

## Myriad 401

### Chapter 401: Teacher And Student (1)

Not long after Chen Hao left, the density of the source qi in the air started dropping. The overflow brought about by the death of a Sunmoon was coming to an end.

The death of this one Sunmoon had benefited a decent number of students. The experts weren't able to gain much from this, but the weaker cultivators were able to gain a lot. The more talented one was, the more one would be able to gain.

Beside Su Yu, Xia Huyou inhaled deeply and took in his final strand of source qi and said, "It sure is nice to have a dead Sunmoon. This feels even faster than cultivating in a grotto."

"..."

Su Yu looked at his friend silently. Sure. Maybe he could try getting his dad to kill one Sunmoon per day for his cultivation.

Su Yu stood up to leave as well. Naturally, he couldn't leave without his beloved shield, Xia Huyou. He had given Xia Huyou the cultural art as the protection fee. And he had not intended to use Xia Huyou as the shield only once. After making the payment, he no longer felt any guilt using Xia Huyou as the shield. After all, this was the Xia Family's turf. Who else could he use as protection if not Xia Huyou?

He was just about to leave when two individuals appeared in front of him. Wu Qi was looking at Su Yu with a smile on her face.

Wu Lan had a joyous look as she said in excitement, "Su Yu, my willpower has reached 80 percent full!"

That was actually a fast growth. Previously, she was still at 70 percent. Not long had passed and she had improved to 80 percent. Of course, she was still not as fast as Su Yu. If Su Yu hadn't been spending his time and effort on apertures, he would have probably reached 100 percent acupoint by now.

"Congratulations!"

Su Yu congratulated her. This was really not slow. If she was in any previous batches, she would have probably been one of the best. But since she was in this batch...forget it. Su Yu suspected that there were a few students in his class that were already capable of advancing into the Skysoar Realm. All those people were merely suppressing their advancement.

Wu Lan was about to keep speaking when Wu Qi interrupted her, "You can return with me."

Su Yu's eyes flickered as he nodded, "Thank you, Teacher Wu."

He had seen Wu Qi once during the character tournament. Initially, he didn't know if this would be a friend or an enemy. But after seeing Wu Yuehua fight for the multiple character faction, he knew that the Wu Family was most likely a friend. And Wu Qi had probably asked him to return with her as a form of protection.

Su Yu's senior sister was absent the entire night. He knew that that was most likely due to her willpower injury. Even if Chen Yong knew about this place, he would probably not bring her over since this place wouldn't help her with her injury anyway.

Wu Qi did not waste any time and immediately turned around to leave. Su Yu hurriedly dragged Xia Huyou along as he followed behind Wu Qi. Wu Lan looked at the two curiously. Since when were these two so close?

After walking a short distance, they encountered someone.

Zheng Hong. Zheng Yuming's grandson and Elder Sun's student.

In front of Zheng Hong was a Cloudbreach expert. When he saw Su Yu's group, his eyes flickered before he gave Su Yu a slight nod. He also greeted Wu Qi, "Hello, Teacher Wu."

Wu Qi glanced at him and nodded, not bothering to say anything. The Cloudbreach with Zheng Hong looked at Wu Qi first before looking at Su Yu. He frowned slightly before increasing the pace of his walk. Zheng Hong had an apologetic look as he also hurried away with the Cloudbreach.

Before Xia Huyou could open his mouth, Wu Lan said, "This is not a good person."

"..."

Su Yu laughed. In her eyes, most people were probably bad people.

Seemingly having sensed Su Yu's disapproval, Wu Lan unhappily said, "Was I wrong? He is Elder Zheng's grandson. And Elder Zheng was nearly killed because of you. Yet he can still smile at you? Clearly, he's not a good person!"

"Elder Zheng was taught a lesson by the principal. That has nothing to do with me."

Su Yu smiled, "If Zheng Hong is broad-minded, he would know that this is not my fault. As a cultural researcher, I believe he is able to understand that. That's why he is still friendly toward me."

"Su Yu, you're too dumb. How can you believe that he is broad-minded?"

Wu Lan had a look of disbelief. This guy was so dumb! He actually believed that someone could be broad-minded?

Su Yu laughed, "We're fellow students. We should treat each other with kindness. That's how we can get a happier life in the academy."

Wu Lan snorted disdainfully and faced Su Yu with her nostril. She decided to stop talking with him. Suddenly, she found that he was really stupid. In front of them, Wu Qi continued walking silently. She couldn't even be bothered to join the conversation.

Smiling tiger, a silent dog that bites, a hypocrite...

Did that dumb sister of hers not understand the meaning of those terms?

Just look at how ruthless Su Yu was when he was in a ring. Look at the fates of the single character faction students that had fought him. Was someone like that stupid? Just because he claimed that he was friendly, she believed him?

As they continued walking, someone suddenly joined their group. From far away, Zheng Yunhui's hearty laugh rang out as he said, "Su Yu, Fatty Xia, let's walk together!"

He ran over while shouting.

The moment Zheng Yunhui arrived, he complained, "Why hadn't any of you informed me when something so big was happening? My grandpa was still regretting the fact that I wasn't there. A few Eternal characters were destroyed earlier. If I was there, I would be able to nourish my sea of willpower even if I couldn't absorb anything. That alone would probably be enough to push me to the peak of the Mental Tempering Stage."

Su Yu smiled, "Next time. I'll be sure to call you along the next time something like this happens. As long as you don't mind moving with me."

"Of course I won't." Zheng Yunhui smiled, "Look at our relationship. We are best friends. If you have something good, don't forget your good brother, Zheng Yunhui."

He then spoke with an enigmatic tone, "In fact, I have something good to share right now, brothers! Do you know about the Willpower Grotto? It is going to be activated again! And there are plenty of slots! If we can enter, we might be able to instantly enter the Skysoar Realm! That is an excellent place for cultivation."

Xia Huyou was already aware of that so he did not react.

But Su Yu blanked out as he asked, "Willpower Grotto?"

"Yeah. Don't you know that?" Zheng Yunhui smiled, "It's..."

"I know about that grotto. But isn't that grotto hard to open?"

"Yeah, but they are really going to open it this time. Brother Su, we need to find a way to enter."

Zheng Yunhui's eyeballs spun around as he first looked at Xia Huyou before looking at Wu Lan. He smiled, "Student Wu Lan, you can probably reach the Skysoar Realm after entering the Willpower Grotto. At that time, surpassing Su Yu will no longer be a problem."

Wu Lan looked at him with an odd look and asked, "How do you know that I'm entering that grotto?"

"..."

Zheng Yunhui was stunned. What? Wu Lan couldn't be bothered to give a reply. So he didn't know. Su Yu was astonished. Wu Lan could enter? And she had been informed about the grotto in advance?

Wu Qi suddenly said, "She was guaranteed entry before this, but things might change. Previously, they promised us five slots. But that was before the battle. Now...they might go back on their words."

Su Yu hurriedly asked, "Teacher Wu, they...are the ones opening the grotto?"

"Yeah." Wu Qi did not even look at him as she replied, "The process of opening the Willpower Grotto is a complicated one. And it requires a lot of precious resources. It even needs several Mountainseas working in tandem to maintain its activation. That isn't the difficult part. The most difficult part is the large amount of riversand needed for the activation. That is a very rare resource."

"Riversand?"

Su Yu looked at Xia Huyou inquisitively. Xia Huyou explained, "It's a unique treasure capable of absorbing impurities. It is basically akin to a filter that can filter the impurities out of willpower. And you require a large amount of riversand to activate this grotto. Generally, this resource can only be found in the Luminous Domain Mansion."

In front of them, Wu Qi added on to the explanation, "Of course, the academy has experts capable of opening the grotto if they are willing to spend all their wealth on it. But the thing is, the riversand is very rare."

Su Yu looked at Xia Huyou.

Xia Huyou shrugged, "I can get you a small amount of riversand, but it is too hard to get a large amount of it. This thing is too rare. Most of the time, the riversand would be directly moved into labs, research centers, and high purity willpower production centers the moment some are found."

Su Yu recalled Bai Feng's laboratory. He wondered if he could find some riversand in there.

"In short, it's very difficult to open the Willpower Grotto? And the main restriction is resource availability?"

"Yeah." Zheng Yunhui said, "You need to know that the Luminous Domain Mansion is not a place anyone can go. Every 10 years, only a small number of people can enter. And not everyone can return from that place with riversand. The single character faction has flourished for decades. Because of that, they have been able to send a decent number of people into the Luminous Domain Mansion. Because of that, they have a decent supply of riversand, allowing them to activate this Willpower Grotto. Not everyone else can afford to do the same."

Su Yu helplessly said, "Why even bother telling me this? Do you think they will actually let me enter?"

That was impossible.

Zheng Yunhui said, "That's why you need to find a way to enter! Su Yu, you can't give up on this chance! We should still try fighting for it! Isn't your grandteacher back? Get him to throw a temper tantrum, pick fights with them, and create troubles for them."

Zheng Yunhui continued instigating, "Your grandteacher has just demonstrated his incredible strength, defeating two pseudo Sunmoons in a row. He is even stronger than our principal. Just get your grandteacher to beat them up and force them to give you three to five slots. I will book one of these slots in advance. What do you think about 2,000 merit points?"

"..."

Su Yu looked at Zheng Yunhui. He said nothing. He only maintained a gentle smile on his face. Looking at that smile, Zheng Yunhui felt his scalp go numb. Yes. This guy was a treacherous snake. His instigation was obviously useless against this person.

He coughed awkwardly and said, "We'll call for a meeting of elders! Force them to make a few slots available for those not from their faction! The academy has 42 elders. Less than 30 of them are currently in the academy. As long as we can get half the elders to agree, the single character faction would have no choice but to offer some slots to the public unless they decide to not open the grotto anymore."

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Zheng Yunhui smiled, "If each elder is promised one slot, do you think we can get some elders to agree? They will be more than happy to stand with us. This grotto does not belong to the single character faction. Strictly speaking, this grotto should belong to your faction instead. Sure, they are paying to open it. But the grotto is not their private property.

"If we need to give those elders one slot each, we will lose around 20 slots. Generally, around 50 people can enter the grotto each time. Thus, there will still be around 30 slots left after that."

Suddenly, Xia Huyou said, "This is actually a good idea."

Just like that, a group of students who weren't even Skysoars yet started talking about how they were going to control a meeting of elders. If an outsider was to hear their conversation, that person would probably roll on the ground laughing.

But Wu Qi, who was walking ahead of them, did not think that there was anything wrong with this. The three kids behind her represented three different powers. As for her little sister...forget about it. She doubted her little sister could even understand what they were talking about.

Xia Huyou smiled, "Zheng Yunhui's idea is actually quite good. Call for a meeting to fight for some benefits for the elders. There is no way those elders will refuse this. The single character faction might

be strong, but they still wouldn't dare to offend everyone in the academy. And those elders might even help with the activation, allowing them to keep the grotto open for a much longer time."

"Currently, the single character faction only has Elder Zhou, Sun, Yu, and Li in the academy. Elder Zheng is still injured. Elder Zhao is in seclusion. Elder Ma and Fang are at the Allheaven Battlefield. With these four elders, they won't be able to keep the grotto open for too long. The help of other elders would be much appreciated. Yunhui, which elder can you get to help with this?"

Since Zheng Yunhui had made such a suggestion, he had naturally obtained the support of some elders.

He grinned, "My teacher!"

"..."

Right. Su Yu and Xia Huyou nodded. They had almost forgotten that this fellow was also someone with a teacher. They had only remembered that he was from the Zheng Family and completely forgot that he had an elder as a teacher as well.

Zheng Yunhui said in excitement, "The three of us plus Hu Qiusheng, Zhao Shiji, and the others. We can all get at least one or two elders to help each. We will fight to get at least one slot for each elder. That would please everyone. As for the single character faction, the only way they can refuse this is to cancel the opening. But in truth, if they don't open the grotto and increase the strength of their weak students, the solution is simple. We will just start targeting their students."

Zheng Yunhui laughed heartily, "If they don't let us enter, we will also make it so that they can't open the grotto as well. Next, we will learn from Su Yu and stomp all their students in the top 100. Even if we can't defeat some of their higher ranked students, we can still defeat some of the lower ranked ones."

Yes. This guy was a scumbag as well. Normally, he couldn't be bothered to get involved in the factional struggles. But since this concerned his own interests, he would naturally get involved.

Zheng Yunhui said, "The Willpower Grotto is very beneficial for students below the Skysoar Realm like us. That place is filled with pure willpower. Even without any apertures, just passively absorbing the pure source qi in there would grant us more benefits than reading willpower texts. A day in the grotto is



probably better than reading 30 willpower texts. And reading willpower texts is very time consuming and expensive."

And naturally, the grotto would be even more beneficial for those with opened apertures.

Su Yu thought about it and nodded, "I'll talk to my grandteacher. You guys are a lot more connected so try to contact more students and elders about this."

He was definitely interested in the grotto. As for the slots...his senior sister's willpower injury was quite heavy. Pure willpower would be quite helpful in her recovery. What would he do if he could only get one slot?

Then again, they had to first focus on making this happen. He could also notify Zhang Hao from the talisman faction. As for Hu Zongji and Lin Yao, there was no guarantee that they could enter even if they were informed about it. After a short discussion, they reached an agreement.

Wu Qi had remained silent, but inwardly, she was actually quite impressed. The students of this batch were indeed different from the other batches. These were all first year students. Yet every one of them was incredibly gutsy. They had the courage to even manipulate the decision making of the academy's higher ups.

In fact, this seemed to have already happened once before! Su Yu wouldn't have been able to subject the single character faction to such a massive loss by surrendering thousands of times otherwise.

...

While Su Yu and company were on their way back.

Talent Fostering Bureau. Director's residence.

With a deep frown, Hong Tan looked at Bai Feng who looked more like a mass of flesh and solemnly asked, "Your Divine Characters have been destroyed?"

"Yeah."

"Even your main Divine Character?"

"Yeah."

"..."

Bai Feng replied with a weak voice. One could consider him lucky by even being able to stay conscious. Thankfully, Director Ji had helped stabilize his sea of willpower or he would probably remain unconscious even now.

Hong Tan's face turned even more unsightly as he asked, "Xia Yuwen did this?"

"He's probably not feeling very well right now either..." Bai Feng laughed, "Teacher, that fellow has all nine of his acupoints broken by a single strike of my sword. Even a few of his characters were broken. I don't think he's doing much better than me..."

"You..."

Hong Tan frowned. This kid had lost even his main Divine Character. Why was he still being all smug here?

"Xia Yuwen..."

Hong Tan suddenly turned around and asked, "Director Ji, if I remember things right, the vice principal selection is happening at the end of the year, right? I will be participating. I will challenge Xia Changqing."

Not far away, Director Ji was calmly sipping on a cup of tea. He looked up and asked, "You're going to challenge Xia Changqing? He's a member of the Xia Family. He is the Xia Family's representative in the academy."

"Xia Changqing..." Hong Tan smiled, "His grandson had reduced my student into this state. A third-stage Cloudbreach had actually challenged an eighth-stage Skysoar. How shameless. I never bothered standing against him in the past because he is Senior Brother Yunji's elder brother. But does he really believe that I'm afraid of him?"

Hong Tan clenched his teeth, "I won't kill him out of respect for Senior Brother Yunji. But he will definitely suffer the same fate as my student. He will need to lose his main Divine Character."

He was furious.

Very furious.

His student was a talented young man with a bright future. But someone like that had been crippled by Xia Yuwen. Earlier, he still wasn't aware of the extent of his student's injuries. But now, he was filled with rage.

As for the fact that Xia Yuwen himself was nearly crippled as well, that did not matter. A Cloudbreach known to be the strongest among his peers had nearly been killed by a Skysoar. Who else could the Cloudbreach blame but himself? He could only blame his own incompetence. It wasn't like Bai Feng was the one who had picked a fight with Xia Yuwen.

Director Ji said, "If you're sure, go ahead and do it. I don't care."

Hong Tan snorted coldly. He looked at Bai Feng and scolded, "Couldn't you have taken a step back? You have crippled yourself to deal with a mere Xia Yuwen. You're indeed dumb."

Bai Feng merely curled his lips. Why was his teacher still scolding him when he was so badly injured?

"The Xia Family...forget it. I can't afford to scold the entire Xia Family. As for Xia Changqing's line, screw all of them!"

Hong Tan couldn't stop himself from cursing.

"Do you still have any characters left?"

"A few."

"With your heavy willpower injury, I don't even know if you can recover anymore. Even after recovery, your cultivation level would probably drop. In fact, you should be celebrating if you only drop to the third or fourth stage. But without your characters and main Divine Characters, your character technique is probably already crippled..."

He was feeling rather sorrowful. He was basically seeing a repeat of his senior brother in Bai Feng. In fact, Bai Feng was in an even worse situation. From a genius, he had transformed into a weakling that could no longer defeat even ordinary Skysoars. This would be too great of a blow for this genius student of his.

Bai Feng couldn't really say too much here. Although Director Ji had saved him, who knew what this director was thinking? He could only accompany his grieving teacher silently. How pitiful. Yes. He was really very pitiful. He had to spend some time forming so many new characters. What a tough life.

"Teacher, after losing so many characters, I'll probably need to spend more money buying willpower texts in the future. Maybe you should give me some money? I'm currently broke..."

Looking at Bai Feng's miserable appearance, Hong Tan clenched his teeth and said, "Don't worry! I'll provide you with willpower texts. You can get as many as you want. Even if I have to sell the research center, I'll help you recover!"

"Thank you, Teacher. You're the best..."

Inwardly, Bai Feng was rolling his eyes. Apart from the research center, what else could his teacher sell? As a majestic eighth-stage Mountainsea, was this all his teacher could do? Well, at least this proved that like his teacher was really poor instead of pretending to be poor.

It was clear that he could no longer rely on his teacher. But he did have a wonderful student. Tsk tsk, he still remembered seeing dozens of willpower texts in the storeroom. There were too many willpower

texts there for his student to finish reading. As the teacher, he naturally had to share the burden of his student and read some of those texts. It would seem like he could only rely on his student.

Director Ji smiled and said, "If he has really been crippled, so be it. For a cultural researcher, combat strength is not everything. Bai Feng, are you interested in joining the Talent Fostering Bureau as the head of our research center? You will be promoted into an intermediate researcher and be given your own research team to lead. You only need to provide the bureau with some research results each year..."

Yes. He was trying to recruit Bai Feng. It did not matter if Bai Feng was already crippled. He still had his brain. That alone was enough to give him an instant promotion into an intermediate researcher at the Talent Fostering Bureau.

Normally, only late-stage Cloudbreach cultivators could receive such a promotion. Even Chen Yong was still an intermediate researcher. Generally, one wouldn't be promoted into a senior researcher before reaching the Mountainsea Realm.

Hong Tan looked at Bai Feng. He believed that Bai Feng was already a cripple. Perhaps...the Talent Fostering Bureau would really be a better choice. There, the single character faction would no longer dare to pick on him. In fact, he would be protected from almost all other factions so long as he joined the Talent Fostering Bureau. After all, the Talent Fostering Bureau only answered to the government of Great Xia.

Apart from the government, they only answered to the Knowledge Seeking Realm. As a Sunmoon, Director Ji Hong could also be considered a big shot in the entirety of Human Realm.

Strictly speaking, even people like Wan Tiansheng and Zheng Ping were under his jurisdiction. Of course, the academies were powerful entities as well so in practice, Ji Hong couldn't control them too much.

But that was before Ji Hong revealed his strength as a Sunmoon. Now that he was officially known as a Sunmoon, he had the strength and the status to actually get involved in the affairs of the academies. Of course, how much he could do would ultimately depend on whether he could prevail over the likes of Wan Tiansheng and Zheng Ping.

"Talent Fostering Bureau..." Bai Feng smiled, "Director Ji, what's the pay inside the Talent Fostering Bureau?"

"As an intermediate researcher, you can easily get 1,000 merit points per year."

"..."

Bai Feng curled his lips. That was too little. He might be poor, but if he was only going to be paid 1,000 merit points per year, he might as well return to the academy and continue squeezing money out of Liu Hong. But everyone believed that he was already a cripple. Would Liu Hong still be willing to pay him?

He was only asking out of curiosity. He had no interest in joining. With a smile, he said, "Forget it. Thank you for the kind offer, Director Ji. I prefer living the life of a retiree in the academy. Since I'm already a cripple, so be it. My physical body is still at the Skysoar Realm. Even without my characters, I am still a true Skysoar. I am not completely helpless."

Ji Hong did not try to force the issue. After taking another sip of tea, he calmly asked, "I have a question. Since you can split your character technique, can the nodes forming the technique be freely moved around?"

"What?" Bai Feng said, "How is that possible? The nodes are already fixed in place. How can you even move them? It's impossible."

"Are you sure?" Director Ji frowned and said, "Bai Feng, if you can, try to explore this possibility next. This might be the solution for your crippled technique. If you can move the nodes around as well, you will be able to fill the technique with foundational characters even as a Skysoar. In the past, character techniques have always been fixed after reaching the Skysoar Realm. Since you can split your technique..."

Bai Feng explained, "Strictly speaking, it's not a separation of the technique. Rather, it is a reassembly of the technique. I brought the characters with similar properties together to form a new Dragon Slaying Sword. In essence, the technique is still one sword, not multiple swords. Only the different properties of the sword have been shifted about..."

He explained himself. Naturally, he was making things up. Sure, his explanation sounded logical, but that was definitely not the truth.

There was no point in telling the truth right now. He still didn't know Director Ji's true attitude toward the multiple character faction. For now, he should recover and test his theory first and pass on his discovery to his teacher and student in the event that he was successful. As for those outside their faction, they would only come to learn about this when the multiple character faction was ready to make this discovery public."

"Only a shift of properties?"

Ji Hong was disappointed to learn that. Sure, this was still an incredible find, but it was nothing compared to the ability to move the nodes around.

Bai Feng continued lying without a change in expression, "Yeah. It's incredible. With this discovery, the members of our multiple character faction will be able to start shifting the properties of their character techniques and produce multiple weapons. If they become proficient enough with it, they can basically fight like they have multiple character techniques instead of only one."

Hong Tan rolled his eyes and said, "And have their characters destroyed from exertion like you?"

"..."

Bai Feng was speechless. He couldn't even be bothered to argue. He had a specific reason for destroying his characters. Who told his teacher that one had to destroy their characters to do this? free(w)eb

Hong Tan sank into thought for a short while before saying, "Don't worry too much. Back then, I had researched the properties of Divine Characters as well. After you start forming your new characters, I will try to find a way for you to add them into your character technique to replace the characters you lost as long as they share similar properties. Maybe we can still repair your character technique."

Ji Hong looked at Hong Tan in astonishment and asked, "Can the technique still be repaired?"

"We'll have to see. If he can form characters with similar properties, we can give it a try." Hong Tan said, "We can first strip the character out of its properties and try sending a blank character into a node. That way, the repelling force will be much weaker. After giving the character some time to assimilate with the technique, I will return the properties back to it. This is not completely hopeless."

"..."

Ji Hong looked at the two in surprise. He couldn't help but to acknowledge that this pair of teacher and student was truly good at research. Cultural researchers that were actually good at research were already very rare nowadays.

Back during the early days of the path of cultural research, there were a lot more of such individuals around. But as time passed and humanity's knowledge on cultural research increased, fewer and fewer cultural researchers focused on research. That was because most of the things they could discover were already discovered. As a result, the spirit of exploration was lost as most people opted to walk the path of their predecessors.

At that thought, Ji Hong said, "If Bai Feng can really form new characters, it is better if he doesn't form any non-human characters. That is especially true for divine and devil characters."

Bai Feng looked at Ji Hong in astonishment. What? Had this fellow discovered that something was wrong with divine and devil characters as well?

Hong Tan wasn't as surprised. He sighed and said, "So you noticed it as well? That's not surprising, I guess. You're already a Sunmoon. The repelling force has grown stronger, right?"

"Yeah." Ji Hong said, "Yeah. It has grown a lot stronger. I'm afraid the battle 50 years ago had indeed been a conspiracy. Things hadn't always been like this. But now, the divine and devil characters are emanating this powerful repelling force. Because of this repelling force, I nearly failed my breakthrough. Fortunately, during the crucial moment before my breakthrough, I crushed several non-human characters. Only then did I manage to break through."

Blinking his eyes, Bai Feng couldn't help but to ask, "What are you talking about?"



Hong Tan shook his head, "You won't understand. Whatever, I guess it won't harm you to know more. We have been suspecting that something has been done to all the willpower texts humanity have obtained over the past few decades. The non-human characters formed during the past 50 years, especially the divine and devil characters, will emit a powerful repelling force that greatly increases the difficulty of entering the Sunmoon Realm."

Bai Feng blanked out. Decades? That was wrong! According to his theory, this wasn't something that had only been happening for decades. Rather, this disadvantage of using the divine and devil characters had always existed. But from what they were saying, the repelling force had actually intensified during the past few decades?

"Is this a smokescreen?"

That was Bai Feng's thought. With the trap set 50 years ago, the human race was made to believe that the problem had only started 50 years ago, neglecting the fact that the repelling force had already existed prior to that.

With this ploy, the Sunmoons and Invincibles would not consider the possibility that the characters they had formed before that might also be problematic.

"But...wouldn't this ploy make it even clearer to humanity the disadvantages of using non-human characters? No, wait..."

Bai Feng suddenly realized something. With this ploy, the older generation would fail to step into the Invincible Realm while the newer generation would stop forming divine and devil characters that were stronger than the characters of the other races. That way, they would stop the progress of the older generation and weaken the strength of the newer generation. Was this...a ploy meant to sever humanity's path of cultural research?

"Is this a ploy by the divines and the devils? They have intentionally exposed the fact that there is a ploy against the human race, encouraging all humans to stop using divine and devil characters. That will greatly weaken the strength of humanity's new generation. And the only answer to this is the character technique of the multiple character faction.

"With character techniques, human cultural researchers would still be able to display a powerful combat strength even without the more powerful divine and devil characters. But what a coincidence that the multiple character faction had lost countless experts during that incident. And now, this faction is already on the verge of extinction..."

Suddenly, a new thought appeared in Bai Feng's mind. The suppression of the multiple character faction was not definitely masterminded by the Great Zhou alone. The humans involved might not have done this because of personal grudge alone. The myriad races had probably been working in the shadows to push for the suppression as well.

At that thought, Bai Feng said, "Director Ji, can I ask you a question?"

"Go ahead."

"How many people does the multiple character faction still have?"

"Those at the Skysoar Realm and above?"

"Yeah."

Those below the Skysoar Realm couldn't be considered true multiple character faction members.

Director Ji thought for a bit before answering, "About 500 of them in the entire Human Realm. I don't have the exact number."

"What about 50 years ago?"

"Back then..."

Before Director Ji could answer, Hong Tan said, "Of the 162 cultural research academies in the Human Realm, many of them focused on the path of multiple characters. Excluding those below the Skysoar Realm, we have almost 10,000 members."

Bai Feng's tone turned heavy, "Ten thousand members. We have lost almost all of them."

They had lost a large majority of their members.

Hong Tan nodded, "During the battle back then, too many of our experts had perished. We were weakened too much to rebuild the faction from that. Over the years, some of our members had died from old age, some had been killed at the battlefield, some had been crippled, some had gone crazy, and so on. Thus, our numbers have never stopped dwindling."

Bai Feng frowned, "Is it even possible for so many of them to die over 50 years? These are all experts at the Skysoar Realm and above. Isn't the death rate a tad bit too high?"

Director Ji also frowned, "The Allheaven Battlefield is never a peaceful place. Over the past decades, the various human prefectures had fought over 1,000 battles. And the total death count of warriors is more than 100 times higher than what your faction has suffered. Even when compared against only the cultural researchers, the deaths of your faction members only occupy a small portion of the total number."

"But the rate is too high in proportion to the number of our members."

Yes, 9,500 deaths over a period of 50 years weren't that much. Exactly, that wasn't much. That was basically less than 200 deaths per year. Split among the 36 human prefectures, each prefecture would only suffer around 6 or 7 deaths per year. Was that really a lot? No!

The issue was the rate of it in comparison with their actual numbers. Each year, Great Xia would lose more than 10,000 combatants in the battlefield. And a lot of these dead combatants were cultural researchers. Losing hundreds of cultural researchers per year was perfectly normal.

Just the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy alone would supply dozens of new cultural researchers to the military. And with the addition of the other cultural research academies, they had been able to keep replenishing the numbers. As one of the most warlike human prefectures, one could say that Great Xia was actually coping with their casualties very well.

And when one looked at the numbers of casualties as a whole, the losses of the multiple character faction was completely insignificant. But Bai Feng believed that their faction was definitely being deliberately targeted. He couldn't let this slide. He had to start investigating this matter after this. Perhaps he could really discover something.

For example, in what battles had these people perished? Which Invincibles were in charge of the battlefield during those battles? Perhaps he might even be able to deduce the identity of that human traitor from this. Bai Feng stopped talking. He did not dare to say more.

Director Ji looked at Bai Feng with a frown, but he said nothing else. Hong Tan had a pensive look on his face. Yes, the death rate was really too high. Previously, he had not thought too much about it. After all, they had only lost a few cultivators each year per prefecture. He had not suspected anything.

He had only blamed their dwindling numbers on their failure in passing on their teachings. If they had been able to recruit a large number of new members each year, then these deaths would look even more inconspicuous. But with Bai Feng's words, he was also starting to grow suspicious.

Moving on from the topic, Hong Tan asked, "Are you coming back with me or are you staying here to heal up?"

"I'm going back."

Bai Feng replied unhesitatingly. He naturally had to leave. Away from his own people, it was simply too hard to know who was the friend and who was the enemy. He was starting to understand why his teacher and senior brother had been keeping silent about their suspicions.

Even Bai Feng himself was starting to look at everyone around him with suspicion. He couldn't even be sure if this Ji Hong was also an underling of that mysterious Invincible. If he was reacting this way, what if everyone else knew about it? At that point, humanity would no longer be able to trust each other. It was human nature to be mistrustful.

And what if the Invincibles started suspecting each other? That would bring even more troubles. It was no wonder that so many people were turning a blind eye despite having their suspicions. Without solid evidence to capture the culprit, there was really no need to spread the news about this. It would only serve to create chaos among fellow humans.

Hong Tan lifted Bai Feng up and looked at Ji Hong, "Thank you for this, Director Ji."

Ji Hong waved his hand indifferently. Hong Tan did not tarry and left with Bai Feng.

After the two left, Director Ji muttered to himself, "Is the rate too high?"

Yes, it was high. But the actual number of deaths wasn't that high. They had lost over 9,000 members over a period of 50 years. And this included those who had died of old age, died from cultivation deviation, and so on.

When compared with the total number of dead human cultural researchers over the same period of time, the deaths of the multiple character members were too insignificant. And the multiple character faction was only so small due to the loss of their legacy after the battle 50 years ago.

Previously, Director Ji had not even thought about this. Everyone had instinctively believed that with a severed inheritance, it was natural for their numbers to dwindle down. While rapping on his desk, Director Ji sank into thought. He decided to not report it for now. He would perform some investigations himself first.

He might really be able to discover something pursuing this line of investigation.

Chapter 404: Like Teacher, Like Student (1)

Great Xia Cultural Research Academy.

The massive battle the night before had not affected the students in the academy. Most of the researchers and students heard of what happened, but the event really did not have that much effect on them.

Life in the academy continued as usual. The students were still going to their classes and cultivating as usual. Most of the time, the academy would remain calm and peaceful as long as nothing happened with the Top 100 Ranking.

After taking his leave from Xia Huyou and the others, Su Yu started heading toward the Wentan Research Center.

...

He had opened 40 apertures in total.

All his characters were dormant. Or to be precise, they were in the process of digesting the character intent they had absorbed. The destruction of several Eternal characters was akin to the destruction of several grottos. Even a tiny bit of the character intent leaking out of these characters could greatly benefit Su Yu.

Su Yu had also taken this chance to open a decent number of acupoints. The second level of the Time technique required 44 acupoints. Most of the acupoints overlapped with his opened acupoints.

After opening 180 acupoints, Su Yu did not have to open too many acupoints to fulfill the second level's requirements. The night before, he had opened 6 acupoints. Thus, he was only 16 acupoints away from completing his cultivation of the second move, Suppressing Sunmoon.

While thinking about all that, he stepped into the research center. The moment he entered, he noticed something different. The floor...was clean! Had his grandteacher and teacher returned? Or was it someone else?

He had always felt that the academy was a safe place with Wan Tiansheng's presence. Even so, he did not dare to be careless.

"Teacher?"

He tried calling, but he did not dare to take another step forward.

"Come in."

Bai Feng's weak voice rang out. Su Yu heaved a breath of relief and continued stepping forward. In the living area, Bai Feng was resting on the couch. Seated across from him was an old man with a cold expression.

Beside Bai Feng was Chen Yong with a troubled expression. Wu Jia was also there. She wanted to move over when she saw Su Yu, but when she stole a glance at the old man in the room, she decided to not budge. The old man looked at Su Yu, moved his gaze to Wu Jia, before finally looking at Bai Feng.

He abruptly scolded, "Garbage."

There were only five people in their faction. But apart from him, the other three were carrying varying degrees of injuries on them. Bai Feng was the most heavily injured person, followed by Wu Jia, with Su Yu having the lightest injury. He had yet to fully recover from the injuries to both his arms.

Was this even still the unrivaled multiple character faction? This was way too miserable. He hadn't even been away for more than three months. Would the entire multiple character faction be gone if he had remained away for a longer time?

Chen Yong awkwardly said, "Teacher, I—"

"You're the biggest piece of trash among them!" Hong Tan scolded, "You're actually on the verge of losing your position as the head manager? Even your student has received such a heavy injury. Are you not ashamed of yourself?"

"..."

Chen Yong could only helplessly shut his mouth.

Hong Tan poured himself a cup of tea and took a sip before suddenly taking a closer look at the teapot. He muttered suspiciously, "This isn't my old teapot!"

Bai Feng looked at the ceiling and pretended like he had heard nothing. That definitely wasn't his fault. Su Yu was also completely silent. That teapot was history. It had been crushed by Old Nie. There was no getting that teapot back.

"Grandteacher."

Su Yu gave his grandteacher a greeting before obediently stood behind Bai Feng. Beside him, Wu Jia gave her fellow sufferer a glance. How pitiful. Their grandteacher had returned. And the first thing he did after returning was scolding them. Hong Tan did not pursue the matter of the teapot. It was no big deal. Maybe the teapot had been taken away to be washed or something.

He gave Su Yu another look and nodded, "Not bad. Ninth-stage Great Strength Realm. Your acupoint opening is fast. And your willpower is near 80 percent already. Not bad at all."

For a new student, this was a decent cultivation level. This new grandstudent was much better than he had expected.

Of course, he didn't know more about Su Yu. He only knew that this kid came from Nanyuan. He had even seen this kid's father on the battlefield before. The father was a simple and honest person. That kid was probably the same type of person. During the previous battle, the kid had gone over despite how dangerous it was. The kid was definitely a loyal person.

It was a pity that the kid was too honest. He was so silly. That place was so dangerous. What was a Mental Tempering Stage kid like him doing there?

"Thank you for the praise, Grandteacher."

Su Yu flashed his trademark honest smile mixed with a bashful expression of someone who was feeling shy after being praised.

Hong Tan nodded, his anger receding somewhat. Looking at Su Yu's arms, he asked, "Who broke your arms?"



"Teacher Xia Yuwen's student..."

"Bastard!" Hong Tan scolded, "It's that bastard again? Is Xia Changqing tired of living? I have only been away for a few months. Has that old fool gone mad? He dares to let his people attack my people?"

Hong Tan started scolding furiously. Su Yu said nothing. Zhou Hao was in an even worse situation. He personally believed that there was no need to tell his grandteacher that.

After a while, Hong Tan started blaming himself, "This is my fault. I have been ignoring them for decades. I had not been bothered competing against them. I wanted to maintain a low profile. We are too small to withstand too much attention anyway. But these people are crossing the line!"

Wu Jia softly said, "So Grandteacher, are we going to keep acting like turtles after this?"

"..."

What the fuck did she just say? Hong Tan glared at her.

"What are you talking about? Your teacher is the turtle here. Do you think your grandteacher is a wimp like that?"

Chen Yong felt aggrieved, but he maintained his silence. Wu Jia declined to comment. In truth, she believed that her grandteacher was quite a wimp.

Hong Tan was finally tired of cursing. He sighed and said, "Even if we want to continue acting like turtles, we can't anymore. My senior brother came back and killed Shan Tianhao. Before this, with all of them away, I could only protect the faction as best as I could. But in the end, the faction has still declined..."

He sounded bleak and tired.

Bai Feng couldn't help but say, "Teacher, our faction is not weak. We have the support of so many Mountainseas. What are we afraid of?"

"..."

Hong Tan shot his student a glare before saying, "Why bring them trouble for no reason? Wu Yuehua and the others aren't even members of the multiple character faction. Even if they can protect us, their feats will only strengthen the prestige of the talisman and pillmaking factions. Meanwhile, the multiple character faction will remain weak."

Bai Feng shrugged and stopped talking.

Chen Yong said, "Teacher, what about Martial Uncle Xia and the others? Did they say anything?"

"We still can't rely on them." Hong Tan sighed, "Your Martial Uncle Liu has never fully recovered. And after killing two Mountainseas, he will probably be sent to the Allheaven Battlefield soon. This is also the case for Bai Feng. You dumb brat. Why did you kill someone for no reason? Just cripple them and be done with it. In your current condition, you won't be able to survive the Vanguard Regiment."

"Allheaven Battlefield?" Su Yu couldn't resist interrupting, "Teacher is going to the Allheaven Battlefield?"

Bai Feng appeared indifferent. "Yeah. I can't say no. These are the rules of the Xia Family. We need to follow their rules. At times, these rules are the best shield we can have. I only need to kill 10 Cloudbreach enemies. I'll just take it slow."

So be it. He really wasn't scared. Sure, the Vanguard Regiment was the army involved in the highest number of battles. But if one could do well there, one would also be able to grow rapidly.

"When are you leaving?"

"Within one month." Bai Feng smiled, "It's fine. Even Zheng Yuming is still here. I'm not in a rush."

"Zheng Yuming?"

Hong Tan had just returned so he was still clueless about the recent events. Bai Feng explained, "Senior Brother did it. He almost got Zheng Yuming killed with his scheme."

"..."

Chen Yong had a helpless look. That really wasn't a scheme!

"It's my martial nephew..."

He pointed at Su Yu instead. He was definitely not taking the blame for this.

Su Yu had an awkward expression as he said, "It wasn't me. I was only comparing notes with his student. But he suddenly decided to make a move on me and Martial Uncle stopped him. That was when the principal injured him and exiled him to the Allheaven Battlefield."

After getting a rough idea about the event, Hong Tan shot a glance at Chen Yong before looking at Su Yu and asking doubtfully, "How did you come into a conflict with his student? You haven't even been in the academy for long, right?"

"He injured Senior Sister!"

Hong Tan frowned. As understanding dawned on him, he sighed, "These days, any random person can pick fights with us. Zheng Yuming was nothing back then. But now, he has actually grown gutsy enough to send his student against my people..."

His emotions were complicated.

He tossed that thought out of his mind and looked at Su Yu before nodding, "Not bad. It is not a bad thing to stand up for your senior sister. But remember that the tallest tree attracts the most wind. Too much attention might only bring you more trouble. This injury of yours is probably the consequence of what you did, right?"

He paused slightly before continuing, "You were taught by my senior brother at Nanyuan?"

"Yeah, Teacher Liu taught me..."

"You're not bad. Looks like my senior brother has been a good teacher..."

Before he could finish, Bai Feng rolled his eyes and said, "Teacher, this has nothing to do with Martial Uncle! I was the one who had taught him! When Su Yu first came, he wasn't even at the Great Strength Realm! Look at him now! And he wasn't even at the Mental Tempering Stage as well! Look at his current willpower cultivation!"

Chapter 405: Like Teacher, Like Student (2)

Bai Feng said, "Teacher, this is a talent discovered by me! Even his first Divine Character came from me!"

"You..." Hong Tan asked in astonishment, "When did that happen?"

"During my previous visit to Nanyuan..."

Hong Tan thought about it and asked, "Half a year ago?"

Yes, Bai Feng went to Nanyuan in April. But...that was only half a year ago!

"Yeah."

Hong Tan suddenly thought of something. He looked at Su Yu before looking at Bai Feng again. An odd look appeared in his eyes as he said, "You're telling me that half a year ago, he wasn't at the Great Strength Realm and the Mental Tempering Stage. He didn't even have a Divine Character..."

"Yeah," Bai Feng said. Abruptly, he thought of something and hurriedly said with alarm, "No, no, I was just kidding. He was already a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator at the Mental Tempering Stage when he first joined the academy."

"Shut up!"

Hong Tan pulled out a cane out of nowhere and swung it at Bai Feng's head.

"You unfilial disciple! Bastard! I was wondering why you started instigating me to leave after returning from Nanyuan. So you were afraid that I would steal your student? I'll beat you to death!"

"..."

Pa! Pa! Pa!

A series of strikes landed and Bai Feng wailed miserably, "Teacher, that is absolutely not true! I'm an injured person! I'm dying! Why are you hitting me?"

"I should just beat you to death and be done with you."

"Teacher, my prestige is very important as well! You can't beat me up when my student is still here!"

"You're already a cripple. Why do you still need a student? Your student can follow me from now on."

"..."

Beside them, Su Yu had an odd look in his eyes. He looked at Wu Jia and Chen Yong doubtfully.

Wu Jia whispered, "This is how Grandteacher is. Don't mind him. He is actually very nice. He's only...so old that he's starting to act childish."

Hong Tan: "..."

He stopped beating Bai Feng. Instead, he looked at Wu Jia. Who was this stinky lass talking about? Who was she calling old? How old was he? He was not even 70! Was he old?

He decided to stop wasting his time dealing with this unfilial student. His expression returned to normal as he nodded at Su Yu again, "Not bad at all. So you have reached this level in less than three months. Very good."

He was only slightly shocked. He had not witnessed Su Yu's growth with his own eyes and hearing about it didn't feel as impactful. He was an expert on the cusp of reaching the Sunmoon Realm. A mere Mental Tempering Stage student was not enough to shock him too much.

He looked at Wu Jia once again. After thinking for a bit, he said, "Willpower injury. From what I can see, you can probably fully recover in a month or two. But this has indeed delayed your cultivation."

He beckoned at Wu Jia. She walked over obediently. Hong Tan placed his palm atop Wu Jia's head. A powerful stream of willpower flowed out of his palm alongside a gentle light that shone on Wu Jia's body.

A short while later, he withdrew his hand and exhaled, "It's not too heavy an injury. You only need to rest for a few days after this. Remember to cultivate hard and try to enter the Skysoar Realm as fast as you can."

After that short treatment, Wu Jia's face was no longer pale. Pleasantly surprised, she said, "Grandteacher, you can actually heal willpower injuries? In that case, I don't have to fear willpower injuries anymore..."

"Shut up!" Chen Yong berated, "What nonsense are you saying? Your grandteacher is not a Sunmoon yet. Using the light of sun and moon to heal you will only delay his own cultivation. What are you waiting for? Thank your grandteacher!"

Wu Jia hurriedly thanked her grandteacher.

Hong Tan waved his hand, not caring about the praise as he sighed, "Our faction is becoming smaller and smaller. It hasn't been easy for us to get two students. Don't end up crippled. That would really be the end of our legacy."

"I passed through Great Zhou on my way back. I heard that the multiple character faction is already history in Great Zhou. It no longer exists there."

Regret filled his tone. In the past, the multiple character faction of Great Zhou was still quite powerful. Great Zhou was a prefecture with more cultural researchers than Great Xia. Thus, there was a decent number of multiple character faction experts there. But over the years, these experts had died one after another. And finally, the last Mountainsea elder there had given up as well.

Hong Tan did not blame that elder for not asking for help. He understood how difficult things had been for the elder to face Zhou Polong in Great Zhou for decades. The multiple character faction in Great Zhou was doing even worse than them. In fact, it was already impressive of that elder to last this long.

Hearing about that, their faces fell.

Bai Feng clenched his teeth, "Sooner or later, I'll teach Zhou Polong a lesson."

"Stop making bold declarations. Focus on recovering first." Hong Tan said, "This time, Shan Tianhao has been killed. And I have also seriously injured Zhou Mingren. The conflict between us will definitely escalate into open hostility."

"All of you need to be careful. Don't leave the academy unless absolutely necessary. My senior brother and the others are either injured or crippled so they won't be able to give us much help. Nevertheless, their mere existence would serve as a form of deterrence to our enemies. Their performance during the battle has bought us some extra time. My senior brother had played the greatest role in that by making a move and attracting even more attention to this conflict. This is actually a good thing for us."

For many years, they had been worried about assassinations from that hidden Invincible. They might have alerted that hidden enemy this time, but that was not necessarily a bad thing. At the very least, that person would have more misgivings before making any other move.

In fact, this was one of the reasons the Xia Family had allowed the conflict to escalate this time. They had been investigating in secret for decades with nothing to show for it. In that case, they might as well create a ruckus and make a big deal out of it.

This way, the enemy would be more wary and no longer dare to keep acting against them. This did not exceed Hong Tan's expectations so he found it acceptable.

Hong Tan looked at Chen Yong and said, "Your junior brother will need to leave soon. I will also need to enter seclusion to focus on my breakthrough into the Sunmoon Realm soon. You will need to hold the fort. But without entering the Mountainsea Realm, you won't be enough to keep our enemies at bay."

Wu Jia softly said, "Grandteacher, Teacher doesn't have the resources to break through. Why don't you rob some resources for my teacher..."

Hong Tan laughed, "So you have learned to protect your teacher? Resources? What resources does he need? He has been a ninth-stage Cloudbreach for so many years. He no longer needs any resources. He—"

"Cough."

Chen Yong interrupted with a cough and said, "Teacher, I'll try to break through as fast as I can."

"You..." Hong Tan laughed, "Fine. Just do what you think is right."

Beside them, Su Yu kept his mouth shut. But he did find those words interesting. So this martial uncle of his was already capable of breakthrough long ago? When Su Yu asked about this previously, his martial uncle had not said too much about it.

Was his martial uncle suppressing the breakthrough to fuse more apertures before advancing?

After giving it some thought, Su Yu said, "Grandteacher, this time, we killed two of their Mountainseas. Grand Martial Uncle Xia Yunji and the others have also showcased the combat strength of



Mountainseas. Would the single character faction still dare to make things difficult for us after this? Are they going to keep forcing our hands? Grandteacher, you're also someone on the cusp of becoming a Sunmoon. Are they tired of living?"

Hong Tan smiled, "In terms of combat prowess, we are not weak. But...the single character faction has flourished for so many years. They have numbers on their side. Do you think they will willingly give up on the privileges they currently enjoy?"

"They probably won't dare to use force against us anymore. But in the academy, force is not the answer for everything. They have always been suppressing us while still operating within the boundaries of the academy rules. Zhou Mingren is not an ambitious person. His biggest goal is probably to dominate the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy.

"But he is still someone from the branch family of the Zhou Family. He has definitely received the aid of the Zhou Family to reach his current height. And he needs to repay them. Thus, he won't stop the suppression of us. During the battle, he wanted to use me to push himself into the Sunmoon Realm. Clearly, he has failed. But the main reason for the failure is the repelling force."

If Zhou Mingren hadn't failed, he would have advanced during the battle. If Zhou Mingren was able to turn back time and return to the time before that incident 50 years ago, he would definitely be able to break through after taking all those steps.

In fact, pseudo Sunmoons did not exist back then. The moment one had the ability to breakthrough, one would make a clean advancement. Before reaching that level, one would be stuck in the Mountainsea Realm. One would not be stuck halfway through a breakthrough.

Su Yu said, "So they will continue suppressing us?"

"Definitely." Hong Tan smiled, "We'll play the game with them. Don't learn from your teacher and do something stupid like fighting Xia Yuwen. Just ignore them. What can they do? Xia Yuwen is already a Cloudbreach. Would he really dare to touch you if you ignore him? I'm not dead yet."

Hong Tan was clearly still unhappy with Bai Feng's decision. He had crippled himself with that stupid decision. If Bai Feng had not accepted the challenge, Xia Yuwen wouldn't be able to do anything against

him. Not all experts of the multiple character faction were dead. At the very least, Hong Tan was still around.

Bai Feng disagreed, "I'm not scared of him. I've been wanting to fight him for a long time. By the way..."

He paused shortly before saying, "Jia, I have a book upstairs with some of my research results. Its title is Thirty-six Fusion Techniques. Can you get it for me?"

Wu Jia had a doubtful look on her face. Why her? Wasn't her junior brother there? But fine, since her martial uncle had already made the request, she didn't bother arguing. With a nod, she went upstairs.

After Wu Jia left, Bai Feng hurriedly said, "Teacher, check our surroundings. Previously, Wan Tiansheng actually managed to affect Su Yu's willpower while he was inside the research center."

Hong Tan frowned slightly before realization dawned on him. He scanned his surroundings before shaking his head, "It's fine. With me here, that fellow won't dare to eavesdrop on us. That fellow must have reached the Sunmoon Realm long ago. He has only been pretending to be a Mountainsea."

"I knew it!" Realization hit Bai Feng.

Chapter 406: Like Teacher, Like Student (3)

Chen Yong nodded, "I have been guessing the same. He wouldn't have been able to handle Zheng Yuming so easily otherwise. Looks like the principal is no longer trying to hide his cultivation. I wonder what his exact level of cultivation is."

"He is at least a third-stage Sunmoon." Hong Tan said, "I won't even be surprised if he's at the fourth or the fifth stage. Great Xia does not lack Sunmoons. Without being a Sunmoon himself, he wouldn't have been able to keep his position for long."

Su Yu got curious and asked, "Grandteacher, are there a lot of Sunmoons in Great Xia?"

"I guess we have a healthy number of them." Hong Tan smiled, "Hu Dehao, Zhao Rui, Ji Hong, Wan Tiansheng...all of them are Sunmoons. That old fart called Zheng Ping is near that realm as well. The

general of the Devil Subduing Army who is currently away at the Allheaven Battlefield is also a Sunmoon. That fatty from the Xia Family, that old lady from the Wu Family...all of them are Sunmoons."

The Great Xia really had a decent number of Sunmoon experts.

After listing out several names, Hong Tan said, "We probably have a few more at the Allheaven Battlefield. All those are the retainers of the Xia Family so I don't know them well. But they are all Sunmoons."

Su Yu nodded. That was not a small number. But it also wasn't that big a number. Great Xia was one of the three strongest human prefectures. But even a prefecture so powerful only had this many Sunmoons.

Hong Tan then looked at Bai Feng and asked, "Do you have something to say?"

"Yeah." Clearly, Bai Feng had intentionally sent Wu Jia away because he had something important to say. He explained, "Senior Brother, I think there is no need for Jia to get involved in this. Knowing too much will only bring her more trouble."

Chen Yong nodded in agreement. Meanwhile, Hong Tan looked at Su Yu before looking at Bai Feng. He smiled. It would seem like this student of his placed a lot of importance on the kid.

Bai Feng wasted no time and said, "You see, I can actually still recover. Of course, I'm still not 100 percent sure..."

He gave a simple explanation about his character technique disassembly method, including his theory about adding foundational characters at the Skysoar Realm and beyond.

Hong Tan had a look of shock as he asked, "Are you sure? Can you really replace your lost characters?"

"I think so. That was why I had decided to test this out on myself."

Beside them, Su Yu also grew somewhat excited as he asked, "Teacher, can we really disassemble the character technique?"

"Yeah." Bai Feng nodded, "You must have ignored the data I left you. There is a simple explanation there. I'll tell you more later. In short, our character techniques can be disassembled. Hadn't I told you this previously?"

Hong Tan's eyes were bright. He said, "In that case, anyone can be a member of the multiple character faction. The multiple character faction can no longer be destroyed. I know what those bastards have been thinking. They have merely been jealous of us. But the moment they found a way to cultivate their own character techniques as well...heh. I guarantee you they will do it without a second thought."

Bai Feng understood what his teacher was trying to say. He asked, "Teacher, you intend to spread this?"

"Of course." Hong Tan said, "The more they hate us in the past, the more awkward they will feel after this. Let's see how they're going to keep suppressing us after this. Kid, the moment this research is made public, the multiple character faction will become the mainstay of humanity's cultural research community."

"But I'm afraid of death."

"Hmm?"

Bai Feng sighed, "I'm afraid of death. Teacher, I did consider spreading this before, but I eventually discovered something else. I believe that the path of the multiple character faction is the true path to the Invincible Realm. Some people are deliberately suppressing us. Those people might be the myriad races. Or they might be the traitors of humanity. In any case, these people are deliberately suppressing us."

Bai Feng sighed, "I'm worried that the moment we start showing signs of growth, the scene from 50 years ago will repeat itself. That wasn't an accident. It was a ploy. Instead of attacking us directly, the myriad races are now damaging our foundations from the shadows. But the moment my research result is spread, all human cultural researchers will turn into multiple character faction cultivators. The countdown to the final battle would start. And that would be a battle for the survival of our race."

"Hmm?"

The look in Hong Tan's eyes changed. The battle for survival.

He frowned, "Are you overthinking this? Battle for the survival of our race? We still have a lot of Invincibles..."

"Teacher, I'm not overthinking." Bai Feng said, "We really shouldn't spread this widely yet. Instead, we should develop silently. I have been wondering. Just what would happen when a human cultural researcher advances into an Invincible cultural researcher? The human race has a lot of Invincibles so what's the big deal with having some Invincible cultural researchers as well? There are a lot of signs showing that this hidden enemy is trying to stop humanity from producing a true Invincible cultural researcher."

Their enemies were the myriad races, the traitors, the divines, and the devils. They did not dare to risk letting the human race produce a true Invincible cultural researcher. As for the warriors, they did not seem to care too much about that path of cultivation.

Hong Tan frowned, "Are you sure our path is the correct path to the Invincible Realm?"

"Yes." Bai Feng confidently said, "If you don't believe me, just wait for now. You can make your decision after I reach the Invincible Realm."

Hong Tan ignored the last part of Bai Feng's statement. He thought for a bit and said, "It is normal that the myriad races are afraid of a human entering the Invincible Realm as a cultural researcher. Just look at your grandteacher. He had been able to kill Invincibles as a Sunmoon. Let me put it this way. A warrior Invincible is able to fight an enemy in the same realm one on one. A cultural researcher Invincible would probably be able to face three Invincibles alone. When facing only one Invincible, victory would be guaranteed."

Chen Yong said, "But Teacher, warriors aren't that weak, right?"

Warriors were no weaklings. In a fight, results would still vary depending on the capabilities of each combatant.

Hong Tan shook his head, "Wrong. Sure, warriors aren't weak. But they are definitely weaker than cultural researchers in the same cultivation level. Of course, this combat strength is only possible for multiple character faction members. If the path of multiple characters is really the path to the Invincible Realm, then our cultural researcher Invincibles would naturally be those from the multiple character faction as well."

He looked at Bai Feng and asked, "And how many warriors do you think are capable of defeating you in the same cultivation level?"

"One..."

Bai Feng had an embarrassed look as he said that.

Hong Tan was also reminded of that person. He smiled, "That is different. He is too talented. Someone like him is one among billions. As for your talent...be more self aware. Just our academy alone has at least 100 individuals more talented than you. You only stand out thanks to the path of multiple characters."

Bai Feng's true talent was not in cultivation even if he was actually quite talented in cultivation as well.

But there were still a decent number of people with Bai Feng's level of talent in the academy. As for that person from the war academy, he was a true freak among freaks. That person had defeated Bai Feng three times. Bai Feng had not been able to get even a single victory out of that person.

Bai Feng turned gloomy. Those words were mean.

Hong Tan said, "In any case, a cultural researcher of the multiple character faction would be absolutely powerful once stepping into the Invincible Realm. One of us is as good as three regular Invincibles. Cultural researchers with useful character abilities will also be very difficult to kill. As for warriors, they all have the same tricks. Regrowing their bodies, crushing space itself, and so on. But cultural researchers are capable of pulling out all sorts of tricks."

"Character clones, domain projection, body duplication, elemental transformation, staying alive as long as the sea of willpower remained, concealment, possession, illusions..."

It almost seemed like cultural researchers were capable of everything.

Bai Feng grumbled, "But one needs to have those characters to have all those abilities. Not everyone will have that many characters."

"You're right. But there is no denying that cultural researchers are much better at staying alive than warriors." Hong Tan said, "What do you mean when you say that the path of multiple characters is the sole path to the Invincible Realm?"

Bai Feng thought for a bit and said, "Racial ability character."

"Hmm?"

Bai Feng gave a simple explanation before saying, "I have yet to prove my theory. Thus, I am going to use Martial Uncle as my first test subject. Martial Uncle Xia Yunji and the others will also be my test subjects."

Bai Feng had a joyful look as he said, "In truth, I have a lot of test subjects. I will test my theory on them first. We can think about our next step after verifying my theory. After all, I need to keep researching if my tests on them end up failing. Also, there's this Su Yu kid..."

He looked at Su Yu and said, "He will also be a test subject. He will focus on forming only human characters."

"You..."

Hong Tan was shocked by what Bai Feng was saying, but he also felt somewhat helpless. This fellow was too rash.

He looked at Su Yu and was faced with a simple and honest face. With a smile, Su Yu said, "I will listen to Teacher. I have no objections."

But inwardly, he was overjoyed. Very good. In the future, he no longer needed to form non-human characters anymore. It was getting tiring pretending that he could actually form one.

Hong Tan's emotions turned complicated upon hearing that. What a good student. What an obedient student!

"Su Yu, you need to think carefully before making this decision. This is only a theory. There is no proof that this is the correct path. You are very talented. If you walk the wrong path, your future will be ruined..."

Hong Tan sighed. In truth, a lot of people from their faction had ruined themselves for the sake of testing some theories. So many geniuses had been ruined this way. Even his senior brother had been ruined this way. Without that experiment, his senior brother would have probably reached the Sunmoon Realm by now.

Su Yu maintained the honest look on his face as he said, "I'm not afraid, Grandteacher. Since Teacher says that it's fine, I'll listen to him!"

"..."

Bai Feng rolled his eyes. Bullshit! That brat was most certainly hiding something. Wait, it was possible that this little bastard could only form human characters. The brat had claimed that he was in the process of completing a non-human character previously. How long had it been? Where was that character? Where was it? What a big liar!

Bai Feng vowed to one day dissect Su Yu's sea of willpower and take a look at it. Was this kid not ashamed of acting all simple and honest in front of his grandteacher when he could only form human characters in the first place?

After thinking about it, Hong Tan nodded, "We can give this a try. But your senior brother and I can't try this yet. We still need our strength for any unexpected situations that might arise."



"Bai Feng's worry makes sense. Little Yong, Su Yu, forget everything you hear today. Do not let anyone else know about this." He looked at Bai Feng and said, "Use your martial uncle as the test subject first. As for Xia Yunji and the others, don't touch them for now. They are still able to unleash a certain level of combat strength for now so there is no rush. It would be even more troublesome if your tests end up ruining their characters. As for your martial uncle, he is already half a cripple. It is fine to perform your tests on him."

Su Yu resisted the urge to roll his eyes. He finally understood why Bai Feng had the obsession with dissecting others. So this fellow had learned from his own teacher! Were they even listening to themselves? His martial uncle was already half a cripple so they could freely perform tests on him? That sounded like something only a villain would say!

This chapter is updated by

Chapter 407: Conversation of Xia and Liu (1)

After a while, they ended their conversation. Bai Feng's research had reached an even higher level than before, to the point where not even Hong Tan could provide him with much help anymore. Hong Tan's current priority should be his breakthrough into the Sunmoon Realm. He was definitely not the person who should be crushing his characters and cultivating them anew.

When Wu Jia returned, the three moved on from the topic. It wasn't that they didn't trust her. But she was too weak. Knowing too much wouldn't be beneficial for her. As for Su Yu, Bai Feng personally believed that this brat should be given more pressure.

After a short chat between the four of them, Su Yu asked, "Grandteacher, can I pay Teacher Liu a visit?"

"Not for now." Hong Tan said, "Don't make it clear how close you are to him right now. It won't benefit you. Some people are still observing him in secret. Everyone is still very sensitive, especially after what happened during the battle."

"I understand."

Su Yu felt somewhat regretful.

"Teacher, can Teacher Liu really recover?"

"I'll try my best."

Bai Feng did not dare to promise anything. Liu Wenyan had only been able to display the prowess of a Sunmoon after crushing some of his characters. Who knew if he could recover from that? Bai Feng could only try his best.

If Liu Wenyan could really recover from this, he would probably be able to reach the Sunmoon Realm in a short period of time. As for the Invincible Realm, well, that was still quite difficult.

Hong Tan solemnly said, "Su Yu, remember this. The single character faction is not the truly troublesome enemy. If it weren't for the misgivings we have, they would basically be nothing to us. The single-character faction members are not our enemies. They are merely a bunch of fellows blinded by benefits. Our true enemies are hidden in the dark and at the Allheaven Battlefield."

"There is no need to be too ruthless when fighting those new students. Of course, there is no need to hold back if they are trying to harm you."

Bai Feng said, "Don't keep too much resentment in your heart. You can easily do something rash because of your anger. The way you dealt with Chen Qi and Liu He was perfect. Escalate things before sparing them. As for people like Huang Qifeng, you naturally need to deal them a decisive blow to deter all your enemies. In short, kill who you should kill and spare who you should spare."

Su Yu could not help but cast a curious glance at the two. Was he that clear-cut?

"You have such a strong resentment in your heart that it is almost becoming a Divine Character," Hong Tan remarked. "This is not ideal. For me, Zhou Mingren and others like him are our shields. Their purpose is to shield us from the more dangerous adversaries. Although they may believe they have the upper hand, our only goal is self-defense."

"Shield?" Su Yu blanked out.

Hong Tan smiled. "Am I wrong? They have been shielding us for 50 years."

Hong Tan said, "Things have only changed recently. They had never treated us with such hostility in the past. I am not sure if the Zhou Family's changes are to blame for this. Or perhaps they have gone mad from being in power for too long."

Su Yu had a pensive look. That made sense.

He didn't think too much about that. Rather, he began considering whether he should get himself a shield as well. Right. He should definitely get himself one! Perhaps it was time to find some people in the academy capable of suppressing him?

That way, he would no longer be so eye-catching. The public would see that Su Yu had also suffered quite a lot of losses. Sure, he might have profited massively here and there, but it wasn't like he was immune to defeat!

Suddenly, a name appeared in his mind: Liu Hong! Would Liu Hong be interested in suppressing him?

The single character faction would see how miserable his life was. He might be able to gain a lot of benefits from the others, but he was also being badly suppressed by Liu Hong. It wasn't necessarily a good thing for him to take such a forceful stand. Without enough strength, that would only bring him more trouble.

Convinced that he had comprehended the hidden meaning behind the words of his teacher and grandteacher, Su Yu solemnly said, "Thank you for the guidance, Grandteacher and Teacher!"

Guidance?

What guidance have they given him?

Hong Tan was confused. He was only telling the kid to not hold that much resentment, lest it delay his cultivation. Maybe that was what the kid was talking about. Yeah, that made sense.

Bai Feng was the one looking at Su Yu suspiciously. What did the kid get from their words? There definitely wasn't any hidden meaning behind their words!

Rather, they had indeed noticed the deep resentment Su Yu was holding. A majority of the resentment probably originated from the previous battle in the warzone. Even Su Yu himself might not have realized how much resentment he was carrying within himself. In this condition, his mentality could very easily turn extreme.

...

Since Bai Feng still needed to recuperate from his injuries, they did not continue talking for long. After telling them about the Willpower Grotto, Su Yu went upstairs to cultivate, while Chen Yong and Wu Jia returned to the books depository.

With that, the multiple character faction began their rest and recovery.

Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

Wan Tiansheng had returned to normal. The fury on his face could no longer be seen.

...

At the Xia Family, the Martial Dragon Guards were sent everywhere to wipe out any cult stronghold they could find. Meanwhile, Marquis Xia had turned back into a smiling merchant.

Even the single character faction was completely silent. Calm seemed to have returned. It was as though the battle the night before had never happened.

...

Away from the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy.

Eighteenth Secondary School.

Rear mountain.

Liu Wenyan was meeting someone in a small house.

Inside the small room, only two people were present. Liu Wenyan looked frail and old. The man seated opposite him was sturdy and powerful, his very presence emanating a sense of majesty.

In truth, the two were similar in age. Liu Wenyan was only slightly above 70, while the other person was around 70 as well.

The cups of tea in front of them remained untouched. Xia Longwu, the sturdy man, looked at Liu Wenyan and calmly asked, "Are you angry?"

Liu Wenyan smiled and said, "What a stupid question. Is there anything for me to be angry about?"

"I have failed to protect the Liu Family."

Xia Longwu calmly said, "Back then, I arranged a marriage between Huyou and the lass from the Liu Family to create an excuse for the Liu Family to move into Great Xia. But before that plan could be carried out, the entire Liu Family was wiped out."

Liu Wenyan had a look of recollection on his face. He softly said, "You tried your best. That's how my elder brother was. I had reminded him long ago that he shouldn't get involved with me. He should have ignored me and stopped trying to protect me..."

He shook his head and sighed.

"I only feel sorry for the children. As for my elder brother, I already expected him to die fighting."

Xia Longwu said, "I investigated the matter of their deaths. But I can't find anything suspicious. That looked like a perfectly normal battle. But the more normal it looked, the more abnormal it actually was. At that time, the Liu Family's base was attacked multiple times. Everything was too coincidental."

"Back when that grand niece of yours was born, a part of the Liu Family planned to return to the Human Realm. But on their way back, they encountered some enemies..."

Liu Wenyan nodded and sighed. "This character left behind by my teacher is the root of all these calamities. Without the Great Xia King, I would have died as well."

Xia Longwu asked, "Just what is the secret of this character? There is no need for them to go that far for a single Eternal character unless it really is the key to becoming a cultural researcher Invincible. Have you discovered that secret?"

"Nope."

Liu Wenyan smiled and said, "If I had really found it, I would not have stayed this weak. Speaking of, you sure are growing very quickly. You're going to reach the Invincible Realm soon."

"It's only a physical advancement." Xia Longwu calmly said, "With a body advancement, I will still be limited by my lifespan. And my willpower will be too weak. Facing the cultural researcher Invincibles of our enemies, I can still die."

"How about your willpower cultivation?" Liu Wenyan asked.

Very few people remembered this, but Xia Longwu was not a graduate of the Great Xia War Academy. Instead, he graduated from the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy. And his teacher was...Wan Tiansheng! A true cultural researcher!

"My willpower cultivation is stuck at the peak Mountainsea Realm."

"That's too weak."

Xia Longwu did not deny that. He nodded. "Yeah. I can't even bring it into the Sunmoon Realm. There are some issues with our Divine Characters. The Knowledge Seeking Realm should have noticed the same issue as well. But this isn't an easy issue to solve."

To solve it, they had to cripple a group of people. This was a very serious issue. The only thing the Knowledge Seeking Realm could do was take it one step at a time. They also couldn't afford to spread the news for fear of creating too much disturbance among the cultural research community.

"Knowledge Seeking Realm..." Liu Wenyan frowned. "Just what are they trying to do?"

Xia Longwu sank into a short silence before answering, "Basically, their stand is that they can't participate in personal grudges between fellow humans. Also, even if there is really a traitor, the fifth principal is already dead. In terms of value, that person has a much higher value to humanity than your faction."

Liu Wenyan laughed, "True. I already expected this. The dead are of little value. A bunch of cripples are also of little value. But are they not afraid that the same thing would happen to someone else?"

"It is likely that they already have some countermeasures in place." Xia Longwu said, "If that person dares to make more moves, he won't be able to keep hiding. But they definitely won't be willing to perform an open investigation. You are only the bait."

Xia Longwu said, "In truth, they had guessed the same a long time ago. But my grandpa and second uncle insisted on protecting you. Otherwise, they would have used you as bait all those years ago."

"I guessed correctly!" Liu Wenyan nodded. "I already knew this when I was exiled to Nanyuan. I was surprised that I could actually keep my life. Only later did I realize that Great Xia King had probably done something to protect me. Thank Great Xia King for me..."

"Don't worry about it." Xia Longwu said, "Be patient. Wait. Wait until I finish my breakthrough. Sooner or later, we will find this person. I know what those old fossils in the War Shrine and Knowledge Seeking Realm are thinking. They also want to find that person, but they also don't feel as strongly about it as we do. The main issue is the ambiguous attitude of Great Zhou King."

"Great Zhou King..." Liu Wenyan hesitated slightly before asking, "Is he the one?"

"We can't be sure." Xia Longwu shook his head. "Everyone knows his belief. He believes in peaceful coexistence. Instead of fighting the enemies on the battlefield, he has been working toward the defenses of the Human Realm. His ultimate goal is the activation of the suppressive force toward non-human races in the Human Realm."

Xia Longwu sighed, "I do not object to that plan. I also agree that activating the suppressive force is a good thing for us. That would be able to deter a lot of races. But it has been so many years. We have not been able to activate the suppressive force. While working on this plan, we still need to have enough strength to deter all external enemies."

He did not disagree with Great Zhou King's goal.

Activating the Human Realm's suppressive force would turn the Human Realm into something similar to the other realms, where all foreign visitors would be suppressed. That was also a way to end the war. But there was no sign that this was going to happen anytime soon.

This was most likely one of the reasons the Great Zhou King had been largely ignoring the traitor. He wanted to put everything aside and focus on activating the suppressive force before dealing with anything else. He did not want to see people causing chaos while he was working on his plan.

And that was something Xia Longwu and Great Xia King disagreed with. But since Great Zhou King was one of the leaders of the Knowledge Seeking Realm, they naturally had to follow his lead instead of revealing any disunity among their ranks.

Chapter 408: Conversation of Xia and Liu (2)

"Great Zhou King..." Liu Wenyan smiled and said, "...isn't totally wrong. It might not be a good thing if our investigation results in chaos in the Human Realm. If he really manages to activate the suppressive



force, I would even clap for him. But...I also can't forget about everything that has happened to my teacher and my family."

"If...one day I find out that he is the culprit, I won't let it slide."

Xia Longwu smiled. "The premise for that is your advancement into the Invincible Realm. Otherwise, you won't be able to do anything apart from talk. Also, about my teacher...I suspect..."

"Go on."

"I suspect that he has discovered something. Or maybe he has reached Invincible Realm. He was the culprit who had caused this entire battle to happen. I noticed what he did."

Xia Longwu, whom the world knew as a brainless barbarian, was displaying an incredibly sharp mind.

"Invincible?" Liu Wenyan exclaimed in astonishment, "Impossible. He also walks the path of multiple characters. He won't be able to advance successfully as well."

"Perhaps its a physical advancement." Xia Longwu sounded unsure. "I don't know the truth either. My teacher has this habit of keeping his thoughts to himself. In any case, I am sure that he is no weaker than a peak Sunmoon."

"He's...trying to find that person as well?"

"I don't know." Xia Longwu paused to think before saying, "I suspect that my teacher has his own plan as well. He is an advocate for building a good relationship with the myriad races. For a period of time, I even suspected that he was the sect master of the First Divine Sect."

"Hmm?" Liu Wenyan's face changed. "Are you sure?"

"No. I only suspected him." Xia Longwu said, "But right now, I am worried about something else. In truth, my teacher is an extreme person. He looks calm, but rules are very important to him. He will be

very nice, as long as you follow the rules. The moment you break the rules, he will no longer be a nice person. The assassination of the fifth principal and the fall of the multiple character faction have both broken some rules. And he absolutely hates it when rules are broken. I'm afraid that he will do something crazy...and going as far as to provoke an attack on humanity by the myriad races."

"This..."

Liu Wenyan was shocked. "He...has he gone mad? Even if he is already an Invincible, those people will never spare him for doing something like this."

Xia Longwu sighed, "Exactly. That's why I have suppressed his demands for many years. But I'm afraid I can no longer keep suppressing him. Let me put it this way. I suspect that even the attack of the Divine Skywing Sect and the divine skywing race on Great Xia City and Nanyuan was part of his plan. He was intentionally putting pressure on me to advance while also forcing you to come out of hiding. All this might be part of his plan."

Liu Wenyan frowned. "He has gone mad."

"No, he hasn't. He knows perfectly what he's doing. His sole goal is to force that person to appear. If he can't do that, he will bring calamity upon the human race, forcing humanity to unite."

Liu Wenyan frowned. "Is the situation really so bad?"

Xia Longwu thought about it before nodding, "Yes. The divines, devils, and the other races have been silent. I heard that they are all waiting for that fellow from the first divine race to break through. Some also said that they are waiting for that person from the primeval devil race to break through."

"Breakthrough?" Liu Wenyan asked in astonishment, "Is there really a realm above the Invincible Realm?"

"I don't know. I'm not an Invincible. Not even my grandpa can see the path forward, but he is certain that such a path exists." Xia Longwu sighed, "The current peace is merely the calm before the storm."

"Is the Human Realm even worth that much effort from them?"

"Yes." Xia Longwu nodded, "At the very least, they believe that it is worth it. Prior to the cataclysm, the Human Realm had enjoyed a glorious era. This theory has been proven by the ruins we have discovered in the Human Realm. Back then, the Human Realm was definitely the holy land of the Myriad Realms. That was an incomparably glorious era."

"Thus, a great secret is hidden in the Human Realm." Xia Longwu said, "My grandpa once said that the Human Realm is definitely hiding a secret. This secret might be something big enough to affect the myriad races. It might even be something related to their survival. That is why they will never give up on invading the Human Realm."

"Their survival?" Liu Wenyan frowned, "What manner of a secret is this? It can even affect the survival of the myriad races?"

"I don't know." Xia Longwu smiled, "If I have the answer to that, I would have eliminated the myriad races and unified the Myriad Realms instead. But there is one thing I'm sure about. The Human Realm had once experienced a golden era. People like my grandpa and the other old fossils had merely benefited from what our predecessors left behind. Those ruins were why they had been able to rapidly grow during the crisis. That was how the human race had been able to avoid extinction during that time."

About 300 years ago, before the start of the Anping Calendar, a connection between the Human Realm and the Allheaven Battlefield had suddenly formed. That was also a period of time where one human Invincible after another rose to power, founding the various human prefectures that exist today.

That batch of people had grown at an incredible speed. Invincibles were basically appearing one after another.

All those experts had not emerged from thin air.

During that time, the experts of the myriad races had already entered the Human Realm. While warring against the humans, they were also warring against each other for the ancient ruins in the Human Realm. It was also during that time that one human expert after another appeared. Ultimately, the

enemies were either killed or chased out of the Human Realm, shifting the battlefield outside the Human Realm.

Liu Wenyan nodded, "True. Those ruins are proof of the past glory of the human race. The multiple character faction's character techniques came from one of these ruins as well. But what a pity that the ruin from back then did not contain the path to the Invincible Realm. Are new ruins still being discovered in the Human Realm?"

"Yes, but these newly found ruins are nothing special. Most of them are only beneficial for physical cultivation. We haven't been able to find any inheritances related to willpower cultivation. Of course, we have still discovered something..."

Xia Longwu's face turned solemn as he said, "From a few ruins, we found that prior to the cataclysm, the human race focused mainly on the cultivation of human characters."

Liu Wenyan nodded, "Bai Feng has discovered the same thing."

"The Knowledge Seeking Realm has probably discovered this as well." Xia Longwu sighed, "That put them in a difficult position. It is impossible for them to make everyone crush their own characters. Also, there is no denying that human characters are weaker. The main issue is the lack of a clear cultivation path. The character technique of the multiple character faction could potentially solve this issue, but not everyone has the talent to form a character technique..."

If both Su Yu and Bai Feng were present, they would be quite astonished to hear all this. So some human experts had actually discovered the issue. They had merely been helpless to do anything about it.

Liu Wenyan frowned, "In that case, they should be spreading the legacy of the multiple character faction instead of suppressing us."

"Some people are definitely pursuing this path in secret."

Xia Longwu was frank, "We are merely unaware of it. In fact, the descendants of some experts are probably walking this path. But they are probably still in the exploration phase. As for the suppression of

the multiple character faction, I am unsure if they are planning something else. And Great Zhou King's tacit agreement with the suppression has also affected the actions of some people."

"Great Zhou King..." Liu Wenyan sighed, "I really hope it's not him. Otherwise, this would effect even the Great Zhou. That would be a big headache. He is very strong. Not even Great Xia King is confident he can defeat Great Zhou King."

"He isn't a match." Xia Longwu was honest, "My grandpa is definitely not his match. Great Zhou King is a cultural researcher who entered the Invincible Realm through physical cultivation. In terms of physical cultivation alone, he is not weaker than my grandpa. He has long reached the level where he can regrow his body from a drop of blood. As for his willpower cultivation, it is currently near the level of the fifth principal back then. Perhaps he has even surpassed the fifth principal. Meanwhile, my grandpa is weaker than him in terms of willpower cultivation."

"Great Qin King is probably the only person strong enough to suppress him." Liu Wenyan sighed, "I really hope it isn't him. Otherwise...sigh."

The two sank into silence. That was the most terrifying possibility. A human Invincible who was among the strongest among all the human Invincibles. The betrayal of someone like that would bring about great upheavals among the human race.

Perhaps some other people were also starting to suspect Great Zhou King. But all these people had merely been turning a blind eye. If it was someone else, this matter would be much easier to deal with. If it was Great Zhou King, this would be a massive trouble.

Xia Longwu smiled, "That is the worst-case scenario. Perhaps things won't be that bad. There really isn't any reason for him to do so. Also, his younger brother had also perished back then. His relationship with his younger brother was actually quite good back then."

"Let's stop talking about him."

Liu Wenyan decided to move on from the topic. He was starting to get a headache.

He said, "I won't be able to stay here for long. I'll have to set off to the Allheaven Battlefield soon. I'll need to trouble you to watch over Hong Tan and the others. This junior brother of mine...isn't a cunning person. At times, he can be too rash. As for Principal Wan, I honestly can't do anything about him. I'll let him be."

"Don't worry."

"By the way..." Liu Wenyan suddenly recalled something. He said, "I have a student. He is now Bai Feng's student. Watch over him as well. He has probably stumbled upon his own fortuitous encounter. During his childhood, he would frequently suffer from nightmares. His willpower would start rippling randomly for no reason. You can send some people to investigate Nanyuan. Maybe there is a hidden ruin there."

"Nanyuan?" Xia Longwu was surprised, "There's a ruin in Nanyuan?"

"Maybe." Liu Wenyan smiled, "A ruin can appear anywhere. He must have obtained something from this ruin. If you really manage to find this ruin, remember to take him along for the exploration. According to our rules, he is entitled to get 30 percent of what you find inside the ruin. Don't swallow his share."

Xia Longwu laughed, "I'm not desperate enough to do something like that. Sure, I'll get some people to take a look. If there is really a ruin there, he will get his share. We have been discovering fewer and fewer ruins nowadays. If it is a ruin with a proper inheritance system, the kid might even be able to enter the Sunmoon Realm with the help of the ruin."

Back then, the first batch of discovered ruins had produced a large number of Invincibles.

As for the newly discovered ruins, most were incomparable to those early ruins. Even the best of these newly discovered ruins would at most contain the inheritance until the Sunmoon Realm.

Even so, a Sunmoon was still a top expert.

Even at the Allheaven Battlefield, such an individual was already qualified to become the overlord of a large territory. In fact, the leaders of some of the weaker races weren't even at the Sunmoon Realm. The rapid rise of the human race into a top 10 race was all thanks to these ruins. That was also why the myriad races had always been so eager to attack the Human Realm, including the minor races.

After the conversation ended, Xia Longwu vanished into thin air.

Liu Wenyan sat there silently. A short while later, Wu Yuehua entered the room and asked doubtfully, "Was someone here earlier? My consciousness seemed to have blanked out temporarily."

"Blanked out?" Liu Wenyan smiled, "How is that possible? You're an eighth-stage Mountainsea. Other than an Invincible or a peak Sunmoon, who can hide from you?"

"True." Wu Yuehua agreed. She moved on and said, "Time to take your medicine. She then took out a large pill and grabbed Liu Wenyan to stuff the pill down his throat."

Liu Wenyan had just been talking cheerfully and gracefully with Xia Longwu just a moment ago. But now, desperation was plastered all over his face. No!

"I refuse!"

"Be a good boy. How will you get well without taking your medicine? I put a lot of effort into making this pill for you. Others can only dream of getting this pill from me."

She then pried his mouth open. Either way, he was taking this pill. His opinion did not matter here. Liu Wenyan had a look of despair on his face. He felt like this place was even more dangerous than the Allheaven Battlefield.

And he was right. Immediately after he was fed the pill that was the size of a human head, Hu Ping walked through the door and said, "Time for your meal."

She walked toward him, a pot of disgusting-looking stew in hand. The same look of despair appeared on Liu Wenyan's face again. He decided to go to the Allheaven Battlefield earlier. There was no way he could keep staying at this hellish place.

Chapter 409: Multiple Character Faction's Class (1)

Wentan Research Center.

Third underground floor. Main laboratory.

It was already the 12th of October. Su Yu and the others had stayed almost exclusively indoors for the past two days. The injured ones were focused on recuperating, while the rest were focused on cultivating.

Bai Feng had recovered considerably. But due to the loss of his characters, his combat strength had dropped considerably.

Bai Feng wasn't too worried. He still looked calm and indifferent. Every now and then, he would secretly read some of Su Yu's willpower texts. Bai Feng believed that Su Yu had too many willpower texts to even remember how many he had.

But today, Bai Feng was not reading any willpower texts. Since he had some free time and was about to leave this place soon, he suddenly remembered that he was also a teacher.

"Today, I'll be teaching you my newest creation, the character technique disassembly method."

Not far away, Hong Tan was seated cross-legged in cultivation. Obviously, he was pretending to be cultivating. He was too embarrassed to openly learn from his student, so he was pretending to be cultivating while eavesdropping on the lesson.

Su Yu and Bai Feng did not bother exposing him. This old man would really beat them up if they exposed him.

While talking, Bai Feng took out a small sword. It was very small. And there were only four dots of light inside it.

"Back then, my character technique required 12 foundation characters. After entering the Skysoar Realm, I formed 16 additional characters. In total, I had 28 characters.



"During the battle with Xia Yuwen, I had to crush 24 characters before I managed to deal him a serious injury. That fellow is really quite impressive.

"Xia Yuwen has been known to be unrivalled at the same cultivation level. That actually isn't too wrong. He is very strong. Not even those weak fifth- or even sixth-stage Cloudbreach cultivators in the academy could be his match. What does that mean?"

Su Yu instantly understood, "That can only mean that you are incomparably heroic and powerful, Teacher. If you decide to fight for real, you can instantly kill a fifth- or sixth-stage Cloudbreach cultivator."

"Exactly."

Bai Feng had the urge to raise his thumbs at his student. It felt incredible to have a smart student who could say the words he left unsaid.

Not far away, Hong Tan started looking at Su Yu suspiciously.

This kid...no longer looked like a simple and honest person.

"Of course, I also paid a high price. Honestly, anyone else would not be willing to sacrifice 24 characters for this. The separation of a character technique is not as simple as forcefully tearing it apart. If that's really how you do it, we would have discovered this method long ago during our peak when we had numerous experts."

"In fact, my disassembly method was inspired by my racial ability character research. Since characters can be brought together, why can't they be taken apart again? In that case, how should we take them apart without destroying the character technique? How do we keep the character technique strong even after it is taken apart? Not even your grandteacher has the answer to this. But I..."

Su Yu gave his teacher a pitiful look. It didn't matter what his teacher said in the past since his grandteacher wasn't around. But now, the grandteacher was sitting not far away.

Meanwhile, Hong Tan's eyes remained shut, acting like he had heard nothing.

Bai Feng also realized this fact. He coughed awkwardly and said, "Forget about this. Let's move to the main topic. How should we perform this disassembly?"

He took out his Dragon Slaying Sword again.

"Each character is different from each other. They will have different properties and abilities. They will also differ from each other in strength..."

Bai Feng stopped straying from the topic and started giving Su Yu a class on the disassembly of character techniques while ensuring that these techniques would still possess some combat prowess.

"Even a disassembled character technique with only one character is stronger than a single independent character. Do you know why?"

Su Yu shook his head.

Bai Feng smiled, "You can say that a character technique with only one character can't even be considered a proper character technique. But why is it still stronger than a regular character? Because even after disassembling your character technique, there is still a connection between them. There is still a resonance. Do you know about Zhao Li's Hundred Sword Box?"

Su Yu nodded.

"At its peak, his Hundred Sword Box is capable of creating a formation of a hundred swords. These swords will resonate with each other and amplify their power. That's the case with character techniques."

After saying that, Bai Feng instantly disassembled his Dragon Slaying Sword into four smaller swords.

The four swords started circling around Su Yu. They were completely in sync with each other, yet each of them had different properties.

One of them emanated an aura of frost; one emanated an incomparably sharp aura; one emanated a destructive aura...

"This is the difference between a single character in a character technique and one outside a character technique."

The four swords erupted in strength at the same time. They moved in sync, their power resonated with each other, and a balance was reached.

"They can work together as a formation."

Su Yu nodded. After thinking for a bit, he said, "Teacher, at times, the single character faction will also use multiple characters together in some sort of system, such as a system of wind, fire, mountain, and forest. Is that system of theirs similar to what you're showing here?"

"More or less."

Bai Feng nodded, "In truth, those systems they are using also originated from our faction. Back then, your grandteacher was the one who had come up with the methods of using characters as a system. The single character faction had merely adopted these methods. Of course, they had subsequently performed their own research and improved upon these methods, but the core of their systems is still utilizing the fusion method created by your grandteacher."

At this time, Hong Tan clarified, "I am not the creator of character systems. Your great grandteacher had left some incomplete information behind. I had merely improved upon those methods before releasing them."

Su Yu nodded. True. Back then, Hong Tan was still too young. It would be too difficult for someone that young to come up with an entirely new system of utilizing Divine Characters. Nevertheless, one should also not underestimate the difficulty of actually improving upon a system left by the fifth principal.

In truth, Su Yu felt like both his teacher and grandteacher fit the image of real cultural researchers in his mind.

Prior to entering the academy, Su Yu believed that despite the strength of cultural researchers, they should still spend more of their effort and energy on research. But after entering the academy, he saw that such researchers were actually quite rare.

Zhao Li could be considered one of them. He would spend most of his time in his research center. And Bai Feng was definitely one of them. He had basically been living in his laboratory.

Su Yu didn't know too many other researchers. He knew that there were a decent number of them who enjoyed hiding in their research centers, but he also knew that there were a lot who spent the majority of their time outside their research centers.

Bai Feng ignored his teacher and continued speaking, "Your character technique requires 18 foundational characters. It is a character technique with 18 nodes..."

"Hmm?" Hong Tan asked in astonishment, "How many?"

Bai Feng looked at his teacher and gloomily said, "Teacher, aren't you cultivating? Aren't you focusing on your breakthrough? You should enter seclusion now. I'm in the middle of teaching my student."

He was finally giving his student an official lesson, but why was his teacher interrupting again and again? That was so annoying! Yes! Irresponsible teachers like Hong Tan were the most annoying!

Hong Tan shut his mouth and gave Bai Feng a glare. Fine. He decided to shut his mouth. Eighteen foundational characters? That was basically the same as his senior brother!

Su Yu was unbothered by that little episode. He hesitated slightly and said, "Teacher, according to your words, we can disassemble our techniques and continue adding foundational characters even after the techniques solidify? In that case, does this mean that it no longer matters whether I need 18 or 88 foundational characters?"

"For example, if I have a character technique with 99 characters, I will first split a part with only 9 characters and enter the Skysoar Realm. After entering the Skysoar Realm, I can continue forming the remaining 90 characters. In this situation, needing 99 foundational characters no longer changes anything, right?"

"There is still a difference." Bai Feng explained, "Upon reaching the Skysoar Realm, you will have one chance to solidify the character technique. That is also the reason why we used to need our members to form their characters before the Skysoar Realm. The solidification process is essentially a strengthening process. And you can only do it once.

"Using your example of 99 characters, if you split a part with only 9 characters before advancing, those 9 characters will receive this chance. But the other characters that you form after entering the Skysoar Realm will not have such a chance."

Su Yu nodded. He finally understood, "Does the solidification make a big difference in strength?"

"Yes. The difference is considerably big." Bai Feng said, "In normal circumstances, it is basically a free upgrade. Take me as an example. Back then, I advanced into the Skysoar Realm with 12 characters. After the solidification, all 12 of those characters reached the second tier. Prior to that, all of them were first-tier characters. As for the other 16 characters I formed after, even after years of working on them, some of them had still not reached the second tier."

"So it basically saves you time."

"Is that not good enough? The strength of a character technique is greatly dependent on the tiers of characters in the technique. With stronger characters, the technique would naturally be stronger."

"So the characters that have not gone through the solidification process can be just as useful as long as I can upgrade them?"

"Yeah. But you will need a lot of time and resources."

"..."

One was asking, one was answering. Not far away, Hong Tan was gratified to see this.

Such a scene of a teacher teaching a curious student while the grandteacher watched over them not far away had not been seen in the multiple character faction for a very long time.

Sure, Chen Yong had a student as well. And Chen Yong quite enjoyed giving his student lectures. But Wu Jia would merely sit there and listen silently without asking a single question.

Slowly, Su Yu came to learn more and more things.

At this time, Bai Feng said, "You have formed five characters—"

"Six now."

"..."

Bai Feng looked at Su Yu. Su Yu looked at Bai Feng as well.

What? Was there a problem with that? But that was the number of characters he had.

Bai Feng told himself that he was a calm person. This was nothing. The previous time they met, this kid only had five characters. It was only natural that the kid had improved since then.

"A human character?"

"Yeah."

"Then you can try to remove all six of your characters from the character technique." Bai Feng said, "If you can remove these characters, you can form a small saber with them. By the way, have you named your character technique? It's better to give it a good name. Like mine. The Dragon Slaying Sword. I only need to pull my sword out, and everyone will know what's coming."

"Giving it a name?" That thought had never crossed his mind. With Bai Feng's suggestion, he thought about it and said in hesitation, "Why don't I name it the Sealing Saber?"

"..."

What was the meaning of that? Bai Feng looked at his student blankly. He couldn't understand the reasoning behind that name.

Su Yu said, "I'll pull my saber out while loudly shouting its name. My enemy will think that I specialize in sealing. But in truth, that's not the case. My enemy will be looking out for sealing abilities. But instead, I'll simply cut him down with my blade. What do you think about this, Teacher?"

"..."

Bai Feng had nothing to say. Meanwhile, Hong Tan looked at the ceiling. He was mistaken. An honest person? This grandstudent? He must have been blind to think that. Just the reasoning behind the name of a saber was enough to tell Hong Tan that he had greatly misunderstood his grandstudent.

"Sealing Saber..."

After some thought, Bai Feng said with a regretful expression, "You're right. Why had I named my sword the Dragon Slaying Sword? With that name, everyone knows that my sword is meant for slaughter. What a pity."

His student made a lot of sense! With that naming sense, they would be able to confuse their enemies! That was such a good idea!

"Sealing Saber...very good! This is a good choice!" Bai Feng praised his student and said, "You have a cultural weapon as well, right? Are you giving it the same name as well?"

"Yeah." Su Yu nodded, "Yeah. I'll give it the same name. After I become popular, even if everyone knows that I walk the path of offense, the name of my saber will still mislead them if they have never actually seen me before."

"That's right." Bai Feng smiled, "You can first separate your six characters from the technique and use them to form a small Sealing Saber. Then, you can send this small saber into your cultural weapon. That way, you will be able to properly apply the power of your character technique."

"This is a character technique, so it will still greatly increase your combat strength. Sure, it is not a complete version, but you will still be much stronger than before. By doing this, you will no longer be stuck below the Skysoar Realm. You can always fill up the remaining characters after your breakthrough."

#### Chapter 410: Multiple Character Faction's Class (2)

Su Yu did not say anything. The Skysoar Realm would provide a single chance to strengthen all his existing characters. If he had 99 characters, then he would be able to upgrade all 99 of them to the second tier. But if he broke through now, he would need to spend a lot of time and energy to grow those characters.

Of course, he could use the breakthrough as a trump card as well. He would stay one step away from the next realm and take that step forward during a critical moment to give himself a boost. Bai Feng continued telling Su Yu more about his disassembly method, also teaching him how to reassemble his character technique.

Finally, he reminded, "With my characters destroyed, I don't know if I can even replace them. Don't try anything before I prove this theory right. Otherwise, you would only greatly weaken yourself for the wrong theory."

Hong Tan could no longer keep silent and furiously said, "What are you even talking about? Destroy his own characters? Have you gone mad? Are you teaching your student to destroy his own characters?"

Just what nonsense was Bai Feng saying?

Bai Feng was speechless. This old man was interfering even when he was trying to teach his own student. The old man was interfering too much.



Was the old man even aware of how ferocious his grandstudent was? The old man was speaking like Su Yu was a pitiful lamb! He knew nothing!

Ignoring his teacher, Bai Feng said, "Also, at a higher stage, I suspect that you can fuse all the characters in your character technique into a single character. It's the same as the fusion of acupoints and apertures. I believe that there is a unique, undiscovered path involving Divine Characters. You can fuse your characters, reaching a level where you only need one character for your character technique."

The moment those words were spoken, Hong Tan trembled slightly. He said nothing.

As for Su Yu, his eyes lit up brightly, "Teacher, is this the actual path leading toward the formation of a racial ability character? The different characters and the quantity of characters fused will result in different racial ability character for each person?"

"Exactly." Bai Feng smiled, "I am only giving you my theory, my idea of how this should work. I'm not talking about how it would actually work. But I do believe that we should be able to fuse characters as well. For example, I will probably need to fuse 12 characters to reach the point where I can utilize the Dragon Slaying Sword with only one character. The 12 characters will form a brand new character. And that will become my true main Divine Character. Of course, I can also try to expand upon this system and increase the number of fused characters.

"This is basically similar to the Mountainsea Realm of warriors. At that cultivation level, they aim to fuse all their acupoints together, reaching a level where they only need one acupoint for a technique or a cultivation method. When you do this with characters, you will be able to utilize a character technique with one character, having each character house a different racial ability."

Often times, a single theory was all it took to encourage the development of an entirely new system. In fact, many independent branches of study had developed from a single theory.

Su Yu's eyes were shining brightly as he said, "Teacher, in that case, the racial ability character of the human race would clearly be different than what the myriad races have. Would our racial ability characters still be able to produce source qi abilities?"

Bai Feng smiled, "You are letting the existing beliefs trap your mind. Racial abilities do not refer to only source qi abilities. Willpower abilities are also abilities. Do you understand now?"

Realization dawned on Su Yu.

True. Some races actually had willpower abilities as their racial abilities.

Su Yu had learned a lot from this little lesson. He thought for a bit and said, "Teacher, I have opened a lot of acupoints, but I am not able to link them all into a system. I can only connect 108 of them. Can I modify my cultivation method and come up with something capable of utilizing all my acupoints?"

"How many acupoints have you opened?"

"186."

"..."

Bai Feng was already used to these outrageous answers by now, so he didn't react. Oh, 186 acupoints? Whatever.

But nearby, Hong Tan was having a headache. So this was his grandstudent?

Fuck!

Where did a kid like this come out from? Could this kid really be his senior brother's illegitimate child?

No, that wasn't right. He had seen the kid's father on the battlefield. The two actually bore some resemblance to each other.

While Bai Feng was still in thought, Hong Tan said, "Activate your acupoints. Show me your 186 acupoints."

Su Yu did not hesitate and removed the shadow barriers covering his characters. Immediately after, 186 dots of light appeared on his body. His source qi was incomparably pure. And his acupoints were blinding.

He had cultivated the Pure Source Art and opened all its acupoints. Thus, he no longer needed the clearbright bird blood essence to purify his source qi and acupoints. Even his newly opened acupoints were shining brightly.

Hong Tan was completely stunned.

It was not enough that this kid had opened so many acupoints, but his source qi and acupoints were actually so pure. If this kid was placed in a war academy, he would be a super genius.

"186 acupoints..."

He took a look at Su Yu, paying close attention to the leg acupoints. With a frown, he said, "A small cycle had been formed with your leg acupoints. And a different sort of power seems to be coming from it. Is this...the power of time?"

He frowned deeply. Was he mistaken? This wasn't possible, right? Was this still a martial technique?

Hong Tan looked at Su Yu and Bai Feng before asking, "Is this a heaven-grade martial technique?"

Su Yu and Bai Feng exchanged gazes. Su Yu had a look on his face that was asking Bai Feng if he should come clean.

After an awkward cough, he said, "Yes, Grandteacher."

"It feels quite strong." Hong Tan thought about it and said, "This martial technique...let me think about it. It looks familiar..."

Once again, Su Yu coughed and said, "Grandteacher, this is a technique called Time. It has moves like Crushing Mountainsea, Suppressing Sunmoon..."

"I remember now!" Hong Tan interrupted him and said in astonishment, "It's that person's martial technique! That fellow-cough, cough. That man is a big shot. He is not weak at all. How did you get your hands on his technique? When did you get it?"

Bai Feng asked curiously, "Teacher, who is that?"

Since even Hong Tan was being so careful when speaking about that person, it was clear that was an extremely powerful person.

Hong Tan had an odd expression as he said, "Silk Destroying King."

"..."

What kind of a name was that? Su Yu didn't know who that person was. He had never heard of that person.

Bai Feng also shook his head after thinking about it. There was no such leader among the 36 prefectures.

"Cough, cough. That was not his original title. He changed it after."

Hong Tan did not say much. Not many people knew about that. He had only learned of it from the fifth principal.

Back then, a certain someone was swallowed by the Silkwrym King before being shat out. That certain someone had been holding a grudge against the Silkwrym King since then. He had even changed his title to the Silk Destroying King. That little episode was a funny story among the Invincibles. The fifth principal was only aware of that because he was strong enough to join their circle.

Naturally, Hong Tan wouldn't dare spread this story around. That was a petty fellow. If he was angered, he might really start killing.

Hong Tan moved on from the topic and asked, "So where did you get it? You sure are lucky. I have heard of the Time technique before. It is very strong. In fact, it is no weaker than the Xia Family's Sky Sundering Saber. Of course, the Sky Sundering Saber comes in multiple versions. I don't know how many moves the Great Xia King has created so far."

Su Yu remained silent.

Hong Tan looked at Bai Feng and Su Yu. What was the meaning of this silence? Was this a secret? He already knew who the creator was. What was the big deal about it?

Bai Feng thought about it before shrugging. He looked at Su Yu with an expression that was telling his student to be the one telling Hong Tan. He was definitely not going to be that person.

Thus, Su Yu softly said, "Grandteacher, this technique came from our research center..."

"Nonsense!"

Hong Tan rolled his eyes. Was the kid joking?

"It's true. I found it in a book. The book is called...the Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem."

"..."

Silence descended.

The silence was deafening.

Su Yu slowly moved behind Bai Feng. When Bai Feng saw that, he rolled his eyes.

Hong Tan was very silent. (f)ree

Mountainsea Peace Seeking Stratagem.

What a good book.

That was his favourite book.

He had been curious when he found that the book was missing after his return.

So...the book had been taken by someone else?

And that someone had even discovered a heaven-grade technique in the book?

After a short while, Hong Tan chortled, "Not bad at all! You actually found it! I had already noticed that years ago. I have been planning to leave it for Bai Feng, but he has been too disappointing. He has failed to discover it. What a pity. But you have actually discovered it. Well done, kid!"

Why was he unaware of the name of the technique before this? Well, that was naturally because he had not cultivated it!

Hong Tan smiled, "I am not a physical cultivator, so a heaven-grade technique won't be that useful for me. At my level, even opening one acupoint would be very difficult. I couldn't be bothered to open new acupoints so I decided to not cultivate it. Your teacher is blind. He has failed to discover it even after so many years. Not bad at all, Su Yu. Like me, you have sharp eyes."

"..."

Both Bai Feng and Su Yu said nothing. Sure, old man. Sure.

The old man was basically claiming that he had ignored a heaven-grade martial technique like it was a piece of trash. He had also hidden it from his students. Who was he trying to fool?

Hong Tan resisted the urge to punch someone and smiled, "Su Yu, how did you find it?"

"Uhm...Grandteacher, the suanni told me."

Su Yu betrayed the suanni unhesitatingly. He had no choice. He couldn't show off his good eyes too much, right? What if he invited the envy of his grandteacher? What if his grandteacher decided to suppress him out of anger?

Thus, he had to show his grandteacher that his eyes weren't that good. He had only learned about the technique from the suanni.

Hong Tan nodded with the same smile on his face. At this time, Bai Feng transmitted his voice to Su Yu, "The next time you go downstairs, you might find that one of them is no longer there. Your grandteacher will probably start researching the suanni race in the near future."

Su Yu could only mutter a prayer for the suanni. What a pitiful suanni. May the suanni survive. Please don't blame him.

Hong Tan rolled his eyes. He moved on and said, "186 acupoints. That is actually quite impressive. But you have opened so many acupoints from multiple cultivation methods and martial techniques. You might have a lot of acupoints, but they don't work that well with each other. You still won't be able to utilize these acupoints better than someone with a proper heaven-grade cultivation method. Is that what you're worried about?"

"Yeah."

Hong Tan smiled, "Cultivation methods are essentially the tools you use to properly utilize the strength of all your acupoints. Currently, the strongest known cultivation method only utilizes 144 acupoints. Su Yu, we have so many experts in the world. Why have none of them created cultivation methods with more acupoints?"

Su Yu hesitated slightly and said, "Is it because of the acupoint fusion process during the Infinite Strength and Mountainsea Realms?"

"Exactly." Hong Tan nodded, "That's the reason. If there is a cultivation method with 180 acupoints, how many Infinite Strength cultivators can fuse all of them into 9 acupoints? And how many Mountainseas can fuse all of them into a single acupoint? Are you sure you can do it?"

Su Yu himself was aware of how difficult that would be.

"Cultivation methods are something to be cultivated, not something to obstruct one's cultivation." Hong Tan said, "Thus, those Invincibles stopped at cultivation methods with 144 acupoints. That's because with a better cultivation method, you might be stuck at the Great Strength Realm for life."

Su Yu nodded. So this was an issue of usability. Even if they could create a cultivation method with 180 acupoints, it would be pointless if nobody could cultivate it. They would have wasted their time and energy for nothing.

Hong Tan said, "I understand what you're saying. You want to utilize all your acupoints to unleash more strength. But listen to your grandteacher. You're better off using the effort to advance into the Infinite Strength Realm. You can't feel the stress right now, but you will understand at the Mountainsea Realm. At that time, you will need to fuse all your acupoints into one. Naturally, all the acupoints you have opened before will be a form of accumulation and foundation for you."

"In fact, all the realms before that are merely the preparatory stage for someone to enter the Mountainsea Realm and fuse all their acupoints into one."

He solemnly said, "Sure, you will benefit from opening more acupoints right now. And if you have what it takes to fuse all these acupoints at the Mountainsea Realm, you will probably be the strongest Mountainsea ever. At that time, your cultivation method will no longer be important. With all your acupoints fused, you will be able to unleash the strength of 186 acupoints either way. How would those geniuses with 144 acupoints be your match?"

"As for the acupoints you couldn't fuse, all your efforts would go to waste. At the Mountainsea Realm, the source qi you can gain from one additional acupoint is negligible."



Su Yu had a pensive look as he asked, "Grandteacher, can I switch to a heaven-grade cultivation method right now?"

Even if he couldn't utilize all his acupoints, switching to a heaven-grade cultivation method would still be good for him.

Hong Tan looked at him and asked, "Are you sure? You can do so, but you will need to open even more acupoints. And the difficulty of acupoint fusion will increase as well. Let me put it this way. The stronger the cultivation method, the harder the fusion. That applies to both the Infinite Strength and Mountainsea Realms."

Su Yu nodded, "I want to switch, but I don't have a heaven-grade cultivation method. No, that's not right. I have one, but it's not good enough. I don't have a top-tier heaven-grade method..."

"You have one?"

This time, both Hong Tan and Bai Feng were stunned. He had a heaven-grade cultivation method?

Why were they unaware of that?

In fact, Su Yu had more than one. The Body Strengthening Art was actually quite powerful. But it focused too much on the physical body. Su Yu was already considering cultivating that method. That way, he could stop consuming mountainbreak bull blood essence to cultivate. He was afraid that they would go extinct from his consumption.

As the Body Strengthening Art required quite a lot of acupoints, Su Yu had not been able to gather enough time and blood essence to cultivate it. As of now, he had cultivated the Soul Devouring Art, War God Art, Lightning Source Blade, Skybreak Technique, Pure Source Art, and the first move of the Time technique.

At this point, it wouldn't be that bad an idea for him to proceed with the Body Strengthening Art. He would be able to keep strengthening his body and increase the speed of his future acupoint opening. He would also stop relying on the mountainbreak bull blood essence for acupoint opening.

"I have a heaven-grade method that I obtained through luck. It doesn't require too many acupoints. It only needs 116 acupoints. It is not a primarily offensive method—"

Hong Tan stopped him, "Since it is your own fortuitous encounter, you don't need to tell us more. Things like cultivation methods can't be spread rashly unless you're sure the creator and the successors are all dead."

He thought for a bit and asked, "You want an offensive cultivation method with 144 acupoints, am I right?"

"Yeah."

After a short silence, Hong Tan said, "There are such powerful cultivation methods out there. There are quite a lot of them, in fact. But most of them are the inheritances of Invincibles. Of course, some aren't, but these methods come with a lot of disadvantages.

"For example, the famous Thousand Mountain Art is an offensive cultivation method with 144 acupoints. It is very powerful. But with this cultivation method, fusing acupoints at the ninth-stage Great Strength Realm is basically impossible.

"In Great Xia, the Sky Sundering Countless Saber is one of the proper heaven-grade cultivation methods that you can keep cultivating until the Invincible Realm.

"This is the unique legacy of the Xia Family. They are also not stingy with spreading the method. But generally, only the weaker versions are taught to outsiders. The low, middle, and high-tier versions are all available for outsiders. As for the top-tier version, very few people can learn it. Generally, only their direct descendants can learn it."

Hong Tan looked at Su Yu and asked, "Do you use sabers?"

"Yeah." Su Yu nodded. His main weapon was a saber.

Hong Tan thought about it for a while before saying, "I'll find an opportunity to take you to see Fatty Xia. Maybe we can get this cultivation method from him. But that damn fatty is very greedy. Even if he's willing to teach you, it won't be cheap."

After a short silence, he said, "I'm worried about one thing. You might need to open even more acupoints with this method. Would that delay your advancement?"

Su Yu smiled, "It won't, Grandteacher. I have only been in the academy for two months but I've already opened nearly 180 acupoints..."

"Hmm?" Hong Tan asked in astonishment, "What was your strength when you first entered the academy?"

"Ninth-stage Source Opening Realm."

Hong Tan nodded. Very good. Previously, Bai Feng said that this student had joined the academy as a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. Hong Tan was already suspicious of that.

Now, he finally learned that Su Yu was only a ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator when he first joined.

Opening 177 acupoints in around two months. This grandstudent of his was either a super genius or an exceptionally lucky person. Very good.

Hong Tan shot Bai Feng a glance. He decided that after Su Yu left, he would first beat Bai Feng to death before beating the suanni to death. It was time to get things in order.

He remained silent. Now was not the time for him to say anything.

Su Yu hesitated and said, "Grandteacher, the Sky Sundering Saber is the prized method of the Xia Family. Would they be willing to teach me? My teacher had just seriously injured Xia Yuwen not long ago..."

"Fatty Xia and Xia Yuwen are from different branches of the family."

Hong Tan said, "Fatty Xia...is very greedy. But ignoring his greed, he is actually a decent person. In fact, Great Xia can be considered a very progressive prefecture. Here, they are willing to invest to produce more experts. As long as you display enough potential and talent, the Xia Family will have no reason to refuse unless you're a cultist or an enemy of their family. As for the price...we'll have to wait and see."

Su Yu nodded. Inwardly, he considered asking Xia Huyou about this. After all, the little fatty was still waiting for the instructions for opening the final aperture from him. Perhaps, he could make a trade with that fatty?

The Sky Sundering Saber was very powerful. That was especially true for the top-tier version with 144 acupoints. That was a version not everyone could learn.

"If I can really get this method, I should probably consider advancing into the Infinite Strength Realm after learning it."

It wasn't like he must open so many acupoints right now. He could accept opening more in the future. But he was also unsatisfied with the War God Art that was only capable of utilizing 108 acupoints. In fact, he had been unhappy about it since his fight with Zhou Hao. If it weren't for a weaker cultivation method, he would have been able to defeat Zhou Hao with only his physical cultivation alone.