

Myriad 271

Chapter 271: Fanning The Flame (1)

Regardless of Su Yu's thoughts, the deceit character was actually quite useful for him currently. He did not wish to expose his cultivation level so early. It would be much more reasonable for him to wait a little bit longer before revealing his actual cultivation level.

As for the two old men guarding the grotto, he wasn't too worried about them. Those two weren't from the single character faction. Even when he had broken through into the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm previously, those two had not leaked anything.

25th of September.

Su Yu received 100 drops of clearbright bird blood essence for a price of 800 merit points. He also received 10 drops of Great Strength soul devouring bug blood essence for 30 merit points.

As for the mountainbreak bull blood essence, he still needed to wait two more days. According to Xia Huyou, the blood essence was still being moved. As the stock in Great Xia itself was lacking due to the high volume of recent transactions, he had to transfer some stock from the Allheaven Battlefield.

Su Yu was completely speechless.

What an amazing businessman. Xia Huyou could even transfer his products straight from the Allheaven Battlefield. What else could Su Yu say? He could only wait. Perhaps this time, he would receive freshly harvested blood essence. He couldn't help but to mourn for the mountainbreak bulls that would suffer due to his purchase.

After spending 830 merit points, he had 10,870 merit points left.

Once again, Su Yu took leave from his classes. Since entering the senior class, he had been applying for leave very frequently.

As for his responsibilities as a class monitor, there really wasn't much for him to do. The senior class was much smaller than the intermediate class. Furthermore, its students were frequently absent. Thus, he couldn't care less if Liu Hong wanted to use that as an excuse to create trouble for him.

As for the negative comments Liu Hong might leave in his evaluation, Su Yu had come to understand one thing.

His main focus should be his own strength. Without enough strength, it didn't matter even if he had an excellent evaluation. With enough strength, all obstacles could be overcome.

Research center.

After consuming a drop of clearbright bird blood essence, one of the pages in his book changed.

Clearbright bird (Second-stage Infinite Strength Realm)

Racial ability: Dazzle (activation with blood essence)

Foundation source art: Pure Source Art (activation with blood essence)

After updating the level of the page, he swallowed another drop of blood essence to activate the source art.

Numerous temporary acupoints opened.

Different from other source arts he had activated before, the moment he activated the Pure Source Art, the surrounding source qi started entering his body and the source qi within his acupoints started weakening.

The newly absorbed source qi had not been absorbed by his acupoints. Rather, the new source qi was constantly cleansing his acupoints. The impurities in his existing source qi were slowly being removed. His acupoints slowly turned brighter as they were being cleansed.

"Indeed!"

Su Yu was overjoyed. It was actually working!

Although he had already guessed that the Pure Source Art could really cleanse his source qi, he still couldn't help but to be joyful when his guess was proved right. The purer his source qi was, the easier it would be to control, the stronger it would be, and the faster its circulation would be.

Su Yu also knew that the purer his source qi was, the easier acupoint fusion would be. Meanwhile, impure source qi would only cause his acupoints to repel each other.

"Clearbright bird..."

Su Yu was greatly pleased. Sure enough, there did not exist a completely worthless race and source art out there. It merely depended on how he used them. The Pure Source Art might be worthless in combat, but it was an absolute treasure in terms of purifying source qi.

He consumed one drop of blood essence after another to cleanse his source qi. He was also very interested in the clearbright bird's racial ability. Dazzle? Was that an ability that could create light?

He had some knowledge about the clearbright birds, but he knew nothing about their racial abilities. And the books he had read had not mentioned their racial abilities before.

"Or is it a healing ability?"

Su Yu was greatly looking for it. He wondered if it was a healing ability. He couldn't help but to think about Zheng Yunhui. That fellow had relied on a healing Divine Character to constantly recover during combat.

Su Yu wasted no time and used a drop of blood essence to activate the ability.

A short while later, a disappointed look covered his face.

It wasn't a healing ability.

Instead, it was an ability that could help one maintain one's consciousness. After using the ability for a bit, he guessed that it was an ability that could help him maintain his clarity of mind.

It was an ability with a niche usage.

Of course, it was also quite useful. For example, when he was badly injured to the point his consciousness was fading, he could use this ability. Although it couldn't heal him, it could help him maintain a sharp mind.

"What if I use it against illusions?"

Su Yu muttered to himself. Would this ability help him break through illusions? Unfortunately, his own illusion did not work on himself. Otherwise, he could give it a try immediately. He returned to the Pure Source Art and started cleansing his source qi again.

Bit by bit, the impure source qi was expelled from his body. After the cleansing, his acupoints looked even brighter than before. He could also feel that his source qi felt much smoother to control after the cleansing.

Previously, his source qi would feel somewhat clogged during circulation after opening too many acupoints in such a short period of time. But that feeling had vanished completely. Slowly, even his body started shining, giving him a pure and holy look.

If he stepped out of the research center right now, he would probably look like a saint. At that time, who would believe that he was a bad person? Well, it wasn't like he was one to begin with.

One day. Two days.

Since he was cultivating outside the grotto, his blood essence consumption was much lower. He spent two days using nothing but clearbright bird blood essence to cleanse his acupoints.

On the third day, on the night of the 27th, he finally used up all his clearbright bird blood essence. And almost all his opened acupoints had been cleansed.

The moment he completed the cleansing process, his body shook. A bright light erupted from his body. He looked incomparably dazzling. 118 blinding dots of light could be seen all over his body.

108 of them were the War God Art acupoints, 1 was the Lightning Source Blade acupoint, and 9 were his Source Opening acupoints. All 118 of them were shining brightly. It was as though a saint had descended from the heavens.

As Su Yu's body shook, the dust and other impurities of his body were shaken off. Not a speck of dust was left on his unsullied body. His eyes were incomparably bright. He grinned, revealing his spotlessly white teeth. His smile looked even friendlier than before.

"This is too conspicuous."

Su Yu smiled helplessly. If he walked out like this, he would basically be akin to a walking target. He had not imagined that this would be the effect of purifying his body too much. He even had a feeling that his body was going to turn translucent soon.

"Fortunately, I have a new Divine Character!"

At that moment, he felt incomparably thankful for having the deceit character. At that thought, one acupoint after another turned dim. When his body was no longer shining like a sun, he finally exhaled in relief. Finally, he was able to hide the peculiarities of his body.

"This is much better. I only need to keep these barriers active to prevent myself from shining too brightly. But I wonder how long will my body stay this bright?"

He found this to be rather troublesome. He was able to hide his acupoints well, but the moment he needed to use those acupoints, those barriers would definitely fall apart. Was he supposed to turn into a shining man every time he fought?

"It's 27th today..."

He muttered to himself. When was the last time he fed those creatures? Was it the 22nd?

"So it has only been five days?"

Su Yu mumbled. This time, he had not forgotten those creatures. He had simply not been bothered to feed them. In any case, they had survived more than 10 days of starvation. Thus, they wouldn't die so easily.

Since Bai Feng seemed so unbothered, Su Yu became bolder and bolder in his treatment of those creatures. He decided to let them suffer for a bit.

Just look at how obedient that suanni was after suffering from a bout of starvation. He had obtained a heaven-grade martial technique just like that. Perhaps he could obtain even more treasures after this. Those fellows would not be obedient if he didn't show them true suffering.

If it wasn't for the fact that he wasn't their match, he was confident he could get even more good stuff from them by beating them up three times per day.

He went downstairs. And behold, Bai Feng, who was incredibly hard to see, was actually around. He was eating in the living area.

"Teacher!"

Su Yu called out joyfully. It had been a while since he last saw his teacher. He was even starting to miss this teacher of his.

While eating instant noodles, Bai Feng looked up at Su Yu. He blinked and stroked his stubble before muttering, "Weird. Why do you look different from before?"

Elegance in simplicity.

That was the term that had emerged in Bai Feng's head the moment he laid his eyes on Su Yu. In the past, this kid would look somewhat fickle and impatient. But now, the air around the kid had changed into one that was simple yet elegant.

And that was most certainly not the Su Yu that he knew. When Su Yu flashed his smile, Bai Feng blanked out. He couldn't help but to think that this kid was truly good-looking when smiling.

Bai Feng started wondering if he had been staying indoors for too long to the point even men were starting to look attractive to him. What in the world? Should he go out and fool around with some ladies for a bit?

"Teacher!" Su Yu said, "I'm still the same. But I have been reading a lot recently. As the saying goes, a well read person is naturally graceful. Perhaps that's the case with me."

"Heh. Kid, are you getting cocky after I give you a little praise?" Bai Feng laughed. "A well read person is naturally graceful? Just how many books have you read? Are you trying to say that you have read more books than even those researchers in the academy? Stop pretending in front of me."

After saying that, Bai Feng's body shook as his white robe started fluttering and his stubble was instantly shaved clean. He stood up, flicked his sleeves, and calmly said, "That is a more fitting descriptor for me. As for you, you're still a little boy."

"..."

Su Yu was completely speechless. Why was his teacher competing against him for something like this?

"Teacher...uhm...I think it's better if you clean some of the noodles sticking out of your mouth..."

Bai Feng was speechless. His previous elegance instantly evaporated.

He sat down and returned to his food. He started complaining, "If you know your teacher has yet to eat, you should remember to put more delicious food in the fridge. Why is it that apart from instant noodles, there is no other food in the kitchen? You should show more concern to your teacher."

Su Yu sat down opposite his teacher and said, "Teacher, why don't you get me a martial mother and let her cook for us?"

"..."

Bai Feng shot his student a glare.

This kid was getting bolder and bolder nowadays.

But he suddenly laughed and said, "I said the same thing to your grandteacher back then. What a pity. He didn't take my suggestion. Otherwise, there would be someone here to look after us. Kid, why don't you get yourself a wife?"

"I can't. Teacher Liu said that all women are obstacles in cultivation." Su Yu was completely serious as he said, "Teacher Liu is single. Grandteacher is single. You are single. Even Martial Uncle is single. Thus, I believe that the multiple character faction is probably a faction for singles. If we stop being single, our cultivation might be adversely affected. Otherwise, why would everyone in our faction be single?"

"..."

Bai Feng was completely speechless. Holy shit. The kid made a lot of sense! Why had he never thought of that? Why was...everyone in their faction single?

While eating, Bai Feng started reflecting on life itself. After a while, he said, "I think I understand the reason for the multiple character faction's decline! There are too many single bastards away! We don't have any offspring! Just look at the single character faction. From grandpa to son to grandson. They only

need a single bastard to give birth to a bunch of bastards. If they can give birth to 100 kids, they only need 1 of those kids to emerge as an expert. They don't even need to recruit their students externally."

The more Bai Feng spoke, the more convinced he was of that theory. No wonder their faction would decline.

There were too many single people in their faction. Otherwise, if they had a bunch of offspring, they only need one of them to emerge as a super expert to solve a lot of their issues. Su Yu gave it some thought and found that his teacher actually made some sense.

"Teacher, why don't you find me a martial mother?"

"Scram!" Bai Feng rolled his eyes, "Nobody in this academy is worthy of me."

"How about Wu Lan's elder sister?"

"Pfft." Bai Feng sneered, "That's a crazy woman. Your teacher has no interest in her."

He changed the topic, "Cut the crap. How has your cultivation been recently?"

"I'm doing ok."

"Have you formed any new characters?"

"Yes. I formed one new character."

"Really?"

Bai Feng exclaimed in shock. The kid had actually formed another character?

"Is it the strong character of the devil scorpion race?"

"No. Myriad race characters are too hard to form. It's a human character. A battle character."

Su Yu had yet to tell anyone about his battle character. Of course, he had used it before and Chen Yong was aware of it. But he remembered that Bai Feng was still unaware of that character's existence. And it wasn't like Bai Feng had asked him about it before.

Even Su Yu himself couldn't remember if he had mentioned that character to Bai Feng before. But reality proved that he had not.

Chapter 272: Fanning The Flame (2)

Bai Feng had a look of astonishment as he said, "Battle character? Not bad. Just from its name alone, it is obviously a combat-type character. Very good. You actually managed to form another character. So it's a human character?"

"Yeah."

"Looks like you are really very compatible with human characters. Which willpower text did you use to get this character?"

"The Great Strength version of the War God Art you wrote for me."

"..."

Bai Feng was completely speechless.

The kid had actually formed another character from his text? How come he had never formed a character from his own text? Was it possible that he had some sort of talent in providing willpower texts to others?

"In that case, you now have four Divine Characters. And one of them is even a second tier character..."

Su Yu bashfully said, "Teacher, I have two second tier characters. Have you forgotten?"

"Huh?" Bai Feng blanked out as he looked at Su Yu in confusion. Really?

Two?

"I thought your sole second tier character is the kill character."

"There's also the blood character."

"..."

Bai Feng started wondering if he was turning senile.

Had the kid told him before? How come he couldn't remember it? He only remembered asking the kid if the new second tier character was the kill character. And the kid said yes. And gave no further elaboration. He dug his mind for memories of Su Yu telling him about the advancement of the blood character.

"Oh...right. I forgot. That bastard Liu Hong told me about it..."

Bai Feng finally remembered.

This kid had really advanced two of his characters into the next tier. He had been too busy talking about the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem previously and had completely forgotten about that issue.

Bai Feng coughed awkwardly when he realized that he seemed to have neglected this kid. But the thing was, this kid changed way too fast. He felt like each time he came out from seclusion, he would find that

the kid had undergone a massive change. He was simply unable to keep up with the kid's rate of advancement.

"Four Divine Characters, with two second tier characters..."

Bai Feng muttered before asking, "How many acupoints have you opened?"

"I opened a few more..."

"Oh."

Bai Feng was relieved to hear that. He didn't ask too much. He remembered that he had only entered seclusion for a few days. He started his seclusion on the 22nd. It had been less than a week.

No matter how fast Su Yu's growth was, he couldn't have reached the sixth-stage Great Strength Realm during that time, right?

Seeing that his teacher wasn't asking more questions, Su Yu decided to not elaborate. His acupoints were too bright today. He decided to wait a little bit longer. Otherwise, it would be hard to explain his shiny acupoints to his teacher.

"By the way, cough, cough. I heard from your martial uncle that you used the Soul Expanding Art during your fight with Zheng Yunhui. What's up with that?"

"What? I didn't." Su Yu shook his head, "I don't even know that technique. And Teacher Zhao had not taught me anything like that. But when I asked for Teacher Zhao's help with my cultural weapon previously, he did hammer my head a few times. After that, I found that my willpower has grown stronger while the percentage has dropped. Teacher, didn't you notice that?"

Bai Feng cursed inwardly.

He wasn't a god. How was he supposed to see through the kid's sea of willpower? Sure, he could sense that Su Yu's willpower percentage had dropped slightly. But it wasn't a massive drop. And the previous time he saw Su Yu, the kid was injured. He had thought that the drop was due to the kid's injuries. Thus, he hadn't spared much thought into it.

"So he hammered your head a few times and your willpower grew thick?"

Bai Feng was stupefied. What al technique was that? Was that how the Soul Expanding Art worked? Should he look for Geezer Zhao and get the geezer to hammer his head a few times as well?

His willpower was not weak, but when he used his Dragon Slaying Sword, two or three attacks were enough to empty his willpower. And if he was attacking with all his strength, he could fully drain his willpower with only one move. Thus, he couldn't help but wonder if he should get himself hammered as well.

While hesitating, he looked at Su Yu helplessly and decided to forget about it. He said, "The Divine Character tournament is starting in a few days. Make sure to win and get the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem back. It doesn't matter if we lose the other stuff. In fact, this Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem is also not too important. But our enemies are openly using it to humiliate us. If you can't win it back, then we would lose a lot of face."

Su Yu nodded solemnly.

"I will! Don't worry, Teacher!"

Of course he must win. That was a heaven-grade martial technique! Furthermore, that was something left behind by an Invincible expert. Such an expert was also known as an Eternal expert. What was the meaning of eternity? Just the mere thought of it caused Su Yu's blood to boil with excitement.

Seeing that the kid's fighting spirit was high, Bai Feng said nothing else.

He was in a good mood so he smiled and said, "I'll be too busy to teach you anything for now. Just cultivate normally. My research is going to be completed soon. Kid, I think I have discovered the existence of racial ability character."

Bai Feng said in excitement, "Don't be in a rush to confirm your main Divine Character. Wait until I discover the racial ability character and figure out how to activate it. You can then use it as your main character. That character will definitely be far stronger than any of your existing characters..."

"But Teacher, that would be a human character."

"It's fine." Bai Feng said, "Other human characters might be weak, but the racial ability character would definitely be strong. Naturally, you still need to wait. My research is currently stuck somewhere. I'll probably need the help of your grandteacher to complete it. If we're successful, hahaha, our multiple character faction would instantly rise to prominence!"

That was the racial ability character, after all. Ignoring every other benefit something like that could offer, just making that the trademark of their faction would be enough to attract countless new recruits into their faction.

Of course, they still needed to see how the racial ability character actually worked before deciding what to do with it. Su Yu nodded. He was also getting excited listening to Bai Feng's words. Racial ability character! What was the human race's racial ability? Discovering something like this would be a very big deal.

Bai Feng smiled and continued wolfing down his food. Su Yu couldn't help but to admit that at the very least, Bai Feng was a dedicated researcher. Would he be as patient as Bai Feng in terms of research?

After the meal, Bai Feng burped and laughed, "I'll be going back downstairs. Don't forget to feed those fellows. Also, remember to let me know the next time you form a new character."

He found that he was already immune to the surprises coming from Su Yu. Just look at how calm he was after hearing about the kid's new character and two second tier characters. It was as though he had gotten used to all those surprises from Su Yu. In fact, he was somewhat not used to not being stunned by his own student.

"Well, this is good. It's better than being shocked every single time I see him."

Bai Feng was very satisfied with his own performance. Even if he learned that the kid had reached the seventh-stage Great Strength Realm and formed another Divine Character the next time he left seclusion, he would still be able to stay calm. While praising himself inwardly, Bai Feng wasted no time and returned to his laboratory.

Su Yu could only shake his head. His teacher had turned into a full time shut-in. Fortunately for Bai Feng, he had a reliable student as Su Yu. Otherwise, it was only a matter of time before he starved to death.

28th of September. Su Yu finally started attending classes again.

The existence of his concealment barriers had solved a lot of problems for him. As the monthly examination was near, the atmosphere in the class was slowly turning nervous. For the senior class, their monthly examinations could change every month.

In fact, the previous monthly examination was quite easy since that was still their first month in the academy. But moving forward, the monthly examinations would no longer be as easy.

29th of September.

It had been a while since Su Yu last met Liu Hong. Today, he saw Liu Hong again.

The moment Liu Hong entered the classroom, he said, "I have a few things to announce. Firstly, the Divine Character tournament will be held tomorrow. Secondly, the monthly exam will start tomorrow. Thirdly, the Top 100 Ranking will be refreshed on the 3rd of every month. After the 3rd of next month, you guys are free to challenge the ranking."

Liu Hong's gaze swept through people like Su Yu and Zheng Yunhui before stopping at Jia Mingzhen and company. He smiled and said, "If you are confident, feel free to challenge the ranking. The monthly exam will be held in the afternoon. The tournament will be held in the morning. That way, you will be able to join the tournament in your best condition.

"The senior class of all faculties will participate in this tournament. Naturally, only the new students can join. Like I said, you can get the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem for placing first. As for the second place, you can get a soul stabilizing pill. With this pill, you can stabilize your willpower during

cultivation, increasing the endurance of your sea of willpower. For the third place, you can get a talisman with the offensive strength of an early Infinite Strength cultivator."

The rewards for the top three placings were quite attractive. But strictly speaking, the reward for the first place was actually not as useful as the rewards for the second and third places. But since it was an item left behind by an eighth-stage Mountainsea expert, everyone was still somewhat interested in it.

A lot of the students had also learned about the story behind the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem so they all looked at Su Yu upon hearing about the reward.

Su Yu did not hold back and directly said, "That is something left behind by my grandteacher. It was stolen when nobody noticed. Tomorrow, I must get the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem back. I am a mere untalented student, but I will do my best tomorrow. Fellow students, you are free to compete against me, but I won't be holding back."

Everyone sank into silence.

Su Yu had always been pretty easygoing and friendly in the class. Thus, it was obvious he was going to get serious this time.

Someone smiled and said, "Actually, I'm quite interested in that reward as well."

When Su Yu looked at the speaker, his eyes turned cold.

Jia Mingzhen said, "But forget it. I can't be bothered to compete for something like that. It's useless. I won't be participating in this boring tournament."

Su Yu frowned. What was the meaning of that? Jia Mingzhen smiled and returned to his food, ignoring Su Yu. What else could that mean? He couldn't participate!

The tournament used a small grotto that could only withstand the Divine Characters of those in the Mental Tempering Stage. If he participated, he would probably destroy the grotto.

That grotto was not formed of an Eternal Divine Character. It was only left behind by a peak Mountainsea. It wasn't strong enough. He himself was a Mountainsea. The moment he sent his willpower in, the grotto might burst apart.

Otherwise, he would be more than glad to join the tournament and cause some trouble for Su Yu. He had been waiting to mess with Su Yu for a bit.

Liu Hong glanced at Jia Mingzhen. This fellow wasn't participating? He had thought that this fellow would not miss the tournament. Interesting. Was he trying to hide his strength or was there a different reason for that?

As for Su Yu, there was no need to further provoke that kid. The kid was probably motivated enough. A good show would unfold tomorrow. But the kid's willpower wasn't too strong compared to the other senior class students. He might not be able to win.

At that thought, Liu Hong decided to fan the flames a little. He smiled and said, "By the way, a certain researcher really likes the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem as well. That person is very regretful to hear that it is being used as a reward. I heard that the researcher is offering 300 merit points to buy it. That is a decent amount of money. Work hard, students. If you can find a good buyer, you might even be able to sell it for 500 merit points."

The expressions of many students changed the moment they heard those words.

500 merit points!

Even for those from wealthy families, 500 merit points were a lot of money. That was enough for them to buy dozens of drops of Infinite Strength blood essence. And they could buy multiple myriad race Infinite Strength willpower texts with it.

They could even hire a few Skysoars to write several willpower texts live in front of them with that much money. Apart from the really big families, the smaller rich families would probably have trouble taking out so much money at once.

Su Yu's expression also changed. He looked at Liu Hong and cursed inwardly.

Undercover?

Screw you! Even if you're undercover, I'll still take my revenge on you!

500 merit points were not too important for him this time. The heaven-grade martial technique was the only thing that mattered to him.

You're dead. Your first student, Yang Sha, will be the next person to suffer!

Su Yu cursed incessantly. Originally, very few people cared about the reward. Some even preferred the second and third place rewards over the first place reward. But with 500 merit points, they could even buy the second or third place rewards if they wanted.

Chapter 273: Terrifying Life Form (1)

Su Yu was furious with Liu Hong for inciting the other students to fight over the reward, but there was nothing he could do about it. In truth, he wasn't sure if he could really place first in the tournament.

The main reason for that was his weak willpower. Even now, his willpower had only reached 55 percent. Meanwhile, people like Zheng Yunhui had willpower at around 85 percent.

Previously, Su Yu had obtained 10 drops of soul devouring bug blood essence from Xia Huyou. He had thought that the Soul Devouring Art could help grow his willpower, but after testing it out, he found that he had been mistaken.

That was no willpower cultivation method. It was used to corrode and devour willpower.

"The Soul Devouring Art is definitely not suitable for a spar. It can only be used on enemies..."

That was something that could truly damage one's willpower. It would be too cruel to use something like that for a spar. But against enemies, that would be quite a useful method.

An entire day of classes passed while Su Yu was deep in his thoughts. Wu Lan, who had been ignoring him for a few days, walked past him after class with her head held high again. Prior to this, she had been avoiding Su Yu every time she saw him.

Su Yu was confused initially, but when she walked past him with her pulsing willpower, Su Yu understood why. She was here to show off her willpower.

Her willpower percentage was higher than Su Yu's. After all, she had already entered the Mental Tempering Stage before the entrance examination. Right now, her willpower was around 70 percent full.

"Is there a need to show off her willpower in front of me?"

Su Yu was speechless. This idiot could be really childish at times. Also, he had finally understood why she had been running away from him recently. She must have failed to reach the third-stage Great Strength Realm so she was ashamed to face him. Today, she was here to prove that she was absolutely not worthless with her willpower.

Su Yu merely smiled as he looked at Wu Lan who had turned around to walk by him again and asked, "Wu Lan, what is your current willpower percentage?"

Wu Lan was overjoyed! Finally, he asked the question!

"I have just reached 70 percent." Wu Lan feigned indifference and said, "My growth has been too slow. I'm aiming to reach 80 percent by next month."

Su Yu smiled and raised his thumbs while exclaiming in admiration, "Incredible. I am only at 55 percent. Wu Lan, you're actually so far ahead of me!"

Wu Lan greatly enjoyed the praise.

She was wild with joy. Finally, she had surpassed this fellow in one aspect.

She continued feigning indifference, but her voice was trembling from excitement as she said, "It's ok, I suppose. You're pretty good yourself. But you need to be careful during the tournament and the monthly exam tomorrow if you end up encountering me."

Su Yu nodded with the same polite smile on his face.

Wu Lan had her head raised high. She was in such a good mood that she no longer cared about her physical cultivation. She asked, "It has been a while since you reached the third-stage Great Strength Realm. How many acupoints have you opened since then?"

Su Yu made a short calculation. He had opened around 72 new acupoints. Some other students were still in the class so they also started paying attention. How many acupoints had Su Yu opened? Had he reached the fourth stage?

People like Zheng Yunhui knew that Su Yu had already reached the fifth-stage Great Strength Realm. But that was nine days ago. They reckoned that Su Yu was probably near the sixth stage by now.

After thinking for a bit, Su Yu made a gesture that said six with his hands. He had opened too many acupoints for his fingers to gesture. But the six he gestured meant that he had advanced by six stages.

He was definitely not lying. He was an honest man. He never lied.

"Six..." Wu Lan muttered. That was ok.

In fact, it had been around a month. Opening six acupoints in a month could actually be considered fast as well. But that was a figure that allowed Wu Lan to smile. She was actually quite pleased to hear that. It meant that she still had a chance to catch up with him.

She said, "Very good. Keep working hard, Su Yu. Otherwise, I would probably catch up to you soon. After reaching the second-stage Great Strength Realm, my cultivation speed has increased greatly. I have already opened three new acupoints since my breakthrough."

Su Yu had only opened 42 acupoints while she had opened 27 acupoints. The gap between them was not big at all!

Su Yu merely smiled. He definitely hadn't said anything like six acupoints. That was her own assumption. It had nothing to do with him.

Meanwhile, Zheng Yunhui rolled his eyes. Was Su Yu referring to the new acupoints he had opened after his fight with Zheng Yunhui?

After all, Zheng Yunhui remembered that Su Yu had opened 66 acupoints during their fight. In that case, had Su Yu reached the sixth stage? That fellow's growth was truly fast.

Zheng Yunhui was not the only person with that conclusion. Xia Huyou and a few others thought the same. Su Yu had probably reached the sixth stage. That fellow was really quite talented in physical cultivation. Not much time had passed yet he had already reached the sixth-stage Great Strength Realm.

Wu Lan, who felt like she had finally surpassed Su Yu again, was feeling very good. She smugly said, "Su Yu, tomorrow, I will take the first place of the tournament tomorrow. If you want that book, you can consider begging me. I'll probably give it to you for free."

Su Yu was a cocky person! In that case, would he beg her after she took first place?

Su Yu opened his mouth speechlessly. After a while, he dryly said, "Sure. I'll congratulate you in advance for placing first, then."

Just what was this fellow thinking in that brain of hers? If she could place first, Su Yu swore he would rename himself Yu Su from now on.

Did she not know herself at all? Yes. His teacher was right. Women were not rational enough. Was it not good to be more rational?

The other students also smiled silently. None said anything. They couldn't say anything anyway. They would only invite Wu Lan's fury. In any case, it was none of their business what Wu Lan thought.

Outside the classroom.

Xia Huyou rushed over and softly asked, "Are you confident you can get the book back?"

"No." Su Yu shook his head, "If I really have no choice, I will have to buy it back with money. It's something my grandteacher likes. I can't allow it to remain outside our faction. It's only money. But I'm worried those people would ask for a crazy price if I'm personally buying. If I really fail to get it, I'll be relying on you to buy it back for me."

He had thought about it. Even if he lost, he would try to buy the book. But he was also afraid that others would take the chance to ask for a high price. Everyone knew that the book was something from their faction. It was only natural that they would raise the price since he would be more desperate to get it back.

Su Yu softly said, "If I really failed to get first place, we can try to bid against each other. You understand my meaning."

Xia Huyou smiled and nodded.

It was simple.

Su Yu would first offer a low price. The other party would refuse. He could then offer a reasonable price for the item.

Su Yu nodded and said nothing else. He still needed to make some other preparations.

"Many people know that I'm close with Xia Huyou so he's not a suitable buyer either. If I really lose, I can look for Lin Yao."

Su Yu's gaze landed on the distant Lin Yao. Yes. That would be the perfect person to help him.

Everyone knew that they were enemies. Lin Yao was also a student of Liu Hong and a member of the single character faction. If he was the one buying, the single character faction wouldn't make things difficult for him. After all, the book was only a drained willpower text.

"I'm truly a genius!"

Su Yu praised himself. But soon after, he started feeling helpless. His willpower was still too weak. He wouldn't have resorted to all these tricks otherwise.

At that thought, he looked at Xia Huyou and asked, "Huyou, there are so many races in existence. Do you know a lot of races?"

"Of course." Xia Huyou smiled, "I am a businessman. It is very important for a businessman to be knowledgeable. Do you need to find out about something? If it isn't a big secret, I can let you know for free! I may be a businessman, but I am also a loyal friend!"

Su Yu smiled, "It's nothing important. I only want to know if there are any races that are natural cultural researchers that can cultivate their willpower from a young age. Us humans can only cultivate the Myriad Text Sutra at the Skysoar Realm."

"Oh, yes, there are races like that." Xia Huyou said, "Most people don't know this because races like this are very rare. For example, the first divine race. Their babies are born as Skysoars. But I suppose knowing that is pointless since they cultivate similarly to us. They merely have a higher starting point than us."

Su Yu frowned and nodded.

"Apart from the divine race, there are also such sub-races in the devil race. The immortal race also has a lot of cultural researchers. But most of them are those with high starting points.

"You're probably looking for races that can cultivate their willpower at the Great Strength and Infinite Strength Realms, right? You are probably aiming for their cultivation methods, right? A lot of people have thought of the same before. Unfortunately, even with their cultivation methods in hand, those

methods are unsuitable for humans. Otherwise, we would have modified those methods for human usage long ago."

Su Yu nodded, "Yeah, but I am thinking of trying to use their blood essence to boost my willpower."

Xia Huyou's eyes lit up, "Oh, that is a good idea. Their blood essence is actually helpful for the willpower, but the boost is honestly very small. I know of a race that can actively cultivate their willpower before the Mental Tempering Stage."

"What race is that?"

"The five elemental race." Xia Huyou explained, "The five elementals are natural cultural researchers. Metal, wood, water, fire, and earth are all elements under their control. Wind escape, fire attack, water flooding, earth concealment, all these are actually Divine Character abilities.

"The five elemental race is a small race. And they don't start out strong. But they are quite fast when it comes to cultivating. And I am referring to the initial stages of cultivation when I say that. Their speed is all thanks to a suitable cultivation method. But that cultivation method is not suitable for humans. The body structure of humans and elementals are too different for the cultivation method to be of use to us."

"Five elemental race!"

Su Yu muttered to himself. So was the water guy in the research center a cultural researcher as well? He was completely unaware of that. In that case, were the water guy, shadow, and white civet all cultural researchers?

"Is the blood essence of the five elemental race suitable for willpower strengthening?"

"It's slightly useful." Xia Huyou then shook his head, "But it's not worth using. They are too rare. And the weaker members of their race are even rarer. And each drop of blood essence can only give you a negligible boost."

"Thus, you can't do anything with only a few drops of blood essence. But it is also too hard to gather more of their blood essence." Su Yu wasn't too worried.

He only needed enough blood essence to activate the corresponding page in his book before activating the foundation source art in the page. He could then find out the corresponding human acupoints of the technique through the temporary acupoints his book opened. He would only need to use some other blood essence to help open those new acupoints.

Yes. His solution was to directly use the cultivation method of that race. His book would convert it into a cultivation method that was completely compatible with the human body. For example, the Body Strengthening Art Su Yu had been using wasn't something he couldn't cultivate himself. He simply didn't have the time to open the required acupoints.

If the supply of mountainbreak bull blood essence started dropping in the future, he could totally open the required acupoints and cultivate it manually instead of relying on his book and blood essence.

"The five elemental race is even rarer than the divine race. Even if I can find some, it won't be cheap." Xia Huyou grimly said, "Su Yu, it's really not that useful. Of course, it doesn't matter if you only want some for your research. How about this? There are five sub-races among the five elemental race. I'll get a drop of blood essence from each of them."

"I want Infinite Strength blood essence." Su Yu said, "Can you get Infinite Strength blood essence?"

"I'll try. I can't promise which stage they would be at, and the price will be very expensive. After all, this race is too rare. Even if I sell the blood essence to you at cost, it would not be cheaper than 50 merit points per drop."

Su Yu nodded. He wasn't too bothered. He only needed a drop to activate the page in his book.

No, that wasn't right. He still needed another drop to activate the cultivation method as well. He wouldn't be able to figure out the corresponding human acupoints required by the method otherwise.

He said, "Get me two drops of each race's blood essence. I will accept your price of 500 merit points. Try to get the blood essence for me as soon as possible."

"Deal!" Xia Huyou smiled, "By the way, the mountainbreak bull blood essence has arrived. All of them are at the middle-stage Infinite Strength Realm. Do you want late-stage blood essence as well? If you want, I have some as well. I only have 200 drops of middle-stage blood essence."

"200 drops for 3,000 merit points?"

Su Yu could feel a headache coming. He was spending money like water! But he had no choice but to spend his money. Sure, he could choose to not spend his money and slowly cultivate.

But he was someone who had enjoyed the rapid cultivation brought about by his money. He wouldn't be able to get used to a slower rate of growth. He still had 10,870 merit points on him.

"I'll get all 200 drops of the middle-stage blood essence. How many drops of late-stage blood essence do you have? And how much are you selling them for?"

"20 points per drop. It's cheap, right?" Xia Huyou said, "We are brothers so I'm selling at cost. This is basically the same as the price you get on the Allheaven Battlefield itself. I'm not even charging you for the delivery."

"Thank you!"

Although Su Yu maintained his view that this fellow was definitely an unscrupulous businessman, this fellow had always been very generous when doing business with him.

"So how many drops of late-stage blood essence do you have?"

"100 drops. The rest have already been ordered by some other people."

"Fine. I'll get all 300 drops of the blood essence you can get me. 5,000 merit points for all of them?"

"Yeap."

Chapter 274: Terrifying Life Form (2)

Su Yu sighed.

5,000 merit points. He felt like that price was going to kill him. He should probably be strong enough to barely withstand the might of late-stage Infinite Strength blood essence now, right? The little bit of power that would leak out of the blood essence before his book consumed it would probably be within his limit.

Xia Huyou said, "Also, I have also gathered 20 willpower texts for you. They are worth 2,200 merit points. Do you still want them?"

"..."

Su Yu gritted his teeth and nodded, "Yes!"

"Then you will need to pay me 7,200 merit points." Xia Huyou was in a great mood, "As for the samples of different blood essence you told me to gather, I have gathered 400 different types of blood essence recently. All of them are at the Infinite Strength Realm. Only a few are in the Infinite Strength Realm. I can sell them to you for cheap. You only need to pay me 1,000 merit points. Are you interested?"

"Yes!"

Su Yu's heart was breaking.

8,200 merit points! That was so painful.

Xia Huyou softly said, "Come on. Let's get your product. Su Yu, you must have nearly finished all the money you have, right? Looks like you have earned a lot from that job." Su Yu couldn't even be bothered to give a reply. He was too busy sulking over all the money he was going to spend.

After deducting the 8,200 merit points he was spending this time, he would have 2,670 merit points left.

And he had to keep that to buy the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem in case he lost the tournament. He also needed to leave some to buy the five elemental blood essence. As for the water race fellow in the prison zone, that fellow was a Cloudbreach cultivator. Even if he gave Su Yu his blood, Su Yu wouldn't be able to use it.

Just like that, the 20,000 merit points he had recently earned were finished. Of course, he had not spent them for nothing. For example, the 40 willpower texts he had bought were definitely valuable items.

If Su Yu was an unambitious person, he could probably start planning his advancement into the Infinite Strength Realm already.

After collecting his purchase from Xia Huyou, Su Yu carefully returned to the research center. Along the way, he acted like he was a thief who was returning after a big haul. He only exhaled in relief after he was back in the research center.

He still needed to be careful since he was buying from the black market within academy grounds. Although things seemed to be peaceful recently, he still needed to be careful lest he lost everything.

300 drops of mountainbreak bull blood essence, with 200 drops of middle-stage Infinite Strength blood essence and 100 drops of late-stage Infinite Strength blood essence. Additionally, he had also obtained 20 willpower texts and 400 types of different blood essence.

He was in no rush to use these blood essence samples for now. He didn't want to mess up his recently purified source qi yet.

"I should have bought some clearbright bird blood essence as well. Otherwise, the next time I consumed so many different types of blood essence, my source qi would be filled with impurities again. The next time I enter the grotto, I need to remember to bring some clearbright bird blood essence with me. That would save a lot of my time."

Su Yu was not planning to use these blood essence samples for now. He was keeping them for his next visit to the Source Qi Secret Grotto. He would also wait until he got the heaven-grade martial technique so he could cultivate the technique in the grotto as well.

Thus, during his next visit, he would either open the heaven-grade martial technique's acupoints or the acupoints of the five elemental race's cultivation method. But since he didn't even have any five elemental race blood essence yet, there was no rush.

He only had 2,670 merit points left. The more he thought about it, the gloomier he felt. In the blink of an eye, he had used over 10,000 merit points. He was only a Great Strength cultivator but his expenses were akin to that of a Mountainsea expert.

Of course, the money spent had indeed brought him bountiful rewards. He had been able to grow at an incredible speed. He had spent only a single month to go from ninth-stage Source Opening Realm to the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm. That was an unimaginable speed.

"I have basically spent a billion dollars for this advancement speed."

Su Yu sighed.

He couldn't help but to wonder if he was a spendthrift.

Was this even worth it?

If he only cultivated his physical body and neglected his willpower, his cultivation would probably be a lot cheaper. Alas, he was cultivating both paths. And he wanted to advance rapidly in both paths as well. Thus, he had no choice but to spend his money.

That night, he maintained his usual intense training regime. But he also went to bed earlier since he needed enough rest for the tournament the next day. As for the monthly examination, it was no longer as important for him. He only needed to avoid getting the bottom 10 position.

30th of September.

The weather was excellent, with the sun shining brightly in the sky.

Su Yu walked out of the research center. The tournament was not going to be held in the Education District. Rather, it was going to be held in the Grotto District. That was because the miniature grotto used for the tournament was housed there.

Apart from those small buildings, the Grotto District also had some larger buildings. In truth, the smaller the building, the more powerful the housed grotto would be. That was because a stronger grotto would blend better with space itself, taking less space in the physical world.

Meanwhile, the weaker grottos would waste a lot more space in the physical world.

Secret Character Hall.

This was the venue of the tournament. Today, apart from the teachers of the Character Faculty, the teachers of the other faculties had arrived as well. The students had yet to arrive, but the instructors and researchers were arriving one after another.

Character Faculty, Pillmaking Faculty, Weaponsmithing Faculty, Beast Taming Faculty...

The people from all the faculties were present.

The other faculties had far fewer students than the Character Faculty. In fact, the Character Faculty alone had as many students as all the other faculties added together. Some faculties would have less than 10 students in their senior class. Even so, the researchers of all these faculties had still arrived to enjoy the festivities.

At this time, a researcher from the Willpower Faculty teased, "Liu Hong, where are the Cloudbreach cultivators of your Character Faculty? They're having you host this tournament? Did they all leave for some treasure hunting?"

Liu Hong smiled, "It's not like this is a major tournament. It's merely a game between the new students. There is no need to place too much importance in it."

"Is that so?" The other person grinned, "I heard that Elder Hong's grandstudent is participating in this tournament as well. And you guys are deliberately using the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem as the reward for this tournament. Are you not bored of playing all these cheap tricks?"

Liu Hong smiled, "It's merely a normal reward. It's not that deep. That is a willpower text left behind by a Mountainsea. Even if its willpower has been drained, it is still a treasure. Can you deny that?"

The other person wanted to continue making fun of Liu Hong, but at that moment, a certain individual stepped through the door.

When Liu Hong saw the newcomer, he was astonished. Why was she here? Liu Hong was not the only one who was shocked. A few of the Cloudbreach cultivators who had been standing around silently were also astonished.

A middle-aged woman from the Pillmaking Faculty exclaimed, "Junior Sister Wu, why are you here?"

Wu Qi nodded with an indifferent expression and said, "My little sister is participating. I'm here to take a look."

She then looked at Liu Hong and said, "You're hosting this tournament?"

Liu Hong coughed and nodded.

"The full researcher promotion evaluation is starting soon. Don't waste all your time on useless matters like this."

Wu Qi said, "I thought you said that you're going to suppress Bai Feng's student so much he can't grow? But I'm hearing that he actually placed first during the monthly exam. You're basically wasting your time for nothing."

Liu Hong was speechless. Was it proper to say all that in such a public setting?

Wu Qi did not seem to care about Liu Hong and the others. After saying what she wanted to say, she sat down. When she saw Liu Hong looking at her, she asked, "Why are you looking at me? Is Bai Feng making a move against you?"

The two had reached an agreement that if Bai Feng looked for Liu Hong, Wu Qi would be in charge of stopping Bai Feng. Everything else was unrelated to her.

She was allowed to spend some time studying one of Liu Hong's Divine Characters. And the price for that was her help if Bai Feng made a move against Liu Hong.

"Not yet..."

Liu Hong answered helplessly. Why did this sound like a conversation between a subordinate and a superior? With him being the subordinate? This woman was getting more and more domineering.

Meanwhile, the others decided to ignore what the two were talking about. One of them smiled and said, "Wu Qi, I heard Xia Yuwen has broken through into the Cloudbreach Realm. He will be returning from the Allheaven Battlefield soon. Are you going to break through soon as well?"

Wu Qi nonchalantly replied, "I still need some time. Maybe around half a year. I'll be visiting the Allheaven Battlefield soon as well."

She then asked, "Why are there no myriad race students here in this tournament? I'm actually quite interested in what they can do."

Liu Hong said, "Their strength is uneven. Some are already near the Skysoar Realm."

"Near the Skysoar Realm but still below the Skysoar Realm, right?"

Wu Qi did not accept that reason. But she stopped talking and shut her eyes to wait while resting. Liu Hong was feeling rather uncomfortable around her.

Outside.

Su Yu and the other senior class students arrived one after another.

Su Yu was about to step inside the building when someone suddenly called out behind him, "Su Yu!"

He turned around and asked in astonishment, "Liu Ke, you're here as well?"

This was the timid and petite girl who he met when he first arrived at the academy. Was she joining the tournament as well?

Liu Ke said, "Yeah. The Pillmaking Faculty is taking part in the tournament. Since we don't have a lot of students, I have no choice but to participate."

She looked at Su Yu curiously and said, "Su Yu, I heard about your victory over Chen Qi. You seem to be very incredible nowadays?"

"I'm not that good." Su Yu smiled, "That's only a spar. I had also relied on some external strength so it didn't really count."

"Just reaching the Great Strength Realm is already an impressive achievement. I'm still stuck at the eighth-stage Source Opening Realm."

Liu Ke was at the sixth stage when she first joined the academy. She had advanced by two stages in two months. That was actually a decent speed, but it was incredibly slow when compared with someone like Su Yu.

While they were talking, Wu Lan walked over and looked at Su Yu smugly, "Su Yu, if we encounter each other in the tournament, I will defeat you!"

She then swaggered off.

Liu Ke looked at Wu Lan doubtfully and asked Su Yu, "Did...she not notice me?"

Wu Lan had acted like she was not there at all. Was Wu Lan's eyesight bad? If Liu Ke hadn't stepped aside, Wu Lan would have stepped on her foot.

Su Yu shrugged, "Don't be sad. Anyone below the high-high evaluation is basically air in front of her. You don't exist. She treats everyone in our class the same as well. You're not the only one who has received this treatment."

Liu Ke was left speechless. She had not expected such a person to exist. That was...truly amusing.

Su Yu also didn't know whether to laugh or cry. In fact, Wu Lan was already being nice to Liu Ke. At the very least, she wasn't facing Liu Ke with her nostrils. Wait...Liu Ke is pretty short. So...she was probably being faced with Wu Lan's nostrils anyway.

At that thought, Su Yu softly whispered, "In our class, she has a nickname. Nostril Woman. You can call her that behind her."

Liu Ke instantly stepped away from Su Yu. She looked at him cautiously. That was so mean. How could they give such a nickname to a girl?

This Su Yu was indeed not a good person. With that thought, Liu Ke stomped off, leaving a confused Su Yu behind. What happened? It wasn't like he was the one who had come up with that nickname. The nickname came from Jia Mingzhen!

"Sure enough, women can't be reasoned with."

Su Yu muttered to himself. His teacher was right. All women were obstacles to cultivation. Just look at that. He was chatting nicely to her when she suddenly ran off for no reason. She didn't even bother telling him she was leaving. How rude.

He had just muttered those words when a cold snort rang out beside him.

Xia Chan was there with an unfriendly expression on her face. She walked away without even sparing Su Yu a glance.

Su Yu had an aggrieved expression. That was uncalled for! Why was she snorting at him? How had he provoked her?

Just what was happening? It was so early in the morning. He hadn't even done anything. How had he provoked three women out of nowhere?

Chapter 275: Showtime (1)

Su Yu couldn't be bothered to give those women more of his attention. He started heading toward the Secret Character Hall.

On his way, he encountered a familiar face.

To be precise, the face was both familiar and unfamiliar.

It was Zheng Hong.

Su Yu had never paid this person much attention, but that had changed when he learned that Zheng Hong was Zheng Yuming's grandson. Zheng Hong had always been very low profile in the class. And he was still maintaining the same behavior. He only nodded and smiled at Su Yu as a greeting before walking away silently.

Su Yu also returned the greeting with a nod. He never dared to underestimate any of these freaks. Nobody knew just how much strength they were hiding. It was more accurate to say that at present, none of them could be bothered to expose too much of their strength.

What was the point of exposing their strength before even getting into the top 100?

Behind him, another familiar person appeared. It was basically an assembly of senior class students today. Wan Mingze's gentle voice rang out, "Su Yu, if I get first place, do you want to buy the book from me?"

Su Yu turned around and smiled, "That would be great. But if it's too expensive, I won't be able to afford it."

"Are you not confident you can get first place?" Wan Mingze was acting like a friendly neighbor and said, "I thought you would confidently declare that the first place is yours."

"What can I do if I have weak willpower?" Su Yu said, "It's not too surprising that I'm weaker. After all, I haven't been at the Mental Tempering Stage for long."

"You're right. It's a pity. But I believe you can eventually catch up given enough time." Wan Mingze started walking alongside Su Yu as he said, "In the academy, the Character Faculty has the most intense internal conflicts. In truth, these conflicts are starting to affect the normal operation of the academy in recent years. In my opinion, this is one of the reasons why Principal Wan had accepted the myriad race students. To create a common enemy and reduce the internal conflicts."

When Su Yu looked over doubtfully, Wan Mingze softly said, "I know you're very talented. This batch is filled with talented individuals. I hope to see everyone working together against external enemies. We should set our eyes on the myriad race students instead of on each other."

Su Yu nodded, "I hope so as well. I've never been one to actively seek trouble. I have always wanted to cultivate peacefully. But some people insist on creating trouble for me."

Su Yu looked at Wan Mingze and said, "If they slap your left cheek and ask for you to show them your right cheek for a second slap, would you do so?"

Su Yu smiled, "I understand what you're doing. You want to be the peacemaker. I'm not looking down on you, but you're really not qualified enough to do that. Also, it's pointless to tell me this. If you can

convince those people to stop targeting me, there won't even be a need for me to waste my time on them."

Wan Mingze nodded, "I understand. Everything is always harder in the beginning. It doesn't matter. We can take our time. Su Yu, the current situation of the human race isn't very good. In the Allheaven Battlefield, the human race might still be able to resist the hostile races, but we are slowly starting to lose the ability to replenish our losses with new talents. The growth of the middle-aged generation is not able to keep up with the loss of the older generation."

Su Yu frowned, "I thought Great Xia is going to stop warring?"

"We're not stopping completely. We're merely going to cut down on some unnecessary wars. We are still fighting. Not long ago, the divine, devil, and beast races held a Myriad Race Conference in the Allheaven Battlefield. Some human experts were present as well. An expert from the first divine race suggested that all races should work together and build a central trade hub."

Wan Mingze clenched his teeth and said, "They suggested that the Human Realm be used as this central trade hub. They want to gather the resources of the Myriad Realms into the Human Realm, turning the Human Realm into a strategic location for all races. They demanded that the divine, devil, demon, immortal, and other strong races be granted autonomous territories within the Human Realm in the form of a lease."

Wan Mingze gritted his teeth furiously. Even Su Yu's face was flushed red. He was a smart person. He naturally understood what was the meaning of that. Leasing lands? That was merely a pretext for their invasion.

"Humanity will not agree to something like this!"

Su Yu clenched his teeth.

Wan Mingze nodded, "Of course we won't. They are basically trying to slowly push us to destruction and destroy our fighting spirit. They are trying to use a gentler method to invade the Human Realm."

Wan Mingze looked furious as he said, "And more than half of the myriad races had agreed to that proposal. They preached for peace and the end of all wars. They requested that humanity cede our own lands to the myriad races. They promised to hold hands with us and build a glorious new era with us. They even offered to invest a large amount of resources into the construction of these new trade hubs."

Wan Mingze sneered, "What a pity. Some ignorant fools, or perhaps these people are deliberately pretending to be clueless, are currently promoting this proposal in the Human Realm. Promising a world without war. A world where we no longer need to bleed. A more prosperous Human Realm."

"The Myriad Race Cult?"

"Yes." Wan Mingze nodded, "The Myriad Race Cult. They are not too strong in Great Xia due to our prefect's iron-blooded policy and suppression of them. But the cult is actually quite influential in some other prefectures."

Wan Mingze snorted, "Previously, some higher ups of the Myriad Race Cult had even written to the War Shrine and Knowledge Seeking Realm, hoping to get the approval to build a test site in the Human Realm. They requested for autonomy to test out the trade hub proposal and see if it works. They gave a very nice excuse. They claimed that this could be the backup plan for humanity in case warfare doesn't work out for us. They suggested that trade might be a different path we can take."

Su Yu frowned and said nothing.

After a while, he said, "They should allow it."

"Huh?" Wan Mingze blanked out.

Su Yu calmly said, "Since the cult is willing to reveal themselves in public, why not give them the chance? Gather them all in this test site before capturing all of them in one fell swoop. Isn't that a good idea?"

"..."

Wan Mingze laughed. He gave Su Yu a deep look and said, "It's not that simple. The cult isn't this stupid. They will only let some insignificant underlings be their face in public. The true experts won't show up. And after making one exception, things might develop uncontrollably."

"In that case, why did our academy start the Foreign Students Faculty?"

Wan Mingze smiled, "These are two different matters. Principal Wan's project is for the sake of roping in the minor races and reducing our internal conflicts."

Su Yu sank into silence. After a while, he nodded. All those matters were still too far from him.

Wan Mingze seemed to know what he was thinking and said, "Su Yu, I am telling you all this because I don't want to see people like us who shoulders the future of humanity waste our strength against each other. I'll be honest. If it was any other person, I wouldn't have wasted my time. But you are different. You're growing very fast."

In short, it was because Su Yu was talented enough to be worth his time.

Su Yu asked curiously, "Do you represent Principal Wan?"

"No." Wan Mingze shook his head, "How can I represent Principal Wan? I am far from qualified for that. I am here as a representative of the neutral character faction."

"What?"

"Do you think that apart from the multiple character faction, the rest of the Character Faculty belongs to the single character faction?" Wan Mingze laughed, "The Character Faculty is massive. The so-called single and multiple character factions merely made up a part of the faculty. Tell me. Do people like Xia Yuwen and Wu Qi belong to the single character faction? Sure, those people do not have any character techniques. But does that make them single character faction members?"

"Some people don't even have a teacher. And these people don't have character techniques either. Are these people single character faction, then?" Wan Mingze explained, "There is a third party in the

Character Faculty. Most people in the faculty belong to the third party. They don't care which faction holds the upper hand. They don't care which faction holds the leading role in the academy. None of that is important to them."

"You are talented and are growing rapidly. Thus, the third party is now officially extending an invitation to you. We invite you to withdraw from the conflict between the single and multiple character factions."

"What do you mean?"

Wan Mingze seriously said, "We are protecting you. We wish to help you grow smoothly. We only ask that you remove yourself from their conflicts. We are not asking you to betray the multiple character faction. As long as you stop involving yourself in their conflicts, we can promise that the single character faction will leave you alone."

Su Yu frowned, "You mean to say that I should stay a multiple character faction member nominally but not participate in anything related to them. For example, I should let the matter of Huang Qifeng seriously injuring my senior sister slide."

Wan Mingze hesitated slightly before nodding, "Normal spars are still allowed. We simply ask that you don't target the single character faction members deliberately. That is the condition for our assistance."

Wan Mingze sincerely said, "You are not the only one we have invited. We have invited even those in the single character faction as well. Our goal is for everyone to withdraw from internal conflicts and focus on cultivating and growing strong."

"And who do you have in your faction?"

"There are a lot of us, including people like Researcher Huang Yao who had extended an invitation to you once and people like Researcher Hu Wensheng's first student, Han Chen. These people have all joined the third party to focus on their own cultivation. Internal power struggles will only serve to exhaust our own strength against each other."

Su Yu had a pensive look as he said, "If I join up, you guys will protect me from the single character faction. But I can't make any moves against them anymore either. We will mind our own business. Is this what you're trying to say?"

"Yes."

"Won't my teacher, martial uncle, and grandteacher be unhappy because of my choice?"

"They might. But they would probably be able to understand your choice. As good seniors, they shouldn't drag people like you into the quagmire of conflict. Even Wu Jia had been invited before, but she rejected the offer."

"If the third party is so powerful, why don't you guys advise the single character faction to stop targeting the multiple character faction? There are only a few of us around. We don't even have enough people to encroach upon their benefits. All we get, we worked hard for. We have not been taking anything from anyone."

Wan Mingze smiled helplessly, "That is still quite hard for us. The thing is, this conflict is mainly between the older generation. It can't be so easily resolved. Thus, we aim to start from the younger generation and end the conflict at the previous generation. In fact, we are also working on people like Huang Qifeng."

Su Yu's expression changed, "You guys have even invited him?"

"Su Yu, it is better to squash enmity than keeping it alive..."

Chapter 276: Showtime (2)

Su Yu nodded. He gave no reply and continued walking silently. Those were beautiful words. It is better to squash enmity than keeping it alive. But as far as he was concerned, this so-called third party was basically a new single character faction in the making.

These people were unhappy with the current status quo. They wanted to change. But when they grew enough, they might turn into a new single character faction. The thing about conflicts in cultivation was that in the end, all conflicts originated from things like resources, status, fame, and power.

If Wan Mingze and the people behind him had no ambitions, why would they even bother with creating such a third party? Naturally, the third party was not founded by Wan Mingze. He was only a new student. This third party was probably backed by some academy elders as well.

Su Yu did not support them. But he did not have anything against them either. The only thing he couldn't accept was being in the same faction as Huang Qifeng. He had been wanting to teach that bastard a lesson for a very long time.

He also believed that Wan Mingze and his people were too optimistic. Huang Qifeng was Elder Zheng Yuming's student. He could get resources, status, guidance, and other benefits from the single character faction. Why should he join the so-called third party?

And that was also the case for Su Yu himself. In the multiple character faction, Bai Feng might have neglected him. But without Bai Feng, how would he have gotten his first batch of mountainbreak bull blood essence. How would he have gotten his character technique?

Without Bai Feng, he would have gotten himself caught and investigated the day he used his blood essence ability. Without Chen Yong, without the weight of Hong Tan's name, would Liu Hong have bothered paying him back after swallowing more than half of the merit points from the scam?

Would Zheng Yunhui have bothered talking nicely to him about the Skybreak Technique? Would Zheng Yunhui have bothered working with him to scam the single character faction? The multiple character faction might be a burden, but it also brought him numerous benefits.

Without this backer, even after reaching the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm, Su Yu wouldn't have dared to reveal his strength for fear of catching more attention than he could handle. Otherwise, he might die without even knowing what happened.

But thanks to the eighth-stage Mountainsea standing behind him, nobody dared to touch him even after he revealed some of his trump cards. After joining the so-called third party, would they actually put all their effort into supporting him?

Su Yu did not think so.

"Huang Yao...so he's from this faction. The so-called commoner's faction is merely a mask for them to hide under."

Since even Wan Mingze was a member of this faction, it was naturally no longer a commoner's faction.

And there were also people like Xia Yuwen and Wu Qi. Perhaps these people were only being classified as a part of the third party because they couldn't be bothered to participate in the internal conflicts and were only focused on their own cultivation. These so-called faction members might not really be actual members or allies of the faction.

...

Having thought of all that, Su Yu decided to ignore Wan Mingze's offer. Wan Mingze could only sigh and stop talking.

All geniuses were prideful creatures. Since Su Yu had not accepted the invitation, he had basically rejected it.

Wan Mingze slowed down. When Su Yu was further ahead of him, Hu Qiusheng caught up to him and smiled, "He rejected you?"

"Yeah."

Hu Qiusheng wasn't surprised, "That's normal. He has never suffered much. Why would he leave the multiple character faction when he is doing so well? Not only would he lose the trust of Bai Feng and the others, he might even receive less resources. All that for the sake of avoiding some trouble that might or might not arrive? It's not worth it."

Wan Mingze frowned, "I understand all that. But I'm also offering this for his sake. The single character faction is clearly getting ready to target him. He is very talented. I don't wish to see a genius ruined for something this petty."

"For his sake..." Hu Qiusheng laughed, "Don't say that ever again. I'll be frank. You're not him. He has his own thoughts. What you think is good for him might not be something he actually wants."

"Perhaps...he enjoys fighting those people? Who knows?" Hu Qiusheng laughed, "None of that is important. Factions are not important as well. When all these people enter the Allheaven Battlefield, these internal conflicts will naturally be taken care of. For now, we should only focus on the Top 100 Ranking."

Wan Mingze said nothing else. He still felt somewhat regretful.

After a while, he said, "I hope he can think it through and distance himself from these conflicts as soon as possible. The multiple character faction has already been completely exterminated in many academies. The single character faction is starting to produce Sunmoon experts. The moment they produce their first Eternal, their path would be proven right. At that time, the multiple character faction would face total elimination."

"Are you referring to that person from Great Zhou?"

"Yeah." Wan Mingze nodded, "The multiple character faction there has been completely shut down. They are no longer accepting students. Their character technique wall has been opened to the public while their faction has been merged into the single character faction."

Hu Qiusheng's face turned solemn, "Is this the work of that person?"

"Yes." Wan Mingze sighed, "That person is too much of a freak. He cultivates only one Divine Character, but he was able to defeat numerous multiple character faction teaching assistants in the same cultivation level. The sole multiple character faction elder of Great Zhou Cultural Research Academy personally supervised those fights. All his students suffered a crushing defeat. Disappointed and tired, he announced on the spot that they would no longer accept new students. Thus, the multiple character faction has been reduced into history in Great Zhou."

Hu Qiusheng's mood turned heavy as he said, "What a pity."

"Yes. The multiple character faction is not completely useless..." said Wan Mingze. "Unfortunately, this rivalry between the two has lasted too long. That person is traveling the Human Realm and visiting the various academies to challenge the multiple character faction experts of the same cultivation level. He aims to prove that the single character faction is stronger. After all, he is unrivaled in the same cultivation level.

"Just a few days ago, a multiple character faction's sixth-stage Skysoar from the Great Shang Cultural Research Academy was defeated by him."

Wan Mingze sighed, "He's already a sixth-stage Skysoar. He was still a new student last year. But now, he is already stronger than even multiple character faction experts of the same cultivation level. He is stronger than them in terms of martial techniques, Divine Characters, and willpower. His strength has definitely not been exaggerated.

"And he is only 19 years old. When he reaches the eighth-stage Skysoar Realm, he would definitely appear here to challenge Assistant Bai. If Assistant Bai ends up defeated, the prestige of Great Xia Cultural Research Academy's multiple character faction would fall apart. Perhaps that would also be the end of the multiple character faction."

Wan Mingze sighed regretfully. What was the trademark of the multiple character faction? Being unrivaled in the same cultivation level.

As a seventh-stage Skysoar, Bai Feng had defeated Hu Wensheng with one move. Thus, the multiple character faction could confidently claim that in the same cultivation level, their path was the best path for geniuses.

Bai Feng was a genius. But that person was also a genius. And Bai Feng was even older. If Bai Feng was defeated by that person, a member of the single character faction, what would others think? Would there still be a need for the multiple character faction to continue existing?

After exhausting far more resources than their peers, they ended up not being a match for someone in the same cultivation level. Would they not be too ashamed to accept more students?

"Sixth-stage Skysoar...he might need a little bit more time to reach the seventh stage. But that fellow would be here in less than a year." Wan Mingze looked at Hu Qiusheng, "At that time, the multiple character faction would be fully suppressed. If Su Yu's hostility with them is too high, it would be too hard for him to adapt to an academy without the multiple character faction. You tell me. Am I doing this for his sake?"

Hu Qiusheng frowned. After a while, when they reached the Secret Character Hall, he said, "The Great Zhou is being quite domineering this time. Our prefecture might not give a shit about them. If that fellow really does come, others might challenge him before Bai Feng could even do anything."

Wan Mingze did not say anything. That was possible. But who could be that person's match?

Secret Character Hall.

The moment Su Yu entered the building, he felt several gazes on him. With his trademark honest smile, he looked forward and saw that there were many researchers present. Some he knew, and some he didn't.

He didn't mind them and bowed slightly at the researchers with a smile before heading toward the rest of the students. At the sight of Su Yu, many researchers started conversing through voice transmissions.

"Is this Bai Feng's student?"

"Yes. His name is Su Yu. He defeated Hu Wensheng's student not long ago."

"He looks quite honest and genial. In fact, he is much more pleasing to the eye than Bai Feng."

...

At the same time.

Wu Lan was also talking to someone, "Elder Sister, it's him! He's stronger than me! What should I do to become stronger than him?"

Wu Qi nonchalantly replied, "By defeating him."

"..."

Wu Lan gloomily replied, "If I can defeat him, why would I ask you this question?"

Wu Qi calmly said, "Since you can't defeat him, he will remain stronger than you. What is there to ask?"

"..."

She really didn't know how to deal with this younger sister of hers. After a while, she said, "Since you want to be stronger than him, you need to be harsher on yourself. Spend 20 hours per day cultivating, 2 hours reading, 10 minutes for your meals, and the rest of your time resting. If you maintain this pace, it is only a matter of time before you surpass him."

Wu Lan hesitated for a while before softly asking, "Can I cultivate only 18 hours per day, reading 1 hour per day, and the rest of the time sleeping?"

"Cough, cough..."

Liu Hong nearly choked on the tea he was drinking. When he saw Wu Qi looking at him, he dryly said, "The tea was too hot. In truth, it isn't very hard to surpass Su Yu..."

Wu Lan instantly looked at him doubtfully.

Not hard?

In that case, why would his student be so weak?

Liu Hong seemed to have guessed what Wu Lan was thinking. He was rendered speechless. And he couldn't be bothered to explain himself. He smiled and said, "Lan, you are still quite talented. You are as talented as him. And you are willing to work hard too. This is great. You only lack one thing. A proper understanding."

"What?"

"He cultivates his physical body due to his weak willpower. He has no choice if he doesn't want to fall behind others. I heard that you have been focusing on your physical body cultivation as well. That is only going to slow down your willpower cultivation. That is basically the same as competing against him in something you're bad at but he is good at. You should focus on your willpower and reach the Skysoar Realm as soon as possible instead. It won't be too late to forge your physical body after reaching the Skysoar Realm."

Wu Lan then looked at her elder sister. Wu Qi expressionlessly said, "This is your own path. You have to make your own choice. Opinions of others will forever remain opinions. Nobody knows you more than yourself. If you find your current path smooth, keep walking. If you find it not smooth, stop."

"Sister!"

Wu Lan was feeling very gloomy. Her elder sister had been repeating these words to her. But she was starting to feel that even Liu Hong was a much better teacher than her elder sister.

Wu Qi ignored her.

Wu Lan was already an adult. And she had received a good education. Apart from her lack of experience, she was already taught everything she should know. In terms of cultivation, Wu Qi would only supervise her and nothing else. Wu Lan would have to rely on herself in her path of cultivation.

When Wu Qi's gaze landed on Su Yu and saw the genial smile that was eternally plastered on his face as he conversed with the other students, she frowned and looked at Liu Hong. Liu Hong was also smiling while conversing with a nearby researcher.

Wu Qi then looked at Su Yu. For some reason, the two looked remarkably similar.

She turned to look at Liu Hong again...

Finally, Su Yu and Liu Hong noticed her gaze.

Chapter 277: Showtime (3)

Not far away.

Su Yu raised his head and saw a heroic young woman looking at him. Beside that woman was Wu Lan. He was able to guess the woman's identity so he flashed her an honest smile before looking away.

At the same time, Liu Hong also looked at Wu Qi and flashed a warm smile...

Wu Qi felt more and more weird.

She continued staring at Liu Hong and Su Yu, to the point Liu Hong was totally confused. Finally, she pointed at Su Yu and asked Liu Hong, "Is this your spy?"

"What?"

"Your biological brother?"

"Huh?"

"What is your mother's surname?"

Liu Hong finally understood what she was getting at.

His face fell as he said, "We are unrelated!"

Damn it! How dare she! He should challenge her to a fight. That ought to teach her a lesson—forget it. He might not be her match.

But his mother was definitely not surnamed Su!

Wu Qi ignored Liu Hong and looked at Su Yu again. She blinked before looking at her little sister and said, "Stay far away from him. I would rather you spend more time with those garbage students than spend time with him. I'm afraid that one day you would be sold off by him and I wouldn't be able to find you anymore."

Wu Lan was dumbfounded.

Wu Qi did not mind her sister's reaction. She pointed at Liu Hong and said, "Back then, I broke his leg. Many people in the academy are aware of this. But very few people know that this fellow had actually sold me to the Myriad Race Cult to help himself infiltrate the cult."

Wu Lan became even more dumbfounded.

Meanwhile, Liu Hong's expression changed as he hurriedly begged for mercy. He looked incomparably awkward.

Wu Qi ignored him and said, "Do you know how he entered the Skysoar Realm? By selling me. First, he sold me. Then, he notified your grandaunt to save me. Your grandaunt's appearance lured the cult experts away, giving him the chance to slaughter the other cult members and rob a bunch of cultivation resources from them. With those resources, he smoothly advanced into the Skysoar Realm."

Wu Lan stared at Liu Hong with stupefaction. She then looked at her own elder sister. So she was sold off so easily? Her elder sister was so stupid? She had always thought that her elder sister was very smart!

Wu Qi was completely expressionless as she said, "Back then, he had a big and honest smile on his face all the time. I thought that he was a good guy. I saw him as a friend. But when he sold me off, he didn't hesitate one bit."

Liu Hong felt even more awkward as he explained himself, "That was a misunderstanding! Really! Wu Qi, it has been so many years. Why can't you trust me? It was really a misunderstanding. I saw you captured before returning to notify Elder Wu. Then, I risked my life to attack the cult and save you. I had only looted them in passing. Don't talk nonsense in front of a child..."

Wu Qi ignored him and pointed at Su Yu, "Remember. This fellow is the same as Liu Hong. I am starting to suspect that he is Liu Hong's spy in the multiple character faction."

Wu Lan said, "Elder Sister, this is your first time seeing him. How do you know that?"

Wu Qi did not bother answering that question. It was up to her sister what she wanted to believe. In any case, she was confident in her judgment. She had a good eye for people. Sure, back then, she was pretty bad at judging people. But after being sold off by Liu Hong, she had become much better at judging people.

Meanwhile, Liu Hong had an innocent look on his face. Why wouldn't they believe him? It was really a misunderstanding! That kidnapping was really an accident. He had merely decided to make use of the accident to stuff his pockets a little.

After all, her grandaunt was already there and her safety was already ensured. That was why he had focused on looting the cult instead of escaping with her back then.

Liu Hong sighed. He felt really aggrieved. He had risked his life and notified her grandaunt to rescue her. Not only had she not thanked him, but she had been viewing him as some sort of villain since then. He felt terrible.

He looked at Su Yu and sighed. See? He had warned the kid to not go over the board when smiling. And he was proven right. Someone had seen through the kid's disguise with one look.

After a short while, Liu Hong stood up, cleared his throat, and said, "Students, be quiet. The Divine Character tournament is starting soon. You will draw for your opponents. If your draw comes up empty, you can skip the first round. The rule is that there are no rules. You only need to send your willpower into the grotto and fight until one of you wins. The process of the fight is unimportant. Only the result matters. You all know the rewards. Additionally, you can get five merit points for each victory.

"This is the first tournament for the new students. It doesn't matter which faculty you are in. Be sure to showcase your strength and demonstrate your value to the academy. Apart from the tournament rewards, the victors can gain something else: The attention of the academy and the researchers. Some of you still don't have a teacher because you have yet to catch anyone's attention. That might change during this tournament. This is your chance.

"This will be the start of your story. The start of your rise. There is no need to feign weakness so that you can fool your potential enemies. You either don't fight or fight to win. Students not aiming for victory should simply save everyone's time and not participate at all."

He then looked at Su Yu and said, "Su Yu, you said that you won't give up on the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem. Are you confident in getting the first place?"

Su Yu met Liu Hong's gaze, the smile on his face slowly fading away. Every single student in the room looked at Su Yu. Even those who didn't know him started asking around about him.

Su Yu took a deep breath and said, "I will try my best to not disappoint you, Teacher Liu. What a pity that I can't use my physical cultivation today. I hope I will have the chance to exchange pointers with your brilliant student in the future. Su Yu is untalented, but I do wish to see if Teacher Liu's skill in teaching is as good as a certain skill of yours."

Upon hearing those words, some of the researchers looked amused.

Interesting.

Meanwhile, Lin Yao was maintaining a calm expression while inwardly filled with admiration toward his Brother Su and teacher who were clearly putting on an act for everyone.

As for the brilliant student Brother Su mentioned, that was probably not him. Perhaps it was Senior Brother Yang Sha? Was Brother Su interested in sparring with Senior Brother Yang?

Was he deliberately feigning hostility with them to create an opportunity to spar with his senior brother? Lin Yao felt like he had stumbled upon the truth.

When he looked at others, he noticed that everyone had been fooled by this act. Thus, his admiration for his Brother Su grew even more. He was also feeling very smug, as though he was the only person awake in a world of dreamers.

Everyone believed that Su Yu did not get along well with his teacher. Little did they know, the two had reconciled with each other long ago.

Lin Yao wanted nothing more than to help them out with the act by jumping out and challenging Su Yu with a righteous indignation. But he gave up on that thought as he needed to save his energy for the tournament. He would let Brother Su and his teacher be the main characters for today's act. Perhaps he could help in the future.

After saying those words, Su Yu said nothing else.

It was pointless to say more since he still wasn't Liu Hong's match. But because of this little incident, Su Yu had decided to hold even more grudges toward Liu Hong.

If Liu Hong was really a spy, then Su Yu might consider forgiving him. If not...well, just wait and see.

...

The instructors started having the students draw for their opponents.

This was only a small tournament with less than 200 participants, so it wasn't that big of an event.

Thus, the draw was also done quite simplistically. They only placed a bunch of paper slips in an iron bucket. One of the instructors announced, "Number 1 will fight number 2, number 3 will fight number 4, and so on, and so forth. There are 198 participants in total, so each of you will get an opponent. If anyone gives up after drawing an opponent, the opponent will win by default."

One of the students asked, "Teacher, won't those with see-through Divine Characters be able to see what they are drawing for?"

Someone laughed.

A researcher said, "In that case, you can only admire that student for having such an ability. If you have a similar ability, you are free to use it as well. This is a Divine Character tournament. Are we supposed to stop people from using their Divine Characters?"

Nobody could say anything about that. The researcher made a lot of sense.

But that question alerted some of the girls. One of them asked anxiously, "Teacher, see-through characters exist?"

"..."

That gave the researcher a pause. After a short while, he said, "Such a character definitely exists, but new students might not have one. Even if they do, you will definitely be able to sense it when someone spies on you. We are all cultural researchers with powerful willpower. We can't be spied on that easily."

The students looked at each other in dismay, and some of the girls started looking around suspiciously. At that moment, anyone who so much as glanced at them would look like a pervert in their eyes.

...

Su Yu remained silent as he waited until it was his turn to draw for his opponent. After wrapping a layer of willpower around his hand, he reached into the iron bucket. When he grabbed a slip of paper, he kept it in his grasp and did not even bother opening it.

He did not want to give anyone an opportunity to target him. But he also knew that it wouldn't be an easy task to get first place. Regardless, he would still try to save as much of his energy as possible during the initial matches.

Suddenly, Xia Huyou squeezed through the crowd and softly asked, "What's your number? Let's check your opponent out. Maybe I can start a small betting pool for your match?"

Su Yu rolled his eyes. He did not even entertain that question with a reply.

Xia Huyou could only regretfully say, "Fine. Forget it. I'll open a betting pool for other fights instead. Su Yu, I think it would be hard for you to get first place this time. The Willpower Faculty has a freak. The Talisman Faculty has a freak as well. Both of them have over 90 percent willpower. They might not have a lot of Divine Characters, but with their willpower, they can be very strong even with only one character."

"Wait, Willpower Faculty students cultivate Divine Characters as well?"

Su Yu was astonished. Xia Huyou shrugged and said, "How am I supposed to know? Nobody would know if they are secretly cultivating a character or two. That is actually quite common."

Su Yu nodded and asked nothing else. So be it. Just the Character Faculty alone was already filled with troublesome opponents.

At this time, Liu Hong and the others activated a device in the hall. In the middle of the hall, a massive ball suddenly flew up from the floor.

Liu Hong's voice rang out, "This is the Secret Character Grotto. It is formed of a Divine Character left behind by a peak Mountainsea expert on the cusp of reaching the Sunmoon Realm. But only those at the Sunmoon Realm can leave Eternal Divine Characters behind. As for this character of a peak Mountainsea, it can only exist in a limited form, creating a pocket world that exist yet not exist at the same time."

Looking at the ball, Su Yu could sense the powerful willpower contained within it. The ball was transparent, and he could see some vague silhouettes within the ball. However, their appearances were too indistinct for him to get a clear look.

Liu Hong's voice rang out again, "Step forth two at a time. You will be fighting in the grotto. If you wish to concede, you can simply exit the grotto. If the fight drags on, we will set the limit at 10 minutes. When you enter the grotto, the ball will be covered by two colors. The better you do in the fight, the more space your color will occupy. After 10 minutes, the person who has occupied the most space will be the winner."

He pointed at the ball as he explained.

With this system, everyone could clearly see who had the upper hand in the fight. Naturally, there would also be many cases of people returning from the verge of defeat to clutch a victory. After all, before reaching the limit of 10 minutes, only the one to leave first would be considered a loser.

Next, Liu Hong said, "Number 1 and number 2. Step forth."

At that, two students stepped out. Numerous people exclaimed in shock.

"Xia Chan!"

"Qi Chong!"

Xia Chan was no stranger to Su Yu. As for Qi Chong, Su Yu had heard that this was the number one genius of the Beast Taming Faculty this year. He had entered the academy as a high-high student with 80 percent willpower. Back during his entrance examination, he had nearly obtained 1,000 marks.

Just the very first match already involved two super geniuses. The other students couldn't help but to grow excited.

Chapter 278: Divine Character Tournament (1)

In front of the students.

The researchers were softly conversing among themselves.

A third-stage Cloudbreach expert from the Beast Taming Faculty was present as well. When he saw Qi Chong step forward, he helplessly said, "This is unlucky. Qi Chong is strong enough to get into the top 10, but he just has to meet Xia Chan in his first match."

When competing using Divine Characters, one's willpower and Divine Characters were naturally the crux. Although most of these new students had similar cultivation levels, there was no denying that the Beast Taming Faculty students had to divert their attention on their beast taming cultivation, neglecting some of their willpower and Divine Character cultivation.

And since Qi Chong was already weaker than Xia Chan in the first place, there was no way he would be her match if he was only allowed to use willpower and Divine Characters.

"Well. I guess Qi Chong can only try to last as long as he can. Their willpower should be similar since Xia Chan's willpower is not over 90 percent yet..."

While they were speaking, Xia Chan walked toward one side of the ball with a cold expression.

She did not waste her time saying anything and sent her willpower straight into the ball. Next, the entire ball turned red.

Liu Hong said, "When you first enter, you have three seconds of immunity where your willpower won't clash against each other. Thus, both parties must enter within three seconds or the person entering first will have the advantage."

Qi Chong did not need further reminding. His face turned solemn as he sent his willpower into the ball as well. Instantly, half the ball turned yellow.

Red represented Xia Chan while yellow represented Qi Chong.

Su Yu and the others were looking at the ball, but they weren't able to see the situation unfolding inside. They could only see the two colors pushing against each other.

Su Yu was slightly disappointed.

But there was no helping it. They had yet to materialize their Divine Characters so for the sake of this competition, they had to borrow the help of an external object just to fight properly. Otherwise, they wouldn't even be able to witness the result of the fight since none of the students here had materialized their Divine Characters yet.

While Su Yu was thinking, the crowd suddenly cried out in surprise. That pulled Su Yu out of his thoughts. He hurriedly looked at the ball again. He could see that on the ball, the color red had instantly covered the color yellow and started devouring the territory occupied by the color yellow.

Meanwhile, Qi Chong, with his eyes shut, turned pale while beads of sweat formed on his forehead. In less than 10 seconds, he coughed a mouthful of blood and opened his eyes. With a distressed expression, he looked at the proud Xia Chan.

The ball had turned completely red. Xia Chan had won the match. Silence descended upon the students. Some of the Beast Taming Faculty students even turned pale.

Qi Chong was the strongest student in their faculty. But he couldn't even last 10 seconds against Xia Chan.

Qi Chong looked greatly discouraged. After shooting a glance at Xia Chan, he lowered his head and silently returned to the crowd. He had suffered a crushing defeat.

"A freak is a freak, after all."

A student exclaimed beside Su Yu. Qi Chong had been defeated way too quickly.

Su Yu focused and heard someone softly asking Qi Chong about the fight. Qi Chong replied, "She's too strong. It's a break character of the divine race. It was able to instantly break my Divine Character. I

suspect that character is near the second tier. If you encounter her, you better concede if you don't want to be injured."

Su Yu's face turned solemn.

Divine race character.

And it was the break character. Clearly, this was an offensive character. But looking at Qi Chong, his injuries were quite light. Xia Chan had probably not pushed harder after obtaining the upper hand, letting Qi Chong off with minor injuries.

"Defeating Qi Chong with only one character!"

Su Yu stole a glance at Xia Chan. She was as cold as ever, standing beside Wan Mingze and the other freaks. No other student dared to stand among them.

...

Meanwhile, the Beast Taming Faculty's researcher could only shake his head helplessly.

That was a terrible defeat.

"Truly worthy of being someone from the Xia Family." The teacher said, "How I wish I can witness their fight when they can finally materialize their characters. That is when these fights will become truly interesting."

That was true. Their fights of cultural researchers at the Skysoar Realm and above were truly quite a sight to behold. The eruption of numerous Divine Characters and abilities were much more interesting than this tournament where all they could see was the change of colors covering a ball.

The same teacher continued, "There are eight freaks among the new students this year. I'm afraid nobody apart from their fellow freaks can compete against them. All eight of them will definitely be in the top ten. The remaining two positions will probably be taken by some other high-high students."

Since there were quite a lot of high-high students this year, that person looked at Liu Hong and said, "Bai Feng's student does not seem to have a powerful willpower. How many Divine Characters does he have?"

Liu Hong smiled, "I'm not sure. But he can probably enter the top ten as well. Of course, things might change if he encounters those freaks too early."

"You sure look highly upon him..." That person laughed, "Are you deliberately saying this to create enemies for him?"

Liu Hong merely smiled and said, "Just wait and see. That fellow...is not weak at all. He might be a fresh Mental Tempering Stage student, but in a real fight, even your faculty's Qi Chong might not be his match."

"Is that so?"

He was clearly unconvinced. Qi Chong had merely been unlucky to meet Xia Chan this early. Otherwise, he was definitely strong enough to enter the top 10.

At this time, an instructor yelled, "Number 3 and number 4. After this, the following pairs can come up by yourselves after a match is over. There is no need to wait for your numbers to be called."

With a smile on his face, Wan Mingze walked out. When the other student saw that it was Wan Mingze, his face turned bitter. What was going on? Why were two freaks fighting one after another?

Wan Mingze smiled and said, "Fellow student, don't look at me like that. I have a heavy pressure on my shoulders as well. Let's just take this as an exchange of pointers. It is quite rare for us to be able to spar like this."

The other student was slightly comforted by those words. He smiled and said, "Then I'll thank you in advance for the guidance, Senior Brother Wan."

He had a good impression of Wan Mingze and wasted no time in stepping toward the ball. Wan Mingze politely gestured at his opponent to go first. Instantly, the ball became covered in black. Next, Wan Mingze entered, covering half the ball in white. It was unknown how the ball determined the color of each student.

...

There was no suspense to the result of this match.

It only lasted 30 seconds.

Wan Mingze's opponent retreated out of the grotto by himself. With a pale expression, he bowed and said, "Thank you for the guidance, Senior Brother Wan."

He had lost. He had lost miserably.

But everyone could see the two colors constantly struggling against each other. Evidently, Wan Mingze had not delivered his opponent a crushing defeat instantly. Rather, he had allowed his opponent to fight with all his strength before moving in to grab the win, behaving like a true gentleman

At this time, Xia Huyou had arrived beside Su Yu again. He softly said, "This fellow is a smiling tiger. You better be careful of him. He pretends to be a gentleman when he's in public with that smile of his. But you never know the type of person he truly is deep inside."

Right after Xia Huyou said that, a wide smile bloomed on Su Yu's face.

He stepped forth. It was his turn to fight.

He had a bright smile on his face. When he saw who his opponent was, his smile grew wider as he said, "Zongji, I need to get first place. That thing belongs to my grandteacher. I won't hold back. I hope you don't hold back either. You don't mind if we fight with all our strength, right?"

Hu Zongji had an unsightly expression. But he still rejoiced that his opponent was Su Yu. He remembered that Su Yu had a strong physical cultivation but a weak willpower cultivation. At that thought, his mood improved.

Since Su Yu had such a genial smile on his face, Hu Zongji couldn't say anything apart from, "We'll both do our best. Su Yu, I won't be holding back."

Su Yu nodded while maintaining the smile on his face.

He walked up to the ball and waited until Hu Zongji arrived. Then, he said, "Let's enter. Zongji, let's work hard together!"

Hu Zongji was completely speechless. Since Su Yu was so polite, should he still give Su Yu a beating?

Meanwhile, Xia Huyou was grimacing in the crowd. It seemed like his warning had been pointless. Then again, he should have known about this. Su Yu was definitely no simple kid. Wan Mingze might be a hypocrite, but Su Yu...was definitely no saint.

Just look at what had happened to all his former opponents! It had been a while since Lin Yao created trouble for Su Yu. Xia Huyou had even noticed Lin Yao warmly greeting Su Yu with a silent smile whenever they met.

As for Zheng Yunhui, he had somehow been turned from an enemy into a partner by Su Yu. Xia Huyou was unclear about the matter involving Chen Qi so he had nothing to say about that.

Even Wu Lan, who Su Yu had offended in Nanyuan, was now quite nice to Su Yu. The rumor that Su Yu had thoroughly offended her was clearly a lie. And even today, those intermediate class students would still happily call him their class monitor whenever they encounter him.

"Hypocrite number 2."

Xia Huyou muttered under his breath.

...

At the same time, the ball was covered by two colors.

On one side was the gold color, representing Su Yu.

On the other side was the green color, representing Hu Zongji.

The two had just entered so they each shared half the ball.

...

The world around Su Yu spun.

When he sent his willpower into the ball, the sensation felt similar to when he returned to his sea of willpower.

He had transformed into a miniature version of himself inside the ball. Not far ahead of him was a miniature Hu Zongji. The two gazed at each other. They couldn't talk in this grotto, but they could clearly see each other.

Hu Zongji was about to attack when Su Yu smiled and gestured for him to make the first move.

Hu Zongji cursed inwardly. Did Su Yu think that he was stronger? Su Yu might have a stronger physical cultivation, but Hu Zongji was confident he was stronger in willpower cultivation. Why was Su Yu being so pretentious here?

Hu Zongji vowed to deliver Su Yu a crushing defeat and embarrass him thoroughly. A massive character appeared before him and turned into countless swords before shooting toward Su Yu.

"Sword!"

This was no divine or devil character. It was a character of the white tiger race and could be considered quite a powerful one. Hu Zongji's willpower was nothing special as it had only reached 60 percent.

But in this tiny grotto, he appeared rather awe-inspiring with countless swords hovering before him. Facing the incoming swords, Su Yu smiled. He remained calm and obliterated the incoming swords with a casual wave of his arm.

Hu Zongji's face fell. He created even more swords and sent them to surround and defeat Su Yu.

Chapter 279: Divine Character Tournament (2)

Outside.

Everyone was confused. The two colors remained the same as it was. It was as though the two were evenly matched.

But if one looked closer, one would notice that Su Yu's expression was as calm as ever while Hu Zongji was starting to sweat. Clearly, this fight was much more exhausting for him than Su Yu.

"What's happening?"

"Evenly matched?"

"Su Yu should have a slight upper hand, but it's not too obvious..."

The crowd started talking among themselves. One minute, two minutes...

Finally, Hu Zongji started shaking.

After the previous matches that had ended almost instantly, the minutes Su Yu and Hu Zongji were taking caused everyone to grow both impatient and confused. Just why were the two colors still evenly spread among the ball?

...

In front of the crowd, Liu Hong's eyes flickered.

After a while, he seemed to have realized something as he cursed inwardly that Su Yu was truly too shameless. That idiotic Hu Zongji was probably fighting against illusions.

Su Yu had most likely generated an illusory opponent for Hu Zongji to fight before standing aside to enjoy the show. Otherwise, there was no way to explain what was happening.

"He's toying with his opponent."

Liu Hong was speechless. If Su Yu could do that, he might as well speedily defeat this opponent. That kid was definitely not weak. Hu Zongji probably had no way of seeing through the illusions created by a second tier character.

Su Yu only needed to exhaust some of his willpower to maintain the illusion while Hu Zongji would probably exhaust much more willpower fighting illusions.

...

And Liu Hong's guess was right.

Inside the grotto.

With his arms crossed and a smile on his face, Su Yu was watching leisurely as Hu Zongji was madly doing battle with thin air not far away. After a while, he shook his head.

So this fellow was...so weak.

He had thought that his illusions were weak. After all, Zheng Yunhui had been able to instantly break through his illusions. Even his second tier illusions weren't able to fool Zheng Yunhui for long. But look at Hu Zongji. Even after so long, he was still fighting the air vigorously.

"This idiot has been slandering me behind my back. Should I take my revenge on him?"

But soon, Su Yu smiled. He told himself that he was not such a petty person. Thus, the vision before Hu Zongji's eyes blurred before Su Yu reappeared before his eyes. The previous Su Yu who was filled with wounds had been replaced by a Su Yu who was as good as new.

Hu Zongji blanked out momentarily.

Su Yu opened his mouth only to be reminded that he couldn't talk inside this grotto. Thus, he used his willpower and wrote something in front of him: "It has been five minutes, Brother Hu. My apologies, but I must win. Don't worry, I won't let your defeat look too bad..."

Hu Zongji was slightly stunned, but immediately after, rage bubbled out of his heart. What did that signify? Did Su Yu think that he would win just because he wanted to win? That thought had just crossed his mind when a massive bolt of lightning appeared above him.

Boom!

Even though there was no sound in the grotto, he could still imagine the rumbling thunder when the massive bolt of lightning struck. His willpower body instantly crumbled apart.

...

Outside.

Instantly, the ball was covered in gold.

Hu Zongji raised his pale face to look at Su Yu.

Meanwhile, Su Yu had an apologetic look as he gave Hu Zongji a slight bow. When Hu Zongji noticed that Su Yu did not look one bit tired, his expression changed. And when he recalled what Su Yu said inside the grotto, his face turned ugly.

Was the gap between them so big? Su Yu had not even used much of his strength in the fight? So were all the injuries Su Yu had sustained from all those swords something he had deliberately allowed to happen? So that Hu Zongji would not lose too badly?

Even up until this moment, he was still unaware that the wounded Su Yu was merely an illusion. Instead, he concluded that Su Yu was intentionally allowing his attacks to hit. He felt both humiliated and helpless. Was the gap between them really so big?

When he recalled how he had been calling Su Yu a fake high-high student, how he had talked bad about Su Yu's physical cultivation, willpower strength, and Divine Characters...a sense of shame welled up within him.

If Su Yu was a fake high-high student, what was him? And Su Yu had even gone through the effort of extending their fight for five minutes so that his defeat wouldn't look too bad.

The more Hu Zongji thought about it, the more shameful he felt. With his head lowered, he cupped his hands at Su Yu and bitterly said, "Thank you for showing me leniency, Brother Su. I am not your match."

He then turned around and walked back to the crowd, looking bleak and disheartened.

Su Yu did not say anything and returned to the crowd as well. He approached Hu Zongji and waited until the next match began before asking, "Brother Hu, you're not angry at me, right? In truth, your Divine Character is very strong. But I feel like you spread your attacks too much. Have you considered concentrating your attacks more? Having countless swords look very good, but if I'm being honest, creating so many swords only serves to spread yourself thin. Those swords can't hurt me since they are too weak individually."

Hu Zongji awkwardly asked, "Is that the case?"

"Yeah." Su Yu seriously said, "If you had only used one sword, even if the sword couldn't last too long, it would probably be able to deal me serious injuries and force me to withdraw my Divine Characters. But during our match, you only got weaker the longer the fight dragged on. I could clearly feel your attacks weakening toward the end."

Hu Zongji nodded with a pensive look and said, "True. My elder brother and granduncle told me the same. But since they can't see my Divine Character, I never took their advice seriously. Brother Su..."

"Just call me Su Yu. We have known each other for a while. In fact, we met before even entering the academy. Fate clearly intends to bring us together. But it's a pity that our relationship deteriorated after entering the academy.

"At that time, you even invited me to join the Tianshui Club. Fortunately, I didn't join. Otherwise...sigh. With my identity as a member of the multiple character faction, you would probably suffer the blame for recruiting someone as troublesome as me."

Hu Zongji smiled awkwardly and said, "You're probably right. I wasn't aware of that back then. I was even angry that you refused my kind offer. But now that I think about it, it's actually quite funny. If you had accepted my invitation, I would have probably regretted it."

The more he spoke, the more awkward he felt. He lowered his voice and said, "Su Yu, I would like to apologize for what I did in the past. In truth, after the previous monthly exam, I understood that you are definitely deserving of being a high-high student. I was merely finding it hard to accept. After all, Nanyuan is such a poor city...cough, cough. Excuse me..."

"It's fine." Su Yu smiled, "It's normal. Even in Nanyuan, I would think that I am better than those living in the outskirts of the city. Even if someone truly amazing appears from the outskirts, I would probably think that I am still better. This is a completely normal mindset."

"Su Yu." Hu Zongji said, "You didn't have to hold back during the match. I heard others comparing you against the previous participants like Xia Chan. They said that you...anyway, I believe you are definitely no weaker than those people."

Su Yu gently said, "It's fine. We are old acquaintances so I naturally needed to give you a special treatment. It doesn't matter what they think about me. I won't lose anything. I'll wait until I meet someone from the single character faction. At that time, I'll show them what fury means. I will also use that opportunity to show others how strong you are for being able to last five minutes against me."

Instead of feeling humiliated, Hu Zongji felt excited upon hearing those words, "Then I'll have to keep my eyes peeled. I was planning to leave, but now, I'll stay and wait. Hopefully, your next opponent is from the single character faction. This time, don't hold back and crush that opponent. I believe you're very strong."

Su Yu nodded.

...

Meanwhile, Liu Hong had an odd look in his eyes.

Damn it!

What was this kid trying to do?

He was a student from Nanyuan, a member of the multiple character faction, someone everyone should hate. Yet he was actually doing so well in the academy?

Even now, the intermediate class students were still calling Su Yu their class monitor. Meanwhile, their actual new class monitor was being addressed by his name.

As for the senior class, the ex enemies of this fellow were probably going to turn into his sworn brothers soon. Even that stupid student of his was already viewing Su Yu as a brother. Just what was up with all that?

Xia Huyou, Wu Lan, Zheng Yunhui, Hu Zongji, Lin Yao...

The people who should have been his enemies were now so friendly with him that they might as well be brothers. Liu Hong rubbed his temple. Was this fellow trying to become the king of social connections?

Hu Zongji and the others were truly worthless. After being defeated by Su Yu, for some reason, they all felt grateful toward him. What was wrong with them?

Liu Hong was completely speechless. Meanwhile, Wu Qi was also paying close attention to Su Yu. After a while, she asked, "If you're him, what would you do next?"

Liu Hong blurted, "Displaying both ruthlessness and gentleness at the same time."

...

Wu Qi smiled, "I understand. People like Hu Zongji can be roped in and turned into his friend. People he can't rope in will be instantly crushed to demonstrate his strength. That way, Hu Zongji will be filled with gratitude toward him while his enemies will fear him more. Is that what you mean?"

Liu Hong laughed dryly, "That was only a random guess."

"No, I believe that's exactly what he has in mind." Wu Qi said, "Definitely. Because both of you are the same type of people. Let's give him a chance. Among the new students of the single character faction, Lin Yao is the perfect opponent for him. Arrange for him to meet Lin Yao next..."

Liu Hong coughed. That wouldn't work. After all...Lin Yao had already defected to Su Yu's side.

"No, let Zheng Hong go." Liu Hong smiled, "He's aiming to crush his opponent, right? But it would be too boring to let his plan go smoothly. Let Zheng Hong fight him and foil his plan. His reputation would be completely ruined."

After all, Su Yu had spent five minutes defeating Hu Zongji. If he was defeated by Zheng Hong next, everyone would believe that Su Yu was too weak.

Yes. Why should Liu Hong let the kid's plan go through? Damn that kid for imitating him all the time! How shameless! Liu Hong decided to teach Su Yu a lesson and let the kid experience the cruelty of the society.

Wu Qi said, "Zheng Hong? That is one of the eight freaks. If he ends up losing, Su Yu would further solidify his standing. Are you sure?"

"Losing?"

Liu Hong thought about it and decided that he didn't care enough.

After all, if Su Yu could snatch victory and prove his strength, Liu Hong would become even more valuable to the single character faction. And if Su Yu suffered a defeat, others would look down on him even more, giving him more space to grow peacefully. That would also benefit Liu Hong in the long run. He wouldn't lose anything no matter what.

At that thought, Liu Hong smiled and stopped talking. As for manipulating the matches, well, if he couldn't even accomplish something like that, he might as well retire and stop cultivating. That was a simple task.

As for the other researchers present, so what if they noticed what he was doing? Nobody would create trouble for him for the sake of something so trivial. This was never supposed to be a major tournament of the academy. And if a student was strong enough, it wouldn't matter which opponent the student faced.

While he was thinking about all that, Zheng Hong stepped forth. Numerous students exclaimed in surprise. At the same time, Zheng Hong's opponent revealed himself. It was Lin Yao.

Liu Hong covered his face. It was over for Lin Yao. Was this fate's way of helping Su Yu even more?

Lin Yao was not weak. He was a high-high student with 70 percent willpower. Of all the students present, he was definitely strong enough to rank in the top 50. However...he only lasted five seconds.

Zheng Hong opened his eyes indifferently while Lin Yao looked at Zheng Hong with shock, his face pale. Zheng Hong was too strong. He had been defeated instantly.

In the crowd, the other students were also greatly shocked. This was even faster than Xia Chan's fight against Qi Chong. Thus, it was very clear how strong Zheng Hong was.

Everyone knew that Lin Yao wasn't a weakling. Even during the previous monthly examination, he had done decently. His reputation had only dropped recently due to the incident involving Su Yu, but nobody denied that he was a talented and strong student.

...

Liu Hong was completely speechless.

The student allocations of the first round were completely random.

And since his student had suffered such a terrible defeat in Zheng Hong's hands, should he still arrange for Su Yu to meet Zheng Hong?

If Su Yu really ended up winning, he would rise further with Zheng Hong as his stepping stone. No, even Liu Hong himself would be affected as his student had been instantly defeated by Zheng Hong. Thus, Su Yu's victory over Zheng Hong would only make his student look even weaker.

"Can Su Yu win?"

Liu Hong was unsure. A second tier Divine Character was impressive, but Zheng Hong was not to be underestimated. And nobody knew how many Divine Characters Zheng Hong had.

"Forget it."

Liu Hong decided to throw caution to the wind. He wouldn't be too badly affected regardless of the result.

"If Su Yu really ends up winning, would my dumb student worship him even more?"

Suddenly, that possibility crossed Liu Hong's mind. His expression changed again. Damn it! That was very likely to happen! His idiotic student might even think that Su Yu had defeated Zheng Hong to avenge him!

Chapter 280: Wind, Fire, Mountain, Forest (1)

The matches continued.

The performances of the freaks, in particular, were very eye-catching.

Zheng Yunhui had encountered a fresh Mental Tempering Stage student and had won instantly before returning to the crowd loftily.

Zhao Shiji was able to obtain a victory without breaking a sweat.

Hu Qiusheng had stepped forth with a smile on his face. It did not take him long to return to the crowd with the same smile on his face.

The freak from the Talisman Faculty, Zhang Hao, had also easily defeated a high-high student from the Character Faculty.

As for the freak from the Willpower Faculty, it was a woman. Su Yu was quite surprised to learn about her since her name was Su Meng, someone sharing the same surname as him. She had also defeated a high-tier student without much effort.

All eight freaks had easily advanced to the next round. From this, one could say that the evaluations given during the entrance examinations were actually very accurate. People like Wu Lan and Xia Huyou had also advanced to the next round, but their victories had not come as easy.

Jia Mingzhen and company were not participating, but they were present as well. They had been hiding in a corner and talking among themselves. Nobody knew if they were merely hiding their strength or if they were too arrogant to join the tournament.

After the first round ended, 99 students remained.

But not all of them would participate in the next round. Some of them had exhausted too much willpower in the previous round. And since this was a minor tournament, they decided to withdraw.

Only 92 students remained in the second round.

"Not one of the freaks have encountered each other..."

Su Yu had been paying attention to all the matches. Seeing that none of the freaks had encountered each other, he started suspecting that the draws had been manipulated with. While he was thinking, someone approached him.

Yet again, it was Xia Huyou. He softly said, "How are you feeling? Do you think you can get into the top 10? A lot of people are betting that you will fail to get into the top 10. How confident are you? If you're not confident, I'll stop accepting further bets for that result."

Su Yu's performance during his fight against Hu Zongji had been truly too bland. He had spent too much time, unlike people like Zheng Yunhui who had instantly won.

Su Yu smiled, "Guess. If you agree to share half your profit with me, I can try my best to enter the top 10..."

...

Xia Huyou was rendered speechless. This fellow...was money all he had in his mind?

"The betting pool isn't big. Everyone is only betting a few merit points for fun..." Xia Huyou said, "Are you asking for a piece of such a small pie?"

Su Yu did not answer. It was time for the second round of drawing.

The moment he stuffed his hand into the bucket, a slip of paper flew into his palm. He was about to pick a different slip of paper when the instructor withdrew the bucket and walked toward the next student.

Su Yu frowned and stared at the instructor. That wasn't someone he knew and the instructor did not look too suspicious.

"Coincidence?"

This slip of paper just happened to enter his palm when he stuck his hand in? As the draw continued, Su Yu opened his slip of paper and saw the number two. He frowned. He would be the first to fight during the second round. Who was student number one?

...

Not far away.

Jia Mingzhen shot Su Yu a glance before looking at Liu Hong. A wide smile formed on his face, to the point his eyes were narrowed.

"Friends, are we ignoring this? This is fraud."

But the other elders remained indifferent. This was too trivial to be worth their interference. For students aiming for the top, the truly strong ones would eventually meet each other. It was only a matter of time. As for the weaker ones, it really didn't matter if they were defeated early on in the tournament.

Seeing that nobody was saying anything, Jia Mingzhen said, "Little Fatty Xia is opening another betting pool. Do we report him?"

"Old Jia, this betting pool only has a few hundred merit points in it. Don't tell me you want to eat even a pool so small."

One of the elders couldn't stay idle anymore and said, "Can't you wait and give the golden goose a chance to actually lay more eggs? Wait until he feels confident and opens a bigger pool before arresting him. Wouldn't that be better? Wait until these kids enter the top 100. This little fatty would definitely open more betting pools then. We can wait for a big match before raiding him."

If they raided the little fatty now for only a few hundred merit points, the little fatty would most definitely be more cautious and stop expanding his gambling operations.

"Yeah. I suspect that the little fatty is intentionally keeping the pool small to test the academy. He is still suspicious of his previous arrest."

Thus, they smiled at each other and decided to spare Xia Huyou this time. They focused on Su Yu and Zheng Hong instead.

"So these two are going to fight each other?"

"I suppose so. Liu Hong arranged it."

"Who can win?"

"Who knows?"

While the group of elders were chatting, the drawing came to an end.

In front of the students.

Liu Hong had a constant smile on his face. Some of the researchers noticed something and looked at him.

However, he paid no heed to them and announced, "Out of the 92 participants of the second round, 46 will advance to the next round. Each winner of the previous round will receive five merit points. This round will proceed as the previous round. The second round starts now."

Then, everyone waited for the students of the first match to step out.

In the crowd, Su Yu exhaled lightly. He then stepped forth. He had a feeling that his opponent this time might be one of the eight freaks. After all, something was off when he was making his draw. But he also wasn't too afraid of them. It was only a matter of time before he needed to meet them.

Not far away, Zheng Hong also stepped out of the crowd.

"Zheng Hong!"

"Su Yu."

These two were fighting in the first match! Many were only surprised momentarily. Very few gave this match much thought since as far as most people were concerned, Su Yu was definitely going to lose.

After all, Su Yu had needed so much time to deal with Hu Zongji. Meanwhile, Zheng Hong was someone who had easily defeated Lin Yao. Not many people knew Zheng Hong's real identity, but it was not completely unknown. People like Wan Mingze and Xia Chan knew his background very well.

He was Elder Sun's student and Elder Zheng's grandson. He was also a genius of the single character faction. And regardless of whether he was Zheng Yuming's grandson, Elder Sun was still an expert of the single character faction. That automatically made Zheng Hong one of the single character faction.

...

In the crowd, Hu Zongji clenched his fists as his emotions turned complicated.

Before this, he was hoping that Su Yu would win more matches to prove that he was not weak. But when he saw that Zheng Hong was Su Yu's match, his hope was crushed. There was no way Su Yu could win.

He believed that Su Yu was strong, but he did not think that Su Yu would be Zheng Hong's match. It was all over. He could only hope that Su Yu would last longer. If Su Yu was defeated instantly, it would reflect poorly on him as well.

Not far away, Lin Yao also had a sullen expression. Would his Brother Su be defeated so miserably as well? Zheng Hong was really very strong. If he had known that Su Yu would encounter Zheng Hong, he would have leaked some of Zheng Hong's information to Su Yu before this.

...

In the middle of the room.

Standing in front of the ball, Su Yu exhaled lightly when he saw that his opponent was Zheng Hong. His guess was right. Even though he had expected this, he still couldn't help but to curse Liu Hong inwardly when he saw Zheng Hong.

By making him face a freak in the second round, he would probably be badly exhausted even if he could win. How was he supposed to face the next round? Liu Hong was truly a scumbag through and through.

Zheng Hong wasn't too surprised to see that his opponent was Su Yu. He had also sensed something wrong when making his draw. He didn't expect Liu Hong to be so impatient, but there really wasn't anything he could say about this.

"Su Yu, let's enter together."

Zheng Hong was uninterested in making any further conversation. It didn't matter who his opponent was. As a genius, he had the confidence to crush all opponents, especially those from his generation.

Su Yu did not bother putting on an act and being all friendly with Zheng Hong. The two of them sent their willpower into the ball at the same time. Gold and green each occupied half the ball.

...

Inside the grotto.

Su Yu and Zheng Hong appeared at the same time. The two looked at each other. Immediately, Su Yu created his illusions and produced a bolt of lightning. The world Zheng Hong was looking at changed from what Su Yu was seeing. In his eyes, Su Yu was still standing there, smiling at him.

But Zheng Hong had far sharper senses than Hu Zongji. His expression changed as he flickered before vanishing. And right after he vanished, the bolt of lightning struck. Zheng Hong still couldn't see the bolt of lightning, but he could sense a large destructive force appearing at his previous location. He shut his eyes and stopped looking at the smiling Su Yu.

A massive character appeared in front of him.

Wind!

A violent gale erupted, causing even Su Yu's illusions to shake. Like sharp blades, the wind shredded the illusions apart. Although this wasn't a second tier character, Zheng Hong had a higher level of willpower cultivation. In the blink of an eye, the illusions fell apart, revealing Su Yu's real location. Su Yu was actually not far beside him.

Zheng Hong opened his eyes in astonishment. This fellow's illusions were quite powerful.

Wreathed in a thick killing intent, Su Yu struck with another bolt of lightning.

Boom!

The lightning was soundless, but Zheng Hong could hear the rumble within his head.

Fire!

A furious blaze rose, and pushed by the gale, it headed toward Su Yu with a might that caused even space itself to crack. Lightning and flame met, and flame swallowed lightning. Su Yu hurriedly retreated, but immediately after, the look in his eyes turned solemn. A mountain had appeared before him.

Wind, fire, and mountain.

Three Divine Characters, all characters of the divine race. Su Yu was alarmed. This fellow was really strong. There was an ancient saying depicting the four forces of nature: Wind, fire, mountain, and forest. Invasive as wind, expansive as fire, unmoving as mountain, and deceptive as forest.

This fellow did not have a character technique, but his characters were on the verge of forming their own unique system.

So was there a fourth Divine Character?

The massive mountain crashed down upon Su Yu. He couldn't afford to spend time thinking and produced a black saber. The lightning and illusions he had been generating vanished completely.

Four dim dots of light appeared on the surface of the saber. That was his character technique. There was also a fifth dot of light, but it was so dim that one could hardly see it. That was the dot formed by the deceit character. Instantly, the saber grew to a massive size before dropping down upon the mountain.

Rumble!

The grotto was soundless, but the hearts of both of them thumped due to the massive impact. Even Su Yu's willpower body started to blur. The massive mountain had been cut into pieces, but the saber had also dimmed considerably.