

## Myriad 391

### Chapter 391: Gradual Return (3)

Zheng Ping laughed, "You make the death of a Mountainsea sound so simple. Even a first-stage Mountainsea can't be killed so easily! Also, these people are all grouped together. And they even have backers. How can I kill them as I wish? The Soul Devouring Art is not worth this price."

Su Yu nodded. With his arms around Xia Huyou, he bowed slightly and walked away with Xia Huyou.

Xia Huyou looked incomparably sullen.

Zheng Ping raised his brow, "So you're not selling anymore?"

"I'm still selling." Su Yu smiled, "Grandpa Zheng, I don't want to make things difficult for you so I'll be selling to someone else instead. Yunhui is my brother. I don't want to make things hard for his grandpa. I'll look for General Zhao instead. I believe the military needs an art like this."

Not far away, General Zhao raised his brow and said, "Those people are from the character faction. Killing even one of them will bring a lot of trouble. I'm not scared, but we still need cultural researchers in the army. Killing any of them might invite the hostility of the cultural researcher community toward the Martial Dragon Guards."

Su Yu nodded and said nothing else. He walked toward a different person instead.

His new target was the Martial Dragon War Academy's principal. The principal said, "The Martial Dragon War Academy is basically the reserve army of the Martial Dragon Guards. Since General Zhao is not accepting this task, I naturally can't do so as well."

Not far away, Administrator Hu said, "Student, a single Soul Devouring Art for the help of a Mountainsea against a Mountainsea cultural researcher with backers is basically an impossible deal to get."

He added, "Furthermore, this entire conflict involves more than the benefits of certain parties. We wouldn't have opened up this warzone otherwise. This is a debt left behind by the fifth principal. And your faction is bearing that debt. This is the crux of the issue."

Su Yu softly said, "I understand. Thank you for your advice, Grandpa Hu. But there is still one thing I don't understand. My great grandteacher was not the one who had killed the Invincible from Great Zhou. Why do we need to shoulder all the debt? We don't have the data they want. Had my great grandteacher promised his character to these people?"

Administrator Hu shook his head and said nothing else. There were things that couldn't be solved by words alone.

Su Yu looked around. The battle was still raging and the number of combatants was increasing.

Even Cloudbreach cultivators were starting to get involved. They were taking advantage of the fact that all the Mountainseas were occupied to approach Liu Wenyan.

While Su Yu was looking at Liu Wenyan, Liu Wenyan was also looking at him. With a smile, Liu Wenyan's lips moved.

"Go back."

This was not Su Yu's battle. This was not a battle he could participate in. Saving his teachers? Su Yu was too weak.

Suddenly, grief and indignation rose within Su Yu. Why was this happening? Was Great Xia really going to ignore this?

He looked at Marquis Xia. They were within the borders of Great Xia. Instead of a group of cultists, it was a group of cultural researchers killing another group of cultural researchers. Was Great Xia really ignoring this?

Disappointment welled within him. He was greatly disappointed. Just why? He saw Wu Yuehua bleeding. He saw the body of an expert protecting Teacher Liu exploding. They did not have enough Mountainseas on their side.

In the cover of the night, more and more combatants stepped forward and joined the battle. None of them said anything or introduced themselves. They merely fought silently.

Not far away, a smiling individual arrived while stepping on thin air. After cupping their hands at Liu Wenyan with a smile, that person entered the fight.

Someone gave Liu Wenyan a thumbs-up from faraway with a burning look in their eyes before joining the fight as well.

Su Yu knew that these were all the experts that had arrived to help his teacher. These were the people that had been waiting for Liu Wenyan's return all these years. Su Yu could only watch helplessly. He knew that he had likely failed in selling his Soul Devouring Art. These people were unwilling to participate in the fight.

The saying that warriors were brainless brutes was nothing but a joke. These people couldn't be fooled easily.

But Su Yu was unwilling to accept this.

In his agitation, Su Yu had tightened his grip on Xia Huyou without realizing it, causing Xia Huyou's shoulders to bruise. Xia Huyou scratched his head as he couldn't understand the reason for this choice as well. He looked at his second granduncle with an inquiring gaze. Were they really ignoring this?

More and more people joined the fight.

The Martial Dragon Guards had formed a complete encirclement of the warzone. The cultural researchers of the army silently released their willpower and sealed the area, preventing any shockwave from the battle to leave the warzone.

Xia Huyou gave Marquis Xia another look. Marquis Xia shook his head. They were still not doing anything.

They would wait.

They would keep waiting.

That was the marquis choice.

Sounds of explosions rang out repeatedly.

The two peak Mountainseas were also fighting at a place nobody could see. However, the shockwaves from their fight were clear for all to see. The shockwaves spread far and wide, causing mountains to collapse and rivers to run dry.

They were very powerful. And this was a shocking fight to behold.

However, Su Yu was unable to actually observe that battle. Nor was he in the mood to observe it. He was focused on Liu Wenyan. The people standing guard around Liu Wenyan were continuously reducing in number.

There was nothing he could do. He could only watch helplessly. The Soul Devouring Art was completely useless.

Su Yu looked around and saw that there were still a large number of people observing the battle in midair.

"For the price of a Soul Devouring Art manual, an art specializing in harming willpower, is anyone willing to help?"

In his desperation, Su Yu shouted at the observers. Nobody replied.

"Production method of ability blood essence on top of the Soul Devouring Art."

Some of them looked at him, but still, nobody replied.

With a hoarse voice, Su Yu roared, "A foundation cultural art on top of all that! A cultural art that can be cultivated below the Skysoar Realm with 36 apertures! Is anyone willing to make a move? Anyone?"

Those words shocked the various observers. Even Marquis Xia was looking at him now. Liu Wenyan was also looking at Su Yu in astonishment.

Su Yu howled, "Is nobody in Great Xia willing to help? How about those from the other prefectures? Since the Xia Family is ignoring this, they will also be unqualified to say anything if the experts of other prefectures get involved. Anyone?"

"Cultural art?" Finally, someone spoke, "Is it really a cultural art that can be cultivated below the Skysoar Realm? Does it really have 36 apertures?"

"Yes." Su Yu howled, "You only need to kill one Mountainsea and the manual is yours. Soul Devouring Art, ability blood essence production method, and foundation cultural art. All of them will be yours."

Su Yu continued roaring desperately, "Is this not enough? How about a heaven-grade manual?"

Even more gazes focused on him.

"Are you from the multiple character faction?"

"I am Su Yu. Direct student of Teacher Bai Feng. Is my price enough?" Su Yu roared, "If that's not enough"

"Enough. Are you going to give away everything your predecessors left for you?" Someone laughed, "Silly kid. Are you going to give away everything the multiple character faction has?"

"The silly kid was joking. Don't take him seriously, everyone. Our multiple character faction is so poor. How can we have all those things?"

A youth walked out of the darkness with a spear in hand. He smiled and said, "Stop messing around. Go back. He was joking, guys. We don't have all those things."

As the youth walked out, someone exclaimed, "Xia Yunji!"

Xia Yunji, one of the legends from the golden era, one of the freaks of the multiple character faction.

This Xia Yunji had a young appearance and a pale face. That face was filled with a wide smile. He looked at Su Yu and said, "A little child like you should stop messing around..."

He then casually stabbed his spear out and smiled, "Brother Wenyan, why have you returned so early? With me here, who can touch Brother Zhang's grave?"

Not far away, a spear punctured the chest of a Mountainsea.

Whoosh!

His entire body exploded from the strike. Xia Yunji smiled and pulled his spear back. His body flickered and reappeared somewhere else. His spear then swept out toward a seventh-stage Mountainsea.

Bang!

Space itself cracked.

The face of the seventh-stage Mountainsea changed. Just as he was about to dodge, a Divine Character appeared.

"Dragon!"

The character entered the spear, turning the spear into a dragon. Amid the night sky, a gigantic golden dragon appeared and swallowed the Mountainsea with one bite. The dragon turned back into a spear before returning to Xia Yunji's hand.

With the same smile on his face, Xia Yunji shook his spear. One could vaguely hear an expert roaring from within the spear. The expert constantly struck the spear from within, causing the spear to shake endlessly.

A clump of flame appeared in Xia Yunji's palm. With the flame, he burned the spear. A miserable wail rang out.

Xia Yunji cleared his throat, scanned his surroundings, and said, "Withdraw. I can't do anything if a Sunmoon is here. But without a Sunmoon, Zhou Mingren is not enough to stop me."

He looked at Su Yu once again and smiled, "Go back to the academy. Stop messing around. What do you think you're selling? You are not allowed to sell what your predecessors left behind. You will become a sinner if you do that."

Shock covered Su Yu's face.

An expert of the multiple character faction! This was one of the expelled students from back then. He had returned! Right that moment, a palm appeared behind Xia Yunji and shot toward him.

Shan Tianhao!

Xia Yunji frowned. But the shaking of his spear intensified right that moment, curbing his reaction.

At that exact moment, a gorgeous sword descended from the sky and headed straight toward Shan Tianhao. With a frown, Shan Tianhao hurriedly retreated and dodged the sword.

"Xia Yunji, you sure move fast."

The voice of a woman rang out. From the dark sky, a woman stepped forth. Wu Yuehua, who was busy fighting an expert, suddenly scolded, "Hu Ping! This must be intentional! You have deliberately arrived late to see me make a fool of myself!"

"Ridiculous. You're being completely unreasonable." The sword-wielding woman in the air snorted disdainfully, "See you make a fool of yourself? Your very existence is a joke in itself. Why should I even bother?"

"Bitch, just you wait! I'll settle the score with you after killing this bastard!"

She started going crazy, sending her massive cauldron everywhere. A massive cloud of black smoke also started coming out of her cauldron. The few unlucky Mountainseas that got in contact with the black smoke instantly found their bodies rotting away. The black smoke spread far and wide.

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Xia Yunji and Hu Ping.

Two of the expelled students from back then had returned one after another. Su Yu was staring at the two blankly. Suddenly, he laughed. The multiple character faction had not run out of people, after all.

He hurriedly said, "Thank you, seniors. As for the other seniors, please forgive me. I was merely playing a joke earlier. Xia Huyou has yet to give me his cultural art. I won't be able to sell it even if I want to. Don't misunderstand me..."

"..."

Xia Huyou looked at Su Yu in stupefaction. What was this fellow talking about?

Numerous gazes landed on Xia Huyou. Some recognized him, and they were completely dumbstruck. This Su Yu...was trying to sell the Xia Family's cultural art?



Fuck!

Screw this kid! Was this kid telling the truth? Was he trying to screw all of them? If they had accepted that deal, none of them would live to see tomorrow. Who would dare to lay their hands on the Xia Family's cultural art?

Xia Huyou continued staring at Su Yu in stupefaction. This bastard had really figured out who he was! But what was up with that cultural art this fellow had mentioned? When had he agreed to sell his cultural art?

Su Yu expressionlessly pinched Xia Huyou's shoulders and said, "You have it. You really do."

Xia Huyou's eyes flickered before brightening up. Really? Ohhh! He finally understood what Su Yu was implying.

Fuck!

This fellow...actually had something like that in his possession?

Xia Huyou hurriedly laughed and said, "Seniors, don't mind us. I was intending to give Su Yu the art. It's normal between friends. Don't misunderstand. If any of you had really agreed to his deal earlier, I would definitely take the art out. Su Yu is my brother. He is my best friend. Cultural art is nothing compared to our brotherhood..."

Marquis Xia couldn't help but to look at Xia Huyou. Yes. He had one, but his version only opened 18 apertures. Also, why had he told Su Yu something like that? Had he gone mad? And he was even going to give Su Yu the art?

Xia Huyou smiled apologetically and pinched Su Yu before saying, "Forget it. I'm not giving you the art anymore. Are you dumb? I told you to sell it off secretly. Why were you shouting so loudly? Everyone knows about it now. Give it back to me first. My family is not going to be happy."

Su Yu shot Xia Huyou a glance. With a smile, he passed over a jade talisman. When Xia Huyou accepted the jade talisman, his hand was trembling. Holy shit! Was this real?

When he saw his second granduncle looking over, he awkwardly said, "It was a lie. I never intended to give the art away. I was only joking with him. Who knows he would take it seriously and even try selling it? Don't be angry!"

Marquis Xia looked at the two in astonishment. Just what was going on? Meanwhile, Xia Huyou was trembling with excitement. Holy shit. Was this really a cultural art? Where had Su Yu gotten something like this? Holy shit! If that was really a cultural art, then this would be a massive profit for him!

Pokkadrinker's Thoughts

Remember this desperation. Revenge will be so very sweet when it comes.

Chapter 392: More Changes (1)

Xia Huyou's face lit up with delight. He couldn't help but to look at Su Yu again. He was still in disbelief. Was this really a cultural art? But Su Yu was ignoring Xia Huyou. Instead, he was focused on the distant warzone. With the arrival of Xia Yunji and Hu Ping, two powerful combatants had joined the multiple character faction's camp.

High-tier Mountainseas!

Su Yu couldn't see through their exact cultivation levels, but he could see how several Mountainseas had been forced to retreat by the two.

The spear was ruling the battlefield like a dragon. After trapping a seventh-stage Mountainsea, Xia Yunji was giving another Mountainsea a terrible beating.

As for Hu Ping, she was faced with Shan Tianhao, a ninth-stage Mountainsea. She had been relatively silent. Her sword was brilliant and glorious, illuminating the night sky with her deadly sword qi.

The cultural weapons used by the two were definitely no ordinary weapons.

Su Yu could see traces of character techniques in the two weapons. Countless dots of light could be seen in those weapons. Both of them actually walked the path of offense.

"Huyou, can you tell me more about them?"

Su Yu wanted to know the identities of all these people. He knew too little and recognized very few of the Mountainseas present. As the son of the prefect, Xia Huyou knew almost all the Mountainseas in Great Xia. As for the ones he had never met before, he would have read about them as well.

Thus, he softly said, "You know Elder Wu Yuehua. The person she's beating up is Tang Yunfei from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy."

"That person..."

Xia Huyou pointed at a sturdy middle-aged man. The valiant man was riding a fierce tiger with a massive halberd in hand. Similarly, he was giving his opponent a beating.

"The tiger rider is Elder He Ji from the beast taming faction. His opponent is Elder Qiu Yunhua of the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy."

"That person..."

Su Yu looked at the third person. It was an old man with countless talismans hovering around him. Some radiated intense chill, some radiated sharp sword qi, and some radiated destructive electrical currents.

"That is Elder Fan Jin of the talisman faction. He is also a supporter of your faction. His opponent is Elder Wang Ming from the Daoseeking Cultural Research Academy."

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Xia Huyou introduced one expert after another. A lot of Mountainseas were present. These experts had come from all over the Human Realm.

The multiple character faction actually had a decent number of helpers. Just from the academy alone, there were four elders on their side. Excluding Hong Tan and company, there were three additional Mountainseas helping them. In total, seven Mountainseas from the academy were fighting on their side.

As for the combatants from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy and Daoseeking Cultural Research Academy, most of them were here to help the single character faction. Thus, the single character faction still held the numerical advantage.

Over 20 Mountainseas had been gathered in this spot alone.

"There's also Shan Tianhao, the faculty head of Great Zhou Cultural Research Academy's Character Faculty, a ninth-stage Mountainsea."

Xia Huyou gave a detailed introduction of Shan Tianhao, "He has a grandson. That grandson is the freak from Great Zhou that everyone has been talking about, the one who had entered the Skysoar Realm in only half a year. But his grandson does not have much to do with him. This grandson is the final student of Great Zhou Cultural Research Academy's principal, Zhou Polong. Zhou Polong was the one who had taught that grandson everything."

Su Yu nodded. He had long heard that the Great Zhou genius had a senior researcher as his grandfather. So this was the grandfather of that genius. He made sure to remember every single one of these people.

He asked, "Some of them do not seem to have any grudge with us. Why are they getting involved as well?"

"For benefits."

Yes. It was that simple.

Xia Huyou said, "Everyone wants to take a look at fifth principal's character. Everyone wants to get their hands on it. Additionally, with the stand Great Zhou is taking, some of these people are also here to fawn on Zhou Polong or some other benefits."

"Fawn on Zhou Polong?" Su Yu asked, "Are they not afraid of offending the Xia Family?"

Xia Huyou thought for a long while before softly saying, "No. Because the biggest backer of all cultural researchers is the Knowledge Seeking Realm. Let me put it this way. The Xia Family stands at the top in the path of warriors. Both Great Xia King and the prefect were people who had walked to the peak of the path of physical cultivation. But the Xia Family lacks influence in the Knowledge Seeking Realm. Vice Principal Xia Changqing and granduncle Xia Yunji are the top cultural researchers of the Xia Family."

Su Yu finally started to understand.

He asked, "So Great Zhou King is an expert from the Knowledge Seeking Realm?"

"Yeah." Xia Huyou nodded, "You finally understand. Great Zhou is the leader in the path of cultural research. Principal Zhou is also on the verge of entering the Invincible Realm. When that happens, he will become yet another big shot in the Knowledge Seeking Realm."

Su Yu was hit by a realization. No wonder. No wonder these people dared to participate in this conflict even when they were within the Xia Family's territory. That was because cultural researchers did not rely on the Xia Family.

It was the other way around. The Xia Family was the one needing to rely on cultural researchers. After all, the Devil Subduing Army and Martial Dragon Guards needed the participation of many cultural researchers.

"So the Xia Family can't control these people?"

"We can." Xia Huyou smiled, "We definitely can. You shouldn't look down on the Xia Family. But according to the agreement made with the community of cultural researchers back then, the Xia Family would generally give the cultural researchers a free rein as long as the cultural researchers are not in the military."

"After all, freedom is very important for cultural researchers. It is very normal for cultural researchers to be poached. We won't be able to do anything if they decide to jump ship to Great Zhou. Of course, it might not necessarily be very beneficial for one to leave their homeland for a different prefecture, so people won't really move unless there is a strong reason."

Su Yu nodded and stopped asking.

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A thick killing intent covered the warzone.

In truth, people like Su Yu weren't really able to see what was going on inside. At most, they could only see some flashes here and there.

Liu Wenyan was still standing at the same spot. At this point, there was no longer any Mountainsea around him. Only a few recently arrived Cloudbreach cultivators were guarding him, looking around cautiously.

Liu Wenyan looked around before suddenly saying, "My answer is the same. I still can't materialize the character. Even if I can, only the descendants of the ones who had perished in the battle back then can see it. Nobody else can."

"Are you sure you want to dig up Zhang Ruoling's grave? I can move the grave to Nanyuan and stay away from the capital for life. Is this acceptable?"

"Can't materialize it?" Someone sneered, "Xia Yunji and Hu Peng are both here. And both of them are able to materialize their characters. Why are you the exception? Liu Wenyan, you're too selfish. The fifth principal's character does not belong to you alone. It belongs to everyone."

"Exactly. Back then, countless cultural researchers had perished while helping the fifth principal affirm his dao. You have insisted on monopolizing the character. It isn't like we have not given you any time. You have been given 50 years. Yet you are still giving these stupid excuses."

One Mountainsea after another berated Liu Wenyan.

Liu Wenyan calmly said, "Yes, the character does not belong to me alone. But...some of you are unqualified to say all these to me. The friends of my teacher that had perished back then did not have a lot of descendants. But there are so many of you here. Some claim to be a senior brother of one of them. Some claim to be a junior brother of one of them. But in truth, most of you are unrelated to any of them. You are unqualified to say these words."

"Those people are unqualified. How about me?" Someone else shouted, "Back then, my father perished while fighting alongside the fifth principal. Even the character he left behind was given to a so-called genius. But who knows if that was really my father's wish? He breathed his last among your people. Who knows if you people were telling the truth back then?"

Liu Wenyan knew who that person was. He sighed, "Brother Qi, back then, Uncle Qi was seriously injured. By the time we managed to notify you, he had already breathed his last. He couldn't afford to wait so he picked Liu Ran to inherit his character. And Liu Ran is already dead..."

The other person said, "I don't care! Liu Ran is dead and I won't lower myself to disturb his grave. My father's character can remain in his grave. I only want to know if I am qualified to take a look at the data left by my father back then? Just where is the data left by the fifth principal? The data said to contain the path to the Invincible Realm! Where is it? Back then, my father had put a lot of effort in the fifth principal's research as well. But not long after the results came out, my father had perished. Are you saying that after my father perished, the data no longer has anything to do with us?"

Liu Wenyan said, "My teacher had not left any data behind. Everyone who was present back then knows this. Only some unimportant and incomplete data was left behind. For example, the fusion of characters. That was why Hong Tan had subsequently released his research result on the fusion of characters into different systems. That is a research result that has been completed by Hong Tan himself."

Basically, all the data they had actually received from the fifth principal had already been shared with the public.

Character fusion was actually one of the most important research subjects today. And back then, Hong Tan had released the research result without hiding anything for himself. Eventually, the research had only been stopped because it was too difficult. A lot of people were aware of that.

"I don't believe that!" Someone shouted, "Earlier, Bai Feng displayed a method to split character techniques. Why hasn't this been disseminated before?"

"..."

Liu Wenyan frowned, "That was Bai Feng's own research. It has nothing to do with my teacher."

Sure enough, some of them had set their eyes on Bai Feng's research. Of all the things the fifth principal had left behind, they had already shared everything they could. Only the inherited character was left.

And now, these people were even trying to credit Bai Feng's research result to the fifth principal's inheritance. They were trying to snatch Bai Feng's research result without paying any price. Liu Wenyan was furious. He definitely wouldn't agree to that.

"Bai Feng's own research? What a joke. How many years has he been in the academy? I knew you guys can't be trusted!"

Right after that, multiple mountains appeared out of thin air before dropping down on Liu Wenyan. While the people around him resisted the mountains, Liu Wenyan raised his brow and suddenly palmed the ground below him.

A dark shadow exploded out of the ground. Not far away, the alarmed Wu Yuehua hurriedly sent her cauldron flying over. With a rumble, the shadow was smashed into pieces.

While the cauldron was returning, the distracted Wu Yuehua had her defenses penetrated by her opponent. An attack stabbed right through her shoulder.

Chapter 393: More Changes (2)

The battle was turning more and more intense.



Su Yu frowned and looked at Marquis Xia. Just what was this person thinking? More and more Mountainseas were involved. If some of them really ended up dying, this would be a great loss to Great Xia. Was he really not going to do anything about this?

Meanwhile, Administrator Hu and Marquis Xia were conversing softly. Nobody apart from them could hear their conversation.

"Marquis, what now?"

Marquis Xia stayed silent for a short while before saying, "Where's Zhao Mingyue?"

"Still on the way..."

"Let Old Zhao tell his little sister to retreat with Liu Wenyan when she arrives and return to Nanyuan."

"Marquis..."

Administrator Hu looked at the marquis for a while. The look in his eyes changed slightly as he nodded. Shortly after, General Zhao frowned, looking like he had just heard something. He nodded and vanished into thin air.

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The battle raged on.

Suddenly, someone appeared in the sky. The moment the newcomer arrived, someone shouted, "It's Zhao Mingyue! Stop her!"

"Fuck off."

A shout rang out in the air. Before Su Yu could see the newcomer, a massive staff swung down from the sky. With a bang, a Mountainsea was sent flying away. Then, a heroic woman landed on the ground. She had a murderous look in her eyes. She wasted no time talking and rushed straight toward Liu Wenyan.

The other Mountainseas tried to stop her but they were all kept occupied by the Mountainseas from the multiple character faction's side.

"Why are you still staying here? Come with me!"

Zhao Mingyue then started dragging Liu Wenyan away. Not far away, Wu Yuehua cursed under her breath. But she did nothing to stop them. She also agreed that it was time for Liu Wenyan to leave. A mishap might happen way too easily if he remained in the warzone.

Xia Yunji and the others also shouted to him, "Wenyan, leave first. With us here, none of them will be able to touch Ruoling's grave!"

"Stop them!"

A few Mountainseas shouted in alarm. If Liu Wenyan was allowed to leave the warzone, everything these experts had done until this point would have been for nothing. This time, the Xia Family had even opened a warzone for them to settle their dispute within the capital itself. This was an extremely rare chance for them.

Any other time, they would all have a lot of reservations when fighting. A fight was not too bad, but the moment someone was killed, the Xia Family would be dragged in. But today, the Xia Family had granted them the freedom to kill within the warzone. Thus, this was their best opportunity to capture or even kill Liu Wenyan.

While Zhao Mingyue was leaving with Liu Wenyan, a sigh rang out. Then, a massive banner that covered the sky itself appeared.

"Liu Wenyan, you should stay."

Zhao Mingyue frowned and shouted furiously, "Jin Yuhui, you dare obstruct us?"

That was the principal of the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy.

"Mingyue, all of you can leave except Liu Wenyan. Either that or you need to leave the character behind..."

An aged voice rang out from the sky. The Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy's principal had made a move.

This was someone standing at the very peak of the Mountainsea Realm. Some people even suspected that he had entered the Sunmoon Realm and was merely keeping it a secret like Wan Tiansheng.

In Great Xia, Wan Tiansheng was known as the strongest cultural researcher. Right after him was the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy's principal, the second strongest cultural researcher.

As for people like Director Ji, they weren't really cultural researchers. Sure, they knew some willpower tricks, but they were still mostly focused on physical cultivation.

Liu Wenyan had been silent even when Zhao Mingyue was dragging him away. But suddenly, he raged, "Jin Yuhui! On what basis are you involving yourself in this? Our faction owes you nothing! It is the other way around! You have shamelessly taken the character fusion technique we developed and claimed to be one of the actual creators of the technique! Are you not ashamed of yourself?"

"Talk is meaningless."

Jin Yuhui did not even try to argue. He brandished his banner and sent it down at them.

"Break!"

With a roar, Zhao Mingyue shot up into the sky and struck the banner with her staff. The collision caused the world around them to shake while a loud rumble reverberated throughout the area.

The banner trembled slightly before fusing with several characters. The characters stabilized the banner, allowing it to keep pushing downward. Zhao Mingyue roared and clashed against the banner yet again. However, her opponent was too strong. She wasn't able to stop the banner. The moment the banner reached the ground, Liu Wenyan would be captured.

"Die!"

Zhao Mingyue roared furiously as a blinding radiance erupted from her staff. At the same time, a spear, a sword, and a cauldron shot toward the banner as well.

Even further away, Hong Tan, who was in the midst of fighting against Zhou Mingren, roared, "Jin Yuhui, you are courting death!"

Suddenly, Hong Tan's body enlarged. A massive giant appeared before everyone's eyes. The giant was holding a shield in front of his chest with his left hand. His right hand was holding a sword. He first blocked Zhou Mingren's attack with his shining shield before rushing toward the banner. With a swing, his sword qi swept through a distance of several kilometers ahead of him.

Crash!

The sword qi struck the banner and tore it apart.

"Cough..."

A cough sounded in the air. Jin Yuhui sighed, "Hong Tan, you have indeed hidden your strength..."

Right that moment, Zhou Mingren roared. Hong Tan was about to take another step forward when countless stone pillars appeared around him, trapping him inside.

With a frown, Zhou Mingren said, "Hong Tan, our fight has yet to end. Don't get distracted."

"Old dog, you're courting death!"

Hong Tan was furious. He pounded on one of the pillars with his shield. At the same time, he swung his sword, cutting several stone pillars down. Zhou Mingren did not mind. Suddenly, the world outside the pillars turned into a massive sea. Towering waves appeared and crashed down on Hong Tan.

...

At this time, Su Yu approached Zheng Ping again and softly said, "Grandpa Zheng, the battle is so intense. Are you not going to share your thoughts about it?"

Zheng Ping had an odd look on his face. Share his thoughts? This kid was clearly confused by what he was seeing and was trying to fish for information. This was quite a shameless kid.

But since he was quite free, Zheng Ping did not mind. He said, "The newcomer is Jin Yuhui, the principal of the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy. He is a peak Mountainsea. Or to be precise, he is pseudo Sunmoon. Of the people present, the three strongest individuals are Hong Tan, Jin Yuhui, and Zhou Mingren. All three of them are pseudo Sunmoons."

"The sword and shield in Hong Tan's hands are his character technique. Zhou Mingren has eight characters. The pillars were formed by his stone character. This sea was generated by his wave character. But none of the two are his main Divine Character. His main Divine Character is the sun character. The moment this character appears, it would signify that the fight has reached its climax."

Su Yu asked, "Why did Jin Yuhui involve himself in this?"

"That's a grudge from the previous generation. When the fifth principal was around, Jin Yuhui was suppressed too badly. And this fellow has been studying the fusion of characters for many years. Previously, your faction released the results of your research on character fusion before ending the project. Jin Yuhui is very interested in that topic. Since the fifth principal's character might contain the secrets of character fusion, it is not surprising that he is getting involved as well."

Su Yu nodded, "Grandpa Zheng, Teacher Liu Wenyan had the chance to leave earlier. Why had he not left? Would he be fine as long as he can leave the warzone?"

"Leaving?" Zheng Ping shook his head, "That is no longer possible after he left Nanyuan. In truth, Nanyuan is a cage for him. By leaving the cage, he regains his freedom. But at the same time, he loses his protection. During the past 50 years when he had stayed in Nanyuan, barely anyone had dared to create trouble for him there.

"But it has been 50 years. The patience of many people is running thin. Thus, his only options after leaving Nanyuan are handing over the character or crushing the greed of these people. Otherwise, returning to his peaceful life would be impossible."

Su Yu frowned. He looked at Liu Wenyan who was standing under the banner. Zhao Mingyue and the others were strong, but they still weren't Jin Yuhui's match.

"What's the cultivation of Senior Xia Yunji and the others?"

"Around seventh-stage Mountainsea."

Zheng Ping had sharp eyes. He said, "If they really use all their strength, they could probably display the strength of a ninth-stage Mountainsea. But I have a feeling that there are still some issues with their characters. They won't be able to keep fighting for long. They have not fully assimilated their inherited characters."

He then sighed, "It really is not worth inheriting these characters, after all. Without these characters, these fellows would have been able to reach the seventh-stage Mountainsea Realm at the minimum by now relying only on themselves. In fact, those inherited characters would only be worth it if they are already Sunmoons right now."

Five decades were more than enough for these people to reach their current levels of cultivation relying on their talents alone. Thus, inheriting those characters back then had been a wrong choice.

"Back then, the inherited characters were meant to help them rapidly reach the Sunmoon Realm, not keep them at the Mental Tempering Stage for 50 years. There really are a lot of issues with this plan. What a pity."

Zheng Ping sighed regretfully. But he didn't really care too much about this. This was how cultural researchers had always been. For the sake of testing a single theory, they were willing to sacrifice countless energy and resources. They could blame no one if they ended up failing.

Clearly, this plan with the inherited characters had failed. And it was truly regretful as even today, a lot of people were still eagerly waiting for the result of that experiment.

Yes, Zhao Mingyue and the others had returned. But they were only Mountainseas with unstable combat strength. If this was the result of this plan, then there was no longer any need for anyone else to carry out such inheritances in the future.

Su Yu was also feeling regretful. They had failed to enter the Sunmoon Realm, wasting 50 years of time. Back then, every single one of these geniuses were stronger than Hong Tan. But now, Hong Tan had instead become the strongest. For the sake of this plan, these people had suffered the blame of numerous people and countless humiliation for 50 years. It was really not worth it.

And many of the students who had been picked for the plan had already passed away in obscurity. For example, Zhang Ruoling, the person who was buried here.

Su Yu couldn't allow himself to keep brooding. He hurriedly said, "What are they going to do after capturing Teacher Liu? Are they going to kill him?"

"Since Liu Wenyan is not materializing the character for them, it is hard to say what these people will do..."

Su Yu said, "Grandpa Zheng, are none of you disappointed with Great Xia's decision?"

Zheng Ping helplessly said, "Let me put it this way. Strictly speaking, we are all the soldiers of the Xia Family. And if they are not interfering, then we have to follow their lead. I do sympathize with you, but I can't help you guys. This is the same for Old Zhao and Old Hu as well. Each of them have a family member involved in the conflict. Do you think they don't care?"

Chapter 394: More Changes (3)

Zheng Ping sighed, "Hu Ping and Zhao Mingyue are family. They care about this more than anyone. But without Marquis Xia's order, we can't interfere."

"If you can't even protect your family, who can you protect? In that case, you guys might as well withdraw from the Allheaven Battlefield."

"This..." Zheng Ping did not know what to do. He awkwardly said, "If my family is involved, I would definitely interfere. I can't do anything if those two are too cowardly to do anything. Since my family isn't actually involved, it would be pointless for me to work so hard and engage these people in such a fierce battle, right?"

Upon hearing that, Su Yu felt somewhat regretful. If he had known about this earlier, he would have instigated Zheng Yunhui to come with him. Then again, that might be too dangerous. A single Mental Tempering Stage student would probably end up dead right after stepping into the warzone.

Both General Zhao and Administrator Hu remained silent.

But both were looking at Marquis Xia. When Marquis Xia sensed their gazes, he smiled, "There's no rush. Let Jin Yuhui force them for a bit. Let's see if they still have any other trump cards."

The two looked at each other and could only nod. Marquis Xia turned his head to look in the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy's direction. Just what was Wan Tiansheng doing right now?

...

The banner continued dropping. Zhao Mingyue was already at her limits. She was coughing blood as the banner continued pushing herself downward. Not far away, Hong Tan, who had turned into a giant, had an unsightly expression.

"Zhou Mingren, I only sparred with you earlier out of respect for you. Are you sure you want to obstruct me now?"

"You can naturally leave after winning."



At that moment, a bright sun rose into the sky and shone upon Hong Tan. At contact with the sunlight, Hong Tan's shield started melting away.

"You guys only want to see if I have any information related to the advancement into the Invincible Realm from my teacher. Let me tell you. I don't have the information. Nor do I need it. The path of our predecessors is only good as a point of reference. Do you think you can step into the Invincible Realm walking the path of others? Zhou Mingren, don't regret this!"

Whoosh!

With a howl, Hong Tan started merging his sword and shield.

"You guys want to see my trump card, right? Sure. Have a good look! Fuse!"

With that, the two items finished their fusion. A wave of incomparably powerful willpower erupted from Hong Tan's body.

"Since you're courting death, I'll gladly deliver!"

His new weapon was a gigantic broadsword. With the brightly shining sword in hand, he swung it. The sword flickered and the air rumbled. Before the sword even finished descending, the sun above him broke into pieces. After coughing a mouthful of blood from the backlash, Zhou Mingren hurriedly withdrew the remaining pieces of his sun. That was actually his main Divine Character.

The stone pillars had been crushed. The waves had been obliterated.

It was as though the sky was collapsing and the earth was rending.

"Jin Yuhui, you are courting death!"

Ignoring the escaping Zhou Mingren, Hong Tan streaked toward Jin Yuhui and swung his sword.

Crash!

A loud boom reverberated throughout the area as the sword swept through the night sky. The banner instantly vanished before reappearing in the hand of an old man. Floating amid the night sky, the old man hurriedly brandished his banner to block the sword attack that was heading toward him. But the moment the attack arrived, the banner broke apart.

The old man was pushed a few kilometers away, his body dyed red in blood. Still in his giant form, Hong Tan moved forward before swinging his sword again.

With an unsightly expression, Jin Yuhui hollered, "Zhou Mingren, let's fight together!"

Zhou Mingren flew over from afar with a sun and a moon manifested in his hand. Upon arriving, he pushed his palm forward.

"Fuck off, garbage!"

Hong Tan merely swept his sword over to send Zhou Mingren flying away. After dealing with Zhou Mingren, Hong Tan stomped his foot down on Jin Yuhui.

"Sunmoon?"

A lot of people exclaimed in alarm. Had Hong Tan entered the Sunmoon Realm? Was that really the case?

"No, but he's only a step away from that realm..."

Shan Tianhao hurriedly shouted his observation.

"Move, take Liu Wenyan!"

Shan Tianhao then charged toward Liu Wenyan. Zhao Mingyue and the others had sustained heavy injuries. They all tried to stop Shan Tianhao with furious roars, but they weren't able to stop him as he was a ninth-stage Mountainsea. Liu Wenyan, who was standing behind everyone, frowned.

"So no Sunmoons have arrived, after all?"

Liu Wenyan muttered to himself. He then looked at the distant Marquis Xia. Was Marquis Xia also waiting for him to make his move? Had the marquis been investigating him all these years as well?

If he made his move, would someone new appear? Which Sunmoon would appear? If the Sunmoon was going to keep hiding, then he would need to start leaving.

"Let's go!" Liu Wenyan suddenly said, "Yunji, you guys stop them. I'll leave first. You guys will have to be the ones to protect Ruoling's grave. I'll return to Nanyuan first. Remember to visit me in Nanyuan."

"Sure!" Zhao Mingyue then shouted, "Wu Yuehua, what are you waiting for? Escort him away!"

Wu Yuehua merely gave her a glare. After pushing her current opponent away with a cauldron strike, she landed on the ground and grabbed Liu Wenyan before flying away.

Someone shouted, "Liu Wenyan, if you really leave today, you will never be able to settle this debt!"

Liu Wenyan did not answer.

While both Zhou Mingren and Jin Yuhui were blocking Hong Tan with great difficulty, Zhou Mingren shouted, "Liu Wenyan, the character will remain a source of calamity if you keep it. Are you going to bring the multiple character faction more troubles after all the suffering they have gone through all these years?"

"..."

Liu Wenyan remained silent. He was already on the verge of leaving the warzone. And the moment he stepped out, the battle today would come to an end. They had already paid a large price to force Liu Wenyan to come here today.

Right as Wu Yuehua was about to take the final step out of the warzone with Liu Wenyan, a massive hand appeared in the sky and descended upon them. With a furious bellow, Wu Yuehua sent her cauldron out. But the cauldron was easily slapped aside. Cracks could be seen on its surface. It had actually been damaged.

She was an eighth-stage Mountainsea yet her cultural weapon had been damaged with one hit!

"Sunmoon?" Wu Yuehua was alarmed, "Who is this?"

The newcomer remained hidden in the darkness. No words were said as the hand continued descending toward Liu Wenyan. Not far away, Marquis Xia stood up. His eyes were solemn. An actual Sunmoon was finally making a move. This was a true Sunmoon, not a fresh Sunmoon or a pseudo Sunmoon.

"Bastard!"

Wu Yuehua grabbed Liu Wenyan in preparation to throw him out of the warzone. She recalled her cauldron and was about to fight with her life on the line when Liu Wenyan grabbed her hand, stopping her from throwing him out.

"You..."

Wu Yuehua was furious. Why was this fool still refusing to leave? A true Sunmoon had arrived!

Not far away, Hong Tan roared as he attacked his two opponents madly, causing the two to suffer even more injuries.

"How dare you! I'll kill you!"

Regardless of his fury, Hong Tan was too far away to help. The massive palm was getting nearer and nearer to Liu Wenyan. In her desperation, Wu Yuehua fused her apertures and brandished her cauldron as she got ready to face the Sunmoon with all her strength.

Once again, Liu Wenyan grabbed her hand and stopped her. He sighed, "Don't court death..."

He then looked at the palm and said, "I've been waiting for you."

Immediately after, his sea of willpower shook violently. Then, an axe appeared in his hand. Yes. It was an axe. The axe looked completely inconspicuous. But the moment it appeared, silence enveloped the area.

Looking at the axe, Liu Wenyan had a wistful look as he said, "It has been way too long...I have almost forgotten that...I am Liu Wenyan!"

He looked up at the sky and smiled, "I suppose you would do."

"Kill!"

The roar reverberated throughout the area.

Instantly, the axe in his hand shone with a glorious radiance. The axe easily cleaved through the massive palm, causing blood to spill. The moment the axe moved, its presence seemed to envelop the entire world.

Outside the warzone, Su Yu was completely shocked.

At that very moment, all the Mountainseas and all the battles between them faded into the background. That axe was the only thing that existed in the world.

"Liu Wenyan!"

A sigh rang out in the sky. Then, a bright moon appeared and descended upon the axe. A loud pop sounded. Instantly, the bright moon broke apart.

"Spurttt!"

Blood flowed. The same voice muttered, "The aura of an Invincible...you...have succeeded in your assimilation..."

"Cut!"

Liu Wenyan said nothing. With another roar, he swung his axe at the dark sky. At that very moment, Liu Wenyan was incomparably powerful. A Sunmoon had been beaten back by him with one attack. Slowly, darkness was replaced by light and a silhouette appeared in the sky.

Marquis Xia stared at the silhouette with a pair of burning eyes. He then looked at Administrator Hu. At that, Administrator Hu's back turned perfectly straight.

At the same time, the faint aura of an Invincible appeared from Liu Wenyan's body and swept through his surroundings. Su Yu could only feel a massive weight pressing down on him, forcing him to lie sprawled on the ground. This was not a force he could resist.

Nor was he trying to resist it. This was his teacher. There was no shame in bowing to his own teacher. But he couldn't hide his shock. Was Teacher Liu really so strong?

"Break!"

With a rumble, the newly appeared silhouette broke apart. Liu Wenyan's expression changed.

"It's a fake!"

Right where the silhouette had broken apart, a Divine Character appeared. The character hurriedly exploded.

This was a character clone! It was not a real person! Someone had produced a fake Sunmoon with a character! Yet this fake Sunmoon was comparable in strength with a true Sunmoon!

Right that moment, the air behind Liu Wenyan split and a finger shot out, aiming straight for his head.

At the same time.

The group observers who had done nothing so far suddenly shot forward.

The refined and gentle Administrator Hu seemed to have transformed into an ancient fiend. His vitality surged as he streaked forward with a roar and vanished into thin air. After exchanging a move with the unseen opponent, he reappeared beside Liu Wenyan and crushed the incoming finger.

"Another fake!"

Administrator Hu shouted. Not far away, General Zhao, who was publicly known as a peak Mountainsea, was also displaying an astonishing level of strength. Right after Administrator Hu spoke, General Zhao brandished his spear and pierced through the very sky itself. Space itself seemed to shatter, revealing a silhouette hidden within the void.

"So all of you have been waiting for me?"

The silhouette laughed with indifference. He already knew that these people were waiting for him. He reached out and grabbed General Zhao's spear. In the sky, five resplendent suns appeared.

Fifth-stage Sunmoon!

This General Zhao that everyone believed to be a Mountainsea was actually a fifth-stage Sunmoon! The spear merged with the suns and stabbed at the silhouette yet again.

Crash!

The space around the silhouette started collapsing, but the silhouette did not care. Instead, he reached out toward Liu Wenyan yet again. Administrator Hu streaked over and attacked the incoming palm.

At that moment, Liu Wenyan roared before swinging his axe at the sky. Once again, space split open, allowing a punch to fly out of the crack in the air.

"What an overwhelming force." Marquis Xia sighed, "For the sake of killing him, you have truly gone through a lot of trouble."

The axe and the fist met, creating a resplendent shockwave around them.

After taking the final bite at the watermelon in his hand, Marquis Xia grinned, "I have been waiting for you. What a surprise. You have actually decided to show up. Are you finally running out of patience?"

Before he had even finished speaking, his body had started to fade away. That was actually an afterimage. Before anyone could see anything, a fat old man appeared in the sky. He caught the fist and punched the space in front of him apart before stepping into the resulting crack in the air.

"Since you're already here, don't leave. Old Hu, Old Zhao, move faster. That's an Eternal character. Don't destroy it. Capture it. I want to see just who this person is."

"Yes, sir!"

The two Sunmoons replied. Rumbling sounds rang out unceasingly. The two experts were no longer hiding their strength. In fact, the refined Administrator Hu looked even stronger than the valiant General Zhao. His palm enlarged infinitely, blanketing the sky before grabbing at the silhouette in the sky.

"Capturing me?"

The silhouette laughed. A Divine Character appeared with a loud rumble before exploding. Administrator Hu's palm was blasted apart alongside the character clone. With a frown, Administrator Hu collected the broken pieces of the character instead.



Alongside the destruction of the character, the surrounding area was completely flooded with willpower. The intent of the destroyed Divine Character also remained in the area. An Eternal character had been destroyed.

The stunned Su Yu could no longer spare any thought on anything else. He hurriedly started absorbing the character intent in the air with his own characters. At the same time, he was also absorbing the ambient willpower flooding the area. Every single one of his apertures opened wide.

He didn't have the time to think about what had happened. He only knew that something major had happened. In the blink of an eye, two Eternal characters had been destroyed. Liu Wenyan had destroyed one while Administrator Hu and the others had destroyed the second.

What was going on?

Who was that?

Which Invincible was that?

Meanwhile, Marquis Xia could no longer be seen. Only the constant booming sounds coming from the sky and Marquis Xia's roars could be heard.

...

At the same time.

Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

Wan Tiansheng's eyes were shining, as though he was looking at something. After a long while, he frowned, "That's not him. It's a fake as well. He's not here at all. That stupid fatty has alerted the enemy with this move."

He cursed.

Wan Tiansheng was furious. He was certain that the damn fatty had never intended to capture that person in the first place. The fatty had been aiming to scare off that person all along.

"Damn that bastard! So what if it's an Invincible? Even an Invincible can be killed if he deserves it!"

He knew what Marquis Xia was thinking, but he was very unhappy. He was furious. But soon, he inhaled deeply and sat back down. There was no rush. He could wait longer. If it didn't work this time, there would be a next time.

Since that person had decided to make a move this time, then that person would definitely be making more moves in the future. Even from this incident alone, Wan Tiansheng had managed to see something.

Several faces appeared in his mind. Only these people were left. And one of them was the person he had been looking for!

"I'm closing in on you! Don't even think of hiding from me!"

A sun and a moon appeared in his eyes as he stared far into the distance. Slowly, an illusory figure took form in his mind. Alas, the face of that figure was still blurry. And the aura of that figure was still unstable. Wan Tiansheng was furious. This was not enough. That person was too cunning.

"I'll be waiting for you to make another move."

After another deep inhalation, Wan Tiansheng shut his eyes. He could afford to wait longer.

Chapter 395: Fishing In Troubled Waters (1)

Wan Tiansheng was furious, but he decided to continue biding his time. At this time, a crack appeared in the sky and Marquis Xia flew out of it with someone in hand. No, that wasn't a person in his hand.

It was a Divine Character that was constantly switching between the character and the human forms. Marquis Xia's palm acted like a millstone that constantly suppressed the character.

The rapidly changing character merely laughed, "Xia Xiao'er (Little Two), you sure have concealed yourself deeply. Eighth-stage Sunmoon Realm? What a surprise."

Marquis Xia, who had been smiling warmly earlier, suddenly raged. It almost felt like his fury could immolate the entire world. He hurriedly waved his hand to form a barrier around him, afraid that someone else would hear his real name.

"You damn bastard. You dare to address me by my name? You're dead!"

Marquis Xia was furious.

Yes. His real name was Xia Xiao'er. His unreliable father, the same person who had given his greatest technique the Sky Sundering Countless Saber, was most certainly not a father capable of giving his own son a decent name. Thus, Xia Xiao'er could only address himself as Marquis Xia.

"Dead?"

The illusory figure laughed as it started breaking apart. "I know you guys are trying to bait me out. But...who am I? There are too many Invincibles in the War Shrine and the Knowledge Seeking Realm. I am only one of them. And this is only a single character. My main body is not here. Go ahead and search for me! Hahaha!"

Go ahead and search. Would they even dare to investigate the two holy lands? Could they even find anything? No!

This wasn't the first time someone had suspected that there was a traitor among human Invincibles. But the Divine Characters one possessed had always been an important secret of every cultivator that would not be easily leaked. And most Invincibles cultivated both the willpower and physical paths. Thus, even the warriors in the War Shrine were owners of numerous Divine Characters. How were they supposed to find him based on a character?

Who could even investigate all these Invincibles? Who knew which Invincible had recently lost some characters? Who knew the number of characters each Invincible had?

The figure laughed and said, "Xia Xiao'er, do you know why none of those people are here? Because it's pointless. It will only cause them to lose trust with each other. It is better to avoid unnecessary trouble. Since I am only targeting the multiple character faction instead of the entire human race, those people find no reason to act unless they know for sure who I am. What if I'm doing this because of my personal grudge with that guy? He is already dead. Am I, a living Invincible, less valuable than a dead pseudo Invincible?"

Marquis Xia had an unsightly expression. Yes. That was the thought of the Invincibles. Not one or two of them thought so. Many of them shared the same view. Over these years, this traitor had only plotted against those from the multiple character faction. Nobody knew who he was, but he had never acted against anyone else.

Find out who he was? How? There was no way to find out his identity. If even Hong Tan could guess that there was a traitor among the Invincibles, how could the other Invincibles not guess the same?

Alas, there were too many Invincibles around. And the only way to find the true culprit was to have every Invincible open their sea of willpower wide for the investigator to examine. But that was impossible. Nobody would agree to that. And only several character clones had arrived today. The actual Invincible himself had not arrived.

Marquis Xia coldly said, "Don't be too confident. Do you think we really can't dig you out? Just wait. My old man has long discovered some clues. Since you have actually sent your character clones into Great Xia this time, you won't be able to keep eluding us."

"Elude?" The figure said, "Why should I bother? What is your proof? Are you going to arrest an Invincible and have him killed without proper proof? Are all human Invincibles supposed to just bend over and let Great Xia King behead them as he wishes? How about this? Kill Liu Wenyan and I will cease all actions."

"Fuck you!" Marquis Xia cursed and clenched his teeth furiously, "Did you steal the things left behind by the fifth principal?"

"Hahaha. Don't you already know the answer?"

"Damn you!"

Marquis Xia was furious. Sure enough!

"So it was really you! Back then, my old man said that the fifth principal had personally said that he had left some things behind before his death. It doesn't make sense that nothing was found among the fifth principal's possessions. And it also doesn't make sense that Hong Tan and the others would hide those things. So it was really you. Damn you!"

Marquis Xia was furious, but he quickly calmed down and asked, "Why? You are already an Invincible. Has the human race mistreated you? Is your father not a human? Why must you betray humanity?"

"Betraying humanity?" At that point, only a small part of the clone remained. "Have I betrayed humanity? I have been fighting against the enemies of humanity on the Allheaven Battlefield like the other Invincibles! I too am protecting the Human Realm! I merely hated that fellow. There was a grudge between us. I was simply pursuing my vengeance against him. What is the problem with that? It is a common occurrence for one to use the Allheaven Battlefield as the tool to eliminate one's enemies. Am I wrong?"

"Am I suddenly a traitor of humanity just because I have killed a genius? Xia Xiao'er, stop this selfless and impartial act. Even your old man had killed his human enemies on the Allheaven Battlefield back then. If he could do something like that, why couldn't I do the same?"

Marquis Xia coldly said, "Bullshit! The only humans my old man has ever killed are the members of the Myriad Race Cult!"

"Exactly." The clone laughed, "In that case, can't your beloved fifth principal be a cultist as well? Xia Xiao'er, you're too naive. Can't he be a cultist? Do you think that he has never cooperated with the cult before? You have only chosen to believe what you wish to believe. The fifth principal, the hope of all human cultural researchers...is he really a good person? Is it really not possible that someone like him might actually be a traitor of humanity?"

The clone roared with laughter.

And finally, the final bit of the clone crumbled apart, ending the self-destruct process. Only some words were left drifting in the air, "Don't overestimate the so-called fifth principal. Even without me, he would still have failed his advancement 50 years ago.

"This is my final advice to you. Stop investigating. There is no need. This is the last time I'll make a move. If you keep investigating, you will only shake the unity and trust between the Invincibles. At that time, the Human Realm might really fall."

"Damn you!"

Marquis Xia was furious. In fact, that was exactly the reason the Xia Family had been remaining silent despite knowing some things.

Then, he removed the barrier around him and roared, "Damn you, sect master of First Divine Sect. Very well. I will be waiting for you to visit Great Xia in person. Stop hiding behind clones, you coward."

"..."

He followed that with another furious roar, "Martial Dragon Guards, heed my order. Sally out and wipe out all the Myriad Race Cult strongholds in Great Xia."

"Yes, sir!"

Team after team of Martial Dragon Guards departed with ferocious howls.

At the same moment, outside the Great Xia City, a bright saber appeared, illuminating the entire city.

Rumble!

In the sky, a moon rose up before shattering. Countless people looked over. All they could see was the fading saber.

Beside Su Yu, Zheng Ping exclaimed in surprise, "Who...did the prefect kill?"

A Sunmoon had just perished. Marquis Xia soared into the sky and scanned his surroundings. Abruptly, he roared, "The Blood Fire Sect master has just been killed. Serves him right. The Myriad Race Cult is truly audacious. They are actually trying to fish in troubled waters?"

Zheng Ping was alarmed. The Blood Fire Sect master was actually hiding near them? But he was truly unlucky to have attracted the attention of Xia Longwu. He was directly killed with a single slash of the prefect's saber.

Xia Longwu himself had not appeared. All everyone could see was that one slash. Meanwhile, the Martial Dragon Guards continued moving in all directions.

...

In the air, Liu Wenyan did not say a single word.

Looking at the distant Marquis Xia, an odd look appeared in his eyes. Suddenly, he swung his axe to his side. A loud pop sounded.

Shan Tianhao was instantly cut into two. Marquis Xia hurriedly raised his hand and hesitated to speak. But Liu Wenyan did not give the marquis a chance to speak and swung his axe again.

Boom!

Shan Tianhao's body was obliterated while all his Divine Characters shattered.

Only then did Liu Wenyan softly say, "He has been running his mouth for way too long. I still have to show some restraint out of respect for Great Xia for the locals. But since he is not someone from Great Xia, there is no need for restraint. I have been waiting to kill a Sunmoon. But it turns out the Sunmoon is actually a fake. What a pity."

He then looked at the distant Marquis Xia and smiled, "Fatty Xia, out of respect for you, I have spared these locals. But you don't expect me to hold back against these outsiders as well, right?"

As he spoke, he casually strode through thin air before swinging his axe again. A Mountainsea was about to flee when instantly, the air around him crumbled while his body exploded. He had been killed with one hit.

At that point, Liu Wenyan's face finally paled somewhat. He continued walking on thin air while sighing, "Looks like I won't be able to further investigate some matters anymore. And it looks like the hope I placed on your Xia Family was misplaced."

Marquis Xia was furious, "Misplaced hope? Without the Xia Family's protection, do you think you could have survived until today? Do you think your destroyed Liu Family can still protect you? During your stay in Nanyuan, my old man has spent a total of eight years personally guarding you there! If you're not going to thank us for that, just shut your mouth. Why are you still complaining?"

Liu Wenyan ignored the marquis. All around him, the Mountainseas were fleeing. Even a ninth-stage Mountainsea like Shan Tianhao had been killed with one hit. They naturally wouldn't dare to keep staying in the warzone. They had witnessed far too many shocking scenes today.

Not far away, Zhou Mingren frowned and said, "Liu Wenyan, you're already an arrow at the end of its flight. Do you really want to use your life to take another life?"

Liu Wenyan looked at Zhou Mingren and smiled, "Old Zhou, if you could reach the Sunmoon Realm, I would naturally fail to kill you. Today, nothing can stop me from swinging my axe at you once. I don't care if you have an agreement with the Xia Family. The only thing that matters is the fact that you are here to dig up Zhang Ruoling's grave. You uttered those words yourself."

To the side, Jin Yuhui was still receiving a beating from Hong Tan. At this point, his body was already badly damaged and even several of his characters had been destroyed. When he saw that, he hurriedly shouted, "Liu Wenyan, let me take this attack of yours!"

"Screw you!"



Hong Tan cursed in rage. This guy was trying to use this as an excuse to escape him when he was clearly winning. Dream on!

Liu Wenyan had crushed an Eternal character for this strength of his. After killing Shan Tianhao and a different Mountainsea, he was already like an arrow at the end of its flight. Thus, he was naturally no longer capable of killing a pseudo Sunmoon like Jin Yuhui.

Therefore, Jin Yuhui was clearly trying to take this opportunity to escape. Hong Tan swept his sword forward, completely destroying Jin Yuhui's banner. At this point, Jin Yuhui was finally starting to get desperate. A Divine Character appeared, instantly filling the sky with a sea of blood.

"Hong Tan, do you really think you're stronger than me?"

Jin Yuhui roared furiously.

Chapter 396: Fishing In Troubled Waters (2)

At the same time, multiple Mountainseas rushed over and shouted, "Hong Tan, are you trying to provoke a war between the two academies?"

Hong Tan replied with a swing of his sword, causing the sea of blood to split apart.

"War? And why does that matter to me? Wan Tiansheng is the principal, not me."

He unleashed dozens of sword slashes, obliterating a large part of the blood sea, forcing the sea to revert back into a character. This time, the character was visibly much dimmer than before. Done with his attacks, Hong Tan fled without any hesitation.

Only after he fled did the Mountainseas arrive. They were about to give chase when Jin Yuhui stopped them with a wave. He said, "Let's leave."

He did not say anything else. Since his main Divine Character had been seriously damaged during the fight, he couldn't afford to keep fighting anymore. Thus, he wasted no time and left immediately with the elders from the Nine Heavens Cultural Research Academy.

"Retreat!"

The other Mountaineas were also leaving the warzone.

As for Elder Sun and company, they hurriedly gathered around Zhou Mingren. Zhou Mingren showed no fear and calmly said, "All of you are already at your limits. Hong Tan is the only one with some strength left. Liu Wenyan, are you thinking of taking us down as well?"

Liu Wenyan looked at Xia Yunji and the others. Sure enough, they weren't looking very good. Meanwhile, Zhou Mingren still had several Mountaineas in his group.

And Zhou Mingren himself was a pseudo Sunmoon. Hong Tan might be stronger, but he had also exhausted himself fighting Jin Yuhui earlier. It would be hard for them to defeat Zhou Mingren's group.

"Fine. If you can survive a hit from my axe, this incident today will end here."

Zhou Mingren waved his hand, sending his people away before calmly saying, "You can give it a try. You could have killed me with the strength of your first attack earlier. But after several attacks, you no longer have enough strength to do so."

Liu Wenyan couldn't be bothered to say more. With a roar, he swung his axe. A massive sun appeared in the sky, followed by towering waves, countless stone pillars, and a gigantic mountain.

Boom!

The stone pillars crumbled, the waves receded, the mountain collapsed, and finally, the sun dimmed. A large mouthful of blood spurted out of Zhou Mingren's mouth. He said nothing and turned around to leave.

Elder Sun and the others hurriedly followed him. Hong Tan wanted to give chase when his expression suddenly changed. Liu Wenyan and the others were actually starting to fall from the sky. Xia Yunji and the other helpers appeared to have sustained heavy injuries.

"Senior Brother."

"I'm fine..."

Liu Wenyan fainted right after saying those words.

...

Everything had happened too fast. The fight had ended before Su Yu could even see anything.

At this time, Xia Huyou rubbed his shoulders and helplessly said, "Can you let go of me now?"

Su Yu had insisted on dragging Xia Huyou down to the ground, using him like a shell. He had directly placed Xia Huyou on top of him, completely ignoring Xia Huyou's weight. Xia Huyou might be fat, but he wasn't so heavy that Su Yu couldn't withstand his weight.

Su Yu rolled his eyes, "Do you see me complaining when you have been crushing me with your weight?"

Xia Huyou felt like punching someone in the face. Him? Crushing this fellow with his weight? Screw him! Wasn't this fellow the one who had dragged him down to the ground?

Su Yu ignored Xia Huyou's reaction and asked, "So what happened?"

The entire incident had been too confusing for him. And he didn't even manage to notice anything special about the hidden enemy. After all, the fight had happened in the void and he hadn't been able to see anything. As for the enemy's subsequent conversation with Marquis Xia, it had been blocked with Marquis Xia's barrier. The only thing Su Yu could remember hearing was something like...Xia Xiao'er?

Who was that? Marquis Xia?

Su Yu hurriedly stood back up. He still didn't dare to enter the warzone. He saw Liu Wenyan dropping from the sky, but the qi and willpower of the various experts were still raging everywhere in the warzone. He wasn't stupid enough to throw himself in there and kill himself.

In fact, his head was still hurting from the bloated sensation coming from his sea of willpower. All six of his characters had been busy absorbing the lingering intent of the destroyed characters. Even his hammer was doing the same while madly tempering his sea of willpower.

Su Yu decided to directly activate his Water Path Art and absorb the willpower in the air. Beside him, Xia Huyou did the same. In fact, they were not the only ones doing so. Even Zheng Ping was doing so. With so many people absorbing the willpower in the air, Su Yu did not look too conspicuous.

Both Zheng Ping and Xia Huyou had noticed what Su Yu was doing, but they were too busy to say anything about it. But they were now sure that this fellow really had a cultural art in his possession.

Zheng Ping muttered with regret, "What a pity that Yunhui isn't here. We have some destroyed Eternal characters here. This is an extremely rare opportunity."

The lingering intent was rapidly fading away. Thus, if he actually left to pick up his grandson, the lingering intent might be gone by the time he returned. In that case, he might as well focus on himself. As a warrior, willpower cultivation had always been quite difficult for him. This was a good chance to make some improvement.

Su Yu, who was still confused, asked, "Grandpa Zheng, so has the final combatant been killed?"

"Nope."

Zheng Ping had only been enjoying the show the entire day. Since he had nothing to do, he didn't mind giving more explanation. He said, "He escaped. He's the sect master of the First Divine Sect. No wonder he's so strong. His main body wasn't here. He only sent some character clones over."

"Sect master of the First Divine Sect?"

"Yeah. He is one of the strongest sect masters within the Myriad Race Cult. He is a peak Sunmoon that worships the first divine race. He once visited the Divine Realm to undergo the body modification process of the first divine race. He can now be considered a half-divine."

"Looks like this is the fish Marquis Xia and the others have been waiting for. What a pity that they had failed. But I reckon that the sect master isn't feeling very good as well. He has lost three Eternal characters this time. His strength will drop greatly as a result."

"Sect master of the First Divine Sect?"

Inwardly, Su Yu was feeling doubtful. Was that really the case? Was that not an Invincible? Was that not the Invincible who had potentially stolen the belongings of the fifth principal back then?

"How about that saber..."

"That's the prefect. He killed the sect master of the Blood Fire Sect. That's not surprising. Character clones generally can't travel independently. They must have attached themselves to Blood Fire Sect's sect master to arrive here. But I don't know if the sect master had intentionally carried those clones here or if the clones had been planted on him unknowingly. Nevertheless, these clones had indeed caused his death. Otherwise, a concealed Sunmoon would not be discovered so easily."

As a peak Mountainsea, Zheng Ping was experienced and knowledgeable. Thus, he was able to tell Su Yu a lot of things. In that case, was the last attacker really someone from the First Divine Sect? Su Yu was still busy thinking when Xia Huyou suddenly dragged him off.

"What is it?"

Su Yu still wanted to take a look at Liu Wenyan and his grandteacher...

"Get moving!" Xia Huyou said, "Are you dumb? Go outside the city! A Sunmoon has just been killed there. His source qi will flood the area. Even his Divine Characters have all been destroyed. Time to go

there and suck that place dry! The source qi and willpower of a Sunmoon cultivator has returned to the natural world. That is now an excellent cultivation spot!"

"My f-the prefect killed him with one slash, destroying his body and everything about him. But the willpower and source qi are definitely still present. As of this moment, that place is an even better cultivation spot than the grottos in the academy!"

Su Yu's eyes lit up. He raised his thumb in praise. That was right. That made a lot of sense! Behind them, Zheng Ping had evidently realized the same thing. He hurriedly flew toward the academy to collect his grandson.

Yes! He had to bring his grandson over immediately. A Sunmoon had been killed to create this sacred cultivation ground. Was that incredible or what? As for the source qi and willpower from the experts who had died in the warzone, forget it.

Most of the source qi and willpower had been stirred and dispersed by the shockwaves of the battles between Mountainseas. That was not the case outside the city. Without any disturbances, the source qi and willpower from a dead Sunmoon would linger in the area for quite a while.

...

Not far away, Hong Tan was giving Liu Wenyan some healing while asking, "The kid that just ran off. Is that my grandstudent?"

Wu Yuehua, with blood dripping out of her lips, couldn't be bothered to answer the question. She hollered at someone in the distance, "Qi, go back and collect your sister. Take her outside the city to cultivate. The source qi and willpower will probably stay there until tomorrow morning. Don't waste any time."

Wu Qi said nothing and flew straight back to the academy.

After Wu Qi left, Wu Yuehua finally deigned to answer the question, "Yes, that's your grandstudent. Can't you recognize your own grandstudent?"

"..."

What a stupid question. Hong Tan couldn't even be bothered to give a reply. How would he know his grandstudent? He had never met this grandstudent! When he looked at Liu Wenyan again, he felt a headache coming.

Yes, his senior brother had been seriously injured. But that wasn't the point. The point was that his senior brother was pretending to be unconscious. Was that proper? Please, wake up already!

"Senior Brother, wake up!"

Hong Tan pinched the spot right under Liu Wenyan's nose. Liu Wenyan merely coughed a mouthful of blood as a response. But he still refused to wake up.

When Wu Yuehua saw that, she gave Hong Tan a kick and furiously said, "What are you doing?"

"..."

Nearby, Hu Ping and Zhao Mingyue who were staying conscious with great difficulty also glared at Hong Tan.

Hong Tan's face darkened. His senior brother was clearly pretending to be unconscious! Were they blind? What was he supposed to do apart from waking his senior brother up?

He had spent many days traveling to return in time. And he was dragged into a massive battle right after arriving. He had to face two pseudo Sunmoons. Did they think that he was having it easy? Why were they being so mean toward him? He had the urge to just ignore all of them and run off alone. But despite the anger in his heart, Hong Tan still maintained a smile on his face.

At this moment, his young appearance receded, turning back into a frail old man again. The others looked at him with disdain. This fellow was pretending to be a frail elderly again. He was a pseudo Sunmoon. Why was he pretending like someone on the verge of death? He was a pseudo Sunmoon who

was not even 70. Could he even be considered old? No! He was actually in his prime! He could be considered a youngster!

There was nothing Hong Tan could do since his senior brother was refusing to wake up. He looked around before asking, "Is it proper for Senior Brother to kill Shan Tianhao just like that? That's Zhou Polong's dog. I'm afraid that more trouble will arise after killing him."

"Coward."

"Wimp."

"Trash."

Hong Tan received one word from each of the three women. He felt greatly aggrieved. If they weren't his senior sister-in-laws, he would have beaten them to death by now. Nearby, Xia Yunji merely smiled. He was already used to these antics.

Fifty years ago, Hong Tan was the little brother that was always pushed around in their group. Although Hong Tan was now the strongest among them, looking at this scene once again still gave him a warm feeling. This gathering would probably be even more interesting if that fellow stopped pretending to be unconscious.

Xia Yunji coughed and spat a mouthful of blood out before saying, "Since he's already dead, so be it. Today, Wenyan revealed the strength of a Sunmoon. That will deter a lot of people. It is not a bad idea to show our strength at least once to buy more time and status for the multiple character faction. We must remind all those people that we are still alive."

### Chapter 397: Fishing In Troubled Waters (3)

Xia Yunji paused to let out another cough. His face paled somewhat as he said, "But you need to be careful lest you get yourself assassinated. Is that fellow...the same bastard from back then?"

"Definitely." Hong Tan nodded, "That Fatty Xia is still trying to smooth things over. First Divine Sect? Sect master? If I am that sect master, I would go and dig up the Xia Family's ancestral tombs in anger. He is being made a scapegoat for everything that is happening."



Right that moment, Marquis Xia landed beside them.

With a dark expression, he said, "What else could I have done? So all of you are not completely in the dark, are you? So you're aware that there is an Invincible keeping an eye on all of you? Is the Xia Family really so unworthy of trust? Not even Yunji has told us anything about this."

Xia Yunji smiled, "Xiao'er..."

"Do you want to spar with me?"

Marquis Xia's face fell.

"Cough, cough. Second Brother, yes, this is the right way to address you, right?"

Marquis Xia was actually two years older than him. Xia Yunji had merely been used to calling him Xiao'er since their childhood. After correcting himself, Xia Yunji said, "It's not that I don't trust you or Uncle. I believe a lot of people have their doubts about this matter. But...there is no way to resolve this."

Xia Yunji helplessly said, "How can we resolve this? Investigate every single Invincible in existence? We won't be able to find anything. This person had only moved once 50 years ago and had gone silent since then. During the incident, a lot of Invincibles were moving from their posts. Some were in seclusion, some were in the Allheaven Battlefield, and some were carrying out missions in the various minor realms. How are we supposed to find the truth?"

"He said that he has a grudge with the fifth principal."

Xia Yunji smiled bitterly, "It's not like you don't know the fifth principal. He has plenty of enemies. Apart from the multiple character faction and a small number of single character faction cultivators, he has offended way too many people."

"But not many of his enemies are Invincibles."

"Yes, but how do you know if that person was telling the truth?" Xia Yunji shook his head, "And if we really want to pursue this line of thought, the fifth principal did not even have an enemy among the Invincibles with a grudge serious enough to kill. We don't know if that is merely a misdirection. Have you discovered no new clues from this battle?"

Marquis Xia shook his head.

"Then what's even the point of forcing Wenyan to leave Nanyuan?"

Marquis Xia frowned, "What do you mean? That wasn't even me! I don't have the time to do something like that. And this grave digging idea wasn't even mine. I had merely pushed it along. I suspect Wan Tiansheng is the actual culprit who had pushed for this battle to happen."

Xia Yunji frowned, "Wan Tiansheng? What is he trying to do? Even if that fellow really did show up, who among you could even deal with him? Is Uncle in the prefecture?"

His uncle was none other than Great Xia King. But even with Great Xia King around, it still wasn't enough. An Invincible was basically impossible to capture.

"No. But we have Longwu here. The fight won't be completely hopeless with Longwu around."

Marquis Xia explained, "The old man is in charge of keeping his eyes on some suspects to further reduce the list of suspects. Over these years, we have been able to greatly reduce the list. We can't investigate openly, but we can still do it secretly. The old man has been acting senile for a couple of years now, challenging people to a spar randomly all the time. With that excuse, he has been able to force some people to fight him with their full strength. If his opponent this time is really the person we're looking for, no clones would have been sent here. The old man still has sharp eyes. He will be able to notice that."

He said, "It's not like this is completely unexpected. That person won't be so careless. He definitely won't come personally."

He sighed, "But that person is really not holding anything back. Three whole Eternal characters have been sacrificed for this. Even for an Invincible, this would be quite a big loss as well."

Wu Yuehua furiously said, "Since you're unsure if that person would come, why still set this up? Are you trying to kill Wenyan?"

Marquis Xia merely rolled his eyes and mumbled something about women under his breath.

"I told you, I wasn't the mastermind! I only helped the plan along! Also, if Liu Wenyan continues hiding himself, that person would probably lose patience and head over to Nanyuan himself. The old man has been busy lately and can't keep watching Liu Wenyan from the dark."

"Even if we will end up alerting that person, there is still a need to scare him somewhat so that he would stay patient for a while longer. Also, is Liu Wenyan supposed to keep hiding away?"

In the beginning, Great Xia King would frequently return to the prefecture. And back then, the Liu Family was still powerful. Thus, Liu Wenyan still enjoyed their protection despite his exile.

But now, the Great Xia King had gotten increasingly busy. Thus, alerting the traitor wasn't necessarily a bad idea. That would force the traitor to hold back instead of secretly killing Liu Wenyan in Nanyuan.

With a resentful tone, Marquis Xia said, "There is definitely something different about that character of Liu Wenyan. That person wouldn't have been so fixated on him otherwise, to the point an Invincible is actually trying to kill a much weaker cultivator. I suspect the data he stole back then is incomplete. Perhaps what he lacks is related to this character. That is why he has risked exposing himself to snatch the character."

The others said nothing. That made sense. It was very likely that the stolen data was incomplete. Or perhaps the information wasn't useful without the character. Hence, that person had been so obsessed with Liu Wenyan, to the point where he was willing to spend so many years plotting against Liu Wenyan.

Wu Yuehua said, "Let's ignore that fellow for now. How about Zhou Polong? Just what is he trying to do?"

"Don't ask me." Marquis Xia said, "It's not like I know him that well. Just be careful when it comes to that fellow. He is either aiming to bait that fellow out or trying to destroy your faction. In truth, both options seem acceptable for him. After all, you guys are the reason his father is dead..."

"What did you just say?" Wu Yuehua was furious.

Hong Tan helplessly said, "How is that our fault?"

Marquis Xia shrugged indifferently, "In any case, it has nothing to do with me. To speak the truth, I have a guess at what Zhou Polong's actual goal is. He probably won't let this rest unless Liu Wenyan hands over the character. He might not even need that character for his advancement into the Invincible Realm. That character is simply the perfect tool to bait that person out of hiding."

Indeed, Zhou Polong's goal wasn't too hard to guess. He also wanted the character. With the character, he could use it both for his own advancement and as bait. Either way, the character was very useful for him. And the hidden Invincible also needed that character. Everything that had happened today was proof of that.

Thus, if Zhou Polong couldn't find that person, he would once again set his eyes on the character. If Liu Wenyan was unwilling to hand the character over, then Zhou Polong would simply choose to snatch it.

In any case, he was probably one of the few people with an actual valid reason to snatch the character.

Hong Tan said, "This is all so troublesome. That damn Zhou Polong. We told him long ago that we don't have the data. As for the character, it still can't be materialized. But he still insists on creating trouble. And now, I have exposed my true strength. When he finds out that I have been concealing my strength, he would probably think that I have been lying to him about everything."

"Have you not been lying to him?" Marquis Xia beamed, "Your multiple character faction has quite a lot of secrets. Ability blood essence, character fusion, character technique disassembly..."

"Disassembly what?" Hong Tan said, "My character technique has always existed as a pair. This is a single set of sword and shield. What nonsense are you talking about?"

He thought that Marquis Xia was referring to him. Wu Yuehua and the others merely looked at him with disdain. Why was he still acting?

Hong Tan was astonished, "Why are you looking at me like this? I'm serious. My character technique is really a set!"

"How about Bai Feng?"

"What about him? That stinky brat's character technique is a sword, right?"

"Oh?"

The others laughed. He Ji said, "Stop pretending. One sword? He has revealed four Dragon Slaying Swords so far. But I think a few of them have been destroyed..."

He worriedly asked, "Will Bai Feng be fine? Director Ji took him..."

"Wait!" Hong Tan was alarmed, "Four swords? Several destroyed swords? Taken by Director Ji? What are you talking about? "

The others looked at him again. Was he really unaware or was he pretending? If he was really still pretending, then this would be too excessive. Why was he lying to even his own people?

"Disassembly..." Hong Tan suddenly thought of a possibility and asked, "He disassembled the Dragon Slaying Sword?"

"Yeah..."

"Holy shit!" Hong Tan was alarmed, "That brat was too rash! Was he not afraid of killing himself with his experiments? So is he dead?"

"No. But he was seriously injured with multiple characters destroyed. He was taken away by Director Ji."

They looked sad as they thought about this. They didn't know if recovery was still possible for Bai Feng.

At this time, Hong Tan could no longer spare his senior brother any attention. After thinking about it, he tossed his senior brother to Wu Yuehua before running off. "Take care of my senior brother! I'll go take a look!"

He ran off without any hesitation. Meanwhile, Liu Wenyan was cursing inwardly.

He opened his eyes and coughed a mouthful of blood before saying, "Yunji, I need to heal up. Build a temporary house for me. I need a place to rest..."

Xia Yunji stared at his friend speechlessly. What was the point of building a house? This fellow had clearly recovered enough. Liu Wenyan merely glared at him with threatening eyes.

Hurry up! Without a house to hide himself in, three pairs of eyes would be constantly on him, making him feel uncomfortable.

"Fine. He Ji, you help me build a house..."

When He Ji left to build the requested house, Liu Wenyan coughed a mouthful of blood and fainted once again. He would not regain his consciousness before the house was built. Wu Yuehua and the other two women merely glared at him. But none bothered to say anything.

To the side, Marquis Xia had been silently enjoying the show. At this time, he said, "You guys better stay in the capital temporarily. It will be even better if you enter seclusion. Or else, this matter will be very hard to resolve. Also, your incomplete assimilation of those characters are too embarrassing. You guys better take some time to stabilize your cultivation after that exertion."

After throwing the watermelon skin in his hand on the ground, he said, "Also, remember to pay up for the things you broke today."

"And Liu Wenyan, you killed two Mountainseas. Stop pretending to be unconscious. You need to kill 20 enemy Mountainseas as punishment. If you can't do that, then just stay in the Vanguard Regiment for life."

"In truth, this is good for you. The eyes of many Invincibles are always on the Vanguard Regiment so you will be much safer there. You can take Bai Feng with you as well. That brat will definitely receive a lot more attention after this. For the two of you, the Allheaven Battlefield is safer than the Human Realm. There are too many Invincibles there. Nobody will dare to act rashly there."

Nobody objected.

Marquis Xia continued, "The Zhou Family will definitely continue looking for trouble. It won't be good for you guys to stay in the Human Realm. In all honesty, nobody can spare the time to look after you guys all the time.

"Yunji, you killed a Mountainsea earlier. And you guys had killed three Mountainseas. The Xia Family won't be able to resolve this without sending you guys to the Allheaven Battlefield."

Xia Yunji nodded, "I understand. I'll leave with Wenyan after recovering from our injuries. Hong Tan needs to stay. If all of us leave, then there won't be any of us left back home. No matter what, we still have a few people here, such as Chen Yong, Chen Yong's student, and Su Yu. We need someone to watch over them."

"Sure."

Marquis Xia did not mind. He had been walking while talking and he had already walked quite far away. Suddenly, he turned around and said, "By the way, you guys might not be aware of this. That Su Yu might be Liu Wenyan's illegitimate child."

Right after saying that, he ran off.

"I"

Liu Wenyan abruptly opened his eyes and cursed, "Screw you and your ancestors!"

"I'll be sure to pass your words to my old man!" Marquis Xia roared with laughter.

"I..."

Liu Wenyan was so furious that he suddenly coughed a mouthful of blood before fainting for real. Wu Yuehua looked at the others before giving Liu Wenyan's chest a pat with her palm, forcing a mouthful of stuck blood to flow out. With that, Liu Wenyan woke back up.

"Your son?"

But Liu Wenyan insisted on pretending to be unconscious. What a stupid question. That was definitely not his son. But how was he supposed to explain something like that? That was most certainly a slander!

Wu Yuehua coldly said, "No wonder. You have not contacted me for decades. For the sake of Su Yu, you had actually called me before he even entered the academy just so I could watch over him in the academy. That was the second time you have ever called me over the past 50 years."

Liu Wenyan felt extremely sullen. That was not true! Forget it. This woman was unreasonable. It was pointless for him to explain.

Nearby, He Ji had just returned after building a house. He asked in astonishment, "He's Big Brother Liu's son? No wonder he's so talented! The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, after all. No wonder he looks like a replica of a younger Big Brother Liu."

"I"

Liu Wenyan had the urge to open his eyes and hack He Ji to death with his axe. This fellow was actually adding oil to fire! Why was this fellow so good at this?



They started laughing, but suddenly, Wu Yuehua said, "Old Su wasn't here. Anyone know what's up with him?"

Vice Principal Su.

Previously, this person was also one of their supporters. But he had been absent today.

He Ji sighed, "Forget it. Let him be. Xia Yuwen is trying to become the next prefect. To secure his support, Xia Changqing offered to have Su Meng marry Xia Yuwen. That is such a good plan. Xia Yuwen would first take Su Meng as his wife before taking the girl from the Ji Family as his second wife. That way, he would be able to rope in a peak Mountainsea and a Sunmoon. Those two coupled with Xia Changqing would form a rather powerful support base for his struggle over the position of the prefect."

"Hmph!"

Wu Yuehua snorted, "That fellow can keep dreaming. He even set his eyes on Little Qi before. Why doesn't he look into a mirror first?"

They stopped talking about Vice Principal Su.

At this time, He Ji teased, "Yuehua, Bai Feng is a decent young man..."

"He's not good enough to catch Little Qi's attention." Wu Yuehua proudly said, "And he's too weak."

"He defeated Xia Yuwen. He's definitely not weak..."

"Who knows what his future would look like? Maybe he's already a cripple." Wu Yuehua then said, "Su Yu would be a good choice. He is both talented and tenacious..."

They all stared at her blankly. Was she serious? Was she only suggesting this after hearing that Su Yu might be the illegitimate child of a certain someone? If so, then that was a truly terrible idea.

After all, if Su Yu was really that someone's illegitimate child, then Su Yu could actually be considered a generation above Wu Qi. The seniority would be all messed up. Liu Wenyan decided to keep pretending to be unconscious.

There was nothing he could say here. He would allow these people to say whatever they wanted. Then again, he was quite surprised to see Su Yu's arrival. That was truly a gutsy kid.

But that had also proved how loyal that kid was toward those close to him. Unfortunately, he would need to leave for the Allheaven Battlefield soon. He would have no chance to spend more time with the kid.

#### Chapter 398: A Saint Or A Sham (1)

Outside the capital city.

Su Yu was still cautiously sticking close to Xia Huyou.

At this point, Xia Huyou really didn't know what else he could say about how cautious Su Yu was anymore. While running, he said, "Too many experts have shown up today. Nobody will dare to make a move against you today. I am confident enough to bet my surname on that. If I'm wrong, I'll follow the surname of the attacker."

While speaking, he rolled his eyes. Would anyone dare to try anything today? The Blood Fire Sect's sect master was probably only here to enjoy the show. But he ended up killed. Of course, Xia Huyou himself was unclear if that was really the truth.

The Blood Fire Sect was filled with fools And their leader was a warlike person. Apart from a small number of members, most of their members were brutes. Thus, it was very possible that their sect master had really come over to enjoy the show. Who would have expected that Xia Longwu would cut that sect master down with one hit?

Even a Sunmoon had perished today. Who would still dare to risk doing anything today? Numerous Mountainseas and a decent number of Sunmoons had shown themselves tonight. Who would dare to create trouble in such an environment? But Su Yu did not care. He was not going to let go of his human shield.

Xia Huyou was completely speechless. He gave up and continued running while sending his willpower into a jade talisman. After a while, his eyes lit up as he exclaimed, "Holy shit! It's real!"

He looked at Su Yu, "Did the fifth principal leave this behind?"

"Guess."

"Fortuitous encounter? You just got it? I never heard of Bai Feng knowing something like this."

Xia Huyou said, "It can even open 36 apertures. Why are you so generous today?"

This was a treasure!

Su Yu smiled, "We are brothers. We should share everything. Your dad is my...adopted dad. Your grandpa is my adopted grandpa. And your second granduncle is my adopted second granduncle."

"..."

Xia Huyou was completely speechless. This bastard had definitely discovered his identity. Just listen to the words coming out of this fellow's mouth!

"Do you want my wife as well?"

"Absolutely not!"

"Oh, good." While running, Xia Huyou said, "I have a question. Why is this manual only showing 35 apertures? Where are the instructions for the final aperture? Without the final aperture, I don't think these apertures can be joined into a system."

"Your dad is still not my adopted dad yet. When he becomes my adopted dad for real, I'll give you the instructions for the final aperture."

"..."

Xia Huyou felt like cursing. Forget it. He would settle with 35 apertures for now. He was going to take some time opening them anyway. He would think about this again after opening all of them.

But without linking the apertures into a system, the effects of these 35 apertures would be greatly weakened. They might not even be as useful as his existing cultural art with 18 apertures.

Finally, Xia Huyou started detecting waves of dense source qi ahead of him. He said, "Don't reveal my identity to outsiders! That can get me killed easily!"

"Don't worry. You're my brother. Will I harm my brother?"

Xia Huyou was getting tired of speaking with Su Yu. He felt like he should perhaps consider maintaining some distance with this fellow. This guy was way too good at taking every single advantage he could find.

Out of nowhere, his dad had turned into this fellow's adopted dad. That was the prefect of Great Xia, an expert on the cusp of entering the Invincible Realm. He actually dared to call someone like that his adopted dad?

The two chatted while running. Finally, they arrived. But someone was already there before them. Su Yu blanked out in surprise.

Not far away, Liu Hong grinned before flashing them a genial smile, "Su Yu is here. Student Xia Huyou is here as well? Come on. Let's cultivate together. A Sunmoon has perished to grant us this blessing. This is a very rare gift."

"Holy shit!"

Su Yu really didn't know what he should say about Liu Hong. This fellow was actually the first to arrive the moment there were some benefits to be gained.

"Teacher Liu, why hadn't you gone over there?"

While asking, Su Yu sat down cross-legged and started absorbing the willpower and source qi in the air. The air was thick with energy. This felt even better than the Source Qi Secret Grotto, and the source qi here also felt purer. Time to open some acupoints and apertures!

Liu Hong smiled, "That place was filled with experts. A little shrimp like me won't make any difference there. That is a conflict between people of their generation. It really has nothing much to do with us."

At this time, more people arrived. Lin Yao and Yang Sha.

The moment they reached, they asked in excitement, "Teacher, will my cultivation speed increase if I cultivate here?"

A warm smile appeared on Liu Hong's face as he said, "Of course. I came earlier to check this place for dangers. The moment I was sure this place was safe, I notified the two of you. Cultivate well. Don't waste this opportunity."

"Thank you, Teacher."

The two were incredibly excited. When Lin Yao saw Su Yu, he revealed a smile. But when his gaze landed on Xia Huyou, the smile vanished. That was an outsider! He couldn't expose his relationship with Su Yu!

Liu Hong was able to see all that and could only curse inwardly. He could no longer be bothered about his student's relationship with Su Yu. He returned his focus to absorbing the willpower in the air. He didn't care too much for source qi. Instead, he cared a lot more about willpower. The willpower leaking out of a dead Sunmoon was extremely pure.

As for Lin Yao and Yang Sha, well, they should be happy with absorbing a little bit of source qi. They probably wouldn't be able to get much of the willpower. They could consider this a sort of nourishment for their sea of willpower since they didn't have any soul apertures they could use to absorb willpower.

Gradually, more and more people arrived.

Wan Mingze, Hu Qiusheng, Zhao Shiji

Under the lead of their elders, these genius students arrived one after another.

Apart from them, the other students were also starting to arrive. In fact, there were not only students in the area.

But these outsiders did not dare to go deep into the area and only stayed at the outskirts. A Sunmoon had perished here today. They had no idea what had happened and wouldn't dare to rashly enter this place. If it wasn't for the fact that the students of the academies had all entered the place, they wouldn't even dare to approach this place.

Su Yu silently absorbed the willpower in an inconspicuous manner. A Sunmoon had perished here. The willpower in the air was dense enough that as long as he was careful, nobody would notice him.

Suddenly, someone called out behind him in joy, "Yu!"

Su Yu recognized that voice. When he turned around, sure enough, it was Chen Hao. Su Yu was very surprised. Why was Chen Hao here? This wasn't a place just anyone could come. In fact, the Martial Dragon Guards had already arrived to set up a perimeter around the area.

Apart from people like Su Yu who had arrived early, most of the other students had only arrived under the lead of some experts. How did Chen Hao manage to enter this place? When Su Yu gave Chen Hao another look, he was even more surprised. This fellow had reached the Great Strength Realm!

First-stage Great Strength Realm!

Sure, that wasn't too high a cultivation level, but this cultivation speed was still quite astonishing. Not long had passed since the two of them had arrived at the capital. Only after exhausting countless resources did Su Yu manage to reach the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm. And this fellow had actually managed to reach the first-stage Great Strength Realm.

Chen Hao did not have that many thoughts in his mind. He was about to run over in excitement when he recalled something. He hurriedly calmed down and nonchalantly walked over before sitting down. While absorbing source qi, he whispered, "Yu, will this level of interaction between us be fine?"

He still remembered that his father had reminded him many times to not stick too close to Su Yu. Su Yu was speechless.

"It's fine. This is a normal interaction between fellow students. What's so weird about having a conversation when seeing each other?"

He ignored Xia Huyou's curious gaze and asked, "Who brought you here?"

"Teacher Xie!" Chen Hao softly said, "Teacher Xie has some connections among the Martial Dragon Guards so we were allowed to enter. Yu, did you sneak in as well?"

Sneaking in? Xia Huyou looked at that fellow with an odd gaze. Did Su Yu even need to sneak? The multiple character faction was the main reason for everything that had happened today. Even if Su Yu came alone, the Martial Dragon Guards would not stop him from entering.

"Teacher Xie?"

Su Yu was quite surprised. When he looked at the perimeter, he saw Teacher Xie chatting with some of the Martial Dragon Guards there. He was quite surprised, but he said nothing.

He casually tossed a jade talisman to Chen Hao. When Chen Hao picked the talisman up, Su Yu softly said, "This is a sound talisman. We can use this to converse everywhere within the capital city."

"Oh."

Chen Hao hurriedly put that away. But he was curious why they would need this when they could call each other with communicators. He concluded that cultural researchers were simply a weird bunch. Because of that, his childhood friend Yu had also been turned into a weird person.

"What cultivation method are you cultivating?"

"War God Art."

"Which version?"

"What?"

"How many acupoints?" Su Yu was somewhat speechless. The answer was already clear. This fellow probably cultivated the basic version with 72 acupoints.

Sure enough, Chen Hao answered, "It's incredible! It has 72 acupoints!"

Incredible his ass!

"What blood essence did you use to forge your body?"

"I have yet to forge my body..."

One could forge one's body at any time as long as one was still in the Great Strength Realm. For example, Chen Qi had only prepared for his body forging after reaching the seventh stage. There was no rush.

After thinking about it, Su Yu gestured to his friend to use the talisman. Chen Hao merely held it in hand. He didn't know how to use it.



Su Yu felt a headache coming. He said, "Willpower...scratch that. Activate it with your source qi."

Chen Hao did not have any willpower. No, that wasn't completely accurate. Willpower was something everyone possessed, but for most people, their willpower was too weak for them to detect.

"Ok..."

Curious, Chen Hao did as told. A short while later, his jaw dropped. Incredible! He could read some messages through the talisman!

"Just focus on cultivating first. When you have some time, come look for me. Stay low key. I'll help you forge your body."

What was the best location for body forging? The Source Qi Secret Grotto! And what was the best blood essence for body forging? Mountainbreak bull blood essence!

Chapter 399: A Saint Or A Sham (2)

In the war academy, only a super genius would be able to afford spending a large amount of resources for their body forging. An example of such a person was the freak from Bai Feng's generation.

A normal student would have no hope of getting an expensive body forging. With Zhao Li's token, Su Yu could send some people into the grotto. Of course, he still needed to be careful lest rumors started flying.

Chen Hao was about to speak when Su Yu contacted him with the sound talisman, "Don't talk. Don't tell anyone you're looking for me at the cultural research academy. Just notify me in advance and I'll get someone to pick you up."

After messing with the talisman for a bit, Chen Hao also learned how to use it. But the voice transmission took some time. Only after a short while did it connect, "Alright. I understand. Yu, let me tell you about a good method to increase your cultivation speed. You can pretend to help your teachers clean their dwellings. There, the environment would be good and the source qi would be plentiful. You can cultivate much faster there!"

"..."

Su Yu was completely speechless.

Oh you sweet summer child.

Fast his ass!

A place like that would be filled with experts. Sure, the ambient source qi there would be dense, but would a student be able to compete against these experts in terms of source qi absorption?

But this fellow had indeed progressed quickly. After thinking for a bit, realization hit Su Yu. Old Xie was helping him? Probably. Without Old Xie's help, how would Chen Hao be able to reach the Great Strength Realm so quickly?

Of course, the cultivation method he used had also played a big part in his speed. That was a cultivation method with only 72 acupoints. Thus, he only needed to open 8 acupoints per stage.

Initially, Su Yu wanted to give Chen Hao the earth-grade War God Art. But after some thought, he gave up on that thought. It wasn't like Old Xie didn't have something like that. Since he had not provided it to Chen Hao, then it could only mean that Chen Hao's speed would probably be too slow with that version. That would only slow down his progress.

True. Without resources, strong enough talent, and a backing, one wouldn't even be able to utilize a heaven-grade cultivation method. It was simply not possible for Chen Hao to open that many acupoints. Just because one opened only 72 acupoints did not mean that one would have no future.

Sure, one might be weaker than others with better cultivation methods. But one would be able to grow at a decent pace and perhaps even reach the Invincible Realm eventually. Even a weaker Invincible would still be an Invincible. In front of any Invincible, the Sunmoon Realm was nothing.

Only top geniuses would aim to become the strongest in the same cultivation level. That was not a requirement for Chen Hao. Pursuing something like that would only slow his growth.

"Got it. By the way, I have a War God Art willpower text and a Skybreak Technique manual as well. I can share them with you later when you come to the cultural academy."

"Skybreak Technique? What's that?"

"..."

Su Yu had nothing to say. Just what had this fellow been doing for the past two months? Why was he so clueless about everything? Then again, it was understandable. He was already a first-stage Great Strength cultivator. He must have spent all his time cultivating instead of learning about other stuff.

Su Yu decided to stop talking and focus on his cultivation. He had already absorbed a decent amount of character intent of the destroyed Eternal characters from the warzone, allowing him to open a decent number of soul apertures. Even now, his sea of willpower was in the process of digesting his gains from earlier. With the boost from this new environment, he started opening his apertures rapidly.

33 apertures, 34 apertures, 35 apertures...

After a while, his sea of willpower shook. The 36th aperture had been opened.

Rumble!

In his sea of willpower, the 36 apertures connected with each other and formed a cycle. Instantly, Su Yu's willpower absorption speed rose sharply.

Xia Huyou was in the midst of absorbing willpower beside Su Yu when the look in his eyes changed. He looked at Su Yu and cursed before asking, "You formed a system with your apertures?"

Forming a system was the sign that one had successfully cultivated a cultivation method.

Holy shit!

Had this fellow opened 36 apertures? That was inconceivable. That was way too fast.

Xia Huyou himself had absorbed a decent amount of willpower and a little character intent from the warzone earlier. And he had gained a lot from that. In fact, he had benefited so much that he had finally completed the cultivation of his 18-aperture cultural art.

But what was up with Su Yu? This fellow had actually completed the cultivation of a 36-aperture cultural art!

Su Yu ignored Xia Huyou. He had already opened over 20 apertures previously. What was so surprising about him opening the remaining apertures now?

With a system formed with his apertures, the speed of his willpower absorption increased sharply. Worried that he would attract unwanted attention, Su Yu moved closer to Xia Huyou. This way, even if someone detected the movement of willpower, it would be blamed on Xia Huyou, not him!

In his sea of willpower, the little hammer was hard at work, tempering the newly absorbed willpower.

Compress!

In fact, the short period of willpower absorption had pushed Su Yu's willpower to 90 percent full. That was too fast. Even Su Yu himself was alarmed. It would be troublesome if he accidentally entered the Skysoar Realm.

Thus, he was working very hard to compress his willpower with the hammer. And the process was causing him great pain. As a result, he started sweating heavily. However, he did not stop and continued the compression process.

Compress! And compress!

From 90 percent, it dropped to 85 percent, 80 percent...

And finally stopped at 75 percent. That was the limit. Su Yu could no longer compress his willpower further. Only then did he start absorbing more willpower to open more apertures. There was no way he was going to let this perfect cultivation environment go to waste.

After all, he had a lot more apertures to open. He had only opened 36 out of 180 apertures! Thanks to his linked apertures, he was able to rapidly absorb willpower. One ought to know that even a ninth-stage Skysoar would generally only open 36 apertures.

That was not to say that Su Yu was already a ninth-stage Skysoar. But if he was to break through right this instance, his willpower would shoot straight to the peak of the second tier. His characters would also be instantly elevated to the peak of the second tier. After meeting both those requirements, he would already be qualified to be considered a ninth-stage Skysoar.

Of course, 36 apertures were truthfully not a lot. If he continued cultivating the same cultivation method at the Cloudbreach Realm, he would probably be stuck unless he cultivated the Myriad Text Sutra on top of this 36-aperture cultural art.

At the moment, the area was filled with people. A majority of them were students. There were also a small number of Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators cultivating there.

It was worth noting that at the Skysoar and Cloudbreach Realms, the density of source qi and willpower might not necessarily help one advance into the next realm. One needed to first meet all the requirements for the breakthrough.

With their characters, apertures, and willpower to work on, these people would mostly absorb enough to reach willpower saturation before stopping.

...

Time passed. One hour. Two hours. And eventually, morning arrived.

At that moment, someone finished his cultivation and approached Su Yu. Su Yu stealthily hid his apertures and switched to absorbing source qi instead.

"Su Yu."

Su Yu looked up at Wan Mingze and smiled, "Brother Wan!"

Wan Mingze had a solemn face as he said, "I heard of what happened last night. Teacher Bai has been seriously injured. Even after recovering, he might not be able to return to the academy anymore. He would probably be sent to the Allheaven Battlefield. Do you want to reconsider my previous proposal?"

"To join the neutral faction?"

"Yeah."

Su Yu smiled, "Neutral faction. Previously, you said that Xia Yuwen was a part of this faction as well. But he's not neutral anymore."

That faction was simply a joke. Wu Qi and Xia Yuwen were in the neutral faction. But Xia Yuwen had still decided to move against Bai Feng.

Su Yu did not know the exact details of what had happened since he had not seen it with his own eyes. But from what Zheng Ping said, Xia Yuwen had indeed been injured from the fight.

"That's why he's no longer one of us."

"Oh? Is the neutral faction not avenging him?"

"He has received his injuries from participating in an internal conflict. Why should we avenge him?"

"So the goal of the neutral faction is to hug trees and not strive for anything?"

"No. Our focus is the Allheaven Battlefield."

Su Yu smiled, "That sounds great. But I'm afraid of getting stabbed in the back. Vice Principal Xia Changqing was a part of the neutral faction, right? He is no longer neutral. He's supporting Xia Yuwen in the struggle for the position of the prefect. And Xia Yuwen has probably been reduced into a cripple. If I join now, I will probably end up targeted."

"That won't happen."

"Can you even speak on behalf of the faction?"

Wan Mingze solemnly said, "Yes. I'll put it this way. The neutral faction exists in all academies. This is not something we have founded ourselves. Instead, those in the Knowledge Seeking Realm are the ones leading this operation. Our main goal is to stop the conflict between the single and multiple character factions. We do not wish to see this conflict affect the students who are unwilling to get dragged into these internal conflicts."

"Although the Knowledge Seeking Realm has not moved directly to end the conflict all these years, they have been protecting the students who wish to cultivate without disturbance. This is the Knowledge Seeking Realm's response to the conflict between the two factions."

Realization dawned on Su Yu.

So that was why. He had been curious about the confidence of this so-called neutral faction. So it was actually led by the Knowledge Seeking Realm. No wonder. But that also proved that the Knowledge Seeking Realm was very clear about the conflict between the two factions. Yet they had not done anything to stop it.

Su Yu didn't know if, like the Xia Family, their hands were tied, or if they were simply deliberately allowing the conflict to fester and spread.

"I'll think about it." Su Yu smiled, "In my current situation, even if I stop creating trouble, others will continue targeting me. I don't think I should join and attract more trouble to your faction."

"Su Yu, these conflicts should never have involved the students. You can join us for now and return after reaching the Skysoar or the Cloudbreach Realms. We won't stop you. I am sincerely hoping that you can really consider our offer."

Wan Mingze sounded really earnest. He did not wish to see Su Yu be disrupted from his cultivation. It wouldn't be too late for Su Yu to rejoin the conflict at the Skysoar or the Cloudbreach Realms. As a genius, he was worthy of this special treatment.

This was actually something good for Su Yu. And Su Yu understood that. He felt slightly guilty for being so indifferent toward someone offering help and said, "Thank you, Brother Wan. I'll be honest then. I enjoy these conflicts. Without these conflicts, how should I grow? How can I gain more benefits? My teacher is now a seriously injured person. My first teacher has also been seriously injured. Even my senior sister is still recuperating from her willpower injury. I don't know a lot of people yet the ones closest to me are suffering. Am I supposed to just leave them behind?"

Impossible!

He paused to think before saying, "Brother Wan, do you think the single character faction will stop targeting us after this?"

"No." Wan Mingze said, "Unless Instructor Liu hands over the character or reveals it to everyone, this can't be resolved so easily."

"There you have it."

Su Yu did not say anything else. Yes, those people wouldn't be willing to give up. But Su Yu also wasn't willing to just put this behind him. He would pursue his vengeance against every single one of those people.



Great Xia was not a lawless place. The warzone had been removed and the rule of law had returned. Within Great Xia, those at the Skysoar Realm and above couldn't touch him. In that case, what was there for him to fear?

Wan Mingze was regretful. He said, "Fine. I'll respect your choice. But don't forget that our door will always be open for you. When you need to, feel free to join us. We have the support of the Knowledge Seeking Realm while you're a genius. You will definitely be welcomed. The conflict between the single and multiple characters faction is no longer a single conflict over orthodoxy. It has devolved into a conflict of personal grudges, benefits, power, and status. It is no longer something purely about cultivation.

"I don't know what the Knowledge Seeking Realm is thinking, but if a day comes when I manage to enter the Knowledge Seeking Realm and gain some power there, I will definitely suggest that they put an end to this."

"That's an ambitious thought." Su Yu smiled, "But power is something you can only get by fighting for it. Brother Wan, do not put the Knowledge Seeking Realm on a pedestal. Conflict is inevitable as long as people are involved. Ultimately, power rules over everything."

"In my opinion, the current chaos within the Human Realm is mainly due to one reason: the lack of a supreme expert capable of suppressing everyone. Or to be precise, the Human Realm is not faced with enough danger yet."

#### Chapter 400: A Saint Or A Sham (3)

Su Yu shook his head. He had finally understood something. From all the battles, struggles, and chaos, he had realized something. All these conflicts were merely the precursor to the rise of a true overlord.

The human race still lacked a super expert that could suppress everyone with force. Without someone like that, those arrogant experts would never lower their heads to anyone. Nobody would unconditionally obey the orders of others. That was also the reason for the lack of unity among the various prefectures of the Human Realm.

The two holy lands might be powerful, but the holy lands were also comprised of the top experts of the various prefectures.

For example, Great Xia King was a member of the War Shrine. But he would naturally prioritize Great Xia in his considerations. Similarly, Great Zhou King would prioritize Great Zhou.

That would only change when someone strong enough to suppress all these Invincibles appeared. Someone who could truly force the entire human race to heed his commands. Only then would the chaos end. Only then would all these internal struggles end.

These internal struggles would serve as the grindstone to produce the ultimate expert that could rule over them all. And if even Su Yu could realize that, then the Invincibles had most certainly realized the same. They had reached the same conclusion long ago.

That was why they had allowed all these internal conflicts to happen. They only ensured the unity of humanity at the front line. Back home, the human race was allowed to continue struggling against each other.

In fact, if it wasn't for the threat of the myriad races, the Human Realm would have devolved into a civil war long ago.

Thus, one could say that the threat of the myriad races was actually a good thing for the human race. It allowed humanity to maintain their unity at the front line. After all, the Invincibles knew that if they fell in the front line, then it would no longer matter who the leader was back home anymore.

Wan Mingze was a smart man. He was naturally aware of all that as well.

The look in his eyes changed as he nodded, "You're right. But all the Invincibles are super experts. Who among them can fully suppress the others? Therefore, I wish to educate everyone on the danger coming from the Allheaven Battlefield, the looming threat of the myriad races, and the difficult position our military is in. Starting from our generation, I wish to unify the majority and join hands against external enemies."

Wan Mingze earnestly said, "I know. You might think that I am merely dreaming. But I need to remind you that the various forces of humanity aren't really as friendly with each other as you thought. Things are still not too bad in Great Xia's military. But for some prefectures, even their military on the front line had devolved into a mess of internal conflicts. Some are even starting to doubt the threat posed by the myriad races."

Wan Mingze sighed, "People should start planning for danger in times of safety. Alas, a lot of people have already forgotten that. If this continues, the Human Realm will be in danger. The Invincibles are aware of this change of attitude as well. That is why they have been pushing for a union of the various prefectures. They know that this can't continue."

"If they really want to achieve unity, just start more wars with the myriad races."

Su Yu was acting like it was an easy thing to do. Wan Mingze couldn't even be bothered to offer a retort. He sighed, "I will stop bothering you, then. Brother Su, I wish you a smooth path of cultivation."

He then looked at Xia Huyou and softly said, "Brother Xia, if a day comes where...Basically, I hope that the Xia Family can consider things from the perspective of the entire human race when the day comes."

Xia Huyou rolled his eyes.

"Go tell the other families this. It's not like we are the ones pushing for this. Like Su Yu said, we need enough external pressure for everyone to let go of their grudges. Either that or we need a supreme expert to rise and suppress everyone. Otherwise, do you think it's really possible that the Xia Family will willingly bow and become the little brother of someone not stronger than us?"

That was impossible.

From this, it was clear how difficult it was for the Human Realm to achieve unity. That was basically the stance of every single ruling family in the Human Realm, such as the Xia Family, the Zhou Family, the Zhu Family, the Qin Family, and so on.

Why should they play second fiddle? Wan Mingze left with a dispirited look on his face.

After Wan Mingze left, Xia Huyou said, "He is either a saint or a super hypocrite. I truly hope to see him rise in power. I think he's planning to roam the Human Realm and persuade the various experts to unify against external threats. That's actually a good thought, but it's too hard. Not even becoming an Invincible is that hard."

So was he a saint or a hypocrite? It was too early to judge. Wan Mingze was still too weak. Thus, one would not be able to get a glimpse at his true ambitions. He would probably start revealing more about himself after growing stronger.

Xia Huyou suddenly said, "He's on the verge of reaching the Skysoar Realm. This fellow is far stronger than you have imagined. His willpower is at peak first-tier. His Divine Characters are at the second tier. I believe he is actually strong enough to enter the top 30 of the ranking. He is also suppressing his willpower to delay his breakthrough."

Also suppressing. Note the keyword. Also. Who was the other person? Was it Su Yu or was Xia Huyou referring to himself?

"Suppressing his cultivation? Is he plotting against someone?"

That was also Bai Feng's guess.

"Not necessarily." Xia Huyou explained, "That depends on whether he has a foundation cultural art. If he has one, then he is probably planning to break through after opening more apertures. That will save him a lot of time at the Skysoar Realm. He is probably aiming to directly skip a few stages and reach the fourth or fifth stage upon breakthrough. After all, his cultivation speed will drop after entering the Skysoar Realm."

"Since he is claiming neutrality and even claiming to represent the neutral faction, I suspect that he has caught the favor of an old fossil from the Knowledge Seeking Realm. His teacher could very well be an Invincible."

"If that's the case, then he probably has a foundation cultural art." Su Yu said, "Yes, he has no teacher in the academy! Wait, but how does he have a junior brother?"

"He has a teacher in the academy." Xia Huyou said, "The principal is his nominal teacher. But the principal has been completely ignoring him. Is his actual teacher is even someone from the academy?"

"..."

Right! Su Yu only remembered that Wan Mingze had a teacher in the academy but he had instinctively neglected who that teacher was. That teacher was Wan Tiansheng! In that case, then Wan Tiansheng could very well not be his true teacher.

Everyone had instinctively believed that his teacher should be Wan Tiansheng due to their relationship. Perhaps Wan Mingze was really the student of an Invincible.

Beside them, Chen Hao's jaw had dropped a while ago. What were they talking about? Skysoar, Mountainsea, Invincible...Knowledge Seeking Realm, neutral faction, conflict between single and multiple character factions, struggle between the prefectures...What the hell was he listening to?

"Yu, have you reached the Great Strength Realm?"

Chen Hao was whispering. He felt like he was listening to a fantasy story earlier so he was trying to make things clearer.

A random student had walked over to have a talk with them. And next, this fatty beside Yu claimed that the random student was near the Skysoar Realm and was the student of an Invincible. What the hell did that even mean?

When that random student who Chen Hao personally believed was more handsome than his friend Yu was speaking, Chen Hao understood every single word the student spoke. But at the same time, Chen Hao also had no idea what that handsome student was talking about.

Su Yu glanced at Chen Hao and replied, "Yeah."

"Are you in the Infinite Strength Realm already?"

"Nope."

"Oh...I see. I was scared for a moment. I thought you're already at the Infinite Strength Realm."

Chen Hao heaved a breath of relief. Phew.

"But I can already kill seventh-stage Infinite Strength cultivators. I can probably enter the top 10 of your academy's Infinite Strength Ranking. Am I great?"

"..."

Chen Hao said nothing. He had reached source qi saturation long ago. At this moment, he silently stood up and walked away without giving Su Yu a second look. He was feeling sullen. So he decided to stop talking to Su Yu. But Su Yu received a message in his sound talisman.

"You were lying to me, right? Yu, we are brothers. Can you please console me?"

"Yes. I was lying. You're not even in the Great Xia War Academy. Your academy only has the Dragon Tiger Ranking. In your academy, I think I can enter the top five."

Not far away, Chen Hao staggered. He turned around and shot Su Yu a look of grief. Those words were not comforting at all! He walked out of the perimeter. There, Old Xie was waiting.

Looking at Chen Hao's sad face, Old Xie asked curiously, "What's up?"

"Teacher, I opened four acupoints."

"Not bad."

"Teacher, do you think I can challenge the Dragon Tiger Ranking?"

Old Xie rolled his eyes, "Challenge my ass. Even the student ranked 100th can defeat you in one move."

"Then how strong does one need to be to enter the top five of the ranking?"

"How strong? At least seventh-stage Infinite Strength Realm with a minimum of 10 fused acupoints per stage. You can forget about this. You only have 72 acupoints so you won't be able to fuse more than 8 acupoints. Strictly speaking, you're an Eight Strength warrior, not a true Infinite Strength warrior. This is your limit. Even at the ninth-stage Infinite Strength Realm, you will still have a hard time reaching the top five."

Even at the ninth stage, Chen Hao would still be someone who had fused eight acupoints to advance. He was definitely not a match for true Infinite Strength warriors.

Looking at Chen Hao's dispirited look, Old Xie comforted him, "It's fine. Since you can't beat them at the Infinite Strength Realm, just aim to reach the Skysoar Realm faster and beat them up. If they manage to reach the Skysoar Realm, just rush to the Cloudbreach Realm and beat them up. What's so special about those geniuses? Being a genius does not guarantee faster advancement. Their talent only helps them in the far future where they will be able to enter the Sunmoon and the Invincible Realms with their talent. It's not like you can reach those realms so why worry about that? Just beat them up during the Mountainsea Realm and below before they manage to reach the apex of their cultivation."

Old Xie's comforting words were not comforting at all. The old man had so nonchalantly pointed out that he wouldn't be able to reach those realms.

Chen Hao sullenly said, "Teacher, stop consoling me."

He did not need these kinds of comforting words. This teacher was even worse than Su Yu.

Old Xie smiled, "I'm serious. Don't be discouraged. You can't beat them now so just leave your hope for the future. You never know what will happen. Do you know this? Our Great Xia King had only opened 36 acupoints at the Great Strength Realm. He was able to cultivate until the peak of the Cloudbreach Realm with that many acupoints.

"Only after entering the Mountainsea Realm did he start opening more acupoints. Sure, at that level, acupoint opening is hard. But he is strong enough to fight for more resources. And he also has the lifespan to slowly improve. Thus, his Sky Sundering Saber slowly improved from the yellow grade to the

profound grade, to the earth grade, and finally, the heaven grade. He has been growing one step at a time. Believe in yourself. You might be the next Great Xia King."

This time, Old Xie's words worked. Chen Hao became completely pumped and motivated.

Yes!

He also wanted to keep advancing until the Mountainsea Realm before opening new acupoints. He also wanted to slowly develop a profound-grade cultivation method into the earth or even the heaven grade!

Meanwhile, Old Xie was sighing inwardly. Silly kid. Those were only words meant to comfort him. Don't take those words seriously.

There were probably hundreds of millions of people dreaming of achieving the same. But for a lot of people, even the Skysoar Realm was unreachable. They could forget about the higher realms.

These people should not be planning for the Mountainsea and Sunmoon Realms this early like those geniuses.

Those geniuses were only opening so many acupoints at this stage to build their foundations for the future. They were preparing themselves for the Mountainsea Realm, to reach a level where they could contain all their methods and techniques within a single acupoint.

As for students like Chen Hao, they should be content with the Skysoar Realm. As a Skysoar, Chen Hao could already be the mayor of a city like Nanyuan. Sure, Nanyuan was a small city. These students might not like a place like that. But even in the bigger cities, a Skysoar would still be able to become an influential official.

And in the army, a Skysoar could become a 1000-man commander. That was already a good career prospect. Old Xie had never envisioned Chen Hao to reach for the skies in the future.

"Go back and focus on your cultivation. I'll try to get some good stuff for you."



Old Xie started speaking with an enigmatic tone, "With my connections, I can get you some blood essence of a top 1,000 race. You can forge your body with that. Remember to pay me the money for the blood essence in the future."

"Body forging?"

Chen Hao suddenly recalled something. Su Yu seemed to have told him to visit the cultural research academy for his body forging?

"It's fine, teacher. I can deal with this myself."

"You fool! Don't tell me you're planning to use some fire hog blood essence?"

Old Xie sighed. This silly kid. The fire hog blood essence was truly too trashy. Why was this kid giving up on himself already? The top 1,000 race blood essence he could find would still work splendidly!

Chen Hao scratched his head. He had no idea what Su Yu was giving him as well. He would simply use whatever Su Yu told him to use. Wait, he seemed to remember that Su Yu was very poor as well. Whatever. He would wait and see.