivating. When the sky turned dark, he left the research center.

He was going to the grotto again. With 500 drops of mountainbreak bull blood essence and 399 drops of different blood essence on him, he was prepared to have a productive cultivation session.

"It's a pity that the grotto is rarely empty. Visiting the grotto is quite a troublesome affair."

Su Yu was troubled. He was prepared to massively boost his cultivation, but if the grotto wasn't empty, it would be quite hard for him to cultivate freely. After all, he wouldn't be able to explain himself if others noticed his abnormal absorption speed after activating his book.

"Unless...I leave the marked territory!"

Su Yu decided to leave the marked zone.

There might be Infinite Strength or Skysoar zones around, but he did not need to enter those places. The pressure at those zones were too strong for him to enter anyway.

"I can cultivate somewhere between the Infinite Strength and Great Strength zones. For those in the Infinite Strength Realm, a place like that would not have enough source qi. But for those in the Great Strength Realm, a place like that would have too much source qi."

Su Yu reached a decision and stopped thinking about it. He had no choice but to enter the grotto. He kept having a feeling that his cultivation was too slow outside the grotto.

Grotto District.

Source Qi Secret Grotto.

Same as Su Yu's previous visit, there were very few people around. As it was late at night, only the two old men in charge of watching over the place were around.

The moment Su Yu approached the building, Old Huang opened his eyes and said, "That kid is here again! It has only been a few days since his last visit! How long do you think he can last this time?"

Old Nie nonchalantly said, "24 hours. Like you said, if he can't reach 24 hours, he's a piece of trash."

Old Huang laughed in amusement. He had only said those words out of frustration.

How could the kid last 24 hours?

"The kid is even here with a suitcase..." Old Huang raised his brow, "What do you think he's carrying?"

"What stupid question is that? It can only be blood essence. What else?"

Old Nie had an odd look as he asked, "I thought this kid comes from a poor family? How is he getting so much blood essence?"

Even during Su Yu's previous visit, Old Nie could smell the thick stench of blood essence on the kid. And this time, the kid was here with an entire suitcase of blood essence. Just how much blood essence did he have that he needed a suitcase to carry them all?



While they were talking, Su Yu entered the room.

With the usual smile on his face, he greeted the two, "Hello, Teachers. Is there anyone inside?"

Old Huang did not want to keep seeing that smiling face. He only gave the suitcase and Su Yu a brief glance before saying, "You made some money again? As usual, 100 merit points per entry. Also, you will need to pay more to enter once you reach the Infinite Strength Realm. The minimum required total earned merit will also be increased to 200 points."

Su Yu nodded while maintaining his honest smile. He was in no rush. He still had plenty of time. Even after reaching the ninth stage, he would be in no rush to advance. He still had a lot of acupoints to open. Advancing would only make even entering the grotto more difficult for him in the future.

Seeing that Su Yu was calm, Old Huang couldn't be bothered to say more. While opening the door, he reminded, "Don't focus on growing quickly. Opening more acupoints is good, but you need to pay attention to other aspects of cultivation as well. If you only have acupoints without proper martial techniques, you won't even be able to enter the Top 100 Ranking.

"Also, don't forget that you're a cultural researcher. For cultural researchers, physical cultivation isn't the focus. If you want to focus on cultivating your body, you might as well join a war academy instead of a cultural research academy. Don't forget that even this grotto is also formed of an Eternal Divine Character."

Old Huang sternly said, "Do you think something formed of an Eternal Divine Character can only be used for physical cultivation? Comprehend more. Eternal Divine Characters are very rare even in the academy. Only those at the Mountainsea Realm and beyond can leave something like this behind. Do you think that those Skysoars are only entering this grotto to open more acupoints?"

Su Yu was stunned. That made a lot of sense!

Old Huang nonchalantly said, "Divine Characters should be your foundation. Eternal Divine Characters are helpful for Divine Characters, not the body. Source qi absorption is merely the supplementary benefit of this grotto. You have been entering this grotto a lot. Don't waste your merit points."

Su Yu nodded and hastily expressed his gratitude, "Thanks for the reminder, Teacher."

"Don't thank me. Go in and comprehend the grotto yourself."

Old Huang then opened the door and watched as Su Yu stepped through the portal.

After Su Yu left, Old Huang smiled. Beside him, Old Nie said, "You...are quite talkative. Isn't it better for them to comprehend it themselves? Why remind him?"

Old Huang said, "With this reminder, he will focus more on Divine Characters instead of spending all his time on acupoints. That way, he can come out earlier and waste less of the source qi in the grotto."

"..."

Old Nie laughed in amusement.

Old Huang might be saying that, but Old Nie knew that he was actually afraid that Su Yu would neglect his Divine Character cultivation. Then again, Su Yu was only in the Mental Tempering Stage. There was no rush. Even if Su Yu focused on comprehending the grotto now, he wouldn't necessarily be able to comprehend anything.

"He can probably reach the sixth stage easily this time. How about the seventh stage?"

"He won't be that fast, right?"

Once again, the two old men started talking about Su Yu. He had opened 66 acupoints. As he had spent the last two days healing, he hadn't been able to open more. He needed 84 acupoints to step into the seventh stage. The higher his cultivation, the slower his progress would be.

Would Su Yu be able to open 18 new acupoints this time? The two old men believed that it was unlikely to happen, but it was really hard to say when the person inside was Su Yu.

That kid had entered twice previously. During his first visit, he reached the third stage. During his second visit, he reached the fifth stage. Who knew if he could reach the seventh stage this time?

## Chapter 260: Milking The Academy (1)

This was Su Yu's third visit to the Source Qi Secret Grotto.

The world spun around him and he appeared in a familiar place. It was the same crude marked zone with the dilapidated signboard. As it was late at night, the Great Strength zone was empty.

Su Yu took a short moment to get used to his new environment before he started walking out of the zone with a smile on his face. He was not planning to stay in this tiny zone.

Sure enough, the moment he crossed the marked line, the pressure on him increased. But the ambient source qi became thicker as well.

Source qi constantly entered his body, filling the empty acupoints. The moment the acupoints were filled to saturation, one's acupoints would start swelling and hurting. That was a sign that one would need to leave the grotto. And that was why each visitor could only remain in this grotto for a limited period of time.

The large grotto was deathly silent and empty. He only stopped when he was around a kilometer away from the Great Strength zone. The pressure was getting too strong for him. He could feel that here, his source qi absorption was at least 50 percent faster than before. If he continued forward, he would probably reach the Infinite Strength zone.

He was surrounded by white mist on all sides. The white mist was basically source qi that was dense enough to assume the form of mist. Su Yu was rather shocked to see this. Perhaps if he went deeper, he would encounter source qi that had already liquified. And liquified source qi was basically source qi liquid.

"I'll stop here."

He looked around to ensure that nobody was near him. He didn't know how many cultivators were in the grotto at the moment, but there shouldn't be that many. After all, it wasn't cheap to enter and it was late at night.

After checking his surroundings, he sat down cross-legged and started cultivating. He did not use his blood essence right away. He opened his suitcase, revealing a few pills. These were healing pills. He had obtained them from Xia Huyou.

The moment he swallowed one of the pills, the pill melted. He could sense his broken bones rapidly healing. The pill was working well. The slight pain constantly coming from the wounds on his body was replaced by a refreshing sensation. Gradually, he stopped feeling pain.

"Sure enough, as long as you're rich, injuries are nothing. How about Senior Sister?"

Su Yu thought about the senior sister he had never met before. It was reasonable to assume that no matter how poor Chen Yong was, he shouldn't be so poor that he couldn't afford any healing pills.

That was especially true after he received the merit points from Su Yu. And Chen Yong did not look like a stingy person either. He wouldn't have given Su Yu the mythic destruction beast skull otherwise. That could only mean one thing. Su Yu's senior sister had sustained injuries so grave that she needed three months to heal despite the usage of healing items.

"Huang Qifeng!"

After cursing at that name one last time, Su Yu tossed all thoughts out of his mind and focused on his cultivation.

He was in no rush to consume the other blood essence. After all, he only had a drop of each type. Thus, he wouldn't be able to use the new abilities even if he did end up activating new pages with them. Thus, he would first focus on opening more acupoints.

A drop of mountainbreak bull blood essence was consumed. The Body Strengthening Art activated once again, opening over 100 temporary acupoints. These acupoints started taking in large amounts of source qi, tempering the acupoints in his body.

"Just how many acupoints does the human body have?"

Looking at the temporary acupoints, Su Yu was curious. Just how many acupoints were there in a human body?

Also, the Body Strengthening Art was a cultivation method of the mountainbreak bull. Logically speaking, the acupoints of the mountainbreak bulls were different from human acupoints. But for some reason, he was able to cultivate the Body Strengthening Art. In that case...could he assume that this version of Body Strengthening Art had already been altered to suit the human body?

"If that's the case..."

Su Yu started considering the feasibility of actually teaching this cultivation method to other humans.

Generally, when humanity obtained new myriad race cultivation methods, they would require countless cultural researchers to study, analyze and alter the cultivation methods into versions suitable for human use. Each cultivation method required countless time and work.

After all, the locations of acupoints vary by race, and each race had their own way of naming their acupoints. Thus, altering a myriad race cultivation method for human use was most certainly not an easy task.

"If there is a chance, I should consider getting a Body Strengthening Art or Source Swallowing Technique and see how it differs from the version I'm using."

He had been relying on his book to directly open those acupoints for him. Thus, he had not seen a proper copy of those cultivation methods. Perhaps their activation might be different from his activation.

While thinking about all that, he took out the Skybreak Technique. The Skybreak Technique had six moves in total. The first three moves were Wallbreaker, Life Reaper, and Source Break. The first three moves required 48 acupoints and were suitable for Great Strength cultivators.

The third move, Source Break, was an interesting move. It gathered the strength of 48 acupoints into a single point, aiming to send source qi into the acupoints of his opponents, damaging their source qi circulation before killing them.

"Is this the move Teacher used that day?"

Su Yu suddenly thought of something. During Bai Feng's visit to Nanyuan, he killed a Skysoar cult member. That Skysoar's acupoints had been damaged, resulting in a leakage of source qi, allowing Bai Feng to easily kill him.

Su Yu had no idea how Bai Feng had done that, but now, he was slowly starting to understand. Bai Feng had used the Source Break move.

Of course, the premise of using that move successfully on the cultist was sufficient understanding of the Divine Skywing Technique used by the Divine Skywing Sect. Only then would he be able to pick a weak acupoint he could send his source qi into, instantly destroying his opponent's source qi circulation.

"I see."

While reading the Skybreak Technique, he continued working on his acupoints. Before long, his 67th acupoint started blinking. A few minutes later, the acupoint opened with a rumble. After leaving the Great Strength zone, his acupoint opening speed was much faster. The surrounding source qi constantly surged toward him, creating a small source qi tornado around him.

At the same time.

Around a kilometer away from Su Yu, inside the Infinite Strength zone.

A young man was seated cross-legged, absorbing source qi rapidly. The young man had a handsome face and an aquiline nose. He had a rather cold look in his eyes. Suddenly, he frowned as he looked in Su Yu's direction.

"There's someone there?"

The young man muttered curiously, but he didn't give it much thought. He was only slightly curious, wondering if a newcomer had moved over from the Great Strength zone. He had opted to cultivate late at night because he wanted to avoid disturbances during his cultivation. It would seem like he wasn't the only person with this idea.

"Whoever that person is, they won't be able to stay for long. I can just ignore them."

There was no need for him to be too bothered about someone coming over from the Great Strength zone. Someone like that would probably leave after around an hour. Furthermore, that person was still quite far away from him so he wasn't too concerned.

Meanwhile, Su Yu was completely unaware of the existence of that youth. The source qi around him was too dense while his willpower wasn't strong enough for him to sense that far away.

After about 10 minutes, he consumed the second drop of blood essence. The Body Strengthening Art was activated once again, helping him absorb source qi at a speed comparable to the youth in the Infinite Strength zone.

As for the matter of comprehending the grotto mentioned by Old Huang, Su Yu was in no rush to do that. He would focus on opening acupoints first. In any case, he was planning to stay here for quite a while. He had 500 drops of blood essence to consume. His cultivation session was just starting.

A few minutes later, he consumed another drop of blood essence. When he sensed his 68th acupoint showing signs of opening, joy covered his face.

Inside the small room.

Time passed slowly.

In the blink of an eye, an hour passed.

Suddenly, Old Huang said, "Oh, by the way, Zhan Hai has been inside the Infinite Strength zone for quite a while, right?"

Old Nie nodded, "Yeah. About two hours."

Old Huang said, "That kid is truly talented. I wonder when that kid would choose to enter the SKysoar Realm. He is quite ambitious. He aims to let his body reach the Skysoar Realm first before pushing his willpower into the Skysoar Realm as well."

Old Nie said, "You can't force something like that. It isn't necessarily a good idea to keep suppressing your cultivation. People like Bai Feng are still strong despite not doing so. It might not be worth it to suppress your willpower advancement just to gain a stronger body."

Old Huang nodded.

But that wasn't the main reason he mentioned Zhan Hai. He curiously asked, "Who do you think will come out first? Zhan Hai or Su Yu?"

"Probably around the same time." Old Nie smiled, "Zhan Hai is already a ninth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator. Although his source qi absorption speed is high, he has more opened acupoints and a stronger body, allowing him to take in more source qi. Su Yu is still in a stage of rapid progress. He can extend his duration in the grotto by opening more acupoints. Thus, they would probably come out at around the same time."

Old Huang said, "I think Su Yu might be able to stay longer. But that isn't important. I wonder if Su Yu will have the chance to fight Zhan Hai. After all, Zhan Hai is already near the Skysoar Realm. He probably won't stay at the top of the Top 100 Ranking for long. Do you think Su Yu would have the chance to challenge him before he leaves the Top 100 Ranking?"

"Nope." Old Nie answered confidently. "Zhan Hai would probably advance in no less than six months. At that point, he would have no choice but to advance even if his body is still not in the Skysoar Realm yet. As for Su Yu, his growth is fast. I even suspect he can reach the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm and at least 70 percent willpower in half a year. I am confident he can get into the top 70 or even 60."



That was a very high evaluation.

Even six months later, Su Yu would still be a new student who had only joined the academy for about eight months. Thus, Old Nie was looking very highly upon Su Yu to say that Su Yu could reach the top 70 or 60 in such a short period of time.

In fact, every student capable of entering the top 100 in one year could be considered a freak. Generally, these students would stay at the bottom of the top 100 for some time. Old Nie had only given Su Yu such a high evaluation due to his previous performance.

But the top 60 was still too far away from first place. Zhan Hai was someone who had fought a Skysoar and had not lost. Su Yu was still very far away from an opponent like that.

"Top 60?" Old Huang smiled, "I think he can even reach the top 50. As long as his combat strength is similar to mid Infinite Strength cultivators, he will have the chance to enter the top 50. With his Divine Characters, willpower, and blood essence, he is probably as strong as a first-stage Infinite Strength cultivator right now."

"But that's due to his blood essence." Old Nie shook his head, "Unless they come up with stronger blood essence, it wouldn't be too helpful for him in the long run. And when Su Yu reaches the Infinite Strength Realm, it would be even more useless."

Old Huang found himself agreeing with Old Nie. Su Yu and Zhan Hai would probably not meet each other in the Top 100 Ranking.

Zhan Hai would definitely reach the Skysoar Realm in half a year. As for Su Yu, just reaching the top 50 was enough to make him a super freak.

"Sixteen drops of blood essence for only five acupoints?"

After an hour of cultivation, Su Yu appeared rather dissatisfied. The source qi here was dense. But even after using sixteen drops of blood essence, he had only opened five acupoints. He still needed one acupoint to reach the sixth stage.

"Continue!"

He inhaled deeply and consumed another drop of blood essence. His 72nd acupoint was blinking constantly. After an unknown amount of time, the 72nd acupoint opened with a rumble. Large amount of source qi entered his body, linking all 72 of his acupoints. The 12 acupoints of the sixth stage joined with the other acupoints, forming a proper circulation route.

With the Body Strengthening Art, Su Yu could feel his body growing stronger and stronger. He even felt like his entire body had been compressed to give him more explosive strength.

Sixth-stage Great Strength Realm!

After less than two months in the academy, he had finally reached the peak of the middle Great Strength Realm.

"Continue! Seventh-stage Great Strength Realm!"

Su Yu was greatly encouraged by his advancement. He had only used 20 drops of blood essence so far. He still had a lot of blood essence remaining. He merrily continued opening acupoints.

But the advancement from the sixth to the seventh stage was also a transformation from the middle to the late stage. Thus, he could clearly feel that each blood essence consumed would last shorter now. But his source qi absorption was also much faster than before.

Infinite Strength zone.

Zhan Hai opened his eyes once again. He had a frown on his face. He could feel the source qi near him being pulled away.

That person was still around? Furthermore, the effect of that person's cultivation seemed to be spreading. Even the source qi near him was starting to be affected.

"Who exactly is that person?"

An absorption speed like this would not come from a regular Great Strength cultivator. That was most likely a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator who was preparing to enter the Infinite Strength Realm.

If that was a student below 30, then that was most likely a student in the top 100. But if that student was above 30, then it would be much harder for him to narrow down the potential suspects.

"Forget it. I won't bicker with you about this."

Zhan Hai stood up and walked further away. That person was probably trying to enter the Infinite Strength Realm. He couldn't be bothered to get involved with that person. He only wanted to cultivate without disturbance. He had no issue going further away and let that person monopolize the source qi here.

Not long after Zhan Hai left, Su Yu opened his eyes.

"The source qi density here is quite high, but I feel like it's still within my limit. Should I go somewhere with thicker source qi?"

With the Body Strengthening Art, he was able to cultivate at the speed of a regular Infinite Strength cultivator. And he still wasn't in the Infinite Strength zone. Although the source qi here was thick, the speed here was still quite slow for him.

At that thought, he stood up and walked further away. After about 300 meters, he sat down cross-legged and resumed his cultivation. Consuming blood essence, opening acupoints, and reading. He was growing incessantly while his supply of blood essence was dropping without stopping.