

Myriad 261

Chapter 261: Milking The Academy (2)

After three hours.

Su Yu moved to another position. As for Zhan Hai, he had already moved closer and closer to the Skysoar zone. He was starting to get more and more annoyed with the other person. He suspected that the Great Strength fellow had reached the Infinite Strength Realm. That was the only reason why that person could keep moving nearer and nearer to the Infinite Strength zone. Thus, Zhan Hai had to keep moving toward the Skysoar zone.

"Now that I'm so far away, can you still get near me?"

Zhan Hai cursed inwardly.

He was already at the border of the Skysoar zone. Even if the other person was already at the Infinite Strength Realm, that person had only freshly broken through. That person would most definitely not be able to continue moving closer to him anymore.

Even for him, this chance to cultivate in the grotto was precious. After all, the entry price of 200 merit points was not cheap at all. That bastard had been constantly disturbing him. He decided to ask who that bastard was after leaving the grotto. He needed to teach that person a lesson.

Five hours later.

As Zhan Hai was cultivating near the Skysoar zone, his absorption speed was too fast. He was already reaching his limit so he prepared to leave. He started walking back toward the exit. While walking, he suddenly sensed the familiar source qi tornado.

"That fellow is still here?"

Zhan Hai was astonished. How long had it been? That fellow was still in the grotto? He hadn't been able to sense any source qi undulations in his previous location so he had assumed that the other fellow had left. Slowly, he arrived near the Infinite Strength zone.

Meanwhile, Su Yu had unknowingly entered the Infinite Strength zone. Suddenly, his ears trembled. He stopped absorbing source qi and raised his head to stare into a certain direction. A silhouette slowly appeared from amid the mist.

Su Yu was cautious. He stood up and made some hurried preparations. A short while later, the two were less than 50 meters apart, allowing them to get a clear look at each other.

Zhan Hai did not attempt to hide himself, so he walked straight out of the mist. But he was speechless when he saw Su Yu. Why? Because Su Yu was covering his face with his jacket, looking more like a thief than a student.

Zhan Hai resisted the urge to roll his eyes. Just who in the world was this? He still wasn't in the Skysoar Realm so his willpower wasn't strong enough to forcefully pry through the disguise. Even if he was already a Skysoar, forcefully prying on others was akin to a provocation. He naturally wouldn't create an enemy for himself for no reason.

But he still felt somewhat gloomy. He was only here to see who this person was. After all, this person had been disturbing his cultivation session multiple times. The only person he saw was a masked man.

"I am Zhan Hai."

Zhan Hai announced himself and looked at Su Yu. With a frown, he asked, "Which top 100 student are you?"

Although the other person was masked, Zhan Hai could feel that this person wasn't too old. Thus, this was most likely a top 100 student. Su Yu did not say anything. He knew who Zhan Hai was. Number one on the top 100.

Zhan Hai did not mind the silence. He only said, "Student, the next time you cultivate, don't keep moving around. Don't you know that you can easily disturb others if you keep moving around?"

Su Yu was feeling very awkward. He was unaware that there was someone near him so he said with a gruff voice, "I understand. Thanks for the reminder."

Zhan Hai became even more speechless when he heard the obviously disguised voice. This fellow was still stubbornly hiding his identity. Was he afraid that Zhai Hai would take revenge on him?

Forget it. Zhan Hai couldn't be bothered to waste his time here. He said nothing else and walked toward a nearby door and left the grotto.

After Zhan Hai left, Su Yu exhaled in relief. He had probably successfully hidden his identity, right? Although it really wasn't a big deal for his identity to be exposed, he still preferred not having others knowing that he was cultivating in the Infinite Strength zone.

Inside the small room.

When Zhan Hai stepped out, Old Huang and Old Nie had odd expressions. This Zhan Hai was unable to stay longer than that brat! They had assumed that Su Yu would be the first to leave.

Then again, due to the difference in their cultivation levels, their absorption speed was different. Thus, this wasn't too surprising. They were only amazed at Su Yu's tenacity.

Zhan Hai was already quite familiar with the two old men so he asked, "Old Huang, who's the fellow in the Great Strength zone? He must have broken through into the Infinite Strength Realm. The next time you see a student on the verge of breaking through like this, you can consider sending him straight to the Infinite Strength Realm. That's better than having the student move from the Great Strength zone to the Infinite Strength zone. And the academy can earn 100 extra merit points from that student."

"..."

Both old men had the same thought. What nonsense was this kid saying?

That brat was only a fifth-stage Great Strength cultivator. Who in the world was the Infinite Strength cultivator?

"Old Huang..."

Alarmed, Old Huang interrupted him and asked, "He went to the Infinite Strength zone?"

"Yeah." Zhan Hai said, "I wanted to stay longer there to keep strengthening my cultivation, but that fellow kept moving closer to me, forcing me to keep moving away. That was why I couldn't last longer."

At this point, it was already dawn.

Zhan Hai then laughed and said, "And when I met him, he even covered his face. Is that fellow afraid that I would create trouble for him?"

He appeared quite relaxed when speaking to the two old men. He was already on the verge of reaching the Skysoar Realm. With his cultivation and position as the number one student in the top 100, his status was basically similar to that of a teaching assistant in the academy.

Old Huang coughed. Why was that brat covering his face? But that was understandable. The brat was only a fifth-stage Great Strength cultivator. With his cultivation level, he had actually entered the Infinite Strength zone. Thus, he had to cover his face to avoid shocking anyone who saw him.

"I can't tell you who that person is." Old Huang smiled, "He's weaker than you anyway so you don't really need to pay him too much attention."

Zhan Hai also smiled, "Why don't I wait here for him to come out?"

"Don't waste your time. Just do what you're supposed to be doing. Do you have so much time that you can afford to wait around doing nothing?"

Zhan Hai nodded in agreement. He said nothing else and left. He could guess that the other person was most definitely a genius. Based on Old Huang's words, that fellow was not coming out anytime soon. He wasn't too concerned about that fellow so he couldn't be too bothered to ask more. For him, those below the Skysoar Realm could no longer capture his attention.

After Zhan Hai left, Old Huang said, "That kid has actually entered the Infinite Strength zone! How is he still inside?"

He was only a fifth-stage Great Strength cultivator! But it had been a few hours so the kid had probably reached the sixth stage by now.

Old Nie was quite shocked as well. After recovering from his shock, he said, "Why don't we...send him straight to the Infinite Strength zone next time? That kid is too cunning. He entered through the Great Strength zone, spending only 100 merit points to cultivate in the Infinite Strength zone. He has basically made a profit of 100 merit points."

Old Huang laughed in amusement and said, "There is no such rule. He is still in the Great Strength Realm so what can you do?"

"We're making a loss!" Old Nie complained. But he soon smiled and said, "Since he's already in the Infinite Strength zone, he will probably come out soon. Let's wait until he's out before grabbing our meal."

"Sure."

Old Huang nodded. They had initially planned to have one of them go out to grab a meal for the both of them. But since Su Yu was still inside, it wouldn't hurt for them to wait a little bit more.

And thus, an hour passed. Two hours passed. Three hours...Until the sun finally rose.

Finally, Old Huang helplessly said, "Go grab some food. I'm hungry."

"Keep waiting! I refuse to believe he can stay much longer! I must see him come out. If I leave now, wouldn't I have waited for nothing if he comes out right after I leave?"

"True."

The two continued waiting.

At this point, they wouldn't be able to eat peacefully if they didn't wait until the kid came out.

The sun continued rising. At the 10th hour, the two old men looked at each other, wondering if they should grab some food first.

At the 12th hour.

Old Huang muttered, "Is it lunch time?"

Yes. Afternoon had arrived.

"I won't eat before he comes out!" Old Nie gloomily said, "It's not like I'll starve to death if I skip a few meals."

Damn it! He refused to believe the kid could last any longer. If the kid was really so incredible, he should just stay in the grotto for 24 hours!

At the 16th hour.

Old Huang muttered, "Why don't...we use the Source Qi Mirror and check if the kid had accidentally killed himself inside?"

This made no sense. Just how long had the kid been inside the grotto? He should have left long ago. Old Huang was really starting to suspect that the kid had burst apart from absorbing too much source qi. Just as that thought crossed his mind, the portal opened.

He hurriedly opened the door in front of the portal. But when the two old men saw the person coming out, a look of disappointment covered their face. It wasn't Su Yu. It was the person who had entered two hours ago.

Old Huang hurriedly asked, "Is there someone inside?"

The other person was an Infinite Strength cultivator. He nodded, "Yeah. There's one fellow there. He sure is tenacious. I can feel him grabbing all the source qi even from far away. Old Huang, who's that fellow?"

"This is unrelated to you. Don't ask questions you shouldn't ask."

After sending the student away, Old Huang looked at Old Nie speechlessly. After a while, he asked, "Old Nie, do you want to eat? It has been an entire day since our previous meal."

That kid was still inside! He had outlasted several Infinite Strength cultivators already.

"No!"

Old Nie was turning more and more stubborn. He wasn't going to eat. Su Yu had been starving just as long, right? He wanted to see who among them could last longer! At this point, even if the brat ended up starving himself to death, Old Nie would say that the brat deserved it.

Nevertheless, the two couldn't help but to feel amazed at Su Yu's achievement. Just how many acupoints had that kid opened this time?

"Seventh-stage Great Strength..."

The same thought appeared in both their heads. After spending 16 hours inside the grotto, it was impossible for Su Yu to not reach the seventh stage.

Old Huang dryly said, "Maybe we should charge this kid 1,000 merit points next time. I feel like he's going to milk the grotto dry."

He had only spent 100 merit points to stay so long inside the Infinite Strength grotto. He kept feeling like the academy had made a big loss this time.

Chapter 262: Seclusion Over (1)

Infinite Strength zone.

16 hours had been spent and 370 drops of blood essence had been consumed by Su Yu to open 32 acupoints. All in all, he had opened a total of 98 War God Art acupoints thus far.

He was only 10 acupoints away from 108 acupoints.

But the more acupoints he opened, the higher the rate of his blood essence consumption became. At first, he only needed two drops of blood essence to open an acupoint. But now, he required around seven to eight drops to open one.

Eighth-stage Great Strength Realm.

The two old men believed that he had reached the seventh stage, but he had actually reached the eighth stage. After the other student left, he finally took his jacket off his face with relief.

"I need 10 more acupoints to reach the ninth stage. And I still have 130 drops of blood essence." Su Yu exhaled. This should probably be enough for him.

He had thought that the 500 drops of blood essence would be enough for him to open all the War God Art acupoints and some extra acupoints for his other techniques such as the Lightning Source Blade.

But that did not seem too likely anymore. The remaining 130 drops were probably only enough to open the War God Art acupoints. As for the War God Art written by Bai Feng, it was completely ruined by now. Not a single bit of willpower remained in it.

As for the Skybreak Technique, the first half of the book had also dimmed significantly. He could feel the willpower of the book draining rapidly. If this continued, even this book would fall apart before long.

"Source Break!"

With great difficulty, Su Yu had grasped the third move as well. The 48 acupoints required by the move happened to overlap with the acupoints he already opened.

Following the guidance of the book, he tried linking the 48 acupoints. The acupoints in his body started flickering. At that moment, he discovered something that might help him stay longer in the grotto.

He could practice powerful martial techniques in the grotto. That way, he would exhaust the source qi in his body, ensuring that acupoints wouldn't reach source qi saturation too early.

He suddenly realized that there were too many things he could do in this grotto. Perhaps there were even more functions waiting for him to discover. For example, this grotto allowed him to practice his techniques at a higher intensity than before.

"Source Break!"

Taking advantage of the fact that the grotto was currently empty, Su Yu started practicing the third move of the Skybreak Technique. It didn't matter that he didn't have his saber with him. He could still practice with his cultural weapon.

The cultural weapon appeared and enlarged into the size of a normal weapon before shooting forward. Instead of hacking, it was stabbing. The third move focused on breaking through the opponent's defense from a single point.

As he practiced, a small source qi tornado formed above him. And when he launched his attack, the tornado dispersed with a boom.

Su Yu shook his head. He had used too much source qi for that move. And it was too loud. He couldn't replicate what Bai Feng did.

Back then when Bai Feng killed the cultist, he had easily killed the enemy without making a sound. The enemy didn't even have the chance to move before his acupoint burst apart, resulting in a helpless death.

"Teacher's mastery over the third move is very high. Coupled with his powerful willpower and Divine Characters, he was able to instantly kill a fourth-stage Skysoar."

Sure, Bai Feng's cultivation had played a part in that, but there was no denying that he had a high mastery over the technique as well.

Just using the move once had drained half the source qi in Su Yu 's body. He smiled as with this, he would be able to stay even longer in the grotto.

"This is actually an excellent place for martial technique cultivation. Why does nobody practice their martial technique here?" Su Yu muttered to himself.

Everyone he saw here was focused on opening acupoints. Why was nobody practicing martial techniques? He had completely neglected the fact that entering the Infinite Strength zone would require 200 merit points.

How many people would be willing to spend 200 merit points just to practice their martial techniques? They only needed to spend more time if they were to cultivate outside the grotto.

Generally, most people would only visit the grotto for breakthroughs. Very few would be extravagant enough to visit the grotto frequently. Of course, there were also some people who had practiced their martial techniques in the grotto after finishing their breakthrough. But Su Yu had yet to encounter such people.

He tossed all those thoughts out of his mind and continued opening acupoints. He aimed to open all 108 of the acupoints today.

"The Infinite Strength Realm comes after the Great Strength Realm. I still need to buy the Infinite Strength version of the War God Art. This damn academy is too greedy!"

Su Yu cursed.

The version he had been studying was only the Great Strength version.

"For the Great Strength Realm, I need to open acupoints. What about the Infinite Strength Realm?"

He was starting to get curious. As his growth had been too fast, he had not gotten the chance to learn more about the higher cultivation levels. He had only heard that at the Infinite Strength Realm, there would be a new focus instead of opening acupoints.

Thus, a lot of martial techniques would only utilize the acupoints opened during the Great Strength Realm. In that case, what was the focus of the Infinite Strength Realm?

"Well, it would still be related to the physical body."

Su Yu wasn't too worried. Based on what he read before, warriors mostly focused on strengthening their physical bodies. Even acupoint opening was for the sake of strengthening their bodies and increasing the amount of source qi they had. The Infinite Strength Realm would probably not deviate from that path either.

Nevertheless, he still needed to start learning more about the Infinite Strength Realm, so he decided to do so after this cultivation session. He would also need to spend more money to buy the corresponding cultivation method for the Infinite Strength Realm.

"I should be able to open more acupoints at the Infinite Strength Realm, right?"

That should be the case. Otherwise, wouldn't some cultivators be forever blocked from some martial techniques requiring acupoints they didn't have?

"Infinite Strength cultivators can probably still open acupoints, but the way their levels are measured is probably different from how you measure Great Strength cultivators."

While cultivating, Su Yu continued thinking about the Infinite Strength Realm.

His growth had been surprisingly fast, but he decided to not rush into the Infinite Strength Realm anytime soon. It was never a good idea to rashly advance before getting used to the strength of his newly opened acupoints.

While thinking, he did not forget to keep consuming blood essence for his cultivation.

One drop, two drops...

Suddenly, a newcomer entered the grotto. Su Yu immediately covered his face again and walked away.

But before he could go far, the newcomer shouted, "Fellow student, Old Huang and Old Nie have a message for you."

"What?"

"They asked if you're hungry. If you're hungry, they will get the next student to bring you some food. They also asked if you want a bed as well. You can take a nap inside the grotto if you want."

"..."

Su Yu was stunned.

The newcomer was rather amused. He asked, "Fellow student, are you their student or grandson? How long have you been here? They are even offering to prepare a meal for you..."

When he first heard the request, he was completely stupefied.

Bringing a meal inside?

Bringing a bed inside?

They were so creative!

Also, just how long had this fellow stayed in the grotto?

Su Yu awkwardly said, "No thanks. I'm not hungry."

What were those two thinking? They were offering him food and bed? That was kind of them but he was too embarrassed to accept the offer.

The newcomer smiled and said nothing else. He knew that the two old men might only be joking, but he was also quite curious. The two old men were clearly expecting him to actually leave the grotto before this fellow.

"But I have just entered. How can I leave first if this fellow has been here for a while?"

After separating from Su Yu, the newcomer sat down cross-legged and started cultivating. He also wondered how much longer that mysterious student could stay in the grotto. He could feel intense source qi undulations ahead of him.

From the undulations, the newcomer concluded that the mysterious student was probably an early-stage Infinite Strength cultivator. Would someone like that be able to last longer than him? That was impossible.

Thus, he tossed Su Yu out of his mind and turned his focus to his own cultivation.

One hour. Two hours...

When his acupoints were saturated with source qi and his physical body had been strengthened to his satisfaction, he opened his eyes with an odd look on his face. Damn it. Why was that fellow still absorbing source qi?

Was he not full yet? Was he a bottomless pit? Was he not afraid of bursting apart from absorbing too much source qi?

He shook his head and decided to ignore Su Yu. For him, balance was important in cultivation. Since he had already achieved his goal for this visit, he decided to leave even though he had yet to reach his absolute limit.

"Fellow student, I'll be leaving first. Do you have a message for the two teachers?"

Su Yu shouted back, "I'll be leaving soon as well. Thank the two teachers for me."

The other student said nothing else and left the grotto.

Inside the small room.

Old Huang was starving. He weakly said, "It has been one day and one night since I last ate. Should we get some food?"

Old Nie did not answer. He sat there with a dark expression.

He wanted to keep waiting. He refused to eat before that kid left. He wouldn't starve to death anyway. As a Cloudbreach, he could survive without food for more than a month.

"How long has he been inside?"

"21 hours, I think?"

Old Huang was unsure. But he couldn't help but be impressed by Su Yu.

Previously, they had jokingly said that as long as Su Yu couldn't stay inside the grotto for 24 hours, then the kid would be garbage. He was starting to wonder if the kid had overheard those words and was deliberately doing this?

With a dark expression, Old Nie said, "I have decided to propose to the academy that we should charge the visitors based on the time spent inside instead of per visit."

"..."

Old Huang laughed and said, "If you do that, you will offend a lot of geniuses."

After all, the more of a genius one was, the longer one could stay in the grotto. A lot of people probably wouldn't mind being charged based on their time inside, but the geniuses would probably all go crazy.

Old Huang switched the topic and said, "I am getting really curious. Just how many acupoints will he open this time?"

"At least 20." With a look of amazement in his eyes, he said, "At least that much. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to stay inside for so long. Even if he practices martial techniques inside, the exhaustion speed is still slower than the absorption speed, so that alone isn't enough to keep him inside for so long. Thus, the only way he can stay for so long is by opening more and more acupoints, extending the limit of his source qi saturation."

After all, a large amount of source qi was required to open a new acupoint. And even more source qi was required to fill the newly opened acupoint.

Only by constantly repeating that process would Su Yu be able to stay until now.

"That many?" Old Huang was astonished, "He had already opened 66 before this. If he really manages to open 20 this time, he would have 86 acupoints. That makes him at least a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. He might even be at the eighth stage already."

Old Nie nodded. He was certain his guess was right.

Old Huang thought for a bit and said, "Generally, the Source Qi Secret Grotto is a suitable place for acupoint opening. But there is still a limit to that. You need time to both locate and open each new acupoint. At times, your other acupoints might already reach saturation before you can open the new acupoint. Just how is he maintaining such a fast speed of acupoint opening?"

That was one thing he couldn't understand. This made no sense. He had seen a lot of geniuses before, but even by the standards of geniuses, Su Yu was abnormal.

"Didn't you hear that he's already in the Infinite Strength zone? And a high absorption speed will either come from a Divine Character or a bloodline. Or maybe it's a secret technique..." Old Nie said, "There might be secret techniques capable of opening temporary acupoints to absorb more source qi."

"Or maybe he has a unique bloodline that can allow him to absorb source qi through his pores as well. Or it could be a unique Divine Character that can strengthen his flesh or hasten his acupoint opening..."

Old Nie proceeded to give a long list of possibilities.

Chapter 263: Seclusion Over (2)

Old Huang nodded, "Since he brought so much blood essence inside, his trick might be related to blood essence. Great Strength cultivators can consume blood essence to strengthen their bodies. But each cultivator can only digest a limited amount of blood essence at a time. With how much blood essence he had brought inside, he probably can absorb more blood essence than normal."

"Exactly." Old Nie had an odd look, "His mountainbreak bull blood essence absorption speed is definitely not slow. During his previous visit, he brought mountainbreak bull blood essence with him. It might be the same this time. In that case, this kid...might have the mountainbreak bull bloodline."

"..."

The look on Old Huang's face turned odd as he said, "The descendant of an expert? Bloodline transformation? Or perhaps...he descended from a mountainbreak bull?"

"..."

The two exchanged glances, the look in their eyes turning more and more odd. In this world, bloodline inheritances were a real thing.

Back then when the relationship between the myriad races were less hostile, the experts of the other races had visited the human race. And naturally, there were also human experts who had visited the various other realms.

After reaching a certain level of strength, a non-human expert could easily assume a humanoid form. If one was strong enough, one could even break the barrier between species and reproduce with a different species.

Thus, there were some unique mixed blood families existing among the myriad races. And without any exception, these families descended from powerful experts. That was only natural as without being really strong, one wouldn't be able to break the barrier between species.

"So Su Yu is actually...a little bull?"

The two looked at each other for a bit before Old Huang turned a device beside him on to check Su Yu's information. After a long while, he said, "There is nothing about bloodlines here. His father is a 100-man commander in the Devil Subduing Army. He has been retired for 18 years and returned to the army not long ago. His mother passed away during childbirth. She's only a Source Opening cultivator..."

"His grandfather is an ordinary person in Nanyuan. His grandmother is the same. His maternal grandparents passed away a long time ago..."

With his authority, Old Huang continued investigating Su Yu. He said, "But his family might really have the mountainbreak bull bloodline. Just look at the picture of his father. He is so big. He's basically a bull in human form..."

Old Nie looked at the picture and nodded. In the picture, Su Long was smiling happily. He clearly had a tall and sturdy body.

"We need to trace the line of his family for over 10 generations if we really want to get a result..."

It had been hundreds of years since the era where the experts of the various races could freely visit each other. That was too long ago. Unless the family would produce signs of possessing a bloodline each generation, most bloodlines would probably stay hidden for generations.

Old Huang was very confident, "He definitely has the mountainbreak bull blood essence. I was wondering why that brat could stay inside for so long. So he actually has a bloodline. By swallowing mountainbreak bull blood essence, he provokes his bloodline and constantly strengthens his own bloodline, allowing him to open more acupoints. That's why he can keep staying inside."

Old Nie said, "So he's swallowing the blood of his ancestors?"

"..."

The two looked at each other and laughed in amusement. But soon, Old Huang solemnly said, "Even if he is a mountainbreak bull descendant, it has been so many years so his human blood probably occupies more than half the composition of his bloodline. He can be considered a human, not a mountainbreak bull."

"True. But we still need to report this and have his background cleared."

Old Nie said, "But this is only our guess. If he really is a mountainbreak bull descendant, we need to take many factors into consideration before reporting."

Old Huang thought for a bit and said, "It's really hard to say. Maybe...his bloodline is Liu Wenyan's work? That fellow has been staying in Nanyuan all this while, right? That is also possible, right?"

"Yes." Old Nie said, "That scoundrel has never been a good person. Did he perform some evil experiments on the brat's body?"

"I...doubt he would go so far?"

"You never know."

Numerous storylines started appearing in their heads. So had Liu Wenyan been performing some evil experiments in Nanyuan? Had Su Yu's body been transformed by Liu Wenyan? Su Yu was truly too abnormal. That was the only explanation for his ability to keep opening new acupoints.

Meanwhile, Su Yu was completely unaware of all that. This was his 22nd hour in the grotto. After exhausting 480 drops of blood essence, he had 106 acupoints open in total. He was basically swallowing money to grow.

There was no need to mention the value of the blood essence he had been consuming. He was starting to suspect that the amount of source qi he had absorbed could probably be used to produce over 100 drops of source qi liquid.

"Why is cultivation so expensive in the Great Strength Realm?" Su Yu complained.

He felt like at this point, even Cloudbreach cultivators would no longer be able to afford raising him. He needed a Mountainsea expert. And even a Mountainsea expert might end up crying after seeing how expensive it was to raise Su Yu.

But one also had to admit that he had gained a lot from spending all that money. He was only two acupoints away from completing his Great Strength cultivation. He wasn't too worried even though he

only had 20 drops of mountainbreak bull blood essence remaining. He still had hundreds of drops of other blood essence. He would absorb all the blood essence that he couldn't use to activate a new page in his book.

As for the blood essence that could activate a new page, there was naturally nothing left for him to absorb after the activation. He had around 400 types of blood essence with him. He guessed that a large majority of them would probably end up not activating a new page.

After about half an hour, his 107th acupoint opened with a rumble. Now, he had one acupoint left. That was also the final acupoint in the Great Strength version of the War God Art. Slowly, he finished his mountainbreak bull blood essence. But the final acupoint still showed no signs of opening.

Su Yu was in no rush. After consuming the final drop, he opened his suitcase and looked over the other blood essence he had.

"Fire hog blood essence...this is probably useless..."

He swallowed the blood essence and sure enough, his body had absorbed the blood essence. In the past, he had already tried the blood essence of these weak races. With this try, it was clear that no hog had killed him over the years. Or to be precise, this garbage hog had never killed him before.

"Iron-winged bird blood essence...damn that fatty. Is he scamming me?"

Su Yu cursed. He had asked for samples of new blood essence. Why did that fatty include a type of blood essence he already had?

But he couldn't really blame Xia Huyou either since he had not given Xia Huyou a detailed explanation of what he was doing with the blood essence. He resumed his routine of consuming and absorbing blood essence to help open the new acupoint.

Time passed.

"Whitecloud leopard blood essence...useless."

"Longneck crane blood essence..."

Suddenly, Su Yu's eyes lit up.

In his mind, the golden book shook. Then, a new page was activated.

Longneck crane (Sixth-stage Great Strength Realm)

Racial ability: Sky Steering (activation with blood essence)

Foundation source art: Flight Art (activation with blood essence)

Su Yu frowned when he saw the contents of the new page. He was feeling slightly speechless. This was a useless page for him. These abilities were completely worthless.

The book might be incredible, but there were some things he couldn't change about it. For example, the iron-winged bird had more than one ability. Apart from Rip, there was also the Ironwing Slash.

Su Yu had tried using the other ability once. However...he had no wings. There was nothing he could use to slash. Sure, during the activation, a few temporary acupoints had opened on his back. But what was the point of that? Was he supposed to ram his back into his enemies? Sure, that could work. But that was also quite a useless ability.

This Sky Steering was clearly another flying ability related to wings. And Su Yu was sure that even if he activated that ability, he wouldn't be able to fly. The sole purpose of this ability was to waste his blood essence.

"Next!"

Su Yu couldn't be bothered to give this page a second look and moved on to a different blood essence. In any case, he only had one drop of each blood essence anyway. Even after activating a new page, he wouldn't be able to activate the abilities within.

10 types, 20 types...

Su Yu consumed one drop of blood essence after another in his attempt to activate more pages. He was already strong enough to consume Great Strength blood essence so he wasn't too worried. If it was in the past, he would have burst apart after consuming so much random blood essence.

Gradually, he opened more and more pages. He lost interest in most of them after a single look. That continued until a certain page activated. His eyes lit up in excitement.

Soul devouring bug (Ninth-stage Great Strength Realm)

Racial ability: Soul Devouring (activation with blood essence)

Foundation source art: Soul Devouring Art (activation with blood essence)

"Soul devouring bug!"

He had learned about this bug during one of his classes. This wasn't a particularly powerful race, but these bugs were extremely annoying to deal with. That was especially true when they appeared in large groups. They were capable of spraying a certain liquid out of their bodies.

And they were capable of corroding the willpower of cultural researchers.

They were not that bad in small numbers as they were weak individually. But if a large enough number of them gathered, even Cloudbreach or Mountainsea experts might end up dying in their hands. These bugs were basically specialist cultural research killers.

In the Allheaven Battlefield, these bugs would die in swathes when encountering warriors. But when encountering cultural researchers with weak physical bodies, these bugs only needed to spit at that cultivator to instantly corrode the cultivator's willpower, reducing that cultivator into bug food.

"Soul Devouring..."

Su Yu muttered curiously. With this ability, was he supposed to spit on his opponents to corrode their willpower?

"Isn't this a tad bit too disgusting?"

But if he was really in a moment of life or death, nothing mattered. In fact, it would be great if all he needed to do was to spit as his opponent to corrode their willpower.

"Foundation source art, Soul Devouring Art..."

Su Yu's eyes flickered. He considered something. Since the human race had their Myriad Text Sutra for willpower cultivation, how about the myriad races? They definitely had similar cultivation methods as well.

He had simply never encountered one so far. And he had been too narrow-minded as well. He had always taken it for granted that he would only start using willpower cultivation methods after reaching the Skysoar Realm. But he shouldn't forget that he had his book with him.

As long as he could find a race that could actively cultivate willpower at the Great Strength Realm and obtain their foundation art, wouldn't he be able to actively cultivate his willpower before the Skysoar Realm as well?

"Is the Soul Devouring Art a willpower cultivation method?"

He couldn't help but to wonder. These bugs specialized in countering willpower. In that case, was their foundation art a willpower cultivation method? If that was the case, wouldn't he be able to actively

cultivate his willpower by only using some blood essence? Right now, he could only rely on willpower clashes to passively grow his willpower.

"This one page is like a brand new world of countless possibilities!"

Su Yu's eyes became brighter and brighter. Although there were very few races capable of cultivating willpower at a low cultivation level, it wasn't like they didn't exist. He needed to look into this after leaving the grotto.

Each time he thought of the 99 Divine Characters he needed to form, he would feel greatly troubled. After all, even if he was capable of forming so many characters, could his willpower withstand the burden?

But he seemed to have stumbled upon a solution for that issue. Alas, he did not have any extra soul devouring bug blood essence on him. Otherwise, he would have tried it immediately.

Su Yu stopped thinking and continued consuming blood essence. Most of the blood essence didn't work. Some worked, but a lot of the new pages only contained some useless abilities. Only a few seemed useful enough for him, but unfortunately, he didn't have enough blood essence to try them out.

Chapter 264: Seclusion Over (3)

After a few hours, Su Yu finally consumed all the blood essence to activate 38 new pages. Including the mountainbreak bull and iron-winged bird pages, he had opened 40 pages in total.

"This is too little..."

Su Yu frowned. He had been killed in his dreams for so many years. Why weren't there more pages?

But when he recalled the races these blood essence came from, he could only shake his head helplessly. Most of these races were common races and only a few were from the races that were relatively rare to see. And most of the activated pages had also been activated by the blood essence of these rarely seen races.

"In that case, I might have never dreamed of these common races after all. So I might continue dreaming in the future until all these races are assembled?"

Su Yu was somewhat speechless. In that case, how many years longer would he need to be tortured by these nightmares? Then again, it really wasn't that important since these were all weak races anyway. He did not mind missing out on their abilities.

The 40 pages provided him with 40 different foundation arts and even more abilities as some races came with multiple racial abilities.

Since these blood essence samples were all in the Great Strength Realm, they weren't as powerful. Thus, he was only able to barely open his final acupoint after swallowing all of them. And he could clearly feel the source qi in his body reaching saturation.

Both his acupoints and physical body were already saturated with source qi. Furthermore, since he had consumed so many random types of blood essence, he could sense the source qi in his body becoming filled with impurities.

"So I am not supposed to randomly swallow blood essence. But it doesn't matter..."

He smiled. One of his activated pages came from a race known as the clearbright bird. These birds weren't strong, but they were symbols of purity as they possessed the ability to cleanse filth and impurities.

Their foundation source art was known as the Pure Source Art. Su Yu guessed that this cultivation method could be used to purify source qi. Thus, he wasn't too worried despite the impure source qi he had. He only needed to use some clearbright bird blood essence to cleanse his source qi.

He had finally reached his limit in the grotto. And he had used up all his blood essence. This had been an expensive cultivation session. But he was also very satisfied with the result. He had reached the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm and activated 38 new pages.

His current physical combat strength was similar to that of a normal War God Art cultivator. He was still not proficient enough in his martial techniques while his source qi was really not stronger than other cultivators at the same level. Only his physical body was slightly stronger, but the effect of that wasn't too pronounced.

It was very hard for him to stand out among the various geniuses. But he wasn't too bothered. During this cultivation session, he had built a base for his cultivation and brought it to a sufficient level. What he needed to do next was to keep tempering himself and purify his source qi, open more acupoints, strengthen his source qi, and practice his martial techniques.

After some time, he would naturally become an expert among his peers. After all, he had still cultivated a good cultivation method. He was in a far better position than those cultivating profound or yellow grade cultivation methods. With a higher number of opened acupoints, he was able to utilize more martial techniques and unleash a greater offensive prowess.

"Dad is probably not my match anymore."

Su Yu had a complicated feeling. His father cultivated the Great Strength Art, a technique with only 36 acupoints. That was one third of his acupoints. The Source Break move alone could unleash the prowess of 48 acupoints. With one move, even if Su Long could utilize all 36 acupoints at the same time, he still wouldn't be Su Yu's match.

"Oh dad, you sure are slow when it comes to cultivating."

Su Yu shook his head with pity. His father had spent decades opening only 36 acupoints. That was basically the same as opening an average of one acupoint per year.

He wanted to tell his father to look at him. In one day, he had opened more acupoints than his father had opened in his entire life. Sigh, it would seem like he would be the one taking care of his father in the future.

Su Yu was feeling very smug. Of course, he definitely couldn't say those words to his father's face or he would definitely receive a beating from his father.

"Time to leave the grotto. How long have I been here?"

Su Yu had not paid much attention to the passage of time. He wondered if he had spent 30 hours in the grotto. He didn't feel like he had spent that long, but he had definitely been in the grotto for quite a while.

He had entered late at night on the 22nd of September. It should be the 24th today, right?

Outside.

Old Nie muttered, "Should we get someone to deliver us some food? Old Huang, I'm getting hungry."

One day and one night had passed. To be precise, almost 30 hours had passed. Was that kid addicted to staying inside the grotto and was not leaving anymore? Old Huang glanced at his friend. Wasn't this old man planning to wait until Su Yu was out before eating? Keep it up!

As for Old Huang, he wasn't hungry anymore. Right after that, his expression changed as he said, "He's out!"

He could sense some movement behind the door. Finally, the kid was out. There were no other people in the grotto.

Old Nie was overjoyed. Damn it! The kid was finally out! He was starting to wonder if the kid was going to settle down and start a family in the grotto.

The moment Su Yu stepped out, he sensed two pairs of gloomy eyes staring at him.

"Kid, are you hungry?"

He looked at the two in stupefaction. Why were they being so nice? They had offered to deliver him some food previously. And now, they were asking if he was hungry. Were all the teachers in the academy so nice?

"I'm good." Su Yu smiled, "Thank you for your concern, Teachers."

He was very polite. Teachers this nice were truly rare. Just look at Bai Feng. That teacher had never asked if he was hungry.

Old Huang curled his lips. Concern? The two of them preferred giving this kid a punch instead.

Old Huang didn't want to say anything else so he coughed and said, "I can see that your entire body is filled with leaking source qi. Let me put a seal on you. The seal I placed on you previously worked fine, right?"

He then sent his willpower out.

But Su Yu hurriedly said, "It's fine, Teacher. I can withdraw my own source qi..."

He had grown too much so he was afraid that others would notice that something was wrong with him. But he was already very abnormal. After all, which Great Strength cultivator could spend so long in the grotto?

But Old Huang merely coughed before saying, "Don't be shy. I love helping students the most. Just look at yourself. Your source qi is leaking too much while the aura of blood essence on our body is obvious enough that it can be felt even hundreds of meters away. Also, the academy isn't a safe place. It is filled with cult spies..."

The old man was basically saying that if Su Yu stepped out like this, he would die instantly. Old Huang did not seem to mind one bit that he was talking bad about the academy. He was free to say whatever he wanted. What could anyone do to him?

"Su Yu, I'll help you with the seal. Don't be shy. There are too many cultists around. The academy is filled with them. You need to be careful. Also, there is also the single character faction. They have been waiting for a chance to target you. You need to keep your trump cards hidden. Do you see those guards out there? They are actually the agents of the single character faction. They are here to monitor you!"

"..."

Su Yu was completely speechless. He did not know whether to laugh or cry. For the sake of checking his cultivation, this fellow was vilifying everyone he could. If the single character faction heard these words, they would probably not let it slide.

Also, Wan Tiansheng might not let this slide as well since this old man dared to claim that the academy was filled with cult spies. But then again, the old man still made some sense.

Su Yu had just broken through so his aura was still too obvious. His source qi was leaking uncontrollably so he could easily attract unwanted attention.

"Then...I'll have to trouble you, Teacher."

"Hahaha! Don't mention it!"

Old Huang was overjoyed. Kid, there was no escaping this! His willpower engulfed Su Yu. And as he checked Su Yu's cultivation, his face turned stiff. One scan wasn't enough. So he scanned Su Yu's body again.

Beside him, Old Nie said, "Old Huang, you're not strong enough. Let me do it. I'm stronger than you."

He then sent his willpower out as well.

Su Yu resisted the urge to roll his eyes. He was basically akin to a naked lady right now, allowing the two old men to inspect him as they wished. He really had nothing to say. It wasn't enough that one of them was doing it. But both of them were doing it together.

The two old men spent a long time scanning his body. Finally, they proceeded to put a seal on him to hide his source qi and sank into silence.

Su Yu waited for a bit before carefully saying, "Teachers, may I leave now?"

"Yeah."

Old Huang waved his hand lazily. With a nervous heart, Su Yu carefully stepped away. After he left, the two old men looked at each other.

After a while, Old Huang said, "Did I see wrongly?"

"Nope." Old Nie said, "He has 108 opened acupoints. He seems to have opened some other random acupoints as well."

"108 acupoints...ninth-stage Great Strength..." Old Huang said, "Just what is up with this kid? I checked. He had swallowed too many different types of blood essence instead of only the mountainbreak bull blood essence. Our bloodline theory is definitely wrong. Has he really been modified by Liu Wenyan?"

Old Nie said, "If it isn't a bloodline, then it might be a Divine Character. This kid has actually reached the ninth stage..."

The two looked at each other again. After a while, they decided to stop talking about that kid.

Keep calm!

At their age, what had they not seen before? They had even seen cultivators above the Mountainsea Realm. Was a single Great Strength cultivator worth so much attention from them?

Ninth-stage Great Strength Realm? So what?

The kid had only reached the ninth stage from the fifth stage in a single day. So what?

Was that impressive? Were they so easily amazed?

After a long silence, Old Huang said with disdain, "He is definitely bad in martial techniques. Also, his source qi has a lot of impurities. A ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator like this is only as strong as an eighth-stage cultivator. Or he might even be weaker. Hmph. At such a young age, he is actually doing things like this to gain attention."

Old Nie nodded, "Yeah. If he's my grandson, I definitely wouldn't allow him to do this. I'll beat him to death if he dares to mess around like this."

Old Huang said, "That's right. If my grandson can reach the ninth stage from the fifth stage in one day...I'll beat him to death as well."

The two looked at each other and nodded again. Yes. It was good that they had reached a unanimous decision. In any case, their grandsons would definitely not be able to accomplish such a feat. Thus, they didn't have to worry that they would have to walk the talk after saying all that.

They weren't able to keep lying to themselves. After a short while, Old Huang slumped down and muttered, "Just how did he do that? His talent in physical cultivation is too crazy. Even if he has an unlimited supply of blood essence and source qi, this speed should still be impossible."

Ninth-stage Great Strength Realm!

He had watched with his own eyes how that kid had taken no time at all to reach the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm from the Source Opening Realm.

At that thought, he suddenly asked, "When did he first come to this grotto?"

"On the 1st." Old Nie still remembered clearly. "The 1st of this month after the month examination. It is already the 24th. So he has taken 24 days to open 96 acupoints."

"So an average of 4 per day?"

"Yeap." Once again, Old Huang was stunned speechless. After a short silence, he smiled, "Are we going to witness the birth of a legend with our own eyes?"

"Perhaps."

"Do we celebrate this in advance?"

"How are we celebrating?"

"Let's grab a good meal. You'll pay for it."

"Why me?"

"Aren't you hungry?"

"Fine."

The two then packed up and shut the door. The grotto was closed for business today! Yes. They were closing the grotto for the day. What could anyone do to them? Yes. They didn't feel like working today. What about it?

They walked out blankly. They had taken some time to calm down, but they still felt like they had a lot of things to say, such as: Holy shit!

Chapter 265: Stunned (1)

Meanwhile, Su Yu was trying to keep a low profile while returning to the research center. After what the two old men told him, he was starting to get paranoid about the existence of cult spies in the academy. He was such a genius. What if the cult set their eyes on him?

He was already a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator!

He was only relieved after reaching the research center. He wasted no time and called a number.

"Su Yu..."

Xia Huyou's dazed voice rang out. The sun was not up yet.

"Do you have clearbright bird blood essence? I'm referring to Infinite Strength blood essence."

"Yeah."

Xia Huyou instantly woke up. Holy shit. Another big business was falling into his lap. This fellow had only vanished for two days. Was he going to start spending again?

"How about soul devouring bug blood essence?"

"Yeah, I can get you some. But these blood essence would most likely be at the Great Strength Realm. The soul devouring bugs mostly move in groups but their blood essence is actually quite rare. Most people wouldn't bother to extract their blood essence since it wasn't too valuable. And if you want their Infinite Strength blood essence, it would probably be even harder to find."

"What's the price?"

"The clearbright birds do not pose much threat so the human race rarely kills them. The supply of their blood essence would be quite low. How many drops do you want?"

"Give me a price first."

"Are you looking for early-stage Infinite Strength blood essence?"

"Yes."

"Eight merit points per drop. Their blood essence is too rare. Sometimes, the rarity of blood essence does not depend on the strength of the corresponding race. Only rarity matters. Also, I went through the market of the entire Great Xia to gather the mountainbreak bull blood essence you wanted. If you want more, you'll have to wait."

Eight merit points per drop.

Su Yu did a short calculation. After consuming so many different types of blood essence, his source qi was rather impure. Even his acupoints were starting to feel uncomfortable. After thinking about it, he said, "Get me 50 drops. Wait, make that 100 drops."

He guessed that he might need at least a drop to cleanse each acupoint. Thus, he decided to try using 100 drops for now. In any case, there weren't any side effects to using this blood essence since it could purify his source qi. For source qi, it would be better the higher the purity was.

Xia Huyou hurriedly answered, "Sure. 800 merit points for 100 drops. Do you want soul devouring bug blood essence as well?"

"Yes."

"It won't be cheap either. But since it's Great Strength blood essence, you can get it for only three merit points per drop."

Su Yu thought about it and said, "Get me 10 drops for now."

Xia Huyou was slightly disappointed to hear that. The previous orders made by Su Yu had been too big. Thus, he couldn't help but to lose some excitement upon hearing about an order worth only 30 merit points.

"Sure. Anything else?"

After a short silence, Su Yu said, "Mountainbreak bull blood essence. Infinite Strength. Get as many as you can."

"I'll try to find some. I probably can't get you too much, but I can get at least 100 drops for you."

Su Yu had bought too much in a short period of time.

After a short calculation, Xia Huyou said, "Make that 100 drops. In total, you need to pay 1,830 merit points. Do you agree?"

"Sure."

Su Yu agreed easily. This was an acceptable price for him. Out of his 11,800 merit points, he had spent 100 to enter the grotto, leaving him with 11,700. And after deducting 1,830 from his new transaction, he would have 9,870 left. He was spending money like water.

The only reason he still had so much money left was because he had only bought 20 willpower texts previously when he should have bought more.

"After getting the heaven-grade martial technique, I would probably need to open more acupoints. And that requires money as well..."

At that thought, he said, "Try to buy as much mountainbreak bull blood essence as possible. Don't limit yourself to only early-stage Infinite Strength blood essence. I can accept middle-stage blood essence as well."

Su Yu was already a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator. His physical body was strong enough. Thus, he should be able to withstand the power of middle-stage Infinite Strength blood essence.

"But middle-stage blood essence would be more expensive as well. It would cost you no less than 15 merit points per drop." Xia Huyou said, "At the Infinite Strength Realm, the price can increase very rapidly. Even 15 merit points per drop is already a cheap price. You can try to ask around in the

academy. If you can find any seller offering a price of lower than 20 merit points per drop, I can give you all your blood essence for free."

"Yeah, yeah. I understand. Just try to get the blood essence for me as fast as possible."

"Ok!"

Xia Huyou was overjoyed. This was a big transaction. Since Su Yu hadn't even mentioned the amount of blood essence he wanted, then he was definitely going to be buying a lot. In that case, what if he could get 500 drops of middle-stage Infinite Strength blood essence?

"7,500 merit points..."

According to Xia Huyou's calculation, Su Yu could still afford to spend 7,500 more merit points. Any more than that and Su Yu would probably start having troubles paying.

"In that case, he has probably spent nearly 20,000 merit points in such a short period of time!"

Xia Huyou was astonished. What a extravagant fellow! With that much money, he could already hire an assassin to go after a Mountainsea expert. Of course, that referred to those fearless lunatics that would do anything for money.

Generally, mere merit points would not be sufficient to buy the life of a Mountainsea expert. However, one could definitely hire an assassin to kill an early-stage Cloudbreach cultivator for only 1,000 merit points. And Su Yu had spent a lot more money than that recently.

Xia Huyou started wondering what Su Yu was using all those blood essence for.

"Increasing his strength? But does he need so much blood essence? Feeding his Divine Character? His first character is a blood character, right? Is he using blood to strengthen that character? Is that why his character is able to reach the second tier so early?"

Even if that was the case, Su Yu was still using way too much blood essence. Furthermore, Su Yu was also rather picky on the type of blood essence he wanted. Was his character a picky eater as well? Was the mountainbreak bull blood essence the most delicious of all?

Xia Huyou shook his head and decided to stop thinking about it. After using up all his existing money, Su Yu would probably start selling his own information again.

"Su Yu..."

Xia Huyou muttered softly. He could only hope that Su Yu was not a spy for the enemy. As long as that was the case, everything would be fine no matter what Su Yu did. As a member of the Xia Family and the son of Xia Longwu, he had the breadth of mind to tolerate a lot of things.

The citizens of Great Xia were basically the citizens of the Xia Family. The experts of Great Xia were the experts of the Xia Family. And the geniuses of Great Xia were naturally the geniuses of the Xia Family as well.

He had honestly been selling all those things to Su Yu for a really cheap price. The Xia Family was actually more than happy to help nurture more geniuses. After all, strengthening these geniuses was the same as strengthening Great Xia itself.

At times, he would even pay out of his own pocket to cover for what Su Yu wanted. The merit points in Great Xia were issued by the Xia Family anyway. They could issue as much as they wanted so long as there was a need.

Of course, they wouldn't do that easily since that would only destroy their own economy. There was also the War Shrine and Knowledge Seeking Realm keeping an eye on them.

"I have witnessed the strength of Su Yu and Zheng Yunhui. How about Wan Mingze? How about Zhao Shiji?"

The people of the Wan and Zhao Families were also a part of the Great Xia. He couldn't help but to wonder about the quality of their juniors.

His father had gotten to know a lot of future experts back when he was still a student in the academy. In fact, each generation of Great Xia's prefect would start building the foundation for their future rule at a young age.

For example, the current deputy general of the Martial Dragon Guards was a genius his father had personally discovered and developed.

Another example was the current general of the Devil Subduing Army. That general was also his father's friend when they were fellow students. That was how that person came to command the entire Devil Subduing Army. The general of the Great Xia Army was also a genius his father had recruited back then.

Xia Huyou smiled. He looked forward to discovering even more geniuses during his time in the academy. Of course, strength was not everything. Character was important as well.

"But I need to grow strong as well."

There had never been a single weak Great Xia prefect before. Back when his father first ascended to that position, he was already a peak Mountainsea.

Up until now, the Great Xia had been led by a total of three prefects. The first prefect was the Great Xia King. He had reached the Invincible Realm. The second prefect was Xia Huyou's grandfather, a Sunmoon expert.

Unfortunately, he had been killed during a battle in the Allheaven Battlefield. Xia Huyou's father was the third prefect, someone who had demonstrated enough potential to be lauded as the future second Invincible of the Xia Family.

Meanwhile, the future fourth prefect, Xia Huyou, was still too weak.

"Sigh."

His father would not remain in Great Xia for long after reaching the Invincible Realm. He might not have that much time left. If he wasn't strong enough when the time arrived, the fourth prefect might not be him.

Even if he was the firstborn of the main branch, the Xia Family was massive. Even his second granduncle was part of the main branch. His second granduncle might not care about the position, but there were more juniors below him.

As Xia Huyou thought about all that, he couldn't help but to think about a certain person.

Xia Yunji.

That person was older than his father. Back then, after his grandfather perished in battle, the Great Xia King actually had his eyes on Xia Yunji instead of Xia Longwu. Alas...Xia Yunji had been crippled alongside all the other peers of Liu Wenyan.

And Xia Yunji wasn't even from Great Xia King's branch. Instead, he was the son of Great Xia King's younger brother. That younger brother had passed away a long time ago. Thus, Xia Yunji was actually the nephew of the Great Xia King and the cousin of Marquis Xia.

Strictly speaking, Xia Longwu should address him as uncle as well. If he hadn't been crippled from that incident, he might be the current prefect instead of Xia Longwu.

"And there's also Granduncle Changqing..."

Xia Huyou muttered to himself. The strongest expert in the Xia Family was the Great Xia King, followed by his father, with Xia Changqing coming in third. He was the vice principal of the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy, a peak Mountainsea cultural researcher.

That was Xia Yunji's elder brother, so Xia Huyou wasn't too worried about him. But their branch of the family had other juniors as well. And some of them had their eyes set on the position of the prefect.

In truth, the massive Xia Family had actually declined somewhat from their peak. Apart from his father, they did not have a second Sunmoon expert.

"Second granduncle..."

But when Xia Huyou thought of the second granduncle who had raised him, he laughed. Perhaps, the Xia Family still had a second Sunmoon nobody knew about. He shook his head and tossed all those thoughts out of his mind. The position of the prefect was a matter for the future.

If he really failed to get that position, it wasn't that big of a deal. His life wouldn't be in danger. After all, both his father and ancestor were Invincible experts. Who would dare to touch him? He could simply turn into an arrogant young master and focus on enjoying life instead.

"But my silly little sister, Xia Chan, seems to be rather stubborn about this..."

Chapter 266: Stunned (2)

Xia Huyou couldn't help but to laugh in amusement. The main obstacle for anyone eyeing the position of the prefect was none other than Xia Yuwen, one of the most well-known young geniuses of the academy. He was a descendant from Xia Changqing's branch.

He was someone who had suppressed the likes of Wu Qi and Bai Feng. Many people were keeping their eyes on him. The moment Xia Longwu stepped down from his position, the person with the most support to be the next prefect wouldn't be Xia Huyou. Instead, it would be Xia Yuwen.

Great Xia required a powerful prefect. That had never changed. Xia Yuwen had recently broken through into the Cloudbreach Realm in the Allheaven Battlefield.

"Cousin Yuwen..."

That was a genius. But his second granduncle did not look highly upon Xia Yuwen. He believed that Xia Yuwen was not comparable to people like Xia Longwu or even the crippled Xia Yunji.

"Forget it. For now, I'll focus on my business."

Xia Huyou yawned and decided to return to his bed. For now, he could only focus on his business. There were things that he simply couldn't do anything about for now.

Meanwhile, after his conversation with Xia Huyou, Su Yu decided to look for Bai Feng to have a talk. But his teacher was nowhere to be seen. He was feeling very helpless. Fortunately, Bai Feng was no longer the only person he could look for if he had something to ask. When the sun was up, he called a different number.

"Martial Uncle!"

"Su Yu. How are you?"

In the books depository, Chen Yong appeared to be in a good mood the moment he heard Su Yu's voice. Wu Jia, who was nearby, couldn't help but to look at her teacher curiously. Was the caller her junior brother? She had yet to meet that junior brother of hers.

Her face was still rather pale, but she was no longer coughing badly. Recently, her teacher had bought her a lot of valuable medicinal items. According to her teacher, the money for all that was provided by that junior brother who had just entered the academy.

After a short chat with Su Yu, Chen Yong smiled and said, "Come to the books depository. I'll give you a detailed explanation. Since your senior sister is around, I can take this chance to teach both of you at the same time."

"Sure."

Su Yu agreed and ended the call.

When Wu Jia saw that the call had ended, she asked curiously, "Teacher, is Junior Brother Su Yu coming?"

"Yeah." Chen Yong smiled, "Your Martial Uncle is missing again. He is probably busy with his experiments. Su Yu is quite pitiful. When he has questions, there is nobody around to answer him. Your Martial Uncle is basically as reliable as your grandteacher."

He shook his head helplessly. "Back then, your grandteacher did the same. After accepting your martial uncle as a student, he hadn't really spent much time actually teaching his new student."

Wu Jia gloomily said, "Teacher, I heard that Martial Uncle Bai was supposed to be your student, right?"

If that was really the case, Bai Feng should be her senior brother, not martial uncle.

Chen Yong laughed, "Yeah, but your grandteacher said that I'm not a good teacher so he took the student for himself. But in the end, the task of teaching ended up falling in my hands anyway..."

Chen Yong did not know whether to laugh or cry.

Wu Jia was speechless. "Grandteacher is truly...ahem. Teacher, you said that Junior Brother is already at the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm?"

"Yeah. He's very talented. Don't worry. When you're fully healed up, you can probably reach the Infinite Strength Realm. At that time, your willpower would probably be around the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage as well."

Wu Jia bit her lip angrily and said, "That Huang Qifeng is a bastard. I will definitely have my revenge on him one day."

"Don't be too rash," Chen Yong said. "He has already reached the Infinite Strength Realm and peak Mental Tempering Stage. I already checked him out. He is really very strong. Much stronger than you, in fact. I'm afraid his true strength is probably comparable to a regular fifth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator."

He did not wish to destroy his student's confidence, but he still had to remind her, "By the time you're healed up, his combat strength would have probably reached the level of a regular sixth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator."

Wu Jia sulked silently.

Sixth-stage Infinite Strength Realm.

She was now a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator. With her Mental Tempering Stage cultivation, she could face a regular third-stage Infinite Strength cultivator. But a sixth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator was too strong for her to handle.

"What if Huang Qifeng targets Junior Brother Su when he starts challenging the Top 100 Ranking? Teacher, would Junior Brother Su be strong enough to challenge the ranking in three months?"

"Yes." Chen Yong nodded. There was no doubt about that.

Back when Su Yu fought Zheng Yunhui, he already possessed the combat prowess of an Infinite Strength cultivator. And the Infinite Strength Realm was basically the strength a student needed to climb the Top 100 Ranking.

Naturally, the higher the ranking, the stronger the student would be. The top 10 students were basically strong enough to contend against Skysoars.

Zhan Hai, the student occupying the first place, had previously fought a Skysoar to a standstill. Some time had passed since then. He was probably stronger than regular first-stage Skysoars now.

Chen Yong smiled and said, "If Huang Qifeng challenges him, he can simply concede defeat. It is pointless to suffer injuries in a hopeless match like that. Since he is still weak, he can only be patient. He has plenty of time to face these opponents in the future."

Wu Jia did not say anything. She continued sulking silently. Huang Qifeng was intolerable. But her teacher was right. What could the weaker person do? Was her junior brother supposed to face that bastard and get seriously injured like her?

After a short chat, Su Yu arrived. This time, he wasn't stopped downstairs. After the previous incident, Chen Yong had already given the guards a proper reminder of who they should block and who they shouldn't. Recently, Zhou Pingsheng had been away from the books depository so nobody there dared to provoke Chen Yong.

When Su Yu appeared before Chen Yong, his expression changed. He was a ninth-stage Cloudbreach expert! Someone who was only a step away from the Mountainsea Realm. His eyes were sharp.

He had not deliberately scanned Su Yu, but he could see that something was different about Su Yu with one look. He was so shocked he even forgot his manners. He stood up and stared at Su Yu with an odd look in his eyes.

After studying Su Yu for a while, he turned to look at his own student. His expression changed several times. His student was also a prideful individual. If she knew about this, would her injuries grow worse?

At that thought, Chen Yong said, "Su Yu, you've arrived. Follow me to my room. I have something to say."

Su Yu was confused, but he nodded in agreement.

When his gaze landed on the young lady nearby, he flashed his trademark honest smile and said, "Hello, Senior Sister."

Wu Jia was pleased to see the friendly greeting and smiled, "You look very good when you smile, Junior Brother. Go with Teacher first. We'll chat later."

"Sure thing!"

Su Yu was acting like an obedient child. With the same honest smile, he nodded and scratched his head before following Chen Yong away.

Meanwhile, Chen Yong was somewhat speechless. Why was this kid still pretending? Why fool even his own senior sister?

Forget it. This kid had fooled even him! If he hadn't personally witnessed the kid scamming the single character faction, he wouldn't have known just what kind of a madman this martial nephew of his was. His junior brother was quite a straightforward person. How had he accepted such a student?

The first thing he did after entering the room was sealing his surroundings. He then solemnly asked, "You broke through?"

"Yeah. I got lucky." Su Yu flashed a wide smile and bashfully said, "I swallowed a lot of blood essence for my growth. It's all thanks to the Divine Character I obtained from Teacher's willpower text. Teacher sure is impressive. That character is too useful. After making so many merit points, I bought some blood essence for cultivation and broke through."

Nowadays, Little Blood had been reduced to a professional scapegoat. It wasn't like anyone would be able to prove otherwise if he insisted on placing all the blame on the blood character.

Since a blood character was expected to be related to blood essence, his blood character was the perfect cover for his book.

"Divine Character..."

Chen Yong was speechless. Bai Feng himself didn't have a character that powerful. But a random Source Opening Codex he wrote had actually given birth to such a unique character. If he was Bai Feng, he would probably go crazy as well.

"Sixth-stage Great Strength Realm?"

He hadn't scanned Su Yu, so he was unsure of Su Yu's actual cultivation level. He only knew that Su Yu had definitely broken through.

Su Yu smiled bashfully and said, "Uhm...slightly better than that..."

"Seventh-stage? That was fast!"

Impressive. This kid had reached the late-stage. That was truly fast.

His student had been in the academy for over two years and had only reached the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm. Meanwhile, Su Yu was already on the verge of catching up to her. How terrifying.

Once again, Su Yu smiled bashfully. He had no choice but to smile as he was afraid that his martial uncle would beat him up otherwise. He softly said, "Martial Uncle, even stronger than that..."

"Huh?"

"Uhm...I...am at the ninth-stage..."

Bang!

Chen Yong broke a nearby vase and sent his willpower out toward Su Yu. Next, he pointed at Su Yu as his jaw dropped. He was so shocked he couldn't say anything. It had only been a few days since they last met. What had this kid done over such a short period of time?

"Is...your teacher aware of this?"

"No. I haven't met him since my breakthrough."

Chen Yong calmed down and said, "When telling your teacher, remember to not keep anything valuable around you. Also, stay far away from him before telling him anything. I'm worried that he would accidentally slap you to death while not paying attention."

Chen Yong coughed and clarified, "Your teacher has just entered the eighth-stage Skysoar Realm. He is probably still not used to his new strength. It is better to be cautious. Or you can call me over to protect you when you're ready to tell him."

"..."

Su Yu was stunned. Was this such a big deal? Did his martial uncle think that he would still dare to inform his teacher after hearing all that? He was afraid of death!

When he recalled how his teacher nearly crushed his head in shock when he reached the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm, he started wondering if he should just keep this a secret from Bai Feng. Maybe he should just wait until he was at the Skysoar Realm. At that time, his teacher wouldn't be able to accidentally slap him to death anymore, right?

Chen Yong had complicated emotions. Ninth-stage Great Strength Realm...This kid was truly a freak. He had actually caught up to Wu Jia. And Wu Jia had actually been in the academy for over two years.

Would his student jump off the building in shame after hearing that? The tenth floor was quite high, so it would still be quite dangerous.

Chen Yong said, "Don't tell your senior sister anything. Give her some time to get used to you. She is still nursing his injuries."

Chen Yong couldn't help but to lament that life was difficult. Fortunately, this Su Yu wasn't his own student. Otherwise, he would have to be shocked by the freak every single day. That was no way to live.

In fact, his junior brother was a very suitable teacher for this freak. After all, his junior brother was quite an easygoing person. He would only be shocked for a short while before completely forgetting about it.

Chen Yong couldn't help but to laugh with amusement. He was starting to sympathize with his junior brother.

Chapter 267: Real Infinite Strength, Fake Infinite Strength (1)

Chen Yong was really finding this hard to accept.

Ninth-stage Great Strength Realm.

However, he did not let his shock affect him for long. He frowned and said, "You consumed too much blood essence. And there are too many types of them, resulting in a chaotic mess of source qi in you. Too many different blood essence energies are gathered in your acupoints. This might not affect you that much in the Great Strength Realm, but you will be in trouble after reaching the Infinite Strength Realm."

Su Yu nodded with the same honest expression and said, "Martial Uncle, I'll slowly purify my source qi."

"That will take some time. I'm afraid it will slow down your progress into the Infinite Strength Realm."

Su Yu nodded in agreement. But he didn't dare to say that he could use the clearbright bird blood essence to purify his source qi.

"Let's go. I'll give you a small lesson."

"Thank you, Martial Uncle!"

The two left the room.

Outside, Wu Jia brushed her hair aside when she saw them and jokingly complained, "Teacher, why are you speaking to Junior Brother in secret? What is the big secret that you can't let me know?"

Chen Yong smiled. He naturally couldn't let her know about it. Otherwise, with her short fuse, she would probably go crazy.

"Stop wasting time. Get ready to focus. I'll be telling your Junior Brother about the Infinite Strength Realm."

"It's still too early for him. And I already learned about the Infinite Strength Realm long ago."

Wu Jia looked at Su Yu and smiled, "Junior Brother, my teacher loves nagging. You will regret this."

Su Yu maintained a simple and honest smile on his face.

This senior sister felt quite friendly. But her face was still rather pale. Seeing that, he felt somewhat unhappy and said, "Martial Uncle, does Senior Sister need that long to recover from her injuries?"

Chen Yong looked at Wu Jia. She didn't seem to mind the question, but she was still angry with Huang Qifeng. With a snort, she said, "That bastard destroyed a few of my Divine Characters, injuring my sea of willpower. I also need to nurture my characters from scratch. That will take a lot of time."

Understanding dawned on Su Yu.

So her Divine Characters were destroyed.

"Senior Sister, so can you reform the destroyed characters?"

"Yeah." Wu Jia smiled and said, "Of course you can. It's basically the same as when you first formed it. The foundation of the characters are still there. You only need to waste your time and energy to grow them again."

"Can Divine Characters be destroyed even before willpower materialization?"

"Yes." Wu Jia said, "For example, when you send your characters into your cultural weapon, those characters are really inside even if they aren't visible. Destroying the weapon might result in the destruction of those characters. But as long as those characters aren't fully destroyed, you can reform them. You only need time."

She added, "Having one or two characters destroyed isn't that big of a deal. But if more of them are destroyed, your sea of willpower will be impacted and you will end up like me. This injury is quite troublesome to recover from. These days, Teacher has been busy helping me calm my chaotic sea of willpower."

Clearly, more than two of her Divine Characters had been destroyed.

When Chen Yong saw Su Yu's change of expression, he cleared his throat and said, "Your senior sister was too stubborn. She wouldn't have sustained such a heavy injury otherwise. In the ring, the fight will end the moment you surrender. And for these public matches, a referee will be provided. But she refused to surrender. This girl..."

Wu Jia protested, "Teacher! How can I surrender? The moment he entered the ring, he provoked me, saying that he would ensure that the Top 100 Ranking is completely devoid of the multiple character faction. He even said that an abolished faction like us are not qualified to get into the ranking. How can I tolerate that?"

"Why bother about what outsiders have to say?" Chen Yong said, "Cultivation is a personal journey..."

"Teacher!" Wu Jia was clearly unhappy with that. She grumbled to herself softly.

Chen Yong's face fell and he glared at her.

Su Yu could hear what she was grumbling about. She was saying something like: "I've yet to become a little turtle. Maybe I'll learn to be patient after finishing my cultivation into a little turtle..."

Su Yu wanted to laugh, but he forced himself to stay calm. He couldn't laugh!

Since Chen Yong walked the path of defense, Wu Jia probably walked the same path as well. Or perhaps she walked the balanced path. Su Yu had never asked about that.

From Wu Jia's words, it was also clear that she had yet to complete her character technique. Thus, even though Chen Yong was an old turtle, she wasn't even a little turtle yet. When Chen Yong saw Su Yu resisting the urge to laugh, he knew that Su Yu had heard Wu Jia's words. He was somewhat speechless.

"Cut the crap. Get over here. Class is starting."

Wu Jia walked over with a wide smile, unbothered by his words. It was obvious the relationship between the two was quite good. She wouldn't have dared to run her mouth off like that otherwise.

Su Yu and Wu Jia sat down side by side.

Chen Yong said, "Su Yu asked me what is the Infinite Strength Realm? How does one cultivate during the Infinite Strength Realm? How does it differ from the Great Strength Realm? Does he still need to open acupoints at the Infinite Strength Realm?"

"Teacher, has Martial Uncle not taught even these to Junior Brother?"

Wu Jia was astonished.

"..."

Su Yu maintained his polite smile while resisting the urge to laugh loudly. He really wanted to tell his teacher that someone was finally questioning his capability as a teacher.

Chen Yong also didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He said, "Your martial uncle has been quite busy with blood essence abilities recently. He has probably been too busy. Or he might have forgotten about his student. This is how he has always been. Stop interrupting the lesson!"

"Oh."

Wu Jia answered obediently. She then looked at Su Yu with sympathy. What a pitiful junior brother. Her martial uncle was a very unreliable teacher. How pitiful.

Chen Yong couldn't be bothered to keep talking about Bai Feng. he continued his lesson, "Generally, the Great Strength and Infinite Strength Realms are classified as a single greater realm where the physical body is strengthened. At the Great Strength Realm, you focus on opening acupoints. At the Infinite Strength Realm, you focus on fusing acupoints."

"Fusing acupoints?"

Chen Yong smiled, "Has Bai Feng told you before that the higher your cultivation, the lesser weak points you have?"

Su Yu nodded.

"That's why." Chen Yong said, "At the Infinite Strength Realm, you will be fusing all your opened acupoints until you only have nine acupoints left. As an example, you have opened 108 acupoints. At each stage, you have 12 acupoints. With 108 acupoints, you basically have weak points all over your body, right?"

Su Yu had a pensive look as he nodded, "You can say so. Acupoints are filled with source qi, but because of that, they are also excellent targets during combat. The moment an acupoint is broken, things can get very troublesome. The third move of the Skybreak Technique is meant to achieve this."

Chen Yong said, "Exactly. Thus, at the Infinite Strength Realm, we stop focusing on opening acupoints. Instead, we start fusing our acupoints. For example, in the Great Strength Realm, you have 12 acupoints per stage. And these 12 acupoints are connected to form a unique system within your body. At the Infinite Strength Realm, we will fuse these 12 acupoints into a single acupoint.

"At that time, a single acupoint will have the strength of 12 acupoints. The acupoint will be stronger, has thicker source qi, and easier to control. After the fusion, you will gain strength and reduce your weak points. That, in essence, is what it means to enter the Infinite Strength Realm."

Su Yu was quite surprised to learn all that. Acupoint fusion?

"Martial Uncle, do you mean that those cultivating low-tier yellow-grade cultivation methods with only nine acupoints would not need to fuse any acupoints to reach the ninth-stage Infinite Strength Realm?"

"In theory, yes. In reality, these people basically have no future. Thus, it is generally recommended that one should not cultivate anything lower than the middle-tier yellow-grade. Only then would one have the chance to enter the Infinite Strength Realm. After all, acupoint fusion is the trademark of the Infinite Strength Realm.

"With middle-tier yellow-grade cultivation methods, they can open 18 acupoints during the Great Strength Realm. They can enter the Infinite Strength Realm by fusing only two acupoints. Subsequently, they only need to keep fusing their acupoints. When they only have nine acupoints left, they will reach the peak of the Infinite Strength Realm."

Su Yu asked doubtfully, "Do you gain a lot of strength from fusing acupoints?"

"Yes. A lot." Chen Yong nodded, "After fusion, you can move your source qi faster. You will have less weak points. And each acupoint will have a lot more source qi than Great Strength acupoints. With more source qi, the acupoint will be able to release a lot more strength as well.

"For example, after fusing your 108 acupoints into 9 acupoints, your destructive prowess will be much higher than your current strength. In truth, the gap between different Infinite Strength cultivators can be very big. Terrifyingly big. Do you know why?"

Su Yu nodded, "Because of the difference in the number of acupoints opened during the Great Strength Realm..."

"That's not the only reason. Even those cultivating cultivation methods of the same tier might still have a big gap between each other."

Su Yu was curious. Why was that the case? If everyone was fusing the same number of acupoints, why would their strength differ so much?

Chen Yong continued his explanation, "The gap can be really terrifying. To put things in perspective, the strongest ninth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator is definitely strong enough to kill a Skysoar. Meanwhile, a weak ninth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator can be so weak that they are worth nothing. And cultivation methods or martial techniques are not the reason for such a big gap in power."

Beside Su Yu, Wu Jia was getting bored of the lecture so she said, "Junior Brother, it's simple. For example, you have 12 acupoints per stage. But you can enter the Infinite Strength Realm by only fusing 2 out of your 12 acupoints. But the truly strong Infinite Strength cultivators will choose to fuse all 12 of those acupoints. Wouldn't the difference between the two be big?"

Su Yu blanked out slightly. He looked at Chen Yong and said, "Martial Uncle, so you don't need to fuse all your acupoints?"

Chen Yong did not blame Wu Jia for her interruption. He nodded, "Yes. As long as you fuse your acupoints, you will be able to advance. Thus, some people might not be left with only nine acupoints after reaching the ninth-stage. They might leave some acupoints unfused."

"A good example would be Divine Characters. Divine Characters can be categorized into tiers. The same applies to acupoints. Generally, those advancing by fusing two acupoints are known as Two Strength Realm cultivators. Those fusing three are known as Three Strength Realm cultivators. Those fusing nine are known as Nine Strength Realm cultivators. Only those fusing ten and more acupoints are known as true Infinite Strength Realm cultivators.

"Of course, those aren't official terms. They are only used by some experts as a joke among themselves. Most people still know that realm as the Infinite Strength Realm. But the gap between a real Infinite Strength cultivator and a pseudo Infinite Strength cultivator is really big. A real Infinite Strength cultivator can probably defeat a Two Strength cultivator instantly.

"And only those cultivating cultivation methods at the low-tier earth-grade and above could become true Infinite Strength cultivators."

Chapter 268: Real Infinite Strength, Fake Infinite Strength (2)

Su Yu had a look of astonishment on his face. He had never expected that there would be so many things about the Infinite Strength Realm he didn't know about.

"Martial Uncle, so as long as one cultivates an earth-grade cultivation method, one would have the chance to become a true Infinite Strength cultivator?"

"Not really." Chen Yong explained, "Some people might not have the luxury of aiming that high. For example, you have 12 acupoints per stage. The more acupoints you fused, the harder it would be to fuse the subsequent acupoints. Some people might be stuck at 8 fused acupoints for a very long time. In their desperation, they might get impatient and choose to advance with only 8 fused acupoints."

Impatience...Su Yu thought about it and found that choice understandable. Fusing acupoints definitely didn't sound like a walk in the park. If one was stuck for years, one might really give up on fusing all their acupoints.

"In that case, can we keep opening acupoints at the Infinite Strength Realm?"

"Of course you can." Chen Yong smiled, "Your advancement won't affect the opening of new acupoints. Most of the time, people would only open additional acupoints for their martial techniques, not their cultivation method. You can choose to cultivate a new martial technique at any time, but keep in mind that acupoint fusion might be required for martial techniques as well."

Chen Yong solemnly said, "A true expert is able to cultivate a martial technique to the great success stage. Do you know what that means?"

Su Yu shook his head.

"One technique per acupoint. For example, you have a martial technique requiring 40 acupoints. If you fuse all 40 of the acupoints, then you will be able to reach the great success stage where you only need a single acupoint to activate that technique."

Su Yu asked doubtfully, "Martial Uncle, but my Skybreak Technique overlaps with the War God Art. How am I supposed to accomplish that?"

"Why not?" Chen Yong asked, "After fusing all your War God Art acupoints into a single acupoint, won't you be able to achieve the same with the Skybreak Technique?"

Su Yu was stunned. That seemed to be the case!

"But..."

"And that is a matter for those in the Skysoar Realm." Chen Yong interrupted him, "After fusing all your acupoints until you only have nine acupoints left, you will reach the ninth-stage Infinite Strength Realm. What about the Skysoar Realm? That is a realm where the nine remaining acupoints will be fused into one. Thus, it is very, very hard to advance into the Skysoar Realm. The stronger your acupoints are, the harder they will be to fuse since the repelling force between each acupoint will be stronger. Only by fusing all of them would you be able to step into the Skysoar Realm."

Chen Yong sighed, "A lot of people are willing to give up on some acupoints even if they have a good enough cultivation method just to enter the Skysoar Realm. For example, someone with 12 acupoints per stage might choose to fuse only 9 acupoints. That way, at the ninth-stage Infinite Strength Realm, he will have an easier time fusing acupoints to reach the Skysoar Realm."

Su Yu nodded incessantly. So that was the case! So the gap between different Infinite Strength cultivators could actually be so big. If he followed the classification of those experts, he would only be a true Infinite Strength cultivator after fusing ten or more acupoints.

His father, who cultivated the Great Strength Art, would only be able to fuse a maximum of four acupoints per stage, becoming a Four Strength Realm cultivator. He couldn't even be considered a proper Infinite Strength cultivator. How pitiful.

"Martial Uncle, is there a chance for Four Strength or Five Strength cultivators to enter the Skysoar Realm?"

"Yes." Chen Yong smiled, "Of course there is a chance. But they will definitely be weaker than others. But the chance isn't really that high. Very few of such people would actually be able to advance. For example, 99 percent of true Infinite Strength cultivators can advance, 90 percent of Nine Strength cultivators can advance, 80 percent of Eighth Strength cultivators can advance, and at the Two Strength, probably only around 10 to 20 percent of them can advance."

Su Yu felt enlightened.

Chen Yong said, "Of course, that only applies to warriors. For us cultural researchers, acupoints aren't really that important. Cultural researchers do not focus on physical cultivation. Generally, even those geniuses with earth-grade cultivation methods would choose to advance with only 10 fused acupoints.

"Our strength comes from our willpower and Divine Characters. If we have to split our attention too much, how are we supposed to grow strong? That is why the students of our cultural research academy would lose more when facing those from the war academies prior to the Skysoar Realm.

"The people of the war academies focus on their physical bodies. Their Infinite Strength students have all fused a large number of acupoints. Meanwhile, many cultural researchers would choose to advance with only two fused acupoints. How are we supposed to contend against them below the Skysoar Realm?"

Chen Yong shook his head. Their academy had plenty of Two Strength cultivators. Meanwhile, the war academy students would have no less than seven fused acupoints. There was simply no comparing the two.

"In that case, do we have a lot of true Infinite Strength cultivators in our academy?"

"Nope." Chen Yong shook his head, "There are very few of them. Even among those top 100 students, probably only half of them are true Infinite Strength cultivators. And that is a ranking of the strongest under 30 students in our academy. From that, you can see just how rare true Infinite Strength cultivators are in our academy.

"Meanwhile, the Infinite Strength Ranking of the war academy is filled with true Infinite Strength cultivators. Over the years, Principal Zheng had kicked those who are not true Infinite Strength cultivators out of the ranking. He had even set a new rule saying that those who are not true Infinite Strength cultivators are not allowed to climb the ranking. For a period of time after that, their top 100 wasn't full."

They would rather let the top 100 positions remain empty than to let those who weren't true Infinite Strength cultivators into the ranking. Why? Because their ranking was called the Infinite Strength Ranking.

For outsiders, those pseudo Infinite Strength cultivators were the same as any other Infinite Strength cultivator. But for the war academy, the Infinite Strength Ranking represented their prestige. Thus, they decided to kick out unqualified cultivators from their ranking.

Su Yu had heard about that incident. He recalled that his teacher seemed to be the reason why that happened.

After he challenged and defeated all the students in the Infinite Strength Ranking, Principal Zheng was furious and carried out a reform. One ought to admit that he was quite a decisive person.

Su Yu asked more questions and Chen Yong patiently answered all his doubts. This was the benefit of having a proper teacher. The students who could only attend the public classes would have nobody to ask when they have questions in cultivation. Those public class instructors were way too busy to guide all these students one by one.

This was especially true for topics concerning physical cultivation. They would only give a rough explanation to the students. In any case, this was the cultural research academy. They did not place much importance on physical cultivation here. Nobody cared if one was a One Strength or Two Strength cultivator. One wouldn't be looked down on because of that. Here, so long as one's Divine Characters and willpower were strong enough, one would be regarded as an expert.

The lesson lasted over two hours.

Su Yu had a lot of questions. And Chen Yong answered every single one of them. Normally, one would need to spend a lot of merit points to hire a Cloudbreach for a personal tutoring session like this.

Meanwhile, Wu Jia was on the verge of falling asleep. It wasn't that she was neglecting her cultivation, but she already knew all of that.

By the time Su Yu stopped asking, Wu Jia yawned and asked, "Curious boy, any other questions?"

"..."

Su Yu felt somewhat awkward. What was the meaning of that? Curious boy? He was only asking the things he didn't know.

Chen Yong berated her, "You are not taking your cultivation seriously at all! You should learn from your junior brother! As a cultivator, you should always seek more knowledge and be brave enough to ask and learn from others. Even those Invincible experts were humble enough to name their holy land the Knowledge Seeking Realm. The great dao is boundless. Only by constantly seeking knowledge would you be able to keep moving forward!"

Wu Jia said in an aggrieved tone, "But Teacher, I already knew all that. I have gone through the same lesson countless times before!"

Chen Yong said, "Even so, it never hurts to listen more. Your junior brother..."

He decided to stop talking. He didn't want to destroy her confidence. Su Yu had already reached the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm. He was asking all that to prepare for his future advancement into the Infinite Strength Realm.

And Su Yu would only need to listen to this lesson once. Why? Because he would probably reach the Infinite Strength Realm and advance past the point of needing this lesson. Thus, so long as this girl was still stuck below the Infinite Strength Realm, she better be obedient and listen to the lesson again and again.

Wu Jia was naturally unaware of Su Yu's cultivation level. After the lesson was over, she smiled and said, "Junior Brother, I heard you defeated Chen Qi not long ago?"

"I got lucky..."

"Well done!" Wu Jia said in excitement, "That faction is filled with scoundrels. They spend all their time bullying the multiple character faction. I was only able to get into the top 100 after working very hard yet they still decided to create trouble for me."

"They were able to do this to you because you are not strong enough," Chen Yong chided sternly.

Wu Jia felt wronged. She said, "Teacher, why do you keep scolding me today?"

Chen Yong looked awkward. Su Yu's growth had provoked him too much. The student of his junior brother was on the verge of reaching the infinite strength Realm. Meanwhile, his student...forget it. He told himself that he had to stay calm. He was a very calm person.

Wu Jia smiled again and said, "Junior Brother, my teacher keeps praising you, saying that you might be able to challenge the top 100 in three months. Is that true? In three months, the end of year will arrive. I should be fully healed up by then as well. Are you going to fight alongside your senior sister?"

Su Yu flashed his honest smile and said, "How can I compare with you, Senior Sister? I'll just try my best. Your willpower percentage is already near the peak. I am still far from that."

"True. Willpower is very hard to grow." Wu Jia solemnly said, "Junior Brother, I might be able to enter the Skysoar Realm in a year or two. Make sure to not fall too far behind me. Just wait until I complete my character technique and enter the Skysoar Realm. I'll teach all those scoundrels a lesson."

"Let me congratulate you in advance, Senior Sister..."

"It is too early for that!" Wu Jia laughed. "It won't be too late to congratulate me after two years. Junior Brother, by the time I reach the Skysoar Realm, you might already be at the top of the ranking. At that time, one of us will be a genius teaching assistant while the other will be a genius student. With both of us around, the multiple character faction might be able to recruit more students."

"Yeah. You're right, Senior Sister."

Su Yu nodded seriously. Meanwhile, Chen Yong was getting more and more speechless. He decided to leave the room and stop listening to them. He was only afraid that the roles his silly student had imagined would be reversed.

Su Yu would be the genius teaching assistant while she would be the genius student. Chen Yong was afraid that Wu Jia would be so embarrassed she wouldn't be able to show her face anymore when that happened.

...

Su Yu was in a great mood after the chat with Wu Jia.

This senior sister was quite a talkative person. And she was pretty good-natured. He had imagined that his senior sister would probably be proud and cold like Wu Lan, constantly looking at him with her head held high in arrogance.

But he was mistaken. This was a happy mistake as a senior sister like that would only give him more headache. After having lunch at Chen Yong's place, Su Yu took his leave.

When Wu Jia saw her teacher looking down at Su Yu from the window, she couldn't help but to say, "Teacher, why do I feel like you actually treat him better than me? Are you trying to replace your student?"

Chen Yong laughed before sighing. "Jia, moving forward, there will probably be less burden on your shoulders."

"What?"

"Nothing. Focus on your cultivation and recovery. Don't think about anything else. As for Huang Qifeng, someone else will deal with him for you."

"Huh?" Wu Jia looked out the window curiously and said, "Are you talking about Junior Brother Su Yu?"

Chen Yong merely smiled silently. This was probably a good thing. In the past, Wu Jia was the sole member of her generation in the multiple character faction. Because of that, she shouldered a heavy burden.

But Su Yu had appeared. And this new student was talented beyond expectation. With him around, Wu Jia would have an easier time in the academy.

"Ninth-stage Great Strength Realm..."

But it might be quite difficult for Su Yu to reach the Infinite Strength Realm. There were too much impure blood essence energies mixed in his acupoints. It would take him a long time to purify his acupoints. Chen Yong recalled that clearbright bird blood essence could help with that. He decided to see if he could collect a batch of that blood essence for Su Yu.

"But his main focus should still be willpower. His willpower growth is quite slow. Is it because of the Soul Expanding Art?"

Since Su Yu had not mentioned the Soul Expanding Art, Chen Yong decided to not ask about it.

But during Su Yu's fight with Zheng Yunhui, his willpower had displayed remarkable endurance. Chen Yong was really unsure if Su Yu had actually cultivated the Soul Expanding Art or not.

"I forgot to ask how many merit points he had spent for his cultivation...forget it. He probably has more than enough to spend. He probably won't need more than 5,000 merit points to enter the Infinite Strength Realm."

Su Yu had definitely spent a lot of merit points for his rapid growth, but Chen Yong believed that Su Yu wouldn't need more than 5,000 merit points to reach the next realm.

He couldn't help but to admire that kid's willingness to spend money for his cultivation.

Chapter 269: Delicious (1)

Back at the research center, Su Yu started preparing for the Divine Character tournament.

He had four Divine Characters. That wasn't a lot, but that was definitely not a low number in comparison with the other new students. There might be new students with more Divine Characters around, but he doubted any of them had more than five Divine Characters.

Fragment room.

"The kill and blood characters are all at the second tier."

Su Yu frowned. Second tier characters were very strong. At the very least, they were much stronger than first tier characters. But these characters required a lot more willpower and were also harder to control.

"I still lack something among my Divine Characters."

The blood character could create illusions and absorb blood. The kill character could produce killing intent. The lightning character could produce lightning. As for the battle character, it was still very weak in comparison with the other characters.

"Of the four characters, only the lightning character is a proper combat character."

The other characters were also combat characters, but none were actual offensive characters. Thus, his sole offensive character was the lightning character.

"It would be better if I can form another character with good offensive strength."

Su Yu sank into thought. He required more offensive power. He personally thought that the strength character would be nice. Or the explode character. Or the burst character. These characters had a high possibility of coming with powerful offensive abilities.

The kill character was generally pretty good for offensive purposes as well, but unfortunately, Su Yu's kill character only produced killing intent instead of proper offensive capabilities. He wondered if he had yet to discover the ability or the character simply did not come with such an ability.

After staying in the fragment room for a while, he went to the filter room. He sat down and opened a willpower text. That was one of the texts he had purchased from Xia Huyou. He had purchased 20 of them in total.

It was a Great Strength Art willpower text, a commonly seen technique on the market. This text was basically at the similar level as the Source Opening Codex Bai Feng had casually written for him back then. It had not been written with blood essence, so it couldn't be stored for long.

Willpower texts written with only willpower and regular paper would not last too long. Perhaps a dozen reading sessions would be enough to fully drain the willpower of one such text, turning it into an ordinary book.

Su Yu started studying the text. As a Mental Tempering Stage cultivator, reading such a text did not pose him much challenge.

He took his time studying and sensing the willpower in the text. This time, no new Divine Character was formed. He wondered if it was because he still didn't understand the text enough or the text was simply too weak. It was probably the former since he had been able to form a blood character from the similarly weak text written by Bai Feng back then.

He was in no rush. He took his time and studied patiently. If he still couldn't form a character after about a dozen times, he would switch to a different book. He had plenty of willpower text in his possession right now so he wasn't too worried.

While Su Yu was silently cultivating and studying.

Mental Tempering Garden, special zone.

In a small villa.

A few youngsters were gathered. Chen Qi was among them. In the living room, Chen Qi sat at the edge of the group. There were six people in the room.

There were a total of fourteen students in the third generation of the main line of students under Zhou Mingren. Six of them had reached the Skysoar Realm. Of the eight who had yet to reach the Skysoar Realm, six of them were present in this room.

Chen Qi sat alone at the corner with his head lowered. Two of them were beyond 30 years old. Of the four students under 30, Chen Qi was the only one not in the top 100.

After a short chat, one of them looked at Chen Qi arrogantly and said, "Junior Brother Chen, has Martial Uncle Hu told you when he would leave seclusion?"

"No."

Chen Qi gave a short reply and said nothing else.

The proud youth frowned slightly before saying, "By the way, my teacher will not be around for a while. I heard they are all busy with some research. Before leaving, he told me to keep an eye on Wu Jia and Su Yu from the multiple character faction. Wu Jia is already ruined. As for Su Yu, you fought him before. Do you have any thoughts about him?"

"I fought and lost."

Chen Qi gave another short reply.

The arrogant youth grew even more unhappy. He said, "Junior Brother Chen, everyone is aware of that. We also know about the trick you pulled on Lin Yao too. There is no need to mention all that. I am only asking about Su Yu's strength."

"His strength is ok."

"..."

The youth furiously said, "Don't you know how to elaborate?"

He was very unhappy with Chen Qi's attitude. He had not called Chen Qi over to listen to those useless replies.

The youth coldly said, "Before he left, my teacher told me to watch out for Su Yu. He said that Su Yu had secretly reached the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm and formed a second tier Divine Character. He might challenge the Top 100 Ranking at any time."

The others were shocked to hear that. Even Chen Qi was shocked. Fifth-stage Great Strength Realm already? And a second tier Divine Character?

Su Yu was truly a freak.

"Junior Brother Huang, is that true?" asked a young lady.

The youth nodded, "Yes. I wouldn't have bothered asking about someone who isn't even in the top 100 otherwise. That fellow is not weak. My teacher said that it is only a matter of time before he enters the top 100. It will probably happen in a month or two."

"When facing the multiple character faction, we need to finish them off with a single strike. Since Elder Hong is not around, this is the perfect opportunity to suppress them. Let their inheritance end at Bai Feng's generation."

The youth spoke with confidence.

The others did not say anything. This youth was Huang Qifeng, the last student of Elder Zheng Yuming. Although some of them were stronger than him, he was the person with the highest status present.

Zheng Yuming had accepted six students in total. Four of them had reached the Skysoar Realm. One had failed to reach the Skysoar Realm and was given up after reaching an old age.

Thus, among the students of their faction that were below the Skysoar Realm, Huang Qifeng wasn't the strongest yet he enjoyed the highest status. Among the people present, Chen Qi was the only person not from Zhou Pingsheng's line in the faction.

Huang Qifeng looked at Chen Qi again and said, "When you fought Su Yu previously, did you notice him hiding his strength?"

"No idea."

Chen Qi's reply was as short as ever.

Huang Qifeng was getting more and more unhappy. He coldly said, "I need to determine if he has reached the fifth stage before the fight with you or after. I need to know if he has been feigning weakness to fool everyone. Do you understand?"

Chen Qi said, "I'm weaker than him. I was defeated in only one move. How am I supposed to judge whether he had hidden his strength?"

Huang Qifeng was not pleased with that attitude. This fellow was acting like he was already a Skysoar.

The young lady said with loathing, "Junior Brother Chen, not only have you been defeated, but you are also completely clueless about your opponent?"

Chen Qi raised his head and looked at her. After a while, he said, "I was defeated. What am I supposed to find out? After consuming blood essence, Su Yu has the strength of an Infinite Strength cultivator. Isn't that obvious? What else is there to know? He isn't even in the top 100 yet so it's pointless for you to ask so much about him. It's not like you can challenge him now."

Huang Qifeng said, "Why not? It would naturally be fine if he challenges us."

Chen Qi frowned, "Senior Brother Huang, after you seriously injured Wu Jia, Head Manager Chen and Assistant Bai are already quite unhappy with you. If anything happens to Su Yu as well..."

Huang Qifeng impatiently said, "I don't need your advice. Also, are we supposed to be afraid of them?"

Chen Qi said nothing else.

Huang Qifeng gave it some thought and said, "Let Xia Chan test his strength. Or we can think of a way to force him to challenge us before challenging the top 100. We need to cripple him and stop his growth. The multiple character faction is already on the verge of ruin. Why are they still accepting students how? Are they trying to reclaim their past glory?"

Huang Qifeng said with disdain, "Their faction is only good for wasting resources. People claim that they are strong, but if you ask me, they are nothing special. Bai Feng has exhausted far more resources than Xia Yuwen. But is he Xia Yuwen's match? Their so-called character technique looks fancy but are actually impractical to cultivate. What's the point of forming so many useless characters?"

"Simplifying the great dao and focusing on a single path. That should be the future of all cultivators. How many Mountainsea experts did we have when the multiple character faction ran the academy? How many Cloudbreach experts did we have? But today, we have dozens of Mountainsea experts. Why is that? Because we have distributed the resources occupied by the multiple character faction to more people. That was how we came to possess so many Mountainsea experts in our ranks. The multiple character faction alone had hindered the development of the entire academy and humanity."

Huang Qifeng expounded his theory confidently. In fact, he was not the only person with this opinion. The entire single character faction shared this opinion. Sure, the academy was strong previously. But it was even stronger now. They had a lot more Mountainsea experts now than in the past.

In their opinion, the appearance of all these experts were due to a wider distribution of resources that used to be monopolized by the multiple character faction. If the multiple character faction returned to power and monopolized those resources again, how were the others supposed to grow?

Thus, they would not allow the multiple character faction to keep accepting new students. Otherwise, what were they supposed to do if their resources were hogged by the new students of the multiple character faction?

The multiple character faction was simply too expensive to raise. Whether it was blood essence, willpower text, myriad race willpower text, or cultural weapon, the multiple character faction required more than their peers.

Chen Qi curled his lips with disdain. When Huang Qifeng saw that, he coldly said, "Do you disagree, Junior Brother Chen?"

Chen Qi replied, "Of course not. The multiple character faction deserves destruction. They used to be strong, but that's history. If all they can do is live in the shadow of their past glory, who deserves to be destroyed more than them?"

He gave a perfunctory reply, but his heart was still filled with disdain. Huang Qifeng sounded so righteous. But he was mostly quoting the words of those above them.

In fact, Huang Qifeng was still not at the level where he needed to consider all that. He was only trying to suppress Su Yu and Wu Jia to please his superiors. Thus, Chen Qi was disgusted to see Huang Qifeng act in such a self-righteous manner.

What was the point of pretending when there were no outsiders here? They knew each other very well, so Chen Qi was able to easily see through Huang Qifeng.

Huang Qifeng snorted and said with disdain, "Exactly. Even for those in the same cultivation level, the people from their faction are still not my match. But you, on the other hand...hmph. What an embarrassment."

Chen Qi clenched his fists with fury. After that one defeat, these people had been piling insult after insult on him. They were only relying on their age to stand above him. What was the big deal about them?

Huang Qifeng had joined the academy five years ago yet he was still stuck at this level. He was simply not qualified to act so arrogant. Even Wu Jia had only been in the academy for two years.

Huang Qifeng had been in the academy for three more years than Wu Jia. He was also a student of a Mountainsea. Yet he was still stuck below the top 50. Was he not embarrassed of calling others garbage? Five years for that result? He was the actual garbage.

Naturally, Chen Qi did not voice his thoughts.

Huang Qifeng was getting more and more annoyed with Chen Qi. He kept having a feeling that Chen Qi was looking at him with the eyes of someone who did not wish him well. He sneered and decided to ignore Chen Qi.

After a short chat with the others, he said, "Chen Qi, since you know Su Yu, you'll be in charge of keeping an eye on him. Also, Wu Jia is already out of the top 100. I can no longer create trouble for her. You are the only person here who can do something to her. This task is now yours."

Chen Qi frowned, "I have no issue keeping an eye on Su Yu. But Wu Jia is already injured. She spends all her time in the books depository. How am I supposed to create trouble for her?"

Huang Qifeng said, "So what if you do it in front of Chen Yong? Would Chen Yong dare to lay his hands on you? Is he trying to get kicked out of the academy?"

"..."

Chen Qi was getting upset. He asked, "What if he decides to make a move and disregard all consequences?"

He understood Huang Qifeng's meaning. It would be even better for Chen Yong to make a move. Then they would have the excuse to kick Chen Yong out. But was he supposed to be the sacrifice for that?

Did Huang Qifeng think that he was an idiot? Provoking an injured student of a Cloudbreach in front of the Cloudbreach himself? Did Huang Qifeng think that Chen Yong was dead? Huang Qifeng was too vicious. He was clearly telling Chen Qi to sacrifice himself.

Huang Qifeng calmly said, "He wouldn't dare. If he does anything, it's over for the multiple character faction."

"I refuse." Chen Qi stood up and said, "Do it yourself if you want to. Huang Qifeng, don't push it too far. It's fine to just reduce my resources. But you want me to sacrifice myself as well? Dream on."

Chen Qi snorted coldly and scanned the ground before sneering, "Huang Qifeng is a vicious bastard. He isn't even trying to hide the fact that he's sending someone from his own faction to death. Even when I schemed against Lin Yao, I put some effort into hiding it. If I am a shameless villain, then he's a hypocrite. No, he's worse than a hypocrite. What a disgusting person."

He then left.

Chapter 270: Delicious (2)

Huang Qifeng looked at Chen Qi coldly and said, "Chen Qi, your teacher is in seclusion. I am only asking you to perform a small task yet you keep giving us so many excuses. In that case, you can forget about getting any resources before your teacher leaves seclusion. You won't be getting a single merit point."

Chen Qi ignored the threat and clenched his teeth with a cold look in his eyes. He was no pushover either. Huang Qifeng had relied on his status and strength to constantly humiliate Chen Qi. Sure, Chen Qi couldn't do anything now, but he wouldn't forget this.

Just wait, Huang Qifeng!

At times, those so-called allies could be even more ruthless than one's actual enemies. Of the third generation students in their faction, fourteen were from the faculty head's line. And out of them, eight were below the Skysoar Realm.

Three of them were over 30 years old. These students were basically on the verge of being given up by the faction. Meanwhile, the other four were trying to kick him out. They were naturally more than happy to hog all the resources for themselves.

His senior brother was also one of the four. But that senior brother wasn't present. He didn't know that senior brother's thoughts, but he didn't have much hope that his senior brother would stand by his side.

After leaving the special zone, Chen Qi turned around to look behind him. He sneered coldly. His teacher was stupid enough to allow these people to humiliate him. It was only a matter of time before his teacher was reduced to Liu Hong's status.

They were all fellow students of Faculty Head Zhou. Zheng Yuming was the faction master and an elder. Zhou Pingsheng was the deputy head manager of the books depository. Meanwhile, his teacher, Hu Wensheng, was nothing. And he didn't even enjoy a high status in the faction.

Things weren't this bad when he could suppress Bai Feng. But now, apart from breaking through into the Cloudbreach Realm, he had no other option. People like Huang Qifeng could stay in the special zone. Meanwhile, Chen Qi could only stay in the high-level zone.

It wasn't that he couldn't afford better accommodation, but his teacher had warned him to not stay near Huang Qifeng and the others. He had been told to stay patient.

"Teacher, you are too weak."

Chen Qi sighed. These fellows were the type of people that would take a mile after being given an inch. Huang Qifeng wouldn't have been so arrogant otherwise.

After going further away from the special zone, he called a number.

After a short wait, he said, "I am Chen Qi."

On the other side of the call, Su Yu was stunned.

"Huang Qifeng is starting to target you. He is not only a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator. He is a second-stage Infinite Strength cultivator. His willpower has reached 96 percent and he has three Divine Characters. One of them is the fight character of the devil race and the other is the sturdy character of the dragon race. As for his third character, I don't know too much about it. I doubt too many people know about it either. But I do know that it is related to sealing. That is a very powerful character."

Su Yu sank into silence.

Chen Qi did not mind the silence. He continued, "Huang Qifeng is aiming to suppress both you and Wu Jia to the lowest point before Elder Hong returns. He hopes to make sure that neither of you can enter the top 100 or even switch factions. It might be even better if he can force both of you to withdraw from the academy, becoming his stepping stone.

"Of the six students under Elder Zheng, he is the weakest. He has been in the academy for five years yet he is still stuck below the Skysoar Realm. Thus, he is getting anxious and needs more support. His best choice is to suppress you guys and sow despair among your faction.

"He has his eyes on you. He has also found out that you're a fifth-stage Great Strength cultivator with a second tier character. All your trump cards have been exposed. The day you challenge the top 100 would also be the day he makes a move on you. Perhaps he would even get some people to challenge you before that."

After a short silence, Su Yu said, "How many acupoints did he fuse for his advancement?"

"Nine." Chen Qi coldly said, "Don't take that fellow lightly. Very few cultural researchers would advance with nine fused acupoints. And his main strength does not come from his physical body. Rather, it's his fight character. That character grants him an impressive combat strength. I'm afraid his real strength is comparable to that of a fourth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator. A true Infinite Strength cultivator, not one of those pseudo Infinite Strength cultivators."

Su Yu asked another question, "Is he rich?"

"..."

Chen Qi was speechless. He said, "Yes. But don't even dream of winning his money. Su Yu, I know you are confident. But you're not his match."

Su Yu smiled, "I know. Thanks for the reminder. I'm not planning to fight him anyway. I'm still not strong enough. It's never a bad idea to stay patient when needed. So I honestly don't need this reminder."

Su Yu curiously asked, "When he defeated my senior sister, was he really unable to hold back?"

"..."

Chen Qi said, "Of course not. Do you even need to ask that? He is far stronger than Wu Jia. How can Wu Jia even force him to lose control of his strength?"

"I understand." Su Yu smiled, "Thank you. I know you're not doing this out of kindness, but it honestly doesn't matter. By the way, are there any single character faction members among the new students? I'm referring to those in the main line of the faction."

"Xia Chan..."

"I know about her. Is there nobody else?"

"There is one other person." Chen Qi answered after thinking for a bit, "Zheng Hong. The freak from your class. He is Elder Zheng's grandson. But he has been maintaining a low profile. You are not his target. He only has the likes of Xia Chan and Wan Mingze in his eyes. But that might have changed. Just watch out."

Zheng Hong!

Su Yu was quite surprised. Out of the six freaks in their class, that fellow maintained the lowest profile.

Su Yu knew a little about people like Xia Chan, Zheng Yunhui, Zhao Shiji, Wan Mingze, and Hu Qiusheng. But he had almost forgotten that Zheng Hong existed. Even the information gathered by Xia Huyou for him did not include Zheng Hong's information.

He frowned and asked, "Zheng Hong is Elder Zheng's grandson?"

"Yeah." Chen Qi said, "Not many people know about that. I only know because Huang Qifeng accidentally leaked the information one time. He is the last student of Elder Zheng so he knows Elder Zheng very well. He said that Zheng Hong has not been learning under Elder Zheng. Instead, he has been learning under Elder Sun."

Understanding dawned on Su Yu. There were multiple Mountainsea experts in the single character faction. One of them was surnamed Sun and one was surnamed Zhao. The one surnamed Zhao was Liu Hong's teacher. So that was the case!

Su Yu hadn't been paying any attention to Elder Sun's students. His attention had always been on Zhou Mingren's line.

"Got it. Thanks."

After thanking Chen Qi for the information, Su Yu ended the call.

Within the research center.

Su Yu laughed before sighing, "What a mess."

The single character faction's internal situation was truly messy. Zhou Mingren, Elder Sun, Elder Zhao...all these people did not seem to be united at all. Just look at Liu Hong. He had basically been reduced into an outlier of the faction. That was actually quite obvious.

Additionally, Chen Qi had previously schemed against Lin Yao. And now, Huang Qifeng seemed to be targeting Chen Qi. This call wouldn't have happened otherwise. Su Yu was starting to suspect that the moment the multiple character faction ceased existing, the single character faction would probably disintegrate from within.

"Teacher and Martial Uncle seem to have a good relationship. I even start to wonder if this so-called internal conflict is an act."

Su Yu started guessing. Perhaps the higher ups of the single character faction were intentionally not suppressing Bai Feng and Chen Yong. After all, according to Bai Feng and Chen Yong, the multiple character faction was in a terrible position. In that case, why did it feel like Bai Feng's life was actually pretty good?

Was it possible that the single character faction was letting them exist as an external enemy to preserve the peace within the single character faction?

"Grandteacher might just be a live target for them."

The impression Su Yu had of Hong Tan was that of someone who couldn't care less about external affairs and was only focused on research. As far as Su Yu was concerned, such a person was too easy to be schemed against. Thus, how would Hong Tan still exist in the academy even after so many years of rivalry with the single character faction?

Had the single character faction been deliberately holding back or was that grandteacher of his simply too strong?

"I'll wait a while longer."

Su Yu forced himself to stay patient. After purifying his source qi, cultivating the heaven-grade martial technique, and forming more Divine Characters, Su Yu would be able to start making his move against that Huang Qifeng.

He could only wish that Huang Qifeng was rich as well. But then again, the single character faction had never disappointed him in terms of being rich.

Since he couldn't be bothered to perform those miscellaneous missions and was restricted from entering the Allheaven Battlefield, he had no source of income. Thus, the single character faction would serve as an excellent cash cow.

This was still not the time for him to accept the bigger missions. And since the multiple character faction was too poor, he could only rely on milking the single character faction as a source of income.

"Zheng Hong, Liu He, and there's Yang Sha as well..."

Yang Sha was Liu Hong's first student. He would deal with them one at a time.

Su Yu was in no rush. When milking them, he had to milk them one by one, from weak to strong. He couldn't miss out on any one of them or it would be a loss. As for Liu Hong's status as a spy...well, that did not matter when merit points were involved.

Even if he really was a spy, they were supposed to be enemies to the public, right? They had to keep on the act, right? Thus, wouldn't Su Yu be doing Liu Hong a favor by taking money from his students?

Su Yu totally had a clear conscience. He was doing all this to help Liu Hong hide his true identity. Teacher Liu should be grateful. He was such a kind and good student.

Even while thinking about all that, Su Yu did not forget to keep studying his willpower texts. Suddenly, his expression changed. Was he going to form a new character?

"What is this? Have I misunderstood something? This character...definitely doesn't suit me!"

Deceit. Yes. That was his new character. Su Yu frowned, displeased. What was the meaning of this? He had merely schemed a little bit against others. Why was this character appearing before him? Would he care about a single character? He still lacked 94 characters! Why would he care about a single character?

He rolled his eyes and convinced himself, "This deceit definitely doesn't mean treachery. It probably means disguise. Yes. It is probably a concealment-related character. That's right! That must be the case!"

Su Yu started comforting himself. He definitely wouldn't admit to being a deceitful and treacherous person.

He, Su Yu, was an honorable man with a genial smile on his face. He was as warm as the gentle sunlight, a simple and honest man who was almost perfect. He had never told a lie in his whole life. This character had most definitely appeared after he comprehended the true meaning of concealment.

Next, his other Divine Characters woke up in his head. The moment the kill character released its killing intent, the new character turned dim. It was very weak. Then, the blood character circled the deceit character before returning to the character technique frame, seemingly bored with this newcomer.

The lightning character seemed really eager for a fight, but the deceit character was simply paralyzed with fear. Bored, the lightning character returned in disappointment.

Su Yu was very speechless. Was this new character so weak? Why did he feel like this character was completely incapable of fighting? It was even weaker than the battle character. The person who had written this text was probably even weaker and less reliable than his teacher.

The deceit character did not receive any beating whatsoever. It only received several kicks from the battle character before it obediently jumped into the character technique frame.

And at that moment, some new information appeared in Su Yu's mind. He was receiving the information regarding the ability of that new character.

"Huh?"

He blanked out. What was this? This character's ability seemed really useless. But at the same time, it also seemed quite useful for him?

"Creating a barrier of concealment..."

Su Yu's willpower pulsed as his vision darkened. He had used a barrier on his own eyes. But he also knew that this ability was still too weak to be of any use. But...it seemed to be capable of concealing other things.

Next, a few of his opened acupoints that were originally shining brightly were covered by one dark barrier after another. Instantly, those bright acupoints turned dim.

Su Yu muttered, "Why is hiding my acupoints my first thought?"

Why? He definitely wasn't planning to pretend to be a pig before eating more tigers. But the instant he obtained that ability, this was indeed his first thought. After all, the ability was still too weak to be used against his enemies. He was better off using his illusions. But it seemed perfect to hide his cultivation.

Su Yu exhaled and told himself that this was a useless character. What was the point of hiding his acupoints? He was an honest and forthright man. Why would he be scared of others finding out about his real strength? What a joke.

While he was telling himself all that, his willpower erupted as he started covering his remaining acupoints with his new ability. The 108 bright dots in his body started dimming one after another.

12 acupoints, 24 acupoints, 36 acupoints...He only stopped when there were only 70 acupoints left. He checked and confirmed that the willpower drain from maintaining these barriers was negligible. He could keep them active for a long period of time.

"I'm a fifth-stage Great Strength cultivator on the verge of reaching the sixth stage. Unless an expert is deliberately intruding into my body, they won't be able to see through my barriers. But doing that is basically the same as declaring war."

Even when people like Old Huang pried on him, they only performed a surface willpower scan. Breaking through his barriers could be considered an active attack. And an expert attacking a student was against the academy rules. One would be punished severely for that.

Su Yu smiled happily. He supposed this was still an acceptable ability. But he had studied three willpower texts before forming this character. Whatever. Something was better than nothing. No matter what, he was still someone with five characters now. That was actually quite impressive.

"Deceit...I suppose it would be able to hide from even Skysoar cultivators at the second tier."

Su Yu muttered, thinking that it would be even better if this character could reach the second tier.