

Myriad 291

Chapter 291: Su Yu's Plan (1)

Hu Zongji stared at Su Yu for a long time before saying, "I suddenly feel like you're not as simple and honest as you pretended to be."

Su Yu laughed, "As long as I'm not planning to harm you, why does that matter? It's important that I keep at least some cards up my sleeve, right? I can't show all my secrets and allow everyone to target me as they wish."

"You're right." Hu Zongji nodded, "Apart from me, are there any other people in this club?"

"Yes. But I will keep their identities hidden for now." Su Yu solemnly said, "Our club is still small. For now, I can act as the middleman. It won't be too late to get to know each other when everyone grows sufficiently strong and understands the benefits of being in this club. It is honestly pointless for everyone to know each other right now."

Hu Zongji nodded.

"Su Yu, there are a lot of similar organizations in the academy. But ultimately, most of them fade into obscurity. I don't know if your Mutual Aid Club would be just another club that would die in the future..."

Su Yu nodded, "I understand your concern. Therefore, I will work hard to let everyone benefit from this. With that, everyone's confidence in the club would grow. Right now, I am planning to get everyone to share their unwanted willpower texts. And of course, I'll make sure that nobody suffers a loss in this exchange.

"For example, you have a willpower text written by a Skysoar that is still good for three reading sessions. In that case, you can exchange that for something of equal value. I won't tell you the identity of the person who had purchased your willpower text. I also won't tell the other person who you are. I will keep everyone's identity secret."

Hu Zongji nodded, "A lot of such organizations have disbanded. Some of the leaders or organizers used the organization to line their pockets, treat their members unjustly, or even blackmail their members..."

Su Yu smiled, "Just give it a try. I will get a specialist to evaluate each item we list for exchange. Each member will be able to see clearly the value of each item. Even the value of each information you provide can be given a proper value. Everything will be transparent."

Su Yu threw out his bait, "Just look at me. Why have I been growing so fast? There is a secret to it. My teacher has some high-tier myriad race cultivation methods that can accelerate my cultivation when used..."

Hu Zongji's expression changed.

"Is that also a product of Elder Hong's research?"

Su Yu replied, "I don't know. I only know that my teacher provided me with some altered cultivation methods that are helping me cultivate faster. Let's put it this way. Standing behind me is an eighth-stage Mountainsea expert. Thus, I believe I can bring just as much as anyone else to this club."

"But by teaching these methods to outsiders..."

"Don't worry. I will naturally get the approval from my teacher. I also won't leak the identities of you guys. We are all new students. We have no status in the academy. Our words hold no weight."

"Do you want to stay in the shadow of your elder brother forever? The Hu Family places their hope on your elder brother, not you. He is the one that matters to them. Don't you want to surpass him in the Top 100 Ranking?"

Hu Zongji's eyes lit up as he said, "Su Yu, don't make me these grand promises. To speak the truth, I don't have that much confidence in this club."

Su Yu smiled, "It's fine. I'll give you one thing for free. Consider this your welcome gift. I believe you'll like it."

"What?"

Su Yu then took out a book and said, "Pure Source Art. A basic cultivation method of the clearbright bird race that has been altered for human practice. It doesn't require a lot of new acupoints and it can purify your source qi. Since we cultivate with blood essence, we will naturally accumulate impurities in our source qi. And these impurities will make entering the Infinite Strength Realm difficult. With this Pure Source Art, you will be able to purify your source qi effectively.

"I am the perfect example of someone who has used this cultivation method. This method is the reason why I can consume a large amount of blood essence without side effects. This method only requires you to open 36 acupoints. Sure, it isn't easy to open acupoints, but after cultivating this method, you can continue using it all the way until the Skysoar Realm.

"And it is only a top-tier yellow-grade cultivation method. And only my faction has something like this. If I sell it on the market, I can probably sell it for hundreds of merit points, right?"

Hu Zongji's eyes were brightly lit.

He looked at Su Yu in disbelief and asked, "A gift...for me?"

"You can't teach anyone else this method." Su Yu solemnly warned, "The academy also has a copy of the Pure Source Art, but their version is unsuitable for human practice. This is something my faction has come up with after a lot of hard work. If you leak it, my grandteacher won't spare you.

"Of course, I believe everyone has a brain. If you really leak it, this will be the end of our relationship and you won't be able to get anything from us. Remember, you alone hold the key to your future.

"And this is only a supportive cultivation method. Perhaps in the future other cultivation methods, martial techniques, and even willpower cultivation methods will be made available in the future. After all, I need to gain more strength if I want to have more say in the academy."

Hu Zongji held the book tightly. It was a handwritten book while the contents were actually rather messy, unlike the usual cultivation books that would be presented in a systematic manner. But there

were a lot of illustrations in the book, making it very clear what acupoints were required, how to join the acupoints, and how to circulate one's qi.

This was a myriad race cultivation method that had been altered for human practice. It was a supportive cultivation method. And it was extremely precious. It could purify source qi!

Hu Zongji did not put it away. Holding it in his hand, he sank into an internal struggle. The moment he accepted this gift, he would become a member of this club. There would be no backing out. After all, if he backed out, the multiple character faction could simply claim that he had stolen their secret cultivation method. That would completely ruin his future.

"Su Yu..." Hu Zongji clenched his teeth and said, "I still can't showcase my value to the club yet. Keep this book for me! Wait until I contribute something to the club before giving it to me."

Su Yu smiled, "Take it. It's your welcome gift. I'll be frank. This thing is really not that valuable for us. Why do you think so many people are eyeing our research center?"

"My grandteacher is solely focused on research and nothing else. He only wants to discover the racial ability of the human race. Thus, he has neglected and sealed away a lot of things. Little did he know, all these things are actually invaluable. But in his eyes, these treasures are garbage."

"Elder Hong..."

A look of admiration covered Hu Zongji's face.

Hong Tan. The pillar of the multiple character faction. An eighth-stage Mountainsea expert. Yet he only focused on research, ignoring all the power struggles in the academy. Wentan Research Center.

Just a random cultivation method of that research center was already something this amazing. There were definitely more similar cultivation methods in the Human Realm.

But insignificant individuals like him would definitely not have access to them. These special cultivation methods would probably be taught in some families or organizations. Or some experts would personally

teach these cultivation methods to their successors. But for the rest of humanity, they could only rely on luck if they wanted access to these cultivation methods.

Perhaps in the future when they had a higher status and higher level of authority, they could get all that, but not now.

Hu Zongji swallowed and admiringly said, "Someone like Elder Hong...is a true cultural researcher. I believe the day Wentan Research Center reveals their research results to the world would also be the day they stun the world with their accomplishments."

Su Yu also assumed an admiring expression as he said, "Definitely! I believe my grandteacher can do so! Alas...sigh. My grandteacher's ambition does not lie there. He only has his sights set on the Sunmoon and Eternal Realms. To be honest, only if he is an Eternal would he be able to protect us after all our research results are revealed. If we reveal it now...sigh. I don't dare to imagine what would happen."

Hu Zongji nodded.

With a look of longing, he said, "Elder Hong is already a peak eighth-stage Mountainsea cultivator. Perhaps he is already near the Sunmoon Realm?"

"It's really hard to say." Su Yu shook his head, "I have no idea. I have yet to even meet him. Zongji, I'll tell you one more thing. I'm establishing this Mutual Aid Club as a preparation for the future. The multiple character faction has been suppressed for so many years. I can't accept that. I am weak now so I can't do anything. But when I grow strong, I will definitely seek justice for my faction.

"But without enough people, it is pointless. Even if I am a Mountainsea, the academy has plenty of Mountainsea experts around. But what about two Mountainsea experts? Three? Or four?"

Su Yu had a burning gaze as he said, "You, me, and the others. All of us can grow together. Enter the Mountainsea Realm together. When the time comes, would you help me? Would you guys help me?"

Hu Zongji solemnly promised, "If I do not repay you after receiving your favor, how am I different from an animal? I will accept this Pure Source Art. From today onward, I am a member of the Mutual Aid Club! I have a few unwanted willpower texts. I've read them before but I didn't manage to gain much. If

you need them, I can send them over to you. You're absolutely right. People like us have our secrets. That includes our Divine Characters. As long as you are willing to keep the sources of your willpower texts secret, I believe we can gain a lot with this club!"

Su Yu smiled.

Hu Zongji continued, "From today onward, I will also gather more information related to the single character faction and other matters. I can even gather information related to the Allheaven Battlefield. After all, my second granduncle is the deputy head of the Missions Department. He knows a lot. I will start visiting him more."

"Good. I'll get someone to assign a value to all the things we are going to trade within the club."

When Su Yu saw that Hu Zongji wanted to protest, he waved his hand and said, "For an organization to last, it must be established on the foundation of fairness. If the members only give and not receive, who would be willing to keep giving? Nobody is a fool. In that case, why bother sharing a good mission with your fellow members? Why bother sharing a good technique with others? Only by ensuring fairness would our club keep existing."

Hu Zongji nodded. Su Yu was right.

vChapter 292: Su Yu's Plan (2)

Su Yu said, "I will also try to get in contact with people outside the academy, such as those from the war academies. By gathering more people together, we can share more resources such as blood essence, cultural weapons, cultivation methods, martial techniques, and willpower texts. With all these resources, all of us will be able to grow even faster."

Hu Zongji stared at Su Yu. This person...was very ambitious! He found that he had really underestimated Su Yu previously. A fellow from Nanyuan had actually thought that far ahead. He also had the courage to act on his plan. And he even had a sufficiently strong backer. It truly was true that there was a reason behind each success story.

At that thought, Hu Zongji said, "Su Yu, you reminded me of something. If you have something you need in the future, you don't necessarily need to look for Xia Huyou. You can also try to issue missions for what you need. I can help you get that done through my second granduncle. Nobody except me would be aware that you are the one issuing those missions. You might even be able to get what you need for a cheaper price that way."

Su Yu's eyes lit up. He had recently been thinking about one issue. He had bought too much from Xia Huyou. Things were starting to get dangerous. After all, Xia Huyou had been able to learn a lot about him through the items he had been purchasing. Although Xia Huyou had not shown any malicious intent on him, it was still a good idea to keep more things secret.

"Academy missions?"

"Yeah. Issue a gathering mission for what you want and some researchers will actually accept the mission as long as you offer enough merit points."

Su Yu was overjoyed. It would seem like he had not made the wrong choice making this offer to Hu Zongji.

Hu Youhui wasn't too strong, but he was still a seventh-stage Cloudbreach and the deputy head of the Missions Department. His position wasn't exactly high, but it was a useful position that could be very helpful for Su Yu.

Su Yu asked, "If I issue a mission to get someone deliver some things to someone in the Devil Subduing Army at the Allheaven Battlefield, would it work?"

"Yes." Hu Zongji said, "Are you planning to deliver some things to your father? That's simple. The academy teachers can all enter the battlefield. For them, this would be an easy mission. But it might take them some work to actually locate a person there. And it probably wouldn't be cheap. After all, the battlefield is a dangerous place.

"But with a mission, you don't have to worry about having your parcel stolen. Unless the researcher wishes to leave the Human Realm, then nobody would dare to do something like that."

Su Yu was greatly overjoyed. That was great news for him. When he had more money at hand, he would be able to provide his father with some support. It was really too dangerous for his father to stay on the battlefield.

Hu Zongji elaborated, "And if you have enough money, you can even hire an expert to become your father's bodyguard with the identity as an army cultural researcher. But of course, that would be very expensive since an army cultural researcher needs to serve for at least one year before leaving."

Su Yu was tempted.

"How much do I need to pay?"

"No less than 300 merit points per year for an early-stage Skysoar. That place is really very dangerous. And this researcher also won't be able to spend all the time protecting your father. After all, they will also be assigned their own missions after joining the army. They can only promise to do their best."

Su Yu nodded. That was better than nothing. He could really consider doing so in the future. As for now...it was better to wait. He had been spending too much money and was left with only around 2,000 merit points. And he still needed money for a lot of things. He would try to issue a mission for his father if he had the chance to carry out another one of these big scams in the future.

The two continued talking for a while and Su Yu managed to learn even more things from Hu Zongji.

"I heard from my second granduncle before that Faculty Head Zhou Mingren has not been managing his faction for a very long time. He has been focusing on advancing into the Sunmoon Realm. Currently, the one running the single character faction is his student, Elder Zheng Yuming. And in truth, Elder Zheng seems extremely hostile toward your multiple character faction..."

"Why is that?"

"I heard back when he was a student, he was suppressed by the multiple character faction. Some multiple character faction members had even humiliated him. Things used to actually be not that bad for you guys. But since he took power, things have become really bad. He even looks like he's trying to

completely exterminate your faction. That was all thanks to his advancement into the Mountainsea Realm, allowing him to become the faction master."

Su Yu frowned, "My teacher never told me anything..."

"We're still too weak. That's understandable. It's pointless to let us know. Also, do you know Xia Yuwen? My second granduncle said that the single character faction is aiming to remove Head Manager Chen and replace him with Zhou Pingsheng. Xia Yuwen would take Zhou Pingsheng's previous position. He seems to be trying to use the academy as a tool to propel himself to Great Xia's highest circles of power..."

Both of them were not really sure as to what those words really meant.

But Su Yu still frowned. In that case, the multiple character faction was probably not the only reason his senior sister had been kicked off the top 100.

"Noted. Thank you."

"You're welcome. I should be the one thanking you. In the future, I'll try to pay more attention to information like this. Most people related to the single character faction won't know all that as the people in charge won't talk carelessly before them. But my second granduncle is strictly speaking, quite close to them."

Su Yu nodded.

That was obvious. Hu Zongji's elder brother had a good relationship with Liu He as well. Their family was probably quite close to the single character faction.

Su Yu had not spared too much effort writing out the Pure Source Art. He only gave a simple description on the location of acupoints, how they should be opened, and how they should be connected. That was nothing difficult.

But 36 acupoints was a lot. How far Hu Zongji could go would depend on himself. It wouldn't harm him to open more acupoints anyway. Unfortunately for him, he wouldn't be able to directly use the cultivation method with blood essence. Instead, he would have to actually open the acupoints to use it.

Yes, this was a new trump card Su Yu had come up with. He could slowly write out the human version of the cultivation methods he had activated through his book. Of course, he still couldn't reveal too much for now. He was too weak.

For example, the mountainbreak bull race's Body Strengthening Art was much more valuable than the Pure Source Art. If it was leaked, it would catch a lot of attention. And the weight of all that attention was beyond Su Yu's ability to handle.

Pure Source Art was only a supportive cultivation method, after all. Even if Hu Zongji proved unreliable and the method was leaked, it still wouldn't be that much of a threat to Su Yu. He still had an eighth-stage Mountainsea expert behind him.

As for how that grandteacher of his would react, well, Su Yu would think about it when his grandteacher had actually returned. But from what Bai Feng had said, this grandteacher was quite an agreeable person. Thus, Su Yu did not hesitate to let his grandteacher be a scapegoat for now.

Before leaving, Su Yu reminded Hu Zongji to pretend to be strangers when they meet in the academy. If they grew too close, Su Yu was worried that the single character faction would grow suspicious over Hu Zongji.

"Hu Zongji...Lin Yao!"

A second name appeared in Su Yu's mind. Yes. He had to try pulling Lin Yao into the club as well.

He also had a few other candidates in mind. Such as Xia Huyou. But that fellow's identity as a Xia Family member was quite scary for Su Yu. If he really attracted the attention of the Xia Family, he might end up being eaten up before he could even blink.

"My members can't be stronger than me, can't have too good of a family, and it would be better if they are people that have been neglected by their own. After all, how am I supposed to recruit those who don't lack anything?"

Su Yu felt like he still knew too little about the academy and Great Xia. He needed to expand his network of connections. As for relying on his teacher, forget it. Bai Feng was a shut-in. Even if he was talented and strong, he didn't have a lot of friends. Just look at how nobody cared even after he was bullied in the academy.

"Grandteacher is also a shut-in."

Su Yu kept muttering to himself. If it wasn't for that, how would the multiple character faction be in such a terrible state?

His grandteacher was an eighth-stage Mountainsea! He doubted that there were actually that many such experts in the academy. Someone so strong was doing so badly in the academy? He only had one research center left, and even that was being eyed by so many people? That was too miserable.

Su Yu truly couldn't stay silent anymore. Just look at how nobody cared that some people were trying to remove his martial uncle from his position as the head manager. No matter what, that was a ninth-stage Cloudbreach. But his voice held zero weight in the academy.

Why? Because his martial uncle was also a shut-in! He spent all his time hiding in the books depository. Who else would they bully if not him?

"It's too hard to contend against so many people alone. At the very least, you need more voices at your side, right?"

Even though the masses weren't strong individually, when combined, they would have considerable influence.

His grandteacher and the others were too foolish. They were noble and virtuous. But nobody cared about that! It wasn't like they were Eternals! Even Eternals weren't truly free!

Su Yu started making his plans. He imagined the day when with one clarion call from him, countless students and teachers stepped forth and spoke on his behalf. At that time, not even Wan Tiansheng would dare to lightly expel him from the academy, right?

His Teacher Liu Wenyan was someone who had been expelled from the academy! Su Yu was definitely afraid of history repeating itself on him!

"Grow silently and build my network. As long as I can build a community of common interests, then we will be on the same side. At that time, the so-called factions...are nothing!"

But he was still too weak. So he could only borrow the reputation of his faction for now. He was confident his grandteacher wouldn't mind. His teacher probably wouldn't mind either.

Chapter 293: Crush Mountainsea, Suppress Sunmoon, Battle Invincible (1)

Research center.

Su Yu opened the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem. There were a lot of characters in this book.

He spent some time admiring the writings on the book. He had to admit that his grandteacher's writings were really nice. At the very least, they were much better than Bai Feng's writings.

When he tried sending his willpower into the book, nothing happened.

The only thing he could feel was that these characters gave off a simple and heavy sensation, indicating that they were written by a Mountainsea expert. Apart from that, he didn't feel anything.

"Is there even a martial technique in this thing?"

Su Yu was worried. Even Hong Tan had not discovered anything after so many years. Thus, if there was really a martial technique here, then it was most definitely written by a Sunmoon or even an Eternal.

In any case, that expert would be much stronger than his grandteacher.

He took out a drop of silkworm blood essence. After taking a deep breath, he dropped it onto the book. Immediately, his vision swam.

When he reopened his eyes again, he was no longer where he was. His surroundings were completely empty. Next, an individual appeared out of thin air in front of him. That was a tall and burly man. He looked to be around 40 or 50 years old. He had an empty look in his eyes, but when he saw Su Yu, life returned to his eyes.

"A human?"

Su Yu blanked out. What?

"Don't be surprised. I am merely a strand of willpower left here. Since you can reach this place, then it means that fate has brought us together. This technique has fallen in the hands of a non-human previously. Is that person dead?"

"No..."

"It doesn't matter." The man did not say much. He looked at Su Yu and solemnly said, "This technique is known as Time."

Time?

Su Yu was still in a daze. Where was this? Was this a space within the willpower text? There was actually someone in here? Sure, there were people in all willpower texts, but those people had never spoken to him before! And the one before him was actually capable of communicating with him!

"Time, a technique that could pursue the flow of time, break through the cycle of reincarnation, chase the stars, overtake the moon, reach the future with one step, and return to the past with the next step..."

Wow, that was...what a boast.

Su Yu was completely speechless. Just who was the creator of this technique? That was such a braggart!

"Peak middle-tier heaven-grade martial technique. 132 acupoints. Capable of crushing Mountainseas. Capable of suppressing Sunmoons."

Su Yu listened silently. Sure, sure, keep bragging. This fellow was an Invincible, of course he could crush Mountainseas and suppress Sunmoons. Alas, Su Yu wasn't an Invincible. So he wouldn't be able to do so.

This was a middle-tier heaven-grade martial technique. Yes, it was really very powerful. But the person cultivating it and the cultivation level of that person was also very important.

"There are only three levels to this technique. Each level requires 44 acupoints. The first level, Crushing Mountainsea. The second level, Suppressing Sunmoon. The third level, Battling Invincible."

"..."

Su Yu was stunned. Those names...were truly overbearing. But he was afraid that the moment he spoke those names, he would be beaten to death. He really wanted to roll his eyes at the creator of this technique.

He couldn't help but to recall what Liu Wenyan told him in the past. Some Invincible experts had serious eighth grade syndrome when they were young. Thus, they would give all sorts of names to the techniques they created.

For example, there was the Sky Sundering Countless Saber. And the naming sense of this person was just as bad as the creator of the Sky Sundering Countless Saber.

Su Yu was afraid that when he yelled the name of these moves when fighting, he would get himself beaten up by the nearby Mountainseas and Sunmoons when they overheard him.

"44 acupoints per level. With this technique, fighting above your level is not a problem. As a Great Strength cultivator, fight Infinite Strength cultivators. As an Infinite Strength cultivator, fight Skysoar cultivators."

"..."

The middle-aged man continued speaking while Su Yu listened silently. Eventually, the world around him changed again. Numerous dots of light appeared on the legs of the middle-aged man. Those were acupoints.

"First level, Crushing Mountainsea. After opening 44 acupoints in both legs, these acupoints can be linked into an independent system. This is a system that I have created after many years of research."

Once again, the middle-aged man started bragging. He was essentially talking about how strong this technique was, promising that with only the first level, one would have no trouble fighting above one's level.

And one only needed 44 acupoints to possess such prowess.

After comparing the acupoints with his existing acupoints, Su Yu was overjoyed. "Twenty of these acupoints overlapped with the War God Art!"

In other words, he only needed to open 24 acupoints for the first level.

As Su Yu listened, he suddenly felt dizzy. His willpower...had been fully drained. Next, his vision swam again. He then returned to where he was previously.

The Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem had returned to its original appearance while the drop of blood essence used on it had been completely absorbed.

"This..."

Su Yu was just about to praise the technique when an intense headache erupted. He had drained too much of his willpower. And in his sea of willpower, his willpower was recovering and growing at the same time.

Su Yu blanked out.

Invincible!

This was a willpower text written by an Invincible! No wonder he had fully drained his willpower in such a short period of time. But despite the massive exhaustion, his willpower was recovering rapidly.

"This...is so powerful!"

Su Yu was overjoyed. He felt like this text was a better willpower trainer than even the fragment room.

Also...this was a willpower text! Su Yu thought of something else. This was a willpower text written by an Invincible. In that case, could he form a Divine Character from it?

"I probably can't do it now. The Divine Character formed from this text could probably defeat me all by itself."

Su Yu recalled how even two of his Divine Characters nearly failed to subdue a single kill character previously. In that case, what would happen if it was a character written by an Invincible? He even wondered if the character would be at the second tier the moment it formed.

"Time. First level, Crushing Mountainsea."

Su Yu exhaled. What a domineering name. However, he was definitely incapable of crushing Mountainseas.

"And I need a lot of willpower to study this technique."

A drop of Great Strength blood essence had not allowed him to study it for long. And silkwrym blood essence was definitely not cheap. In fact, it was very expensive.

"A human technique that can only be activated with silkwrym blood essence. Just how much does this person hate the silkwrym race? Has the creator of this technique been beaten up by the silkwrym race before?"

Su Yu had no choice but to suspect that.

At the same time.

Human Realm.

At the top of a certain towering building.

Two individuals were drinking tea while playing chess.

Suddenly, one of them looked toward the south and frowned, "Who activated my Time technique?"

"Huh?" The burly guy in front of him asked in astonishment, "I thought that technique was taken by an outsider a few years ago? If that's the case, why are you looking at the Human Realm?"

"It's in the Human Realm." The middle-aged man replied, "Is that fellow dead? Has the technique been snatched back by a human? My poor student. Finally, someone has avenged him."

The burly man laughed, "So? Do you want to take it back?"

"Forget it. Consider it my gift for avenging my student." The middle-aged man smiled, "I wonder who took it. I hope it's not a talentless person. That would be a stain to my reputation. But someone capable of killing an enemy from a different race is probably not weak. That person should probably be quite talented."

The middle-aged man's tone turned cold, "The Luminous Domain Mansion is going to be opened again soon. This time, I will send some people inside and butcher more people to soothe the soul of my student."

The burly man laughed, "Calm down. You're not young anymore. Your student was not strong enough. There is nothing you can do if he was killed because of that. Also, your Time technique is really not that special. But I can admit that it has an amazing name."

"Not that special?" The middle-aged man snorted, "I can send you back 100 years into the past with one kick. Do you want to give it a try?"

"Hehe. Sure, give it a try." The burly man had a look of disdain as he said, "If you can really send me 100 years into the past, I'll burn some incense to you and worship you like you're a god."

"..."

The middle-aged man ignored that remark and returned his focus to the game of chess. After a while, he said, "The Silkwrym King has been in hiding recently. When we have the chance, help me ambush that fellow..."

"It has been hundreds of years..." The burly man was speechless, "Are you still holding on to that grudge? You were only swallowed once. You didn't even lose anything from that experience..."

"Hmph!" The middle-aged man resentfully said, "He will pay for having the guts to swallow me!"

The burly man couldn't even be bothered to say anything in response.

How petty.

How many years had it been? Even the Silkwrym King was tired of this person. Any time this person showed himself, the Silkwrym King would withdraw. Yet this person had been very persistent.

Su Yu was naturally unaware of that short exchange. His willpower was recovering rapidly. A short while later, he opened his eyes, joy covering his face. His willpower seemed to have grown slightly. This felt similar to his experience when he first entered the fragment room.

"Invincible..."

He didn't know if the creator was an Invincible or a Sunmoon, but considering the name of the moves such as Suppressing Sunmoon and Battling Invincible, that person was most likely an Invincible.

"I only need 24 acupoints. I can give it a try. After all, I still have quite a lot of mountainbreak bull blood essence left."

Su Yu decided to enter the grotto once again and open all 24 acupoints of this technique inside. He aimed to finish cultivating the first level. It should be quite a strong move.

"Purchase silkworm blood essence and five elemental race blood essence..."

Su Yu had the urge to enter seclusion immediately. He really wanted to see just how strong a heaven-grade martial technique was. He still lacked a truly strong offensive technique. Perhaps this technique would fulfill that role.

"All thanks to that suanni..."

Su Yu suddenly blanked out. He did a short calculation. He last fed them on the 22th. Since it was already past midnight, it should be the 1st of October today, right?

"It's not that bad. It has only been 10 days."

He exhaled in relief. Fortunately, he had remembered them. Otherwise, he would probably spend the next few days in the grotto and delay feeding them even more. And if he forgot about them after leaving seclusion, they would probably remain starved for half a month or even a month. It wouldn't be good if some of them ended up starved to death.

"The water guy is in the Cloudbreach Realm. That fellow's blood essence can be used to activate the water elemental's page in the book..."

Although he still couldn't do so for now, a day would come when he could. He could probably start activating Cloudbreach pages after reaching the Skysoar Realm.

A short while later, he arrived at the second underground floor.

The door swung open.

The creatures inside the room seemed to have gotten used to being starved. Indeed, the power of adaptability could also be very scary.

Just look at the suanni and the satisfied expression on his face.

After telling Su Yu about the technique, he had been given a few extra drops of source qi liquid. Thus, life had been good for him recently. He had completely forgotten that he was supposed to be fed a drop every three days. And he had only been given three drops previously. Thus, he had not really been given any extra food.

Alas...his new caretaker had a bad memory. And he had gotten used to being starved. Thus, even getting what he was supposed to get in the first place was already good enough for him. Just look at the other creatures. Look at how weak they were.

Chapter 294: Crush Mountainsea, Suppress Sunmoon, Battle Invincible (2)

"Youngster Su, you're here!"

The suanni was very excited and energetic.

Thank the heavens the kid was here again. He had just finished his source qi liquid. If the kid waited any longer to come, he would start starving again. The shadow, water elemental, fire crow, white civet, and mountandrill bull all woke up.

With his shrill voice, the fire crow said, "Su Yu, I have only gotten a drop of source qi liquid since you became the caretaker. Are you really trying to starve me to death?"

The fire crow's life had been too miserable recently. The other fellows had still obtained a few drops. But he had only been given a single drop after all this time.

Su Yu couldn't even be bothered to give the fire crow a reply. The crow still had enough energy to speak. That was good enough.

Instead, he looked at the suanni and smiled, "Well done! I already have the book. There is really a technique in it. Very good. Suanni, for your performance, I will give you one extra drop of source qi liquid. I will even bring you some meat during my next visit. As for the others...decide for yourself if you want to be helpful."

Su Yu joyously said, "Since I have the technique, I only need to open the acupoints for it. Hehe, my enemy is only an eighth-stage Great Strength cultivator. It won't be long before I can finally destroy him!"

This time, the white civet was no longer trying to be seductive when speaking to Su Yu. In fact, her voice had changed considerably.

She weakly said, "Little Brother Su Yu, can you give me an extra drop of source qi liquid this time? I...I'll give you a cultivation method of the white civet race for it. I really don't know any human cultivation methods. But I can write a secret technique of the white civet race for you."

Su Yu rolled his eyes, "Stop trying to use this trick on me. Do you think I'm dumb? You can easily hide a killing move in the text with your willpower. What if I die when studying your text? You guys are too strong and I'm too weak. I won't fall for that!"

The white civet felt like crying. She wouldn't do that! She only wanted more food! A drop of source qi liquid every 10 days or so was really not enough. She was on the verge of starving to death.

Previously, these creatures had been thinking of using Su Yu to escape. But now, they would be happy enough if they weren't starved to death. This caretaker was truly too unreliable.

Sure, Bai Feng had also been quite unreliable. But at least Bai Feng had a much better memory than Su Yu! He would come at least seven or eight times each month. On average, he would be here once every four or five days.

But Su Yu...would only be here two or three times per month! To be precise, he had only been here three times this month.

Bai Feng had handed the prison zone to his care on the 4th of the previous month. And it was the 1st of October today. Su Yu had only visited them thrice during that period of time. They were afraid that this trend would continue. Wasn't he supposed to feed them once every three days? But he had clearly changed the schedule to once every ten days. Who could survive that?

The shadow and water elemental revealed their physical bodies and gazed at Su Yu anxiously. Gone were their arrogance from before. Damn it! They were really going to die soon! Even Cloudbreach experts couldn't withstand such starvation.

The mountandrill bull gnashed his teeth and said, "Give me 20 drops of source qi liquid. I can give you a drop of my blood essence."

That was most certainly an unfair exchange for the bull. Producing a drop of blood essence would further weaken the bull. But if he didn't do so, he would probably starve to death. Without the support of source qi liquid, it would only be a matter of time before he was reduced into a pile of bones. What was the point of keeping his strength if he was going to die?

Su Yu glanced at the bull and gave a noncommittal reply, "I'll see. I can't use Skysoar blood essence anyway. You guys are too strong. Can't you be in the Infinite Strength or Skysoar Realms? Are you trying to kill me with your blood essence? I see what you're doing!"

"..."

The mountindrill bull felt very aggrieved. Damn it! Was it his fault for being strong? What could he do if this Su Yu was too weak?

"You can sell my blood essence to buy some blood essence that you can use!" The mountindrill bull pleaded, "I am a Skysoar. You can get at least 10 drops of blood essence after selling my blood!"

Su Yu felt enlightened.

He looked at the bull in astonishment, "Wow. You actually have a brain?"

"..."

The bull felt like crying. Why was that even surprising? If he was stupid, how could he reach the Skysoar Realm? How was it his fault that Su Yu was too stupid to think of that?

Su Yu said nothing else and tossed two drops of source qi liquid to the suanni. The suanni was so touched to see two drops of source qi liquid that he felt like crying.

Ahhh...this is how life should be!

Compared with the other fellows, he was truly living a good life. Two drops of source qi liquid! Telling Su Yu about that martial technique was truly the correct decision! He had gotten four drops of source qi liquid for that so far!

But when he thought about how he had only gotten four drops of source qi liquid for a middle-tier heaven-grade martial technique...the suanni felt like crying. Since when were...heaven-grade techniques so cheap?

After feeding the creatures, Su Yu smiled, "By the way, I'll be entering seclusion again."

That alarmed all the creatures. They all grew anxious. Seclusion! How long would the seclusion be?

The white civet hurriedly said, "Little Brother Su Yu, no, Big Brother Su Yu, I...I am willing to buy some source qi liquid from you with my blood essence. I can also provide you with cultivation methods or martial techniques. Or...I can even give you the secret cultivation method of my race. You can get thousands of merit points if you submit it to your academy...I won't even add any willpower into the text. It will be a normal text..."

Su Yu rubbed his chin. He was slightly tempted, "Pure text without willpower?"

That seemed to be a decent idea. Even if he couldn't make use of the cultivation method, he could still be rewarded for submitting it to the academy, right? But did the academy already have that cultivation method in their collection?

After thinking about it, he said, "Sure. You guys can write down the cultivation methods and techniques of some powerful races. I'll try submitting them to the academy. If I get rewarded..."

Su Yu paused slightly before saying, "For every 100 merit points I get, I will give you one extra drop of source qi liquid. If not...my apologies. Source qi liquid doesn't exactly fall from the sky."

The creatures were feeling both helplessness and despair. This bastard. Was he even feeding them with his own source qi liquid? But there was no denying that this was a good idea. He would ask for methods and techniques to be submitted to the academy.

Since those texts would have no willpower in them, so long as Su Yu didn't cultivate them himself, they would pose no danger to him.

The shadow said, "The human race has been fighting us for so many years. You guys have most of our methods and techniques. So you might not get rewarded for what we know. We understand what 100 merit points signify. The academy won't give you that much for these things."

Su Yu smiled, "Is that so? In that case, you guys will simply have to write more, right? Even if the academy already has a copy of those methods and techniques, you can add your own understanding into the text. You guys should know more about your techniques and methods than humans, right? You

are free to scheme against others. I don't care as long as you don't mess with me. There are plenty of Mountainsea experts in the academy. If you can, feel free to scheme against those people."

The creatures sank into further despair. Bullshit. Were Mountainsea experts so easy to scheme against?

Su Yu smiled, "So do you agree? If you agree, start writing. I'll trade them for rewards from the academy. I've been in need of money recently. I can buy some food for you guys after I make money."

The creatures looked at each other. After a while, the white civet sullenly said, "Fine. I'll write. Big Brother Su Yu, remember to give me a few drops of source qi liquid after you get the rewards. I'm really on the verge of death. I'm not as strong as these guys..."

Su Yu smiled, "Sure. Don't worry. I never lie. I merely have a bad memory. Apart from that, I am basically a perfect person."

The creatures nodded. Yes. They could agree that this kid had a bad memory. So bad was his memory that he would frequently forget to feed them. One of these days, some of them would probably starve to death.

At that time, Su Yu recalled something and looked at the water elemental before saying, "Number 1, does the five elemental race start cultivating willpower at a young age?"

The water elemental sank into silence.

"What is this response? Is that a secret?"

The water elemental gently said, "You can say that. But we are different from humans. We don't really have any acupoints. Our cultivation method is completely different from humans. Even with our cultivation method, you won't be able to do anything with it."

"No acupoints?"

The water elemental said, "Yeah. We are spirits born of the five elements. To be precise, our bodies are formed of acupoints. When cultivating, we have no idea which acupoints we were opening. Thus, the human race won't be able to alter our cultivation method for human use no matter how long you spend studying it."

Su Yu was tempted. Others couldn't, but his book could. He was confident in his book.

Prior to the Skysoar Realm, humans could only cultivate their willpower passively, similar to physical cultivation at the Source Opening Realm. But back then, Su Yu had been able to cultivate actively with the help of his book. In that case, why couldn't he do the same with willpower?

At that thought, he said, "Number 1, write down your cultivation method as well. I want to take a look. Even if I can't use it, it is still worth something. I can give you a drop of source qi liquid for it."

The water elemental was rendered speechless. Was the cultivation method of the five elemental race only worth a drop of source qi liquid? Was this kid looking down on the five elemental race?

Su Yu knew what the water elemental was thinking about. He said, "I can't cultivate it anyway. Look at the suanni. He gave me something I can actually use. The value between the two is naturally different."

The water elemental helplessly said, "Give me some time to think about it."

He then turned into a puddle of water again.

Su Yu did not try to push it. He would be able to activate the method after getting some five elemental blood essence anyway. He only wanted to get a copy from this water elemental to study and see how he could write a proper cultivation method in the future.

Strictly speaking, the Pure Source Art he had given Hu Zongji wasn't an actual cultivation method. It was too simple and the contents had not been organized into a proper system. The book only told Hu Zongji which acupoints to open, how to open them, where those acupoints were, and how to link those acupoints.

Of course, those were essentially what all cultivation methods were about.

The version he provided simply lacked some padding to make it look more profound and mysterious. With one look, one would be able to see that the method was written by an unlearned person. And a random person who didn't know Su Yu might not necessarily dare to cultivate something like that.

Hu Zongji did not doubt it because Su Yu had proved the effectiveness of the method with himself. His acupoints were incredibly pure, serving as a shining example for Hu Zongji. And Hu Zongji did not believe that there was a need for Su Yu to scheme against him in such a manner.

But in the future, Su Yu had to stop giving out such unrefined cultivation methods. If he only gave out one or two of these, it was fine. But if he gave more, one would be able to see that these methods were not modified from a proper cultivation method. Instead, it was written out by someone who had actually activated those acupoints and used the method.

In that case, people would start wondering about the identity of the person who had used all these methods. Who was that person?

Hong Tan?

Bai Feng?

Or Su Yu?

That might leak some of Su Yu's secrets.

Chapter 295: Crush Mountainsea, Suppress Sunmoon, Battle Invincible (3)

A lot of thoughts rose in Su Yu's mind. He said nothing else and tossed some paper and pen into the cages.

"Write faster if you want to write. If not, so be it. Do you guys know the human language? It would be better if you can write two copies. One in the original language and one in the human language..."

Immediately after, the white civet sullenly said, "Big Brother Su Yu, the intent of some cultivation methods can't be expressed properly without willpower texts. Some cultivation tricks can't be expressed with words alone."

Su Yu believed that. There were actually a lot of cultivation methods like that. One would not be able to master them without actual willpower texts.

"Then just write down those that can be learned through words." Su Yu didn't mind. He casually tossed a drop of source qi liquid over and said, "White cat, you're the most obedient so this is your reward."

The white civet was overjoyed. She caught the drop of source qi liquid with her mouth and nearly teared up from joy. Her life here had been too miserable. Which eighth-stage Skysoar would be so touched after receiving only a drop of source qi liquid?

"I'll start writing..."

The white civet was too happy. She didn't even bother using the pen. She dipped her claw into the ink and started writing with her claw instead.

"Big Brother, you need to turn off the barrier outside the cage if you want me to send this out of the cage..."

Su Yu glared at her. Who was she trying to trick?

"Try tossing it out."

"It really won't work. The defensive talismans will destroy it with lightning. These talismans only allow a one-way transfer of items."

Su Yu thought about it and nodded. He said nothing. He went upstairs and returned shortly after.

In his hand was a jade recording talisman. He smiled and said, "Raise the paper and step forward. I'll record a video of the cultivation method."

The white civet was speechless. This fellow...was truly creative.

She obediently raised the paper and allowed Su Yu to record the contents. After a while, he nodded with satisfaction.

"Well done. I'll try submitting this thing. If I'm rewarded, I'll bring you something nice to eat."

The suanni hurriedly said, "Su Yu...you promised to bring me some meat..."

"Sure."

Su Yu agreed easily and left the prison zone.

After Su Yu left, the white civet sighed, "This isn't working. Su Yu is too cautious. And he's not stupid. If this continues, we won't be able to survive for long."

The suanni also complained, "I gave him a heaven-grade martial technique only to receive a few drops of source qi liquid. What a greedy person. This really can't continue. Shadow, do you have any ideas?"

The shadow said, "Yes. Give him some blood essence. Mix our willpower in the blood essence. I know that some of you have the ability to regrow your body from a single drop of blood. As long as you can tempt him, you will have a chance.

"White civet, write more cultivation methods for him. Let him have a taste of the benefits he can get from us. Slowly reel him in. Human greed knows no limit. When he starts enjoying the benefits from us, his greed will grow. He will even start setting his eyes on our blood. He can record the cultivation

methods. But can he record our blood? It is only a matter of time before he takes the bait. Take it slow. As long as he deactivates the talismans around the cages, we will be able to escape."

The creatures then sank into silence.

Living area.

Su Yu was checking his recording. The white civet had written three cultivation methods. He skimmed through the three methods and sneered. These were all garbage methods. There were already copies of these methods in the Human Realm.

"Maybe I can still give it a try..."

He could test his luck and see if the academy would reward him for this. Even a small reward was still a new source of income for him. Furthermore, if he started doing this, he would have the perfect excuse in the future when he finally started selling the cultivation methods he obtained from his book.

He believed that quite a lot of people were aware that his grandteacher had imprisoned some creatures in the research center.

"This is good. I can make them my scapegoats so that I don't have to explain my source of cultivation methods. Yes. They are my source!"

Su Yu wasn't too worried about them. As for the matter of him opening the defensive talismans...dream on. He was only a Great Strength cultivator. These creatures were in the Skysoar and Cloudbreach Realms. They could easily kill him. He wasn't that stupid. After packing up, he decided to leave for the grotto again.

"Perhaps I can start challenging the top 100 after cultivating the Time technique."

Top 100 Ranking!

Su Yu inhaled deeply. His goal wasn't the people at the bottom of the ranking. Rather, it was Huang Qifeng. He knew that the moment he entered the ranking, Huang Qifeng and the others would start targeting him.

In that case, he would use the chance to give them a good beating. The academy rules prevented the students from crippling or killing each other. But as long as his opponents weren't dead and could still cultivate, he was free to injure them as heavily as he wanted.

He called a number and went straight to the point, "Silkwrym blood essence. I don't care about the realm. Get me around 100 drops immediately. But if you can get some blood essence at the Skysoar Realm or above, you can gather less. How about the five elemental blood essence? I'm in need of them."

Xia Huyou asked in astonishment, "You don't mind blood essence at the Skysoar Realm and above?"

"Yes." Su Yu answered, "But that only applies to the silkwrym blood essence. As for the others, focus on gathering Infinite Strength blood essence."

"Sure."

Blood essence at the Skysoar Realm and above were much easier to get. Of course, it would also be much more expensive. As a top 100 race, there were plenty of them on the Allheaven Battlefield.

"The silkwrym race is a top 100 race. I can get some of their Skysoar blood essence for you. But it won't be cheap. For divine and devil blood essence, you need to pay over 1,000 merit points per drop. The silkwrym blood essence is cheaper, but you still need to pay 100 merit points per drop..."

"What? That's very expensive."

"That's already a cheap price. Of course, if you're willing to accept some fire hog blood essence, you can get them for 20 merit points per drop."

"..."

Su Yu had nothing to say. Why would he want the blood essence of such a weak race?

He had tried consuming fire hog blood essence before. But it was so weak that it couldn't even activate his book. It was totally useless!

"Then...try to get 10 drops for me." Su Yu couldn't resist complaining, "That's too expensive. Even killing a Skysoar expert is only worth 100 merit points. Why is a single drop of blood essence worth that much as well?"

Xia Huyou said, "Brother, the reward for killing a Skysoar isn't just the merit points. Blood essence can be considered as spoils of war. It doesn't mean that you can only get 100 merit points from killing a Skysoar expert. Spoils of war can also be exchanged into merit points. You can definitely get more than 100 merit points after killing a Skysoar. Do you understand now?"

Su Yu was rendered speechless.

"Fine. Get 10 drops for me. How about the five elemental blood essence?"

"Yeah. I'll send them over to you later. I already have all the blood essence you want. Two drops of Infinite Strength blood essence for each elemental race. For a price of 50 merit points per drop, you need to pay me 500 merit points for them. Including the other blood essence you're buying, you need to pay me 1,500 merit points."

Su Yu was unhappy about the prospect of spending money. After spending some time thinking, he asked, "By the way, what is the price of Skysoar blood essence of the mountandrill bull race?"

"Decent, I suppose. The mountandrill bulls are similar to the mountainbreak bulls. Both their blood essence are pretty good for body forging. Generally, those who couldn't afford the more expensive blood essence would settle with mountandrill bull blood essence. It is also ranked quite highly on the top 100 race. For a drop early-stage Skysoar blood essence, it's only worth 60 merit points."

"How about late-stage Skysoar?"

"That's not cheap. Around 150 merit points per drop."

"I can sell you some. Are you buying?"

"..."

Xia Huyou blanked out. Su Yu was selling?

Where was he supposed to get the blood essence?

But he immediately realized something. He said in astonishment, "Are you talking about the bull in your research center?"

"Yeah."

"Don't mess around. The mountindrill bull race is capable of regrowing from a drop of blood. Not all of them have the same ability. Only those with their royal blood can do so. But you should still be careful."

The look in Su Yu's eyes changed. He had been worrying about the same thing previously. And it was obvious that the bull was...hehe, being quite dishonest with him. The bull had actually offered to exchange his blood essence for source qi liquid.

Su Yu was merely asking the question out of curiosity. In truth, he was not planning to deactivate the defenses in the prison zone anytime soon. Even if he was going to do so, he would only do it in Bai Feng's presence. After all, his teacher was already quite experienced at harvesting those creatures.

"Ok. Got it." Su Yu returned to the topic at hand and said, "Prepare my stuff. 1,500 merit points for all of them? Fine."

He clenched his teeth.

Fine. It was just some money. It wasn't like he had no money. If he needed to spend, he would spend. When he mastered the heaven-grade martial technique, he would start scam-cough, earning more money.

"After this purchase, I am only left with around 1,200 merit points. I need to be careful with how I spend them."

Just like that, he had reached the bottom of 20,000 merit points. But he still had quite a lot of mountainbreak bull blood essence and willpower texts in hand. Thus, he was actually still rich. After all, he could sell all those things for quite a lot of money.

Chapter 296: Before The Storm (1)

1st of October.

The academy was on break today. In fact, the academy would have three days of break each month. After the monthly examination, the students would be allowed to rest from the 1st until the 3rd. Classes would resume on the 4th and there would be no breaks until the following month.

And on the 3rd of each month, the Top 100 Ranking would be refreshed. The ranking would be updated in the morning and the students would be able to start challenging the ranking again after that.

The new students had only entered the academy for around two months. In previous years, students this new would have nothing to do with the Top 100 Ranking. Generally, the new students would only start challenging the ranking during their second year. And even so, very few of them could get into the ranking.

Things were different this year.

On the 1st, Zheng Yunhui made a very public visit to the House of Hundred. When Su Yu first joined the academy, he had been brought to the House of Hundred during the tour. He had even encountered Jiang Mu, sixth place in the ranking, in front of the building during their visit.

Jiang Mu was a sixth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator at the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage. His true combat strength was beyond that of a regular ninth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator.

Zheng Yunhui left after spending a short time in front of the building. But before leaving, he declared that he would enter the building after two days.

Everyone understood the meaning behind that declaration. Only those in the Top 100 Ranking could step into the House of Hundred. Since a new student was declaring that he would step into the House of Hundred, he was clearly going to start challenging the ranking this month.

The top 100 rankings of the various academies had always attracted a lot of attention. After all, these rankings were the cradle of Skysoars and the source of Mountainseas.

Of the existing academy elders, almost all of them were once members of the ranking. Of course, there were also some who had managed to reach the Skysoar Realm without first entering the ranking, but there were very few of such people.

Someone incapable of entering the ranking before 30 would need to be some sort of extreme late bloomer to reach the Skysoar Realm and beyond. Otherwise, someone like that would probably stop at the Skysoar Realm.

For the past few months, the academy had been akin to a calm lake. But finally, ripples were starting to form on the surface of this calm lake.

Those above 30 were all eagerly waiting for the show to unfold. Those below 30 without any hope to enter the ranking were also doing the same. Those actually in the ranking merely treated the declaration as a joke.

There would be some proud freaks entering the academy each year. But each year, the most prideful of them would be taught a harsh lesson without fail.

Even the freaks from Xia Yuwen's batch had only started challenging the ranking after three months. And that was widely considered an extremely strong batch. But the current batch had only entered the academy for two months.

Research center.

Su Yu had heard about the declaration as well. Zheng Yunhui was truly arrogant, but that matter had nothing to do with Su Yu. And Zheng Yunhui was no fool either. Su Yu did not believe that Zheng Yunhui would do something stupid.

As an eighth-stage Great Strength cultivator with 85 percent willpower, Zheng Yunhui might really stand a chance against the bottom 10 students. Su Yu did not care about that. He was more concerned about a certain rumor. The students from the Foreign Students Faculty were also intending to challenge the ranking.

The academy was currently discussing whether the foreign students should be allowed to do so. Su Yu guessed that they would ultimately allow the challenge. Since those foreign students were allowed to enter even the grottos, a mere Top 100 Ranking was nothing.

Of course, they would still impose strict limitations on the age of the challengers since different races would age differently. Some races would still remain an egg at 30 years old. The academy had yet to reach a verdict about that.

"Foreign students..."

Su Yu was actually looking forward to that. Up until now, the human and the foreign students had been separated from each other. The foreign students had mostly remained in their own faculty.

The past two months could be considered a period of adaptation for everyone, including the foreign students. But two months had passed. Most people should have finished adapting to life in the academy by now. He wondered if the foreign students were getting as impatient as he was.

After all, he was also getting more and more eager to see just how strong the senior students were.

"Principal Wan wants to reform the academy and even Great Xia as a whole. But nothing has happened yet. Apart from reducing the benefits of some senior students, nothing seems to have happened..."

Su Yu suddenly recalled something.

Prior to entering the academy, he had heard that Wan Tiansheng was going to reform the academy. But up until now, nothing had happened. Apart from cutting some funds, nothing much had happened.

If that was the so-called reform, then it was really anticlimactic, considering how big of a ruckus it had caused previously.

Not to mention Great Xia as a whole, What Wan Tiansheng had done so far had not even benefited the academy whatsoever.

"Well, all that is still unrelated to me..."

Su Yu was waiting for news from Xia Huyou. After receiving his newly ordered blood essence, he would enter the grotto again. This might also be his last visit for a long time. After all, he had no money left.

While Su Yu was waiting for Xia Huyou.

Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

Within a large conference hall.

Numerous elders were gathered.

Wan Tiansheng was seated in front of all the elders. His face was somewhat pale. Numerous terrifying scenes were replaying within his mind.

The arrival of the elders pulled him back to reality. Looking at them, he couldn't help but wonder how many of these people would still be around in the future.

While thinking about all that, he said with exhaustion, "I am already aware of the Foreign Students Faculty's request. We should treat everyone equally, so they are allowed to challenge the Top 100 Ranking. They will also receive the same benefits as the human students upon entering the ranking."

The elders weren't surprised. This was the result they had guessed.

"I did not gather everyone here for a small matter like that..."

For people like them, the Top 100 Ranking was indeed a trivial matter. They were all Mountainsea experts. Their time was far too valuable to waste on something like the Top 100 Ranking.

After looking at all the elders present, Wan Tiansheng softly said, "Everyone, the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy has been growing stronger in recent years. Compared to 50 years ago, our number of Mountainsea cultivators has increased considerably.

"Fifty years ago, the academy had two Sunmoon experts and nine Mountainsea experts. Now, we have 36 Mountainsea experts."

Naturally, a lot of the Mountainsea experts 50 years ago were from the multiple character faction. But many of them had perished during that battle in the Allheaven Battlefield. Apart from the experts of their own academy, numerous experts of the other academies were also present during the battle. All of them were there to protect the fifth principal during his advancement into the Invincible Realm.

In fact, there were even several Sunmoon experts from other prefectures present to help the fifth principal.

Wan Tiansheng paused slightly before continuing, "We have doubled the number of Mountainsea cultivators we have. We only had 30 Cloudbreach cultivators back then. Now, we have over 200 of them in the academy. And we also have around 200 Skysoars in the academy..."

The academy had around 500 researchers. Compared to the rest of humanity, that wasn't a big number. But this was an absolutely powerful group of people. As for those below the Skysoar Realm, such as the instructors, the number was even bigger.

All the elders remained silent.

Wan Tiansheng rubbed his temple and said, "But...how about the Sunmoon Realm? It has been so many years. Where are our Sunmoon cultivators? Our Mountainsea cultivators have increased by 27. Back then, with such a small number of Mountainseas, we had produced two Sunmoons. The fifth principal himself was on the cusp of entering the Invincible Realm. Today, we have a much higher number of Mountainseas. But where are our Sunmoons?"

Wan Tiansheng sighed, "Over these years, I have been thinking about this. The other academies are also wondering the same thing. Even the Knowledge Seeking Realm is asking the same question. That battle 50 years ago seemed to have broken the spine of all human cultural researchers."

Some of the faces in the crowd turned bleak.

Fifty years ago, they had fewer Mountainseas. They didn't have a lot of Sunmoons either. But that era somehow felt much more glorious than the current era.

The fifth principal. Battling Invincible experts. Dominating the Myriad Realms.

But ever since the fifth principal had perished...human cultural researchers had been on the decline. Sure, everyone knew that they had a higher number of Mountainseas today. But everyone could clearly feel that human cultural researchers were in decline.

Beside Wan Tiansheng, Vice Principal Xia Changqing said, "Old Wan, just what exactly are you trying to say today?"

Wan Tiansheng said, "I used the Heaven Connecting Mirror."

Those words alarmed everyone in the room.

Wan Tiansheng solemnly said, "Human cultural researchers have been going downhill since that battle 50 years ago. Our Sunmoons have been decreasing instead of increasing after all these years. I checked the future and the past. Ultimately, I reached a conclusion..."

Everyone focused on him.

Wu Yuehua asked impatiently, "What conclusion?"

"Of the two Invincibles who had fought the fifth principal back then, one had perished in the battle but the other survived." Wan Tiansheng calmly said, "The survivor is someone from the celestial chasm race. That race is good at curses, darkness, and death. I suspect that he had done something back then..."

Xia Changqing immediately retorted, "Impossible. That fellow might be an Eternal, but how is he capable of affecting the cultural researchers of an entire race? Also, new Sunmoon cultural researchers have still been appearing all these years. The cultural researchers of humanity are still not at the end of the road!"

Wan Tiansheng calmly said, "You guys are free to believe what you want. But I am still going to talk about this. I've also informed the Knowledge Seeking Realm of what I saw. After checking the future, I have some guesses. That survivor might not be the only culprit. Rather, there are a lot of people working together in secret against us. All the myriad race willpower texts we have could very well be problematic versions."

"What do you mean?"

Wan Tiansheng frowned and slowly said, "Fifty years ago, those two assassinated the fifth principal. I suspect they did not do so because they were afraid of the fifth principal's strength after affirming his dao and reaching the Invincible Realm. Their main goal is to sever the cultural research teachings of that generation. I suspect that all the willpower texts we obtained subsequently have been cursed by them. All the Divine Characters humanity have formed these years might be problematic."

"If that is true, then that explains why there are still a few new Sunmoons among human cultural researchers but most of us can't reach that realm. Over these years, seven new Sunmoons have emerged. After this meeting, I will check and confirm whether they have formed any new Divine Characters over the past 50 years."

This time, even Xia Changqing's expression changed as he said, "Do you mean that all the myriad race willpower texts we had obtained over the past 50 years are problematic? Every Divine Character formed of these texts is cursed. That's why we couldn't enter the Sunmoon Realm?"

Wan Tiansheng exhaled deeply and answered, "That's my guess. I feel like that is very likely true. And if that is the case, human cultural researchers are in trouble."

"Impossible!" One of the elders exclaimed in shock, "We have seized numerous myriad race willpower texts from the battlefield. Have they been spending their time cursing every single willpower text in their possession?"

That was impossible to accomplish. Just how much manpower and energy would they need to do something like that? This scheme was simply too massive to be actually carried out.

Wan Tiansheng slowly said, "I am of the same opinion. But...why must the curses be on the willpower texts? They only need to curse the willpower texts of the divines, devils, and a few other powerful races. These are the texts those geniuses will be studying. Those who aren't geniuses...don't have much hope of reaching the Sunmoon Realm anyway."

That final sentence was akin to a hammer, striking deep into everyone's heart.

If...that was really true...

"Everyone, calm down." Wan Tiansheng raised his hand and solemnly said, "I am merely speculating. I might be wrong. But if I am right, then the deaths of our Mountainseas and Sunmoons 50 years ago might not have been accidental. Rather, the whole thing is a conspiracy."

Conspiracy!

All those people weren't killed for trying to protect the fifth principal when he was affirming his dao. Rather, they were killed to sever the teachings of all cultural researchers from that generation.

The new cultural researchers would not be able to go further than the Mountainsea Realm. Why? Because the myriad race willpower texts they studied were all problematic.

Chapter 297: Before The Storm (2)

Wu Yuehua felt her lips go dry. Fifty years ago, they were still very weak. At that point in time, people from her generation were in a phase of growth, forming the majority of the Divine Characters they would be using in the future.

The Divine Characters of the divines and devils were powerful. Almost all the elders present had Divine Characters of these races. As for the willpower texts they had obtained before that incident 50 years ago, most of these texts had been exhausted from continuous usage.

Thus, most of the myriad race willpower texts humanity used were newly seized texts. Everyone sank into silence.

After a long while, Xia Changqing said, "Has the Knowledge Seeking Realm given a reply?"

Today, Zhou Mingren wasn't around. He was in seclusion. Xia Changqing was the sole vice principal present in this meeting. He had to clarify more.

Wan Tiansheng shook his head, "No. Maybe they are investigating on their end as well. If this is really true, then we are really in deep trouble. Are we supposed to tell everyone to destroy their own Divine Characters? Once someone loses too many characters, one's willpower will also suffer crippling damage. And without the Divine Characters one had nurtured for so many years, is a cultural researcher still a cultural researcher?"

Wan Tiansheng sighed helplessly, "I really hope that this isn't true. But if it's true, the battle 50 years ago wasn't an accident. It was a conspiracy. The myriad races had even used the life of one Eternal to sever our inheritance."

All the elders were greatly troubled. All of them were hoping that Wan Tiansheng was wrong. Otherwise, wouldn't that mean that they no longer had any hope of reaching the Sunmoon Realm? They needed to wait for the update from the Knowledge Seeking Realm.

"Do not leak any of this." Wan Tiansheng said, "All of you are Mountainsea elders. Don't tell anyone about this. We don't want to create a mass panic."

If this was leaked, it might lead to a series of unexpected troubles.

Wan Tiansheng said, "I also suspect that the origin of this curse is that fellow from the celestial chasm race. Can we remove the curse by killing him?"

The elders had a helpless look. Xia Changqing sighed and said, "He has been missing for 50 years. According to the rumors, he suffered serious injuries back then. If he is still alive, he is probably hiding somewhere deep in slumber. If we can't locate him, it doesn't matter how many Eternals humanity has. We won't be able to touch him."

Wan Tiansheng nodded, "I am not telling you this to make all of you panic. I am telling you this because I need your help for an experiment. There are numerous students under all of you. I hope that from today onward, all of you will select a group of students to focus on human characters. Also form a few groups that only focus on characters that are not from the divine, devil, or the other powerful races."

Immediately, someone objected, "The characters of the human and weak races won't be able to grow into Eternal characters. Thus, these people won't be able to reach the Sunmoon Realm anyway. This experiment won't work."

"Yeah. By cultivating the characters of weak races, the cultivators will also be weaker. At that time, they might be so weak that they couldn't even contend against other Mountainsea or Cloudbreach opponents even after reaching the Mountainsea Realm. At that time, the cultural researchers of humanity would truly be ruined."

More people spoke, all of them disagreeing with Wan Tiansheng's experiment.

The Divine Characters of these weak races would not be able to become Eternal characters.

Wan Tiansheng seemed to have expected their objections. He said, "In truth, I have been thinking about something. Multiple character faction. Character fusion. Character technique. If someone cultivates only human characters or the characters of weak races, can they grow the entire character technique into an Eternal character instead?"

Wan Tiansheng solemnly said, "The single character faction does not have a systematic method of utilizing their characters. Even for some who have a system, those systems still can't turn into a proper character technique. Also, for strength, the single character faction must cultivate the characters of the strong races. Meanwhile, the multiple character faction can solve the issue of weak individual characters through their character technique..."

Zheng Yuming, who had been staying silent, suddenly said, "Principal, do you mean that you are going to start assisting the multiple character faction? Just for this guess of yours? For the tiniest possibility that they might be the solution for this dilemma? And then, we will exhaust a large amount of resources to nurture a few weaklings that might not even be able to go far in cultivation? The so-called character technique is essentially the fusion of multiple characters. In essence, they are multiple characters, not a singular character. How can you grow them all into a singular Eternal character? Not even the fifth principal had accomplished this feat!"

Wan Tiansheng sank into silence.

Zheng Yuming continued, "I won't mention anyone else, but Hong Tan is considered talented, right? He has been cultivating his character technique for so many years. Try asking him how strong would he be after removing his divine and devil characters. Can he turn his character technique into a single unit and grow it into an Eternal character?"

Wan Tiansheng sank into silence. After a short while, he said, "We can try. The multiple character faction has a new student this year, right? He hasn't formed any divine or devil characters yet. We can observe him first. I will communicate with Chen Yong and Bai Feng. We can try to make him focus on characters that are not from the divine and devil races..."

Wu Yuehua frowned and said, "Principal, if your experiment fails, this student's future will be ruined. I know about that kid called Su Yu. He is very talented. For a single guess of you, we experiment on him and stop him from forming divine and devil characters? Is he supposed to form only the characters from the human and weak races? In that case, the multiple character faction's trademark of being unrivaled in the same cultivation level would be reduced into a joke..."

Wan Tiansheng solemnly said, "But someone has to do it. We can try asking him for his opinion first. If he refuses, we can try to get someone else to try it. If not, I'll have Wan Mingze destroy all his Divine Characters and restart his cultivation in the multiple character faction."

Everyone frowned.

This time, Zheng Yuming did not say anything. Let Su Yu form only human characters or the characters of weak races? This was a good idea. He reckoned that this experiment would cripple Su Yu.

As for whether Su Yu would agree to it or not, that didn't matter. If he disagreed, there would be no way to prove whether character technique was the answer. In that case, the academy naturally wouldn't invest more into the multiple character faction.

Wu Yuehua wanted to say something but hesitated. After thinking about it, she decided to stay silent. She would ask around first before doing anything. Nobody could force Su Yu to do so if he didn't want to. After all, nobody could control what character he ultimately decided to form.

"Also, the books depository..." Wan Tiansheng said, "How many old myriad race willpower texts are still around? Make a list of them. It would be even safer to gather all our willpower texts from 60 years ago. I'm worried that they have been preparing in advance. In the future, our geniuses should prioritize studying these older willpower texts instead of the newer ones."

The moment those words were said, numerous thoughts arose in the minds of these elders. They still had a decent number of old willpower texts remaining. If the newer willpower texts were problematic, would the ones using the older willpower texts be able to avoid this trap?

Zheng Yuming's eyes flickered as he said, "If this is true, the value of those older willpower texts would rise greatly. The books depository would become an extremely important place. It would be no less important than the Grotto District. Chen Yong is still a Cloudbreach. Principal, I think..."

Wan Tiansheng waved his hand and said, "We'll talk about that at a later date. If Chen Yong can pass his end of year evaluation, the position will remain his. Don't forget that all the older willpower texts were left behind by the experts of the previous generations. At that time, the academy was still run by the multiple character faction."

Zheng Yuming frowned and said, "The academy belongs to the entire human race and the Great Xia Prefecture. It belongs to all of us. By your logic, is the academy also theirs since they used to run it?"

Wan Tiansheng impatiently said, "Like I said, do everything in accordance with the rules. The cancellation of the multiple character faction has been done in accordance to the rules. The single

character faction has also grown thanks to the rules. As for Chen Yong's position, let the rules decide that. Elder Zheng, do you want to abolish the rules? Without the rules, do you want to face Elder Hong Tan?"

Zheng Yuming's face turned red and he was instantly rendered speechless. Hong Tan was a peak eighth-stage Mountainsea. Even his teacher, Zhou Mingren, did not have the confidence to fully suppress Hong Tan. How could he challenge Hong Tan?

Wan Tiansheng stood up and said, "Do what you think is right. I already told you everything. If any of you are interested in destroying your existing characters, feel free to do so. But I suggest not doing it in the academy. Go to the Allheaven Battlefield and use the characters you don't want to kill a few experts. That way, you can squeeze every last value out of your characters.

"Additionally, all myriad race willpower texts that have been around for 50 years or more in the books depository must be put in a list. Nobody is allowed to move them without permission from the academy. All students and teachers need to have enough total earned merit to study these texts.

"Try to gather more information about that celestial chasm Invincible. Pay attention to the other experts that are proficient in curses as well."

After saying all that, Wan Tiansheng started walking away.

When he reached the door, he suddenly turned around and said, "You are free to compete among yourselves. The academy has always intended to have all of you to grow through competition. But we don't intend for all of you to cripple each other during this competition. If you start crossing the line, others would start doing so as well. Eventually, the rules would be reduced into a joke. At that time, even Mountainsea cultivators can start killing Great Strength cultivators. The academy would truly descend into chaos.

"I might have been silent about some things, but that doesn't mean that I am unaware about it. As long as you follow the rules, I can continue giving you free reign. But the moment someone dares to cross the line, don't blame me for being merciless."

He then stepped out of the room.

Silence enveloped the conference hall. Everyone knew how much importance Wan Tiansheng placed on his rules. As long as everyone stayed within the boundaries of his rules, he would not care about what you do. But if you cross the line, you would anger him.

And how many people in the academy were capable of withstanding the wrath of someone who was already a peak Mountainsea decades ago?

Wu Yuehua stood up, looked at Zheng Yuming, and sneered before leaving. Zheng Yuming did not say anything. He stood up silently and left as well.

Rules. Wan Tiansheng's rules.

The battle 50 years ago...and the newer willpower texts. Were those texts really problematic?

If those texts were really problematic, human cultural researchers were truly in great trouble. Who among them would dare to guarantee that they had not formed any characters with the newer willpower texts?

Things might be better for those who didn't specialize in Divine Characters. They could still accept the consequences of destroying their own characters. But how about those specializing in Divine Characters? Were they supposed to destroy their characters as well?

That would bring a lot of trouble to them as well.

The Knowledge Seeking Realm would not support such an action as well. If all these Mountainsea and Cloudbreach cultivators were crippled, the overall strength of humanity might instantly decrease by about 30 percent.

"Is...the multiple character faction going to rise again?"

Zheng Yuming sank into thought.

Could the character technique of the multiple character faction really be the solution to the curse?

"Character technique wall! Blood essence! Books depository!"

All those terms appeared in Zheng Yuming's mind. There were also the Divine Characters left behind by those experts from the previous generation. If those characters could be used, then they would be free from the influence of the curse.

"These characters can definitely be elevated into the Sunmoon and Eternal Realms. If I really have to destroy my characters, what if I replace my characters with those characters?"

Zheng Yuming exhaled deeply and left the Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

...

Meanwhile, Su Yu had finally received his ordered five elemental and silkworm blood essence. With his willpower texts, blood essence, and Time technique, he headed toward the Grotto District. He aimed to complete his cultivation of the Crushing Mountainsea move during this cultivation session.

Only then would he stand a chance against those freaks and geniuses that had been cultivating a lot earlier than him. Only then would he be able to enter the Top 100 Ranking and establish himself as an expert among the new generation in the academy.

As for the future of human cultural researchers...that really had nothing to do with him. After all, he wasn't even a proper cultural researcher yet.

The moment Su Yu appeared outside the Grotto District, the faces of Old Huang and Old Nie fell.

How many days had it been?

Why was this brat here again?

Chapter 298: The Grotto Is Closed Again (1)

Inside the small building.

The two old men were completely speechless.

This kid had visited four times in the span of one month. Couldn't he take a break or something? Wasn't he already a ninth-stage Great Strength cultivator? Was he aiming to enter the Infinite Strength Realm immediately?

"Su Yu, your acupoints are filled with impurities. If you keep advancing, you will have a hard time fusing your acupoints at the Infinite Strength Realm. Your acupoints will repel each other strongly. Even if you can enter the Infinite Strength Realm, you would be stuck at the first stage. This would also affect your future growth," Old Huang reminded.

He started cursing at Bai Feng inwardly. What an unreliable teacher! Why was he not concerned with his student at all? It wasn't that they didn't want Su Yu to break through, but with so much impurities in his source qi, he would probably be able to fuse no more than two acupoints after reaching the Infinite Strength Realm. He would become the weakest type of Infinite Strength cultivator.

Even if he could enter the Skysoar realm with his willpower and reforge his body, the negative effects of such a hasty breakthrough would still be extremely troublesome to deal with.

After all, he had entered the Infinite Strength Realm by fusing only two acupoints. Even after reforging his body, he would still have a weaker body than the other cultivators.

Upon hearing their words, Su Yu smiled. This time, he was smiling earnestly. Old Huang was saying all that out of kindness.

He said, "Teacher Huang, I understand. I won't do anything stupid. My acupoints are no longer filled with impurities."

"..."

Old Huang said, "Kid, you already have 108 acupoints opened. I checked previously and saw with my own eyes how much impurities you have. You need at least half a year to cleanse your acupoints if you want to enter the Infinite Strength Realm safely. Why pursue short term gains and ruin your own future?"

Old Nie also said, "The path of cultivation is long. Just because you are ahead now does not mean that you can be ahead in the future. Are you in a rush to enter the Top 100 Ranking? What's the big deal about that ranking? So what if you aren't on it?"

"No, that's really not the case." Su Yu bashfully said, "Teachers, I am not a shortsighted person. Is there anyone here?"

The two old men were speechless. Old Huang rolled his eyes and said, "Yes. The three of us."

"Cough, cough. Teacher I mean apart from us."

"No."

That word had barely left Old Huang's mouth when his eyes widened in shock. Standing in front of him was a brilliantly shining Su Yu. The acupoints in his body were shining like bright stars, illuminating his entire body.

Old Huang's mouth was agape with shock. Was someone messing around with him? He had witnessed with his own eyes how much impurities there were in this kid's body. It hadn't been that long but this kid had already cleansed his acupoints to this extent?

Old Nie crushed the teapot in his hand. That was the teapot from Hong Tan's private collection he had bought from the black market. He had always treasured the teapot yet he didn't even notice that it had been crushed in his hand.

Both of them stared at Su Yu in astonishment. What was going on? They had thought that Su Yu could do nothing to shock them anymore. After all, they were already used to how insanely talented the kid was. But today, they were once again stunned.

"Su Yu...this..."

Su Yu smiled, "Teachers, like I said, my source qi is very pure."

The two stared at him in stupefaction. Damn it. Was this pure? No! This was more than pure! This was flawless source qi! But how did the kid do this?

The old man kept staring at Su Yu until Su Yu withdrew his shiny source qi before asking, "How did you do this? I know it's a secret. Are you selling it? I want to give it a try as well."

Old Nie coughed awkwardly.

Old Huang ignored his old partner and continued saying, "This secret of yours is working too well! Just how many days have it been? You have taken such a short period of time to finish purifying your source qi."

Su Yu smiled, "Teacher, this is a secret of the multiple character faction. If you're interested, why don't you join us?"

"..."

Old Huang was rendered speechless. Screw that! The multiple character faction was basically a trap. He would rather die than join them.

"Whatever." Old Hung said, "You definitely have your own secret. Multiple character faction? Bullshit. Bai Feng has been here many times before. Do you think I don't know him? Multiple character faction's secret? Bullshit!"

"Forget it if you don't want to tell me." He paused slightly and smiled, "Su Yu, is the multiple character faction accepting external retainers? I am talking about those that will be paid without the need to do anything. Try to ask your teacher or martial uncle. If we are willing to become your external retainer, would you be willing to share some of the secrets with us?"

"..."

This time, Su Yu was the one rendered speechless. These two were truly funny. He also wanted a job like that. Maybe they should introduce a job like that to him instead? Was the single character faction accepting external retainers? He definitely wouldn't mind becoming their external retainer.

Suddenly, Su Yu curiously asked, "Teacher Huang and Teacher Nie, which faction do you belong to?"

"Us?" Old Huang laughed and answered, "We come from the leisure and free faction. Factions? None of that matters to us. We are only focused on our own cultivation. Back when the multiple character faction ran the academy, when the single character faction was still not an independent faction, we are already here. We have been minding our own business here and before we know it, we have reached the Cloudbreach Realm."

As for what happened next, it was simple. Since they were already Cloudbreach cultivators, why would they care about all those factions? Could those factions help them enter the Mountainsea Realm?

If the answer was yes, then they wouldn't mind joining. But if the answer was no, forget it. They would continue minding their own business. As long as the factions leave them alone, everything would be fine.

"Teachers, what...is your strength?"

Old Huang smiled, "Curious? This is a secret. Why don't we exchange secrets?"

Su Yu laughed dryly and decided to forget about it. He was only curious about why two Cloudbreach cultivators would spend their time guarding a grotto. Sure, this grotto was important. But these two were not weak. Why would the academy need them here? Would anyone dare to intrude upon the grotto within academy grounds?

When Old Huang saw Su Yu's expression, he smiled, "Why are you asking this? Are you looking down on our job? This is a job that many people dream for. We have relied on our strength and defeated countless competitors to get this job."

Old Huang smiled happily and said, "Kid, this is the Source Qi Secret Grotto. There is no lack of source qi here. We can absorb as much as we want. The Source Qi Secret Grotto is something formed from an Eternal character. Here, we can study it everyday. Here, we can study the Divine Character of a Sunmoon every single day."

"Cough, cough!"

Old Nie hurriedly interrupted his friend.

Old Huang also realized that he had said too much. He cleared his throat and said, "I was just kidding. We are here because we love our job. We are happy to sacrifice ourselves for the masses. We are definitely not secretly researching the Divine Character of a Sunmoon cultivator."

Su Yu laughed. He finally understood. In that case, this was indeed an excellent job. They could absorb as much source qi as they wanted here and could even study the Eternal character left by a Sunmoon anytime they wanted.

At that thought, he asked, "Teachers, why are the Divine Characters of Sunmoon cultivators called Eternal characters? How about the characters of actual Eternal cultivators?"

"Eternal cultivators?" Old Huang asked in astonishment, "Did Bai Feng not tell you this? Eternal cultural researchers do not exist."

"..."

Su Yu was stunned.

What? Wasn't the Knowledge Seeking Realm filled with Invincibles? Wasn't Invincible the same as Eternal? Why would they say that Eternal cultural researchers don't exist? Wasn't the fifth principal on the verge of reaching the Eternal Realm as well? Why say that the Eternal Realm didn't exist, then?

From Su Yu's expression, Old Huang could see that the kid really had no idea. He explained, "Are you wondering about the Knowledge Seeking Realm? Yes, there are a lot of Invincibles there. There are also a lot of cultural researchers there. But every single one of them has entered the Invincible Realm through physical cultivation.

"True cultural researchers need to advance through their willpower cultivation, not physical cultivation. But not one human cultural researcher has ever reached the Invincible Realm through willpower cultivation. Most would choose to start cultivating their physical body at peak Sunmoon Realm to enter the Invincible Realm."

"Thus, no Eternal cultural researchers exist. Of course, all those old freaks in the Knowledge Seeking Realm were peak Sunmoon cultural researchers back then. They had subsequently entered the Invincible Realm through physical cultivation. I guess in a way, you can consider them as Invincible cultural researchers as well."

Su Yu blinked and asked, "In that case, Sunmoon Realm is the end of the path of cultural research?"

"Yes." Old Huang nodded, "In truth, the fifth principal was the first cultural researcher with the hope to enter the Invincible Realm through willpower cultivation. If he had attempted a physical cultivation breakthrough instead, he would have probably succeeded. What a pity."

He sighed regretfully.

Su Yu was even more shocked to learn that. There were actually no Invincible cultural researchers in existence? Was the path of cultural research so unreliable?

"Teacher, in that case...are cultural researchers still valuable?"

"What stupid question is that?" Old Huang said, "Those old monsters in the Knowledge Seeking Realm had all risen to prominence through willpower cultivation. Upon advancing into the Eternal Realm through physical cultivation, their strength is even stronger than those old monsters from the War Shrine.

"There might be some limitations blocking us from entering the Eternal Realm through willpower cultivation. The Knowledge Seeking Realm has been researching this issue for many years. An expert once mentioned that the problem might be related to how we develop our sea of willpower. The human race might lack something important, resulting in a flawed sea of willpower."

Su Yu blinked. Lacking something important? What was that? Divine Character? Or the racial ability character?

Su Yu's heart thumped. That couldn't be the case, right? His teacher had been researching the racial ability character recently. He had heard Bai Feng talking about it many times already.

According to Bai Feng, the human race might have a special Divine Character that was formed innately. But for some reason, that character had remained hidden in the sea of willpower.

"Teacher...what is the thing we lack?"

Old Huang rolled his eyes, "How am I supposed to know that? If I knew that, I would be an Invincible cultivator already. In any case, a cultural researcher would generally switch to physical cultivation after reaching peak Sunmoon Realm. But don't get discouraged. Even with physical advancement, we will still be stronger than those pure warriors."

Su Yu nodded. He still hadn't fully recovered from his shock. Lacking something...resulting in the absence of an actual Invincible cultural researcher. Everyone would switch to physical cultivation at peak Sunmoon Realm.

That was why the Divine Characters of Sunmoon cultivators could also be known as Eternal characters. Because true Eternal characters did not exist.

Lacking something...

Chapter 299: The Grotto Is Closed Again (2)

Su Yu's imagination started running wild. Just what had Bai Feng been researching recently? Why did it suddenly feel like Bai Feng's research was extremely important and incredible?

Did the racial ability character really exist? A flawed sea of willpower? Was the racial ability character the missing link? If that was the case...

Su Yu trembled. That was far too important. If that was true, would something bad happen to them after the completion of Bai Feng's research? Had his teacher taken that into consideration?

"Teacher is too easy-going. He might not have thought of all that."

When Old Huang saw Su Yu blanking out, he cleared his throat and said, "Su Yu, what are you thinking about?"

"Nothing." Su Yu bashfully said, "I was thinking about the fifth principal. He sure was incredible. He was actually on the cusp of being the first proper Eternal cultural researcher."

"Of course." Old Huang said with admiration, "He was truly incredible. You won't understand this since you have not experienced that era. Back then, the fifth principal was able to mobilize the cultural researchers of the entire Human Realm with a single word."

"When the fifth principal said that he was going to affirm his dao, countless powerful cultural researchers flocked to him. Everyone volunteered to become his dao guardian. You need to know that the various prefectures are independent of each other. Principal Wan would not be able to order those from the Great Zhou Cultural Research Academy around. You can get him to try. But would they actually respond to his orders?"

Old Huang mocked, "If he really tried doing so, he should count himself lucky if they didn't kick him out after giving him a beating. But the fifth principal was someone who had brought the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy to the apex of humanity."

Old Nie added, "He was also the one who had brought the multiple character faction to damnation."

"..."

Old Huang's mood turned bleak.

Yes. He was also the one who had brought the multiple character faction down.

With one word, countless experts flocked to his side. Numerous multiple character faction experts would travel from all corners of the Human Realm to be his dao guardian. Together, they faced Invincible experts. So intense was the fight that even an Invincible expert was killed. Alas, they still ended up defeated.

He was the one who had brought the faction to the peak. He was also the one who had led the faction to its downfall. After the fall of the fifth principal, the multiple character had been in a continuous decline.

Listening about the glorious past, Su Yu couldn't help but be overwhelmed by emotions. He said, "If the multiple character faction had such a glorious past, to the point even an Invincible expert had fallen under their hands before, that should be enough to prove that our path is not a wrong path. Why..."

Why would they be subjected to such suppression?

Old Huang spoke bleakly, "You guys can only blame yourselves. After that incident, the multiple character faction has been losing experts instead of producing more experts. After so many years, your past experts have been dying one after another. In fact, a few years ago when the Sunmoon expert in Great Ming passed away, the entire multiple character faction was left without even a single Sunmoon."

The multiple character faction had suffered heavy losses 50 years ago. Over the years, they had not been able to produce new successors. The few Sunmoons they had left had also died one after another during this period of time.

Right now, the strongest expert they had was Hong Tan. But Hong Tan was someone fully focused on research. Without proper leadership, the multiple character faction declined even further, to the point where their voice no longer held any weight.

Not one of the new experts from the multiple character faction had managed to reach the Sunmoon Realm.

Meanwhile, the single character faction had a small number of Sunmoon experts who had survived from back then. And their Mountainsea cultivators from back then had also advanced into the Sunmoon Realm one after another. They were currently at the peak of their power.

And with their current power, what else would they do apart from suppressing the multiple character faction?

Su Yu hesitated for a bit before saying, "Teacher, back then during the fifth principal's advancement, were there no single character factions there to help him as well?"

Why were all the dead experts people from the multiple character faction?

"There were some, but very few." Old Huang said, "You can't blame them either. The fifth principal is a very arrogant person. He believed that even the Mountainsea cultivators of the multiple character faction were better than the Sunmoon cultivators of the single character faction. He had also been widely spreading the path of multiple characters. Thus, he didn't have a good relationship with the single character faction."

Su Yu smiled bitterly. It would seem like that great grandteacher of his was an incredibly arrogant person. He looked down on those people. But the very people he once looked down on had all turned into experts while the lofty fifth principal's juniors were the ones left to suffer.

But all that was in the past. Su Yu really couldn't be bothered to think too much about that. As he learned more about the past, he had a feeling that the current fate of the multiple character faction was basically a form of karma for their past arrogance.

But Su Yu also knew that despite the fifth principal's disdain over the path of single character, he had not suppressed them. That was still different from what the single character faction was doing to them now.

In fact, if the single character faction was not deliberately suppressing them, Su Yu wouldn't even be bothered to do anything to them. If they were left alone, they would have no one to blame but themselves if they continued declining.

However, what the single character faction had been doing to the multiple character faction was even worse than what they had suffered before during the fifth principal's time.

After a short chat with the two old men, Su Yu prepared to enter the grotto.

Old Huang suddenly asked, "Why don't you enter the Infinite Strength Zone directly? That way, you don't have to waste time walking all the way there after entering."

Su Yu laughed awkwardly and said, "It's fine. I'm only a Great Strength cultivator. The Great Strength Zone is enough for me."

What a joke. He was only a Great Strength cultivator. Why should he pay more to enter the Infinite Strength Zone? He also needed 200 total earned merit points to directly enter that zone.

There was no way he was going to do something so stupid. He was still a Great Strength cultivator. Nobody could deny that.

Old Huang said, "Don't stay inside for too long. I keep feeling like we are making a loss letting you enter. You are only spending 100 merit points to stay several days inside. So how long are you staying this time? Are you going to enter the Infinite Strength Realm?"

Su Yu shook his head, "No. I am still not good enough to enter the Infinite Strength Realm. I plan to open more acupoints and cultivate some martial techniques. Otherwise, I won't have any confidence to contend against those fellows."

Su Yu then looked at Old Huang and asked, "Teacher, previously, you said that the main advantage to this grotto is related to willpower and Divine Characters. But when I tried sensing around previously, I didn't find anything."

"Comprehend it yourself." Old Huang refused to give a straight answer. Instead, he reminded, "The crux of the Source Qi Secret Grotto is the word source. To take the source into your body. To combine all source into one. Studying myriad race willpower texts to form Divine Characters is the same as studying Divine Characters to form Divine Characters..."

"..."

What did that mean?

Su Yu sank into thought.

Old Nie looked at Old Huang speechlessly. He might as well give a straight answer. He was only making things more complicated by saying that much.

Seeing that Su Yu was still deep in thought, Old Nie said, "What are you thinking about? The so-called Source Qi Secret Grotto is essentially a source character. Studying a Divine Character is the same as studying a willpower text. You don't necessarily need willpower texts to form or study Divine Characters.

"In short, you can try to duplicate this source character. Of course, this is a character left by a Sunmoon. It is too powerful. You are still too weak to study it. Old Huang was merely trying to confuse you."

Old Huang unhappily said, "How am I confusing him? This is an Eternal character. Just forming a single stroke of this character is enough to benefit this kid for life."

Su Yu gave up.

Forget it. He couldn't form non-human characters anyway.

But then again, this was an Eternal character! If he could duplicate it and crush it to feed his existing characters, would it be very nutritious? Would his characters grow even stronger?

Whatever. That was not his focus for now. After paying 100 merit points, he entered the grotto.

After his recent spendings, he had once again turned into a pauper. He had 300 drops of middle and late stage Infinite Strength mountainbreak bull blood essence, 400 drops of other blood essence, 10 drops of Skysoar silkwrym blood essence, and 10 drops of five elemental blood essence.

He had also bought some other blood essence, such as 100 drops of clearbright bird blood essence to purify his acupoints after this cultivation session. He had spent 800 additional merit points for that.

After spending his money on those purchases and the entry into this grotto, he only had 339 merit points left.

In truth, the night before, he still had over 1,000 merit points left according to his calculation. But he suddenly recalled that he had forgotten to buy some clearbright bird blood essence so he had to make a last minute purchase.

All in all, he had over 800 drops of blood essence with him. He decided to stop thinking about money and focus on opening acupoints first.

After opening the 24 acupoints required for his new technique, he would have 142 opened acupoints in total including his Source Opening acupoints and the Lightning Source Blade acupoints. With so many acupoints, he basically had as much source qi in his body as someone cultivating a top-tier heaven-grade cultivation method.

After all, even a top-tier heaven-grade cultivation method would only require 144 acupoints. Naturally, he might have a weaker offensive power due to his inferior cultivation method, but he would definitely have a high level of endurance.

Inside the grotto.

One could say that Su Yu was already very familiar with this place. After all, this was his fourth visit. He had first entered during the 1st of the previous month. Today, it was the 1st of a new month. An exact month had passed since then.

This time, he decided to go further. After several visits, he was already aware of the locations with fewer people. He picked a place that new visitors would generally not reach. Since he needed to cultivate the Time technique, he naturally had to pick an empty spot.

This, the further away he went, the better it would be. After finding a suitable location, he sat down cross-legged and took out all his items including some of his willpower texts.

"As usual, I'll open my acupoints first."

For the first move of the Time, Crushing Mountainsea, he needed 44 acupoints. Out of those acupoints, 20 overlapped with the War God Art. It was clear that the creator of this technique had used the War God Art as the foundation for this technique.

Su Yu only needed to open 24 new acupoints. After looking around and confirming that there was nobody around, he took out his silkworm blood essence and placed a drop on the willpower text of the Time technique. Immediately after, he found himself inside the world within the willpower text again.

Chapter 300: The Grotto Is Closed Again (3)

Meanwhile, outside the grotto.

Inside the building, Old Huang and Old Nie looked at the door connected to the grotto. The door had obviously trembled slightly. Old Huang's expression changed. He looked at Old Nie and the two nodded before taking out a mirror.

Source Qi Mirror!

It was used to observe the situation within the Source Qi Secret Grotto. The two were not trying to pry on Su Yu. Rather, something odd had happened inside the grotto a moment ago. The moment they activated the mirror, a massive dot of light appeared on it.

Old Huang frowned and cursed, "That little bastard! Where did he get something like this? Is this a Sunmoon or Eternal item? Holy shit! I forgot to remind him that experts tend to repulse each other.

Would the item he brought inside attract the rejection of the source character? The grotto might even end up crushing him to death."

They instantly understood what was going on upon seeing the blinding dot of light. That little bastard had activated an incredibly high-level inheritance.

That was probably not the inheritance of a cultural researcher. Instead, it was related to the warrior path. Otherwise, the grotto would definitely react much more intensely. After all, the willpower inheritance of a cultural researcher could very easily get into a conflict with this Source Qi Secret Grotto.

Activating a willpower inheritance within a grotto was basically the same as trying to stack two spatial pockets together.

Old Nie rubbed his head helplessly and asked, "Where did he get this? Don't even mention Bai Feng. I doubt even Bai Feng has something like this."

After saying that, he waved his hand and shut the door of the building.

Outside, a student who was about to enter the building was dumbfounded. The researcher beside him was also stunned. The researcher yelled, "Old Huang, Old Nie, what are you doing?"

"We're in a bad mood so the grotto is closed for business today."

"I..."

That researcher felt like punching someone in the face.

"Are you targeting me?"

"Yes. We are. What can you do to us? Can't we take a day off? Can't we get a holiday? If you are so incredible, try forcing your way in."

"!.."

That researcher was infuriated.

Damn it! When he came with his student a few days ago, these two were taking the day off. Today, they were taking the day off again! These old bastards were being too excessive! They were clearly targeting him!

"Just you wait!"

The researcher left angrily with his student. He had decided to file a complaint about the two old men.

Those two were closing the grotto down as they wished. They were being too unreasonable.

Inside the building.

Old Huang and Old Nie looked at each other before looking at the blinding dot of light on the mirror. They were greatly troubled. Old Huang helplessly said, "This brat is clearly an endless fountain of trouble. Each time he comes, he will bring us different troubles. I have never expected him to have something like this. What if he brings an Eternal character with him during his next visit and causes the entire grotto to explode?"

Old Nie said, "Just remind him after he comes out. Tell him to stop creating trouble for us. Just where did he get that thing? That is a martial technique left behind by someone who is no weaker than the Sunmoon Realm. When he said that he's cultivating martial technique, I thought he was talking about the Skybreak Technique. But he was actually talking about this thing?"

They didn't know exactly what Su Yu had brought into the grotto, but they were both experienced and knowledgeable people. Thus, they were able to easily judge that Su Yu had entered with a martial technique left by someone who was at least a Sunmoon expert.

And was that a heaven-grade technique?

That was very likely.

Old Huang's eyes flickered as he said, "Among the pile of stuff the brat brought with him, I saw something familiar. Why did he take that thing here?"

"What is it?"

"Hong Tan's favorite book..."

"Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem?"

"Yeah."

"..."

They looked at each other for a while. Suddenly, they howled with laughter. Had Hong Tan missed out on a treasure? Yes. That was very likely. Su Yu's inheritance had probably originated from that book.

As for Hong Tan, the two old men were willing to bet that Hong Tan was definitely unaware of that. They were confident enough in their guess that if someone challenged them to place a wager that required them to walk with their hands for the rest of their lives if they were wrong, they would still accept the bet.

As for Bai Feng, well, that idiot was most definitely completely clueless. He wouldn't have sold the book otherwise.

Su Yu...was incredibly lucky. The two old men were incredibly shrewd. They were able to instantly reach the correct conclusion. If Hong Tan had known about this, he wouldn't have left the book around randomly.

The two continued roaring with laughter for a while. Finally, Old Huang said, "I need to note this down. When I meet Hong Tan again, I will be sure to talk to him about this book. I need to praise him for his

beautiful writings in this book. After all, this is a book that he has kept around for decades just to appreciate his own writings..."

"Hahahahaha! I can't stop laughing. Heavens. Hahahaha!"

Old Nie was also laughing madly. He said, "Don't do that. If he found out, he might grow so angry that he would explode where he stood. He might end up harming us with his self-explosion. As for Su Yu..."

Old Nie thought about it and said, "Everyone has their own fortune. If this is really a powerful martial technique...forget it. Neither Hong Tan or Su Yu can really decide on what to do with it. The creator of this technique might still be alive. It is not up to them whether they can start teaching the technique in the book."

Old Huang nodded. That was true. The creator might still be alive. And situations where some geniuses were lucky enough to obtain some powerful techniques were actually not too rare.

It would be a bad idea for others to set their eyes on these techniques. After all, if the creator was still alive and the incident escalated, things could get really troublesome. It wasn't like something like this had never happened before.

Back then, a certain genius had obtained a heaven-grade technique. And instead of being happy with cultivating the technique himself, the genius had also submitted the technique to his superiors for some merit points. Ultimately, the technique was made public to the masses.

Before long, a Sunmoon came knocking. It was fine if the genius cultivated the technique himself. After all, it was his own fortuitous encounter that had allowed him to obtain the technique.

But that genius had also published the secret technique created by someone else. Because of that, the genius couldn't even be considered an indirect student of the expert anymore. In the end, that genius had all the acupoints he had opened through that technique crippled as punishment.

At that thought, Old Huang said, "Remind the kid when he comes out. He shouldn't blindly spread the technique around without the permission of the creator. He might end up losing his life because of that."

"He's not stupid..." Old Nie laughed, "Don't worry. But yeah, we should probably remind him. But these brats enjoy acting incredibly secretive the moment they stumble upon some good fortune, acting like they are thieves. What expression do you think he will have if we mention his secret directly?"

Old Huang grinned expectantly.

That would definitely be a beautiful sight to behold.

The kid had shocked them so many times. This time, it would be their turn to give the kid a good scare. He really wanted to see the kid turn pale with fright for once. Once again, the two old men smiled at each other.

Each cultural researcher would have their own fortune. Or to be precise, each expert would have their own fortuitous encounters. It would be too hard for one to grow into an expert relying only on one's academy.

"I reckon a good show would unfold around the Top 100 Ranking after he leaves the grotto."

Both of them reached the same conclusion. The kid was both talented and lucky. A secret that Hong Tan had not discovered for decades had actually been discovered by the kid almost immediately after receiving the book. If that wasn't luck, what was luck?

For a genius to grow, talent was important. Effort was also important. But luck was just as important.

As the saying goes, 30 percent of success came from talent, 30 percent came from effort, and the remaining 40 percent came from luck. The two old men were looking pensive as they thought of that. They wondered if the multiple character faction was lucky or unlucky to receive a student like this.

They couldn't help but suspect that if Hong Tan remained outside the academy for any longer, he would return to find that things had changed massively in his absence.

Inside the grotto.

Drop after drop of blood essence was consumed like water. And one leg acupoint after another was opened.

All 300 drops of them were late-stage Infinite Strength blood essence. They were much more effective and lasted much longer than early-stage Infinite Strength blood essence.

One, two...

The acupoints lit up one after another.

As Su Yu circulated his source qi in accordance with the Body Strengthening Art, his body was being strengthened while his acupoints were being opened. His physical body had reached a level that was far stronger than ordinary ninth-stage Great Strength cultivators.

For the Great Strength Realm, the strength of the physical body was the main focus. That was why the mountainbreak bull blood essence was such a popular blood essence. This blood essence made it easier for one to strengthen one's body.

As for Su Yu, he was doing something even better: using the actual cultivation method of the mountainbreak bull race to strengthen his body.

One day and one night passed.

All 24 acupoints had been opened yet Su Yu still had a decent amount of mountainbreak bull blood essence left.

"All opened!"

Su Yu was overjoyed. Opening the acupoints of the first move was much easier than he had expected. That was mainly thanks to the willpower text. He could clearly feel the benefit of having a willpower text when opening his acupoints.

It felt as though he knew clearly what to do when opening these acupoints. Which acupoint to open, how to approach it, how to open it, he knew them all, as though he had opened these acupoints before. This was the benefit of having a willpower text.

Su Yu stood up and tried activating his leg acupoints. All 44 of them lit up. But the circulation of source qi through the newly opened acupoints weren't too smooth. He wasn't worried. He only needed to cleanse them with some clearbright bird blood essence later and they would be fine.

"Crush!"

With a roar, the acupoints erupted with power and his leg swept forth.

Bang!

His source qi blasted forth before creating a source qi cyclone in front of him.