

Myriad 451

Chapter 451: Darker And Darker (2)

Both parties started waging a war of words. Even though Su Yu was alone, he showed no fear.

Most of the elders were too proud to engage a nobody like him in a war of words. That was why Su Yu was able to fearlessly say what he wanted. Those elders were too proud, despite how shameless they actually were.

Elder Sun did not say more. Su Yu was right. For Elder Sun, even if he could ultimately win the argument, it would still be embarrassing for someone of his status to be arguing with a student.

After leaving those words behind, Elder Sun left. The tournament was over. What was the point of staying? Was he supposed to stay and give others more chances to humiliate him?

With a smile, Su Yu said, "Teacher Li, I'll be visiting your respected self tonight. Please don't avoid me when I'm there."

Liu Hong frowned.

What was this bastard planning?

"Su Yu..."

"Teacher, you must have forgotten about this. You're the head counselor of the new students. And I'm a new student. Is it so weird for me to be visiting you? I am a top 100 student. Why are you prejudiced against me, Teacher?"

Su Yu had a wide smile on his face while Liu Hong frowned as he looked at Elder Sun and the other elders.

Elder Sun's voice transmission arrived, "It's fine. Meet him. Let's see what he's trying to do."

"Alright." Liu Hong smiled and said, "Sure, Su Yu. Let's meet up tonight."

Inwardly, he was suspicious. What was this kid trying to do? Was the kid plotting against him again? But if the kid wanted to screw him over, announcing the visit in public was actually not that good of an idea. A better option would be to visit him secretly.

During the secret visit, the kid could deliberately expose the visit. That would be much better. Announcing the visit so openly had instead reduced the suspicion others might feel toward him. Just what was the kid thinking?

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The sky was getting dark.

Su Yu did not spend much time there. After telling Liu Hong about his visit, he returned to the research center. Hong Tan was sipping on a cup of tea while Bai Feng was nowhere to be seen. He was probably still helping Liu Wenyan with his characters.

When Hong Tan saw Su Yu, his emotions turned complicated. This was a really impressive kid. Just how long had it been since the kid had joined the academy? He had even defeated the top student.

"I heard about what happened today. Are you planning to start your own research center?"

Su Yu flashed his honest smile and said, "Grandteacher, the research center isn't the goal here. That is merely an excuse for me to rope in some people to our side. Our faction is too small. We need more people. Even if these people can't do much for us, numbers will still be good to make us look strong. We can always use these people for some menial tasks."

Hong Tan nodded. After thinking about it, he said, "Making us look strong...In truth, the multiple character faction is not as weak as you think. We still have some allies in the academy. But...cough, cough. Forget about them. Those are the allies of your martial uncle. If you want to rope in your own people, feel free to do it."

He wasn't too bothered. The multiple character faction wasn't completely alone. Su Yu's eyes flickered. Was that the case? He had thought that they were all by themselves.

"Grandteacher, how about the expelled members?"

He wasn't referring to the members expelled during the incident 50 years ago. He was talking about the students who had been kicked out for failing to form enough characters before the Skysoar Realm. Could these people be considered allies?

Hong Tan smiled, "I have to take responsibility for that as well. I had failed to teach them properly. Because of that, some of them couldn't resist breaking through prematurely. In a fit of anger, your martial uncle kicked all of them out."

"Some of these people were spies. Some were truly sincere when they joined us."

Hong Tan sighed, "Now that I think about it, we were probably too overbearing back then. Let's wait and see. Wait for your teacher to further perfect his disassembly method. Maybe we can try to get those people back after that."

"Are they still in the academy?"

"Some of them are."

Hong Tan did not say much. Chen Yong had his own arrangements regarding these expelled students. In fact, Chen Yong had been the one to truly run their faction for quite a while. Bai Feng's disassembly method would be the key to their rise in the future.

Without the disassembly method, it didn't matter what they said or did. The multiple character faction would only continue to decline.

After thinking for a bit, Hong Tan looked at Su Yu and solemnly said, "You are still too weak. Stop provoking those people so much. Be careful lest they pull something dirty against you. It is better for you to stay low profile."

Su Yu disagreed, "Grandteacher, I understand what you're saying. But even if we do nothing, those people will never coexist peacefully with us. Nothing will change even if we keep a low profile. Just look at what they did to Senior Sister. She had never gotten involved in these conflicts. But what happened to her?"

Wu Jia had never gotten involved in the factional conflicts. She had mostly been focused on cultivating, growing, and challenging the top 100...

And look at what happened to her! There were some issues that couldn't be solved just by staying low-profile. In fact, Su Yu would love to maintain a low profile. He would be able to focus on cultivation and nothing else.

After thinking about it, Hong Tan nodded, "Wait until I reach the Sunmoon Realm. At that time, these things will happen less unless Zhou Mingren can reach the Sunmoon Realm as well."

At that point, he sank into silence. Entering the Sunmoon Realm...

He might encounter some new troubles after entering the Sunmoon Realm as well. He just didn't feel the need to burden Su Yu with the knowledge. Upon reaching the Sunmoon Realm, Zhou Polong might come after him.

Hong Tan stared at Su Yu for a bit before smiling, "Forget it. Make your own choices. You are someone with a good head on your shoulders. You can figure out what you want to do yourself. You are better than your teacher. Even if...your teacher is actually not that bad either."

Bai Feng wasn't someone who enjoyed scheming. But he was also someone who was very hard to scheme against. Even though he wasn't a schemer, he was smart enough to get as much benefit for himself. He would generally only pay attention to things that would benefit him. As for things that wouldn't benefit him, he would shut off all communication. '

For example, he would never bother talking to Liu Hong. Back when the two were competing as students, he had only talked with his fists and not bothered listening to the words of the crafty Liu Hong.

As long as he felt like Liu Hong was trying to do something that would harm him, he would draw his sword and start fighting. One could only imagine how helpless Liu Hong felt when dealing with a rival so unreasonable.

Su Yu smiled and moved on to a different topic. "Grandteacher, the principal invited me to see him previously. I have not gone to meet him yet. Do I still need to go?"

"Wan Tiansheng?"

Hong Tan was aware of this matter. After thinking about it, he said, "Yes, you can. I have no idea what exactly Wan Tiansheng is thinking. But I do know that you don't have to worry too much about him. Remember to empty your thoughts in front of him. Don't forget what happened during your meeting with Fatty Xia."

"..."

Su Yu had nothing to say.

He couldn't resist asking, "Grandteacher, can they read minds?"

"No. But your willpower is too weak, allowing them to sense some of your thoughts each time you think of something. And that sense will be amplified when it is something related to them."

Su Yu nodded. He really needed to start being careful, then.

When meeting these super experts in the future, he would have to think about how much he loved them even if he actually hated them.

Hong Tan said, "Your teacher will be busy recovering from his injuries and helping my senior brother with his characters. He won't be able to return for now. And he will need to depart for the Allheaven Battlefield next month. I will also be entering seclusion for my advancement soon. Your martial uncle will still be around so you can look for him if you need something."

"Martial Uncle..."

Su Yu lowered his voice, "Martial Uncle seems somewhat off recently. Grandteacher, has he encountered some trouble in his cultivation?"

"Seems off?"

Hong Tan had not noticed that. After thinking about it, he said, "It might be related to Jia. Sigh. I don't know what to say about this. Back then, your martial uncle was hunted by the Myriad Race Cult while he was away from the academy. Jia's parents had died saving him from the ambush.

"Because of that, your martial uncle has always felt guilty toward Jia. He has been raising her like his own daughter. He has been blaming himself for Jia's injuries. He blamed himself for not teaching her well enough to be flexible and less stubborn, resulting in her injuries.

"And those people have targeted Jia for the second time. That must have further annoyed your martial uncle."

Hong Tan sighed, "Zhou Mingren and his people should stop after doing it once. They shouldn't have continued provoking him. I have even considered telling your martial uncle to give up on the books depository and just put his focus on entering the Mountainsea Realm."

"Giving up?" Su Yu gloomily said, "Grandteacher, if we give up on the books depository as well, we will have nothing left."

Hong Tan smiled, "Physical possessions are not important as long as our people are still around. As long as we are alive, there will be hope that we can regain what we lose. Am I wrong?"

Was it worth getting into more conflicts just for the books depository? Chen Yong would be fine, but Wu Jia would be targeted repeatedly. The single character faction might have suffered several losses, but they might not give up so easily.

Wu Jia had not been able to return to the top 100 even after so long.

Su Yu nodded and asked, "Grandteacher, will someone be found out if they plot the death of a researcher of the academy?"

"..."

Hong Tan looked at Su Yu silently. What was the meaning of that question, kid?

But clear!

Su Yu had a simple expression as he said, "I was only curious. If someone plots to frame a researcher for colluding with the Myriad Race Cult, what will happen to that person?"

Hong Tan frowned, "Do not attempt something like that. It might get out of hand. Nobody is stupid. Unless you can create a perfect proof, there will be an opening to be found somewhere. And if they discover your involvement upon further investigation, you will either be executed or exiled to the Vanguard Regiment."

"What if they can't find out the truth?"

"Nothing can be kept secret forever."

Su Yu replied, "But that Invincible enemy of ours has been able to stay hidden for so many years."

Hong Tan stared at Su Yu with a frown. This grandstudent of his was completely unlike Bai Feng. Nor was the kid similar to his father.

Hong Tan had seen the kid's father on the battlefield. That was such an honest person. Wait...was that really the case?

Not necessarily.

Hong Tan sighed. After a short silence, he said, "The truth will be uncovered one day. You don't need to be the one to solve all our problems. Do not look down on us too much. We can solve these issues even without your help. Just focus on your cultivation."

Su Yu smiled and nodded. Hong Tan didn't know if the kid was taking his words to heart.

Su Yu said, "I understand, Grandteacher. The single character faction is currently our shield. That has been your belief. But in my opinion, they are starting to forget their place after so long. Every now and then, we need to remind them of who we are. We have been too gentle with them. As a result, Senior Sister was injured, Teacher was injured, Teacher Liu was injured, and even Senior Xia Yunji and the others were injured..."

Su Yu met Hong Tan's gaze and said, "Grandteacher, if we do not strike back, they will start to believe that we are pushovers. I have always wanted to maintain a low profile and focus on my cultivation. But look at what they have been doing. Even if I don't want to provoke them, they will never stop provoking me."

Hong Tan frowned, "Don't make too big of a mess, or not even I will be able to protect you from the consequences. Don't forget that we still have the principal in the academy. He can protect you from the others, but his protection also extends to all the other members of the academy. He might not interfere in minor conflicts, but the moment people start losing lives, he will get involved."

Su Yu nodded. He was aware of that.

Hong Tan said nothing else. The youngsters nowadays seemed much more ruthless and treacherous than the people of his generation. Forget it. Talking too much wouldn't change anything.

In comparison to Su Yu's generation, their generation almost seemed pure and innocent.

Things seemed to have started to change starting with Chen Yong's generation. At Bai Feng's generation, things continued changing. And when those from Su Yu's generation started joining the academy, Hong Tan felt like he could no longer keep up with the thoughts of these kids.

In comparison to them, the only thing he could do was probably fight and research.

Su Yu stopped bothering Hong Tan and went upstairs for his cultivation. He would visit Liu Hong later. As for Wan Tiansheng, he should probably get the visit over with. He was starting to get curious about the principal as well. After being in the academy for several months, he had only seen an indistinct silhouette of the principal. He had yet to meet the principal in person.

Chapter 452: First Meeting With Wan Tiansheng (1)

Night.

Staff Residential District.

Liu Hong's house.

Su Yu had arrived with a smile on his face.

"Teacher, thank you again for giving me this opportunity..."

The moment the door opened, Su Yu started praising Liu Hong repeatedly.

Liu Hong stood there with a smile. Yes. Keep acting. Go on.

After Su Yu was finally done speaking, Liu Hong asked, "Aren't you going to kneel down and thank me as well? That will make this look even more believable."

"Forget it."

Su Yu smiled, "Maybe you have already spoken to the single character faction elders about this. They will be more inclined to believe what you told them before this. Even if I kneel down, it won't really work that well."

Liu Hong smiled. Exactly. The kid had openly announced this visit. He would be in great trouble if he accepted the visit before communicating with the elders.

"Let's talk inside."

Liu Hong invited Su Yu into his house with a smile.

Su Yu stepped in without any hesitation. When he looked around, he saw that Liu Hong's place was still as clean and neat as ever. What was a guy doing living in a house this clean? This Liu Hong was clearly not a good person!

"Take a seat."

Liu Hong asked, "So why are you here?"

"No particular reason. I'm only here to visit you, Teacher."

Su Yu paused to look around before asking, "Teacher, is this conversation being monitored?"

Liu Hong said, "How is that possible?"

Inwardly, Su Yu thought that the more Liu Hong denied it, the more likely that this conversation was being monitored.

Great!

Su Yu smiled, "I'm glad to hear that. Teacher, our cooperation has been very smooth this time. In fact, our previous partnership has been very smooth as well. Through the two jobs, we have broken the spine of the single character faction..."

Liu Hong felt a headache coming. He said, "Stop saying all that, Su Yu. Just be honest and tell me why you're here. If you're really here to get me in trouble, it's pointless. Those elders aren't that stupid. If we were really in cahoots with each other, you would have come in secret instead of announcing your visit openly."

Su Yu smiled, "Teacher, there are only the two of us here. What are you afraid of? The public announcement is merely a diversion. That way, they won't suspect you..."

Inwardly, Liu Hong was rolling his eyes. Did this kid have too much free time in his hands? Was the kid doing all this just to give him some trouble?

With a tired tone, Liu Hong said, "Just go straight to the point and say what you're here for. If you don't have anything else to say, you can leave now."

Su Yu smiled, "Of course I have something to say. You see, I have established a club called the Single Eradication Club. I wish to invite you to the club. Are you interested, Teacher?"

"..."

Liu Hong was speechless. Had this kid gone mad? Or had he gone mad? Single Eradication Club? Was this a fucking joke? Was this kid here so late at night just to play a joke on him?

"I'm being serious." Su Yu solemnly said, "I have really established this club. And I have invited a decent number of people into the club. Oh, don't worry too much about the name of the club. It isn't important. I am now here to invite you to the club as well. Are you interested, Teacher?"

"..."

Liu Hong felt like Su Yu was pulling his leg.

Was the kid sick in the head? Establishing a Single Eradication Club before inviting him into the club? What was the meaning of that? And the kid had even openly invited him in front of the elders. He was starting to get confused about what the kid was planning.

"Single Eradication Club...and an invitation for me?" Liu Hong laughed and asked, "So do I gain anything from joining?"

"Of course." Su Yu solemnly said, "We aim to work together with the common purpose of creating a harmonious environment in the academy. We aim to expel all elements that are harmful to cultivation and remove some of the tumors in the academy. That way, the academy will be able to grow stronger and healthier."

Liu Hong was starting to suspect that Su Yu had gone mad. Was this something a mere student could do? Just what exactly was the kid planning? Liu Hong was getting more and more confused.

Su Yu stopped wasting time and put down a voice transmission talisman before saying, "This is your invitation, Teacher. I hope you can take care of me more in the future."

He then stood up and left. Behind Su Yu, Liu Hong blinked his eyes in stupefaction.

Fuck!

What the hell was that?

The kid was only here to give him a talisman and an invitation to the so-called Single Eradication Club? That was all? There was nothing else? His head started hurting. Liu Hong remained seated. After Su Yu left, the door swung open and Elder Sun walked through it. He first looked at the talisman on the table before looking at Liu Hong.

With a gloomy expression, Liu Hong stood up and said, "Elder Sun, I don't know what he's up to. He left after leaving this talisman behind. He claimed that he was here to invite me into the so-called Single Eradication Club. Elder Sun, just what is he trying to do?"

With a wave of his hand, Elder Sun pulled the talisman into his palm. After checking it out, he frowned. The talisman was empty. No information was recorded in it.

He tossed the talisman to Liu Hong and said, "What do you think? He is probably aware that someone else will be here tonight. Did he say all that to scare us?"

After a slight pause, he continued, "Or has he really been successful in recruiting members to this Single Eradication Club?"

"..."

Liu Hong smiled bitterly and said, "Elder Sun, this is most probably his true goal. He aims to make us suspect everyone of being a member of this so-called club. In truth, maybe the club is merely a joke by the kid. We can't take his words seriously."

Liu Hong believed that he had caught on to Su Yu's plan. Su Yu intended to make them doubt everyone in the academy. As for the so-called Single Eradication Club, the club might not even exist. No, wait a minute.

Liu Hong's heart thumped as he thought of a certain possibility. Was it possible that the club really existed? And...that dumb student of his was a member of that club?

After a while, Elder Sun said, "You might be right. He is probably trying to sow confusion among us."

At that moment, the talisman suddenly vibrated.

Liu Hong looked at Elder Sun for an instruction. With a frown, Elder Sun said, "Take a look."

At that, Liu Hong picked the talisman up. That was a uniquely made talisman, allowing the user to send and receive messages from multiple individuals. Currently, a certain message could be seen in the talisman.

"Heaven9: Oh, we have a new member. Welcome, newbie. I am Heaven9. Pick one word between heaven, earth, profound, and yellow before adding a number behind it as your username. Do not use your real name here."

"Earth7: Yeah, it's a new member. There is one extra person on the contact list."

"Earth12: Welcome, newcomer. The goal of the Single Eradication Club is simple. We aim to forge a harmonious environment for cultivation in the academy. Feel free to ask us if you have any questions. Of course, some information can only be purchased with single eradication points."

"..."

Liu Hong had a stupefied expression. He passed the talisman to Elder Sun. After looking at the contents, Elder Sun scanned the talisman. But after a while, he shook his head and said, "I can't trace them. This is a modified talisman. Unless we can get everyone in the capital city to stop using voice transmissions, I won't be able to trace the source of these messages."

With a look of disbelief, Liu Hong asked, "Elder Sun...is...this real?"

So many people had appeared out of nowhere! What was this? Just what was going on? Even Liu Hong was starting to get confused.

Elder Sun frowned and said, "Is this organization real? I have never heard of it. Is this a diversion by Su Yu to keep us occupied with something imaginary?"

Liu Hong shook his head. He had no answer to that. Suddenly, the academy felt a lot more complicated than before.

"Use a fake name and join them. Pay close attention to them and try to find something out from their communication. Also, keep me updated on what you find."

Elder Sun was also having a headache. Previously, he had assumed that the club was not real. But after reading the messages in the talisman, he wasn't so sure anymore. Just what was going on exactly? Was there really such an organization in the academy?

Single Eradication Club?

Was this Su Yu's smokescreen or was this real? But it felt more like a lie. Why would that kid openly come and give Liu Hong this talisman otherwise?

One Mountainsea and one Skysoar were greatly troubled by a mere Su Yu.

Before long, Elder Sun calmly said, "It doesn't matter if this club is real or not. Just pay some attention to it. You don't even need to put all your energy into it. Su Yu might be under someone else's order to shift our attention away. A lot of people are secretly unhappy with us. But what can they do?"

"Elder Sun, why don't you keep this talisman..."

The talisman was a hot potato. Liu Hong did not want to keep it with him.

Elder Sun frowned and said, "Keep it. I'm too busy to pay attention to it. We don't want to miss out on any information that might be important. Also, don't tell anyone about this. We don't want the others to panic."

If the other members of the single character faction find out about the Single Eradication Club, chaos might arise. And they couldn't afford to allow something like that to happen. Elder Sun's head was aching badly. Nothing had been smooth for them recently.

Liu Hong smiled bitterly and said, "Fine, Elder Sun. But you need to be my witness. I have not joined the Single Eradication Club. Also, we don't even know if this club is real."

"Don't worry. I'm not that stupid."

Elder Sun placated Liu Hong. There was no need to suspect anyone because of something like this. But inwardly, he was actually slightly suspicious of this. Was there really such a club in the academy? And was there a secret group of individuals working against them? But he wouldn't say that out loud. That would be creating more trouble for himself.

Chapter 453: First Meeting With Wan Tiansheng (2)

While both Liu Hong and Elder Sun were feeling greatly troubled, Su Yu was having a lot of fun.

Using multiple smurf accounts was a lot of fun!

This invitation to Liu Hong and the creation of the so-called Single Eradication Club was merely a random idea of his after taking references from the situation the multiple character faction was in.

Due to the potential existence of an Invincible traitor, the multiple character faction had to live while in doubt of everyone. They had to worry about every single Invincible in existence. And they didn't even dare to make their suspicions public because they were afraid of attracting even more trouble and attention from the hidden enemy.

In short, they were living an uncomfortable life. Based on that, Su Yu created the Single Eradication Club to both annoy the single character faction and act as a cover for the Mutual Aid Club.

The usage of voice transmission talismans was quite widespread in the academy. But it was less widespread among the students. The moment people like Lin Yao were found using these talismans, people would start suspecting that something was off.

Su Yu had even decided to give out thousands of voice transmission talismans to the students in the academy.

These talismans weren't cheap, but he could get his grandteacher and martial uncle to help with the money. He only needed a few hundred merit points and they could provide him with that much money easily.

After spreading the talismans among the students, the members of the Mutual Aid Club would look far more inconspicuous with voice transmission talismans. He would also cause the single character faction to suspect everyone of being a member of the Single Eradication Club. That would be really amusing.

He would torture those fellows with doubt and suspicion. He would make them doubt everyone. Would they dare to investigate the voice transmission talisman of everyone in the academy? Not even the Discipline Hall was authorized to check everyone's talisman.

The actual members of the Mutual Aid Club were connected to an entirely different system. The Single Eradication Club was merely a toy for him. He would probably spend about ten minutes or so per day creating countless smurf accounts to chat with the fools he had invited into the Single Eradication Club.

He would just consider the time he spent as his daily relaxation period.

Liu Hong was already a member of this Single Eradication Club. If Elder Sun was interested, Su Yu wouldn't mind recruiting Elder Sun and having some chat with him through his smurf accounts either.

"I am such a genius."

Su Yu couldn't help but praise himself smugly. This little plan of his might even work. It could potentially cause chaos among the single character faction members. They would start suspecting everyone of being their enemy.

With this plan, not only was he able to sow confusion among them, he could also cover up the existence of the Mutual Aid Club. Additionally, Su Yu also had other plans in mind. He had been getting more and more annoyed with the single character faction recently. He had successfully broken the spine of their younger generation, but he was sure that those at the Skysoar Realm and beyond would not stop giving them trouble.

"The best way to stop these troubles is to eliminate the root of these troubles. But the root isn't in the academy. Instead, the root is somewhere else..."

Su Yu sighed. There wasn't anything he could do about that. He still wasn't strong enough. All those were still too far from him, including the affairs of those at the Skysoar Realm. Fortunately, there was a big guy in the academy preventing all these people from going crazy.

Su Yu knew very well that Wan Tiansheng was the sole protection he had in the academy. Without Wan Tiansheng, someone like him who had offended people like Elder Sun repeatedly would have been slapped to death long ago.

As a mere Mental Tempering Stage student, he dared to provoke a Mountainsea? They would simply slap him to death and that would be the end of the matter.

"The big guy is my one true shield in the academy!"

As for Hong Tan, that grandteacher of his was indeed strong. But not strong enough to suppress the single character faction. Even after Teacher Liu demonstrated the strength to defeat a Sunmoon, that was still not enough to keep the single character faction at bay.

The single character faction was not weak.

Su Yu straightened his clothes, ensuring that he was clad in a neat white outfit with a gentle smile on his face, giving him the correct appearance a cultural researcher should have before walking toward the Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

Ahh, his beloved Principal Wan was probably still awake. He wondered what business the mighty and incredible Principal Wan had with him. The great Principal Wan was such a busy person yet he had actually spared some of his time on a puny student? Su Yu felt greatly honored.

Su Yu started madly praising the principal in his mind.

Yes. This was the mindset he needed to maintain. He still remembered how Xia Xiao'er had knocked him unconscious after sensing him talking trash about the fatty in his mind. What an asshole!

...

Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

Wan Tiansheng did not have his own villa. Instead of staying anywhere else, he stayed in the Heart Cultivating Pavilion itself. That was what all the past principals had done as well.

With 36 floors, the Heart Cultivating Pavilion was a tall building. In fact, it was the tallest building in the academy. Wan Tiansheng lived on the 35th floor instead of the top floor. A group of academy guards could be seen in front of the Heart Cultivating Pavilion.

The academy guards were actually quite strong. Even though Su Yu couldn't see through their strength, he could see that even the weakest among the guards here were at the Skysoar Realm. Perhaps there were even some Cloudbreach experts among them.

The guard on duty went over Su Yu's credentials and talked to someone through his communicator. Before long, he nodded and said, "You may enter. Do not roam around randomly. Just follow the stairs and walk until the very end and you will reach the principal's office."

"Thank you, Big Brother!"

Su Yu had a bashful look on his face. The guards merely glanced at him silently and said nothing.

Wan Tiansheng would rarely meet a student. They didn't know what business the principal had with this student here. Of course, they also knew very well that it wasn't their place to question the principal's intentions.

Su Yu...they were familiar with this name. This kid might look innocent with that smile, but this kid was definitely not some pushover. He could be very ruthless when doing something.

...

Su Yu started climbing the stairs.

He did not stay at any particular spot. He simply walked while singing the principal praises in his mind. But as he walked, he suddenly felt like he had walked into a different world.

His vision swam. Suddenly, he found himself back outside the Heart Cultivating Pavilion. But everything was no longer the same. He was faced with crumbling buildings and dilapidated walls.

The Great Xia Cultural Research Academy had changed. Corpses littered the ground and rivers of blood ran through the academy. All around him, one student after another was fleeing in fear. His expression changed repeatedly. Was this an illusion?

There was no other answer for this. Just a short moment ago, the academy was still perfectly fine. The academy was also filled with experts. How could this much damage be done in such a short period of time?

Right that moment, a booming sound came from the sky.

Su Yu's expression changed.

In the sky, people like Chen Yong, Hong Tan, and Bai Feng appeared one after another.

Kill!

Slaughter.

Hong Tan was carrying out a massacre. Chen Yong was doing the same. Bai Feng was doing so as well.

And...he was also there, doing the same.

Su Yu's expression changed completely.

He was also partaking in the slaughter. He could even see that he was the core of all these people. Or to be precise, he was the one who had initiated the slaughter, forcing the other members of the multiple character faction to make a stand as well.

Bang!

Sounds of explosions rang out everywhere. Corpses rained down from the sky. And blood splashed all over the academy.

In the sky, Su Yu was clad in the same white outfit he always wore. But the white outfit was already stained red with blood. He was busy killing the fleeing students and researchers.

Right that moment, a palm as big as the sky itself appeared and descended.

Bang!

Su Yu's vision swam yet again. He recovered from his stupor and found himself faced with a door. The door swung open by itself. Beyond the door was a room. At the very end of the room was a large window. In front of the window was a chair. And seated on the chair was an old man with a book in his hand. The old man was looking at Su Yu with a smile on his face.

As for Su Yu, his attention was caught by the old man's hand. That...was the exact same palm he had seen in the illusion. The palm that had dropped down from the sky to kill all of them. His heart trembled.

He didn't dare to ask any questions. Instead, he bowed and said, "Greetings, Principal."

"Be at ease."

With a calm voice, Wan Tiansheng said, "Did you see that?"

"Yeah."

"That is the future."

Wan Tiansheng said, "One future. One possibility out of a myriad possibilities. One possible path the future might take. But also the path that is most likely to happen in accordance to your current mental state. Of course, everyone will see a different future in that illusion. What you saw might not be the

same as what I saw. But what you saw was most definitely what you wished for the most. So are you happy with what you saw?"

Su Yu did not say anything.

Was that really his future?

How was this possible?

He had turned into a butcher, reaping countless lives in the academy before being killed himself?

And he had even led his grandteacher and teacher down the same path?

That was his future?

No!

He refused to believe that!

Wan Tiansheng said, "That is only one of the myriad possibilities. Don't worry about it too much."

"Principal, were you the one who showed me the future?"

"Not really. That corridor you walked through, it has always been a mystical corridor. Generations of principals have resided here. Numerous Mountainseas and Sunmoons have walked that corridor. It won't affect us that much, but you're too weak so you might end up seeing something when you walk that corridor."

Wan Tiansheng smiled.

Su Yu looked at the principal silently. The principal looked like a friendly and kind old man.

The principal had long, white hair, clad in a green robe, a book in his hand, and a pair of eyes filled with wisdom.

Wan Tiansheng also spent some time looking at Su Yu. After a while, he smiled, "A cause will always be followed by an effect. This is the cycle of karma. Do you understand?"

Chapter 454: First Meeting With Wan Tiansheng (3)

Su Yu said, "But as you said, there needs to be a cause for there to be an effect. If what I saw is really the future, then it could only be the result of what those people did. They are the ones pushing things too far. When I first entered the academy, I entered with a heart of yearning. Because of my father, I joined the academy with the goal of doing what I could for humanity. I vowed to kill any cultist I encountered. I admired Prefect Xia.

"People told me that the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy is a messy place. My first teacher, Teacher Liu, told me the same. But he also said that despite the chaos, everything is still being done within the bounds of the rules.

"I viewed this place as the holy land of cultivation. Even if it is somewhat chaotic, it won't affect me or my goal. But I was wrong. From the very first day I stepped into the academy, I realized that I was wrong."

Su Yu looked Wan Tiansheng straight in the eyes and said, "Principal, if this is the true face of the holy land that I had yearned for, I believe what I saw in the corridor might really happen."

Wan Tiansheng said, "You will be the one choosing the path you walk. You will be the one to ultimately make the choice."

Su Yu asked, "Should the single character faction not be punished for all the oppression and evil they have done?"

Wan Tiansheng had the same calm expression as he said, "They will eventually reap what they sow. Just like how the multiple character faction reaped what they sowed back when they dominated."

Su Yu disagreed. He felt like Wan Tiansheng was being unreasonable and trying to smooth things over too much. The multiple character faction had not declined as consequences of their evil actions.

"The fifth principal and the others had perished fighting the enemies of humanity on the Allheaven Battlefield. They had even killed the Invincible experts of our enemies. If even that can be considered karma for their evil actions, then everyone is evil."

Wan Tiansheng said, "That's where you're wrong. The fifth principal had sinned by dragging so many people down with him. He could have gone to the battlefield alone. Why implicate so many people? He had sinned by not passing his character to the academy. Why pass the character to Liu Wenyan and cause him to be stuck for 50 years? He had sinned by causing the death of the Invincible from Great Zhou. Without that sin, the multiple character faction wouldn't have suffered for all these years. There is a cause for every effect you see.

"You are understanding some things differently because of the perspective you are using to look at things. The son of that dead Invincible is called Zhou Polong. His father had perished because of the fifth principal. Isn't it karma that he is taking his revenge on you guys, the successors of the fifth principal?"

Su Yu frowned and said, "That person had perished while reinforcing an ally on the battlefield. How can that be considered the fifth principal's fault?"

"But prior to that, the fifth principal had claimed that he did not need any help." Wan Tiansheng said, "And he went back on his words. At first, he arrogantly claimed that he alone was strong enough to sweep through the Myriad Realms and defeat any Invincible he encounter. But he failed. He ended up asking for help. He ended up causing the death of the Invincible from Great Zhou. Wasn't that his fault?"

Su Yu had nothing to say about that. Was that the fifth principal's fault? He really didn't have an answer.

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "This is human nature. Everyone is biased. Look at yourself. You don't even know what to say anymore. Let me give you another example. There is a 100-man commander in your father's 1000-man army. That person is overbearing and insists on provoking the enemy. He claims that he can deal with the enemy alone. He refuses all help. As a result, he falls for an enemy ambush. And he ends

up asking for help. Your father goes to help him and ends up perishing. In that situation, would you put your hate on that 100-man commander?"

"Yes."

Su Yu replied with a gloomy voice.

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "And that is human nature. Isn't it normal that Zhou Polong would hate you guys? His father was an Invincible. An Eternal. Someone with a lifespan so long he could have probably lived for thousands of years. But someone like that had perished. Could he not feel angry about it?"

Su Yu was completely speechless.

"Thus, you can't blame him for hating you guys. As for what he has been doing to your faction..."

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "Let's continue with the example. The 100-man commander has perished alongside your father. He should be the target of your hate. But he is dead. You can't be bothered to follow up with your anger since the culprit is not around anymore. But what if you're a big shot? The people under you will start trying to read your mind. Some will come to the conclusion that you wish to target the descendants of that 100-man commander. So they start suppressing those descendants. When you eventually find out about the suppression, would you bother telling your people to stop?"

Su Yu said nothing. Would he? Since someone from the other side was the reason his father was dead, they should be thankful that he had not gone after them for revenge. As for what the others were doing to the descendants of that person, why should he do anything about it?

Was he really such a saint?

Once again, Wan Tiansheng smiled, "You see, this is human nature. You hate Zhou Mingren. That is understandable. But if you let your anger spread toward others, then you are merely taking your anger out on innocent individuals. The Human Realm is not as dirty as you think. Just remember the source of your hatred. Do not let everyone suffer your wrath just because a few individuals have angered you."

Su Yu looked at Wan Tiansheng and asked in confusion, "Principal, are you telling me not to hate Zhou Polong?"

"Am I?"

Wan Tiansheng said, "You're only a Mental Tempering Stage kid. Are you even qualified to hate him? Zhou Polong can kill you just by breathing on you. Don't overestimate yourself. I only want to tell you that you are free to hit back against anyone in the academy who has targeted you. But don't drag the others into your conflict. Not everyone is willing to take on burdens that shouldn't be theirs to begin with."

He then smiled and asked, "Is slaughtering the academy really your choice? Is cleansing the academy of filth really your choice? If you want to cleanse the academy, why don't you look for the origin of filth, Zhou Polong, and kill him? Everything will end with his death. By taking out your anger on the single character faction, aren't you doing the same as them? You are cowering before the strong and bullying the weak. Am I wrong?"

"But the source behind Zhou Polong's power is Great Zhou King. So why not take a step further and kill Great Zhou King? Everything will truly stop with his death. Why kill anyone else apart from him?"

"..."

Su Yu sank into thought.

Wan Tiansheng continued, "A lot of things happen for a reason. Not everything you see or believe is the truth. You might be wondering why the principal isn't suppressing the single character faction and allowing the multiple character faction to be suppressed."

Wan Tiansheng said, "But why don't you ask yourself another question? Why had nobody suppressed your multiple character faction and allowed the single character faction to grow more back when your multiple character faction was in power?"

Su Yu frowned and said, "But they are doing more than pure suppression. They are trying to kill us. There was a special warzone in the capital itself not long ago for them to kill us. They even tried to rob

the grave of our predecessor and kill my senior sister. Principal, is all that still acceptable in the name of competition?"

Back then, things hadn't been so excessive when they competed against each other. But was that still the case? Su Yu felt like Wan Tiansheng was simply trying to smooth things over.

Wan Tiansheng said, "Are any of you dead? Has the grave been robbed? Is your senior sister dead?"

"That's because we're strong..."

Wan Tiansheng interrupted him, "Strong? Do you really think the single character faction is weak? They have a lot more Sunmoons and even some Invincibles. Sure, these Invincibles had entered the Invincible Realm through physical cultivation, but they are still Invincibles. Are you really strong?"

"They actually have Invincibles in their faction?"

Su Yu was astonished.

Wan Tiansheng said, "What do you think? Do you think all the Invincibles at the Knowledge Seeking Realm are beast tamers? Pillmakers? What's so surprising about that? Even the multiple character faction has some Invincibles. But none of them have done anything. Why should they? Do we want to escalate this conflict into a battle between Invincibles?"

Wan Tiansheng said, "What you see might not necessarily be the truth. Your people are alive because you are strong? No. You're wrong. Your people are alive because some people are biased toward you guys. For example, the Xia Family. For example, Ji Hong. All these people agree that the single character faction has crossed the line. Thus, they decided to teach the single character faction a lesson. And that includes Zheng Yuming's injuries. Do you think that was accidental?"

Wan Tiansheng said, "Whoever you are, you will be punished if you cross the line. Nobody is an exception to that. Over the past decades, has anyone from your faction died? You guys have merely been losing in a normal competition against each other. Are we supposed to help you because you can't outcompete them?"

Su Yu was completely speechless. The principal actually...made sense.

In short, the single character faction had been so unlucky recently because they were being punished for crossing the line?

In the special warzone, Ji Hong had moved against them. Marquis Xia and the others had moved against them as well. Even Wan Tiansheng had done something against the single character faction in the academy.

All these people were the real reason the single character faction had suffered one loss after another recently.

With that pointed out to him, Su Yu couldn't deny that the principal was right. If they relied only on Hong Tan and the others, they might not have been able to deal so much damage to the single character faction.

Su Yu glanced at Wan Tiansheng. Was the principal trying to give him an explanation on behalf of the principal himself and Great Xia?

It wasn't that they didn't want to help. But everything that had happened prior to that had been done within the bounds of the rules. When the multiple character faction was in power, the other factions had also been suppressed.

But recently, the single character faction had crossed the line. Because of that, they were punished.

Su Yu seemed to have caught the meaning of the principal's words. But at the same time, he was still somewhat confused. Was this a warning? A reminder to him? Or a reminder to the entire multiple character faction to not cross the line?

While Su Yu was thinking, Wan Tiansheng said, "Don't think too much. I'm just telling you that it's good to be alive. Do not use your intelligence for something you shouldn't. You're better off using your time and talent to form more characters."

Su Yu was direct, "I lack money and resources. The academy is not giving me anything. I need to work for the resources I want. But I can't even leave the academy for missions because I might end up killed. The only thing I can do is earn some money from the single character faction. It's not like I am a parasite. Before this, I would accept missions and kill enemies whenever I needed money. But I can't do that anymore."

Su Yu was very honest. If it wasn't for the single character faction, he would have left the academy on missions long ago. He wouldn't be wasting his time on them. But he couldn't leave the academy anymore. He was afraid of death.

Once he stepped out of the academy, there was no guarantee that he would be able to return alive. How would he dare to go out for missions with such a worry in his mind? Even when he found out about the Divine Skywing—

He hurriedly emptied his mind.

He was wary.

What if the principal read that thought of his?

His mind was empty. That was nothing. Yes. The principal was handsome, incredible, mighty, and awesome.

Wan Tiansheng merely smiled as he gazed at Su Yu. What an interesting kid.

Truly worthy of being a person who would grow strong enough to battle Mountainseas as a Cloudbreach in the future.

That future he had seen was merely one of the myriad possibilities, but after this meeting, Wan Tiansheng was more and more sure that it had a very high possibility of happening. This was indeed an outstanding kid.

Chapter 455: I Understand! (1)

Wan Tiansheng moved on from the topic.

He said, "You are very cautious. It has been a long time since my invitation. You have waited until Hong Tan is back before seeing me because you're afraid that I would harm you?"

"Of course not!" Su Yu flashed a simple and honest smile as he said, "You misunderstand me, Principal. I have merely been afraid of troubling you. I was worried that a meeting between us would cause the single character faction to misunderstand you, Principal! I don't want them to think that you're siding with me!"

Wan Tiansheng laughed. He stood up slowly. Suddenly, Su Yu's vision blurred. Before he knew it, Wan Tiansheng was already standing right in front of him.

"Su Yu, do you know why I have invited you here?"

"No."

Su Yu answered with his head lowered. This geezer-cough, cough. This mighty and great principal was too strong. Too powerful.

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "I wish to perform a little experiment. And you are the perfect test subject."

Su Yu's heart chilled.

"Scared?"

"Not at all! The principal is wise and mighty..."

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "Wise and mighty? You must have scolded me a lot in your mind, right?"

"I wouldn't dare."

"You wouldn't dare, but you would love to, right?"

"Nope!"

Su Yu's head was hurting. Why was the principal pursuing this line of conversation?

Once again, Wan Tiansheng laughed. But when Su Yu heard the laugh, his heart became even colder. Just what was the principal planning to do?

"It is something beneficial to you." Wan Tiansheng said, "You have formed a lot of characters. You must have like seven characters already, right?"

Su Yu was slightly alarmed that the principal knew so much. He nodded, "Yes."

"Are all of them human characters?"

"Yes..."

"So you are only capable of forming human characters?"

"Well...you see....I..."

"You don't need to explain yourself." Wan Tiansheng said, "You have your own fortuitous encounters. Like what you told Zhou Pingsheng previously, each expert has their own fortuitous encounters. I am not interested in your fortuitous encounters."

Wan Tiansheng then smiled, "That's good to hear. Even without hearing this from me, you are probably going to be stuck with human characters. But it's better for you to know this. It will be much better to continue forming only human characters. Hong Tan is someone near the Sunmoon Realm. He must have mentioned that the non-human characters are making it hard for him to advance, right?"

Su Yu nodded. Hong Tan wasn't the one who had told him that. Even prior to Hong Tan's return, Bai Feng had already reached such a conclusion. But there was no need for him to mention that to the principal.

Wan Tiansheng said, "The non-human characters might be problematic. I even suspect that there are some issues with human characters. But I still think it's worth trying to form only human characters and see what happens."

See what happens?

Su Yu couldn't resist asking, "Principal, you mean..."

"Did you know that up until now, not a single human Sunmoon has reached that realm with a human character as their main Divine Character?"

Su Yu nodded.

He was aware of that.

There was no Eternal human character in existence. To be more precise, these so-called Eternal characters were not at the Eternal Realm. Rather, they were at the Sunmoon Realm. And not a single human had advanced into the Sunmoon Realm relying on human characters.

It was said that the fifth principal had several human characters at the Sunmoon Realm. But none of those characters was his main Divine Character. Instead, he had made his advancement by growing his entire character technique instead of any single character.

Wan Tiansheng said, "I am wondering if a human character will become extremely strong upon reaching the Eternal Realm."

Su Yu asked with hesitation, "Principal...not even you have an Eternal human character?"

There was no doubt that Wan Tiansheng was very strong.

Wan Tiansheng said, "The Eternal I'm talking about is not the Eternal you're thinking about. I'm talking about the true Eternal Realm. What you know as Eternal characters should be termed Sunmoon characters instead."

Su Yu remained silent.

Did that mean that Wan Tiansheng actually had Sunmoon human characters?

So the principal was really at the Sunmoon Realm or beyond. And the principal's main Divine Character was probably not a human character. Even with the limitations of having non-human characters, he had still been able to reach the Sunmoon Realm. Was this another fifth principal in making?

How terrifying. As far as he knew, the fifth principal was the only person known to have grown his human characters into the Sunmoon Realm.

"Principal, you mean..."

"Cultivate hard." Wan Tiansheng had a profound look in his eyes as he said, "You're very outstanding. Your character technique has a lot of foundational characters. I am curious about one thing. When dozens of human characters are brought together, will they be able to break through a certain limitation?"

Su Yu's heart thumped. He maintained a calm expression as he said, "Principal, my character technique might have a lot of characters, but I can't compare with the fifth principal..."

"Oh?" Wan Tiansheng said, "Then I must have sensed wrongly. Well, in that case, you're not worth nurturing. You may leave now."

Su Yu turned around without any hesitation.

Sure principal. Goodbye.

He had zero interest in spending more time with the principal. He simply felt like he had no secrets in front of this principal. This was too terrifying.

Wan Tiansheng: "..."

He felt like he had been slapped in the face. The kid was definitely aware of what he was going to say next. He was going to say that only someone with a character technique with a high number of foundational characters would be worth investing in.

He had simply left those words unsaid. Was the kid really leaving? This was the very first time a student had done something like this to him.

Su Yu walked silently, but shortly after, he was stunned. Despite how he walked, Wan Tiansheng remained in front of him. In fact, he was walking nearer and nearer to the geezer-cough, cough, to the principal.

Su Yu swallowed and took a step back nervously. He awkwardly said, "Principal...you...I...uhm..."

Wan Tiansheng stared at Su Yu silently. After a while, he smiled, "Don't be nervous. Su Yu, I only want to see the true potential of the human race. Sure, I can look for someone else. But since you're such a suitable person, I won't bother."

"Principal..." Su Yu calmed himself and laughed dryly before asking, "What should I do, then?"

"Form your characters as fast as possible and complete your character technique." Wan Tiansheng said, "Don't waste your time bickering with these people. The Great Xia Cultural Research Academy is only a small part of the Myriad Realms. Across the Myriad Realms, there are countless experts and geniuses in existence. It is pointless to spend all your time and effort competing against the single character faction."

"I have already planned everything out for you and the other genius students. If you want to compete and kill, there is no need to do so in the academy. The Myriad God House of the divine race, the Allheaven Purgatory of the devil race, all these are the places you guys should be fighting at. Those are the true places for you to showcase your strength."

"I've got no money..."

Those words had just left Su Yu's mouth when Wan Tiansheng smirked, "No money? Do you want me to confiscate the dozens of willpower texts you have collected?"

"..."

Su Yu wanted to curse in his mind...but he quickly gave up on that thought.

Just what was this principal trying to do here? The principal was basically telling him to cultivate and don't get involved in all the internal struggles without giving him any benefits. Just what was wrong with this principal?

Leaving the academy on missions to earn money was not possible for him. If he had to stop taking actions against the single character faction as well, was he supposed to starve to death?

Without resources, he wouldn't be able to do anything. Was he supposed to sit around and wait for death to come knocking?

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "It's not wise to be too greedy. Digest what you already have before asking for more. If you really want to leave the academy on missions, just do it. You can go anywhere you want in the Human Realm. Just don't go to the Allheaven Battlefield."

"But..." Su Yu said worriedly, "What can I do if people come after me right after I leave the city? My teacher is going to leave soon. My grandteacher is entering seclusion. My martial uncle can't leave..."

"If just leaving the academy is enough to kill you, that simply means that you are fated to die either way."

Su Yu was speechless. He was also slightly furious. He knew that he was facing Wan Tiansheng, someone suspected of being a high-stage Sunmoon, he couldn't resist questioning with a furious tone, "Principal, are you telling me that I should stop my quarrel with the single character faction and obediently wait for death?"

He felt like Wan Tiansheng had called him over just to make things difficult for him. He couldn't understand why a super expert like that was going through the trouble of making a puny Mental Tempering Stage student's life hard.

He was not allowed to participate in internal struggles, he was not given any benefits, and he was expected to rely on himself for cultivation resources...Did the principal think that he was a Mountainsea or a Sunmoon?

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "You're getting angry? Youngsters like you are indeed impatient."

Su Yu said nothing. But inwardly, he felt like he was already being really patient.

"I'm not saying that you should stop competing entirely. Competition is the driver of growth. I am only reminding you to not forget your true pursuit: strength."

"As long as you're a cultivator, your ultimate goal would be strength. It doesn't matter if you're a cultural researcher or a warrior. It's the same. It's fine if you want to spend your time studying cultivation methods or deciphering foreign cultures. But I also hope that you don't get overly obsessed with all that. As for leaving the academy on missions, that is actually a way to temper yourself."

"How about this? I can give you a personal guarantee that those at the Mountainsea Realm and above won't lay a hand on you."

"..."

Su Yu rolled his eyes. Don't joke around! He was only at the Mental Tempering Stage. Did people even need to send a Mountainsea over if they wanted him dead? A skysoar was enough to take his little life!

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "Don't you have a couple of beasts in your research center? Hong Tan has already registered them as mounts. Why don't you take them out for a stroll? Reach the Skysoar Realm earlier. Don't let these pointless affairs delay your cultivation. We don't have that much time left..."

What?

Su Yu suddenly caught on to something important.

He focused on Wan Tiansheng.

But the principal ignored him. Wan Tiansheng walked to the window and looked outside before sighing, "In truth, things are still quite peaceful here in the Human Realm. As for the battle with the myriad races, people have been saying that humanity is declining. But we are actually not weak. Our darkest moment was that period of time over 300 years ago when the myriad races invaded us. That was a true crisis. At that time, the entire human race was united. One Invincible after another rose up.

"We reached the peak of our power over 300 years ago when we pushed the invaders out of the Human Realm. Alas, humanity has been in a constant decline since then."

"Decline?" Su Yu asked doubtfully, "Are we declining?"

"What do you know?" Wan Tiansheng said, "Back then, dozens of Invincible experts had appeared in a short frame of time. But after over 300 years, very few new Invincibles had appeared from the human race. And during this period of time, a lot of human Invincibles had perished. We have not been able to replenish the numbers of our Invincibles."

"And that's also the case for our Sunmoons. This trend has been continuing for a very long time. Everyone is not stupid. A lot of people have noticed this. That was why the various prefectures started

competing against each other to unify the Human Realm under a new order. Perhaps with unity achieved, we can produce more Invincibles than before..."

Su Yu scratched his head. All that was too far from him. It was pointless to tell him all that.

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "It isn't pointless. Listen to me. Some human experts intend to change our current situation. But some human experts disagree. There are multiple popular opinions. One of these opinions is very interesting..."

"What is it?"

"They suggested that the human race should stop producing new Invincibles."

Su Yu blanked out. What?

Chapter 456: I Understand! (2)

"Because the human race is strong enough. We are strong enough to threaten even the almighty divines and devils. Thus, each Invincible we produce will result in a great battle with the myriad races. They will battle us to prevent the birth of a new Invincible, just like how they battled us to prevent the fifth principal's ascension back then.

"Thus, some people suggested maintaining the status quo. We don't need new Invincibles. We should restrain ourselves and maintain the balance with the myriad races. This is the way for prolonged peace."

Su Yu was shocked. He said, "Isn't this the same as not eating for fear of choking? We stop producing experts because the myriad races would be afraid of us. Are these people stupid?"

Wan Tiansheng sighed, "Are they? Perhaps that's what you think. But what if I tell you that each new Invincible will result in the death of an old Invincible? Would you still think that?"

Su Yu asked, "Why?"

Wan Tiansheng sighed again, "Because of the myriad races. Each time someone attempts to break through into the Invincible Realm, a major battle will erupt. And almost each time, at least one Invincible will perish. The new Invincible might be successful in the breakthrough, but an old Invincible will die as a result. This has happened each time a human tries to advance."

Wan Tiansheng sighed, "This is the long term strategy of the myriad races. They won't invade us. Instead, they are slowly grinding us down. The moment we try to produce one Invincible, they will attack us en masse. They will scare us so much that we won't dare to produce new Invincibles anymore."

Su Yu clenched his teeth and said, "So they are trapping us, forcing us to restrict our own growth and die a slow death?"

"Yeah." Wan Tiansheng nodded, "That's the gist of it. But that is the reality. Can those old Invincibles accept such a cost? Losing an old Invincible each time we produce a new Invincible? This has happened almost every single time. Do you still think that they are stupid for making that suggestion?"

Su Yu had nothing to say. Was that stupid? It was no longer so straightforward. Replacing a veteran Invincible with a new Invincible? Was that worth it?

Since he wasn't the one who would die, it would be easy for him to say that humanity should stand up and fight until the very end.

But what about the old Invincibles? They wanted to live as well. These were the heroes of humanity who had risen up and protected humanity when humanity was on the brink of extinction. It was understandable that they didn't want to die after finally pushing the myriad races out of the Human Realm, right?

Yes, that was perfectly understandable.

But Su Yu couldn't help but say, "If this continues, the human race will not be able to produce enough new Invincibles to replace the ones we're losing. This is not sustainable."

"That's right. Thus, a different group led by Great Zhou King is trying to reactivate the Human Realm's suppressive power toward the foreign races. That is one of the solutions we have."

"The old Invincibles are hesitating. Which side should they choose? Should they keep fighting or should they take a defensive stance?"

Su Yu asked, "Can't we kill some of them each time they attack us as well?"

"Sure we can." Wan Tiansheng nodded, "Don't look down on the old Invincibles. They will have no problem taking one or two enemy Invincibles down with them before dying. But we are fighting against so many races. Combined, they have a lot more Invincibles than us. We will still be the ones to lose more."

"But why are they insisting on attacking us?"

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "Because it's worth it. The Human Realm is a land of treasures. You will understand why one day. The Human Realm isn't too big. And it hasn't risen to power for long. But despite our short history, we have been able to produce as many Invincibles as the powerful races such as the divines and the devils. The only thing we lack is accumulation. There are also some other reasons for that, but that's irrelevant to our current discussion."

Wan Tiansheng asked, "Do you know the reason for the fifth principal's death?"

"..."

Su Yu was speechless. How the fuck was he supposed to know that? But he still answered after a short thought, "Because they don't want to see us produce a cultural researcher Invincible. My grandteacher said that a cultural researcher Invincible is much stronger than a warrior Invincible. One of them can fight multiple warrior Invincibles."

"Idiot!" Wan Tiansheng said, "Hong Tan is a fool. What does he know?"

Su Yu was out of words. What could he say to that? Just what was this principal trying to say?

Wan Tiansheng glanced at Su Yu and gloomily said, "The fifth principal's death proved one thing. You said that everyone is ignoring the suppression of the multiple character faction. In truth, there is a group of people encouraging this suppression from behind the scenes..."

Su Yu's head started hurting. Why was the principal telling him all that? Knowing more would only put him in more danger.

"I am only trying to make you realize what your priority is." Wan Tiansheng said, "Let me put it this way. Do you know my theory about a human cultural researcher Invincible? What is their biggest function? To activate the Human Realm's suppressive force. Do you understand now?"

Su Yu blanked out.

Wan Tiansheng said, "That's the crux of the issue. That was why the fifth principal was killed. That is why the multiple character faction is being suppressed. Like I said, some people wish to prolong this status quo and maintain this peace for a longer time. But the multiple character faction is the spark that will result in a major war with the myriad races. The moment the multiple character faction cultivators start advancing into the Invincible Realm, a major war will break out. Do you think the fifth principal and Liu Wenyan are the targets of those people? Do you think they only attacked because they fear a single new Invincible? Do you really think they attacked because a cultural researcher Invincible is stronger? Bullshit!"

Wan Tiansheng coldly said, "Because the multiple character faction, or to be more precise, human cultural researchers are not allowed to produce an Invincible. It is that simple. The moment one such Invincible is produced, war will come. A war that will engulf the Myriad Realms. Will the myriad races be willing to see us reactivate the suppressive force of the Human Realm? You need to understand this. Great Zhou King might not even be an enemy of the fifth principal. His little brother wouldn't have been there to help the fifth principal otherwise. Remember my words!"

"..."

Su Yu was completely stunned.

Holy shit!

What was this?

He finally understood. But he couldn't help but shiver in fear.

He swallowed and said, "You mean...there is more than one person. There is an entire group of people trying to stop the multiple character faction from producing an Invincible to avoid war? They are even going as far as preventing any multiple character faction member from even producing someone with the potential to enter the Invincible Realm just to prevent a major war with the myriad races from happening in advance?"

"So you finally understand." Wan Tiansheng smiled, "I told you to maintain a low profile. But you were stubborn. To speak the truth, I don't hold high hopes for people like Liu Wenyan and Hong Tan. It is very unlikely that they will be able to reach the Invincible Realm. But you...have some potential. Therefore, don't show off too much. Do you think your grandteacher and the others are all stupid? They have been able to sense the impending crisis. Therefore, even without knowing the truth, they have decided to lay low for so many years."

Su Yu was completely stunned. Was that the case? In that case...He couldn't resist looking at Wan Tiansheng again. But according to his grandteacher, the warzone incident might be related to this principal?

Since they had to stay low key, why had this guy pushed for that confrontation to happen? Wasn't this guy contradicting himself?

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "Stop thinking. Some things are less complicated than you have imagined. It has been 50 years. For a lot of people, Liu Wenyan and Hong Tan have exhausted their potential and can no longer reach the Invincible Realm. At a time like this, allowing them to show some strength is also a valid way to protect the multiple character faction."

"..."

Su Yu said nothing. But he felt like Wan Tiansheng was telling him too much. He was starting to feel scared of how much he knew. He didn't want to know that much! He was only at the Mental Tempering Stage!

Among the human Invincibles, a group of them was trying to delay the major war. These people were supportive of the suppression of the multiple character faction since the multiple character faction might produce cultural researcher Invincibles and cause the major war to happen sooner.

There was also a group of Invincibles that did not wish to see new Invincibles to rise and old Invincibles to die.

And there was another group led by Great Zhou King aiming to activate the Human Realm's suppressive force. They believed that a cultural researcher Invincible was required to actually do that. Thus, Great Zhou King could actually be a secret supporter of the multiple character faction.

Fuck!

What the fuck?

Su Yu was completely stupefied.

And as the successor of the multiple character faction, it was very advisable for him to hide his talent for a bit. If he showed too much talent and strength, he would alarm some people.

As for the older generation of the multiple character faction, according to Wan Tiansheng, some people believed that they had exhausted all their potential. It might be slightly dangerous for them to reveal some strength at this point, but the danger on them still wouldn't be as high.

So...he, a mere student, was much more dangerous than Teacher Liu and the others? There was no way this was true, right?

Su Yu stared at Wan Tiansheng blankly. The principal smiled, "Do you understand now?"

"I understand...but...Principal...are you not exaggerating to scare me?"

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "Do I even need to? You're not at the Skysoar Realm yet so it will still be fine for now. You can only demonstrate the strength of your physical cultivation. I am only trying to make you understand the truth.

"I want to remind you to stop exposing your talent on the path of cultural research. Since you have chosen to walk both paths of cultivation, it is fine to show off your strength in physical cultivation. Just hide your talent in willpower cultivation. Those people won't feel threatened by you.

"Since you already know all this, it will be fine. You're a smart person. Use your intelligence where you should. When you first entered the academy, you were quite low key. That's very good. Just focus on cultivating and learning. But nowadays, you have been showing off repeatedly. Without this meeting, you will probably do something to shake the entire academy next. Am I right?" freeweb .co m

"No."

Su Yu denied. What a joke. He was only a Mental Tempering Stage student. The principal sure looked highly upon him.

He finally understood what the principal was trying to say. He muttered, "So I can display the strength of my physical cultivation. As for my willpower cultivation, just show a rather ordinary level of talent? At the very least, that is the impression I need to show everyone. As for the ones who have witnessed my true talent in willpower cultivation, I need to ensure that they can't talk anymore?"

Ohhh, Su Yu finally understood! So he needed to kill some people and silence them forever! Principal Wan had spent so long talking, and finally, Su Yu was able to draw a conclusion from all the talking.

Firstly, if an enemy found out about his talent in willpower cultivation, he needed to kill and silence that person.

Secondly, he needed to be low key. If possible, he should scheme and plot in the dark, not in the open.

Thirdly, he was better off as a treacherous snake, not a righteous dumbass.

Fourthly, there was no need for him to worry about Liu Wenyan and the others. Instead, he should be worried about his own life.

Fifthly, the single character faction might actually exist to protect the multiple character faction even if they themselves were unaware of their true purpose.

...

Su Yu nodded in understanding.

Instead of retorting, he said, "Principal, I understand what you're trying to say! From now on, I will keep doing the same: only reveal the strength of my physical cultivation. You don't need to show too much bias toward me, Principal. I don't want people to think that I'm very talented in willpower cultivation. I don't want anyone to believe that I can become a cultural researcher Invincible and kill me to eliminate me as a threat. Am I right?"

Wan Tiansheng smiled. Was the kid right?

Perhaps.

Did the kid really have the potential to enter the Invincible Realm?

Not necessarily.

As far as he was concerned, this version of Su Yu still couldn't be relied on. The kid was too conspicuous and attracted too much attention. And attention was the source of all danger. The kid could easily get himself killed.

"In truth, I have also been considering a different possibility. Perhaps if you can show enough talent, you might attract a different group of people. They might finally decide to make a move. But I'm also worried that if you show off too much, even the final hope will be extinguished..."

"It's enough for your teacher and grandteacher to be the ones attracting all the attention. You should just focus on cultivation. Forget all these after leaving this place. Do not keep thinking about them. I am only telling you all this so that you will have a smoother path of cultivation."

Complicated.

Principal Wan's feelings were complicated. He believed that Su Yu was really talented enough to lure out the hidden enemies.

But Su Yu was too young. He still had a lot of untapped potential. As for people like Liu Wenyan and Hong Tan, it was fine for them to be used as bait. It wasn't like they had a high chance of entering the Invincible Realm.

Su Yu scratched his head and said, "Principal, I understand. Since you look so highly upon me, why don't you give me some benefits? With money, I can definitely cultivate faster."

Wan Tiansheng smiled, "Benefits? The words I've spoken today are invaluable. Is this not enough?"

What a straightforward kid. He was actually directly asking for benefits.

Su Yu bashfully said, "Yeah, those words are important. They have helped me understand some things. But Principal, they aren't really that helpful for me. Without resources, I can't advance. What's the point of telling me all that if I can't keep growing?"

"Rely on yourself," Wan Tiansheng said lazily. "You know the Divine Skywing Sect's hidden stash, right? Just go look for it if you want money. Both Bai Feng and Chen Yong know how to extract memories from blood essence. You probably know how to do so as well, right?"

"..."

At that very moment, only the word fuck could express what Su Yu was feeling.

Why was this principal aware of everything?

Was this principal omniscient and omnipotent?

That thought had only crossed his mind for a split second yet the principal had caught on to that.

Additionally, a lot of the things the principal had told him were definitely top secrets. How did the principal know all that? Did the principal guess all of that or did the principal really have proof of all that? It was clear that the principal knew a lot more than many people.

Su Yu was starting to get confused. Why did it feel like this principal might be even more well-informed than even the prefect?

There was nothing Su Yu could do about the lack of material benefits from this meeting. At the very least, he had learned some information that money couldn't buy. With nothing left to say, he took his leave.

Unknown to him, when he was walking through the door, a white flash appeared behind him before vanishing immediately.

...

After Su Yu left, Wan Tiansheng shut his eyes and sank into thought. There were some words that shouldn't have been spoken to Su Yu yet. Was there a point in letting a mere Mental Tempering Stage student know so much? But he couldn't let go of the tiny hope he saw.

The kid was still so young. In that case, the kid should live longer. At the very least, he needed to preserve the future of a Cloudbreach with the strength to battle Mountainseas.

That future he had seen after sacrificing a lifespan of 100 years was most definitely an important future.

Even if Su Yu had only appeared in a tiny part of the future he saw, the sheer fact that the kid had appeared signified that the kid was definitely not someone of no significance.

"Su Yu..."

Once again, he recalled the unique aura he felt from Su Yu when the semester first started. During that time, he had assumed that the kid had inherited Liu Wenyan's character. But he had concluded that instead of Liu Wenyan's character, the kid had stumbled upon his own fortuitous encounter.

Shaking his head, Wan Tiansheng smiled, "Pressure is the greatest source of motivation. Is this pressure enough for you?"

Was that enough?

He believed that it was.

The kid should stop putting all his effort on defeating the single character faction. The defeat of the single character faction would only be the start of an even harder life for the multiple character faction.

Chapter 457: Silly Child (1)

"He keeps trying to brainwash me without giving me any benefits."

Su Yu didn't know what to say. No wonder some people said that Wan Tiansheng was the same as Marquis Xia. They both enjoyed collecting money, but getting money out of them was impossible. He was meeting a great principal yet he wasn't even given a cup of tea. How stingy.

But Su Yu naturally wouldn't dare to show his dissatisfaction. Old Wan was too strong. He couldn't afford to provoke the principal. In fact, he still needed to rely on Old Wan's protection inside the academy.

He started thinking about other things. And he had a lot in his mind.

Chen Yong, Hong Tan, Bai Feng, Liu Hong, Xia Huyou...and even Wan Tiansheng. A lot of people had told him about the incident 50 years ago. They had told him about the fifth principal's death, about Zhou Family's suppression, about the traitorous human Invincible...

Su Yu had learned a lot about the past. At the very least, he now had a general idea about what had happened. The only thing he still didn't know was the identity of his true enemy.

"He told me to focus on my cultivation..."

Su Yu sighed. That might be right. It was about time he started focusing on his cultivation. That was especially true since he was going to enter the Willpower Grotto and absorb a large amount of willpower soon. With so much willpower, he should focus on forming new characters and prepare for his breakthrough into the Infinite Strength Realm.

He wasn't too weak. With all his trump cards, he was probably strong enough to even defeat some of the weaker Skysoars. But Bai Feng was right. The Skysoar Realm was merely the start of cultivation. In fact, only upon reaching the Skysoar Realm would one be considered a true cultivator. That was the starting point for all experts.

"My foundation is still too weak. I need to attend more classes and study more as well."

Su Yu decided to attend more classes, read more books, and learn more languages. He had opened a lot of pages in his book.

But a lot of the pages came in languages he didn't know. Thus, he had not dared to try the abilities in those pages since he knew nothing about them. After all, he didn't want to accidentally activate a self-detonation ability or something similar, right? In fact, he had only been learning the abilities of the races he knew the languages of.

"Time to become a good student."

Su Yu nodded. Yes. He was still a new student. It was time for him to be a good student. The next time he saw Zhou Pingsheng and the others, he needed to treat them with respect.

As for plotting for Zhou Pingsheng's death, well, perhaps there was no need for him to do so. That person was already in a lot of trouble. He had to first deal with the trouble coming from within his own faction. After bringing so much trouble to their faction, would Elder Sun and the others spare him?

Regardless of Su Yu's dissatisfaction, he still took Wan Tiansheng's words seriously. Wan Tiansheng might not be completely right, but Su Yu also believed that there must be some truth in the principal's words. There was no need for someone like that to deceive a mere student with nothing but lies.

But when Su Yu recalled the scene he saw when walking through the corridor, he frowned. Was it possible that what he saw would happen? Perhaps.

During the warzone incident when Liu Wenyan and the others were ganged up on, not a single person had been willing to help. Even after offering the best cultivation methods and martial techniques he knew as payment, Su Yu had still failed to garner any help. At that moment, he suddenly felt like Great Xia was not as great as he had thought. Suddenly, Great Xia felt like a much darker place.

Dark and selfish.

His grandteacher advised him to let go of his resentment. But how could he do so? Why had he opened so many acupoints, joined the tournament, and crippled so many single character faction students? Because of his anger.

Prior to that, he had still been rather merciful toward people like Liu He. Apart from Huang Qifeng, he had not been too heavy-handed against any of them. That included those who had targeted him such as Chen Qi, Lin Yao, Yang Sha, and many others. Even Zhou Hao was someone he had been willing to cooperate with.

But he couldn't bring himself to forgive the single character faction. He held a deep resentment toward them. As for those outside the single character faction, he might not hate them, but he didn't like them that much either. In fact, the academy had disappointed him greatly.

Back then, his father had often talked about brotherhood and comradeship in the army. Su Yu would never admit to it, but he was greatly envious of that. He was also a hot-blooded youth. He also longed for such comrades. That was why he had not complained too much about his father's return to the army.

But none of that was present in the academy. He could really see himself doing what he saw in the scene when he grew strong enough. Such an academy was deserving of that.

As he walked, he contemplated. The resentment in his heart weakened somewhat. But it was impossible for him to completely let go of his resentment toward the single character faction.

However, Old Wan was right. There was no need for him to be too conspicuous. He did not need the entire academy to bear witness to every single thing he did to the single character faction.

In the past, he might have been able to win some sympathy from the public since the multiple character faction was the underdog.

But now that he alone had suppressed an entire generation of the single character faction, the other students would start viewing Su Yu as an excessive bully if he continued his assault against the single character faction.

"Reputation and public image are still very important."

After some self-reflection, Su Yu realized that he still needed to be as cautious as he was when he first joined the academy. He realized how he had been very high-profile after the warzone incident. That was mostly due to his recent change of mindset.

In the past, everything he did had been done in a rational and organized manner. As someone from a small city, he had been very careful when he first arrived in the capital. But in recent days, he had been getting more and more rash.

"I definitely won't stop making moves against the single character faction, but there is no need to kick up a fuss every single time. Even the elders are starting to pay close attention to me now. And that isn't a good thing."

Su Yu continued reflecting on himself. He needed to maintain a low profile. It was honestly pointless to keep injuring those insignificant students. If he really wanted to do something, he was better off leaving the academy and luring a few of his enemies out into the wilderness before killing them.

That would be a much better way of dealing with bastards like Huang Qifeng. It was simply pointless to keep injuring people like that again and again. They were rich enough to keep recovering from the injuries. He should stay patient and find a chance to kill those people in one fight instead of repeating the act of injuring them in the academy.

"Dad said that you need to be patient on the battlefield. It is perfectly normal for you to bury yourself under the ground for seven or eight days just for a single ambush."

"I should do nothing if I can't completely erase my target. I should only move after finding the chance to completely eliminate my target. I should act like a coward in front of big shots. And I should be as ruthless as possible in front of weaklings."

Thinking about all his past experiences, Su Yu started listing a new code of conduct for himself. There was no need for him to break Wan Tiansheng's rules. He would be the one to suffer from that. There was no need for him to be too stubborn and fight everything head on.

...

21st of October.

The tournament had ended. The Willpower Grotto would be opened on the 25th. The single character faction had been busy finalizing the list of individuals that would be allowed to enter the grotto.

As for Su Yu, he started attending classes. He was trying his best to become a good student. As a good student, attending classes was something he had to do.

In the classroom, he found that there were far fewer students in attendance than before. At this point, a lot of students had stopped attending classes and were focused on other avenues of cultivation. Su Yu was unbothered. Everyone had their own path to walk.

Surprisingly, a few of the freaks were in attendance.

The class progressed. After the old instructor left, Su Yu packed up his books and proceeded to leave. While he was leaving, someone stopped in front of him.

It was a smiling Hu Qiusheng. He looked at Su Yu and asked, "Can we have a chat?"

Su Yu smiled and nodded, "Sure. Let's talk while we walk."

The two of them walked out of the classroom together. The other students merely gave them a glance before ignoring them. These students wouldn't involve themselves in the affairs of these freaks. They might be confident that they were geniuses, but their talent paled in comparison to these two.

...

Downstairs.

Students were coming and leaving. A lot of them took the initiative to move aside when they saw the two. Some of the junior or intermediate class students would even take the initiative to greet the two. Both Su Yu and Hu Qiusheng answered the greetings with friendly smiles on their faces, looking scholarly and refined while doing so.

While walking, Hu Qiusheng said, "Previously, you said that you wanted to start your own research center. In truth, that is also one of my goals. Or to be precise, any student truly interested in research would be interested in doing something like that."

Hu Qiusheng hesitated slightly before saying, "But you said that you are going to be researching cultivation methods and Divine Characters...These topics have been researched for many years. A majority of the research centers in the academy are also involved in similar topics. In that case, what's different about your research center?"

That was true. Almost everyone was researching topics related to cultivation methods and Divine Characters. Everyone was interested in those topics. But very few people could actually go far with their research.

Su Yu smiled, "Is Brother Hu interested in joining?"

Hu Qiusheng smiled, "It depends on whether your research center has anything that interests me. I had actually applied to join a research center before. My application was successful, and I am actually quite interested in what they do. But there are too many experts in that research center..."

Su Yu asked curiously, "Which research center?"

"Character Assembly Research Center..."

That was a familiar name to Su Yu. He exclaimed in shock, "That's a decent research center. It's the one that has come up with various character combinations, right? For example, the character system that some members of the single character faction are using came from this research center, right?"

"Yeah."

Hu Qiusheng nodded, "Yeah. Back then, your faction released a theory regarding the fusion of characters. But your faction stopped pursuing this line of research. But the Character Assembly Research Center has never stopped researching this topic. In truth, they have made considerable progress in their research. More and more single character faction members are starting to use character systems. In truth, this system is a hybrid of the teachings of the single and multiple character factions. Of course, their ultimate goal is still to bring everything under the umbrella of the single character faction."

Su Yu nodded. He was aware of all that. For example, Zheng Yuming's grandson was cultivating a character system. Even Wan Mingze, who specialized in sealing, could also be considered a character system cultivator.

Internally, the single character faction was already split. Some of them were focused on cultivating only a single character. They considered that to be the true path they should take.

In truth, the experts focusing on only one character were definitely not weak. Such an individual was able to focus all their time and energy on only one character, growing that character to an extremely high level.

Su Yu explained, "The research I'm planning to engage in is also related to those topics. I am also planning on researching the subject of ability combinations and compatibility of different character abilities. Of course, we are still not Skysoars. Since we can't materialize our characters yet, this won't be our main research subject anytime soon. For now, we will be mainly focusing on cultivation methods."

"Cultivation methods..."

Hu Qiusheng frowned, "That's too broad of a topic. Do you have a more specific topic?"

"Yes." Su Yu nodded, "Before this, we came up with the Soul Devouring Art at the Wentan Research Center, right? The Soul Devouring Art is only a yellow-grade cultivation method. Even so, it is unique enough that its value is above that of a regular yellow-grade method. It allows you to transform your source qi and give it the ability to burn and corrode willpower. But during the Divine Character tournament when we fought through our willpower bodies, I was still able to utilize the Soul Devouring Art. Since then, I have been thinking about the interchangeability between source qi and willpower."

"Interchangeability?" Hu Qiusheng was stunned, "You mean that source qi can be converted to willpower and vice versa?"

Su Yu nodded. "In truth, this topic was researched long ago. But no concrete result has been released yet. But the appearance of the Soul Devouring Art has given me some new ideas. Perhaps through Soul Devouring Art, I can discover some special attributes of source qi and willpower."

Su Yu smiled, "Of course, I only have a general idea for now. I have yet to start the research. I can't do anything alone, anyway. And my teacher is going to leave soon while my grandteacher is entering seclusion."

Su Yu sighed, "My only choice is to open my own research center and recruit some like-minded friends. If we can really come up with something or even find a way to convert willpower to source qi and vice versa, we might even bridge the distance between warriors and cultural researchers. At present, the two communities don't really get along well with each other."

Su Yu seriously said, "Of course, this is such a big project that I believe a lot of people are already attempting to do the same. But we have one advantage over everyone else. I am the one who has

derived the Soul Devouring Art. Additionally, I have also discovered that there are some races out there that are already capable of doing this."

Hu Qiusheng frowned and said nothing. As a mere Mental Tempering Stage student, it seemed unrealistic that Su Yu would be able to take on such massive projects.

Sure, they could play it down and call it research on cultivation methods. But if they really wanted to brag about it, they could call it an attempt to remove the barrier between warriors and cultural researchers.

"Su Yu, are you sure this is going to be the direction of your research?"

Su Yu nodded, "Yes. I am more than sure. I already have some ideas as to what I should do. You know that I have opened a lot of acupoints. After opening hundreds of source acupoints and some soul apertures, I discovered something. Perhaps if I can open more apertures, I might even be able to form a link between acupoints and apertures."

Su Yu solemnly said, "Or to be precise, instead of calling it a link, it is actually an acupoint that can link acupoints and apertures together. If this acupoint really exists, the moment I find the way to open it, all cultural researchers can become warriors, and vice versa."

Chapter 458: Silly Child (2)

Hu Qiusheng's heart thumped, "Are you serious?"

"This is only speculation." Su Yu smiled, "Before starting the research, I need to first establish a hypothesis. Only then can I start working hard to figure out whether the hypothesis is right or wrong."

Hu Qiusheng inhaled deeply and asked, "Did Teacher Hong or Teacher Bai come up with this hypothesis?"

Su Yu rolled his eyes, "It's my own hypothesis. This is the feeling I get after opening 300 acupoints. My guts are telling me that such an acupoint exists."

"300 acupoints..."

Hu Qiusheng did not know what to say about that. Apart from the first batch of human experts from over 300 years ago, had any other human ever opened as many acupoints? He was unsure. Perhaps there were, but he had certainly not heard of them.

"Su Yu, if such an acupoint really exists, how come our predecessors have not discovered it?"

Su Yu rolled his eyes, "How am I supposed to know that? Perhaps they have been withholding the information. Perhaps nobody has found it. Perhaps the requirements to discover that acupoint are too strict. For example, you need 300 acupoints and 100 apertures. Or it can be even stricter. Acupoints are easy to open. But can you say the same about apertures?"

"If it's really so hard to open, will you be able to make opening this acupoint a common practice even if you can open it?"

Su Yu said, "Brother Hu, are you stupid? If we can really discover that acupoint, we can try to let someone open that acupoint as their first acupoint.

"For centuries, the human race has started the path of cultivation by opening the nine basic acupoints. Only then would they be able to start cultivating for real. But that isn't the case for the other races. A lot of them can start cultivating right away. A popular theory suggests that the human race is unsuitable for cultivation, hence the difficulty. But that's bullshit. If the human race is unsuitable for cultivation, how can we produce so many Invincibles? How can we grow into a top 10 race?"

"Therefore, I believe that we simply lack understanding of the human body. Imagine this. If we can find this acupoint, our children will be able to open it as their first acupoint. They no longer need to open their nine basic acupoints passively before they can start cultivating. How big would this be for humanity?"

"..." (f)ree

Hu Qiusheng trembled. After a while, he spoke with a hoarse voice, "The number of human cultivators will skyrocket. The ability to skip the Source Opening Realm will allow a lot of people to start cultivating at their prime.

"Students can start cultivating at the elementary school or the secondary school. By the time they enter an academy at 18, they might have already reached the Great Strength, Infinite Strength, or even the Skysoar Realm."

Su Yu smiled, "Exactly."

Hu Qiusheng inhaled deeply and said, "I have never thought of this before. How about this? I'll go back and gather some information. I'll try to find out if anyone in the various academies or even the Knowledge Seeking Realm has researched this topic before. You have reminded me of something. It isn't that no human expert has ever thought of skipping the Source Opening Realm. I suspect that some people have already researched this topic before. Perhaps we can take the past research as our reference..."

Hu Qiusheng did not realize it, but he was starting to use "we" and "us" when talking about them.

Su Yu laughed. Had this fellow decided to join his research center? Hu Qiusheng was someone from the Hu Family. And the Hu Family was a powerful family. Administrator Hu was a Sunmoon expert. And he was a veteran Sunmoon cultivator, not a fresh Sunmoon.

Hu Qiusheng suddenly looked at Su Yu with an odd gaze and asked, "Su Yu, are you sure you have never read about this before? Have you thought of this all by yourself?"

That was a truly terrifying hypothesis. Even if they had no proof yet, that hypothesis represented a massive research project. There was a lot of value and significance behind such a research subject.

Su Yu smiled, "This is an idea that will naturally come to someone who has opened a lot of acupoints. Someone who has opened so few acupoints like you will naturally fail to understand that feeling."

"..."

That was mean. Hu Qiusheng felt like coughing blood.

Su Yu continued being mean, "You have decent talent in cultivation, but you are not the type of people I'm looking for. Brother Hu, don't blame me for being honest, but in my eyes, someone with a good talent in cultivation can be a warrior or a character master, but that person might not be able to be a good cultural researcher."

Yes. He was saying that even if Hu Qiusheng wanted to join, he might not agree to it.

Hu Qiusheng did not mind the honesty. He said, "Up until now, I have mastered 77 languages. I have been studying since I was a boy, and I have read over 1,082 different cultivation manuals. Of course, these are all normal texts instead of willpower texts. I have once modified and improved a cultivation method. It is a high-tier yellow-grade method. Initially, it only allows you to open 27 acupoints. I was able to reduce the acupoints into 26 acupoints while retaining the same level of power."

Su Yu was surprised.

Modifying a cultivation method? Reducing the number of acupoints required for the same output of strength?

Just because the number of acupoints was reduced, it didn't mean that the cultivation method would decline in quality. Some cultivation methods were so terrible that even with 27 acupoints, they might only be able to display the prowess of 26 acupoints. One of the acupoints was basically pointless to have. In such a situation, reducing the number of required acupoints would basically save more time for the cultivator without reducing the strength the cultivator could gain from the cultivation method.

77 different languages and 1,082 cultivation methods...This fellow was truly worthy of being a member of a powerful family.

And he was only 18 years old. Even if he started reading when he was 6 years old, he would still need to master at least 5 languages and read 90 cultivation manuals per year. That was very impressive!

Su Yu's eyes lit up as he said, "Then you are definitely qualified to join my research center. My future research center, I mean."

Hu Qiusheng sighed, "What a pity. I think you should focus on research. Just ignore the factional conflicts. If that's not enough, we can wait until we produce some results from our research. At that time, I can get my grandpa to recommend you to further your studies at the Knowledge Seeking Realm."

"Let's talk about that next time."

A lot of people had been giving him the same advice for the past few days. Su Yu was actually quite surprised. Had he really changed so much? Even Hu Qiusheng was telling him to avoid those conflicts. Prior to this, Hu Qiusheng had never mentioned something like that.

And the two of them weren't even close. Or perhaps...this was Administrator Hu's message? Su Yu was unsure. Would Administrator Hu even pay attention to a nobody like him?

...

After parting with Hu Qiusheng, Su Yu started making plans for the future. His top priority was his cultivation. He also had to found his research center. And he would continue creating trouble for the single character faction. He also needed to find a chance to leave the academy for some treasure hunting. The Divine Skywing Sect's stash was still waiting for him somewhere out there.

That was a large sect with a Sunmoon expert as the sect master. The sect master had been killed. Even now, his corpse was still in the Myriad Race Pit. Su Yu still needed to find a way to gain access to that corpse. His last resort would be to get Xia Huyou's help.

While Su Yu was busy making his future plans.

Eighteenth Secondary School. Rear mountain.

The rear mountain had turned into a forbidden zone. The teachers and students of the school had been avoiding that place. All of them knew that a few experts had arrived there recently.

After yet another character rearrangement session with Liu Wenyan, Bai Feng exhaled deeply and said, "Martial Uncle, why do you still have so many characters after detonating so many of them? You must have been too free all these years. Have you been spending all your time forming new characters?"

Liu Wenyan didn't even deign to give that a response. After sensing his characters that were much less disorderly than before, he said, "I only have eight of your grandteacher's characters left."

All eight of them were human characters. And all of them were Sunmoon characters. In short, as a mere Skysoar, he had eight Sunmoon characters in his possession.

Bai Feng nodded, "Martial Uncle, this is actually an opportunity for you to fuse your characters and reassemble your character technique. It's not a bad thing that you have detonated some of them. That way, you have almost fully cleansed your sea of willpower of grandteacher's influence. Otherwise, the repelling force of your characters would be too strong for you to even fuse your characters."

"Reassemble..." f reewe b

Liu Wenyan nodded, "My previous character technique has the form of a sword. Meanwhile, your grandteacher's character technique is an axe. My character technique has been suppressed because his character technique is too strong, forcing me to use an axe instead of a sword. But axes are really too ugly..."

"..."

Bai Feng was speechless. This martial uncle of his loved to call him unfilial. But what was this? He was talking trash about the fifth principal's axe! The fifth principal was his teacher! That was an axe that had killed even Invincibles!

"What's the new form of your character technique, Martial Uncle?"

"Naturally, it's why should I tell you?"

Liu Wenyan didn't even feel like answering the question. What was the point?

He said, "I still can't use all the characters. My characters are all at the second tier so the gap between my characters and my teacher's characters is too big. At most, I can unleash the combat strength of a ninth-stage Skysoar."

"Your willpower and apertures are already strong enough. You only lack characters of sufficient tier. But with powerful willpower, you won't take long to grow your characters into the third tier."

Third-tier characters were basically Cloudbreach characters.

According to Bai Feng's estimation, Liu Wenyan would probably take around a year to achieve that. And the moment Liu Wenyan could push his characters into the fourth tier, he would be able to easily enter the Mountainsea Realm.

Thus, he would definitely be able to enter the Mountainsea Realm within three years. And he only needed to rely on his own characters. As for the eight Sunmoon characters left in his sea of willpower, he could still use them in emergencies to unleash the prowess of a Sunmoon.

But he couldn't keep it up for long as his sea of willpower was still not durable enough to withstand that level of strength. And his physical body was also not strong enough.

Liu Wenyan nodded, "I'm in no rush. I am confident I can enter the Mountainsea Realm in three years. But you're a problem. You need to regain your strength as soon as possible. The Vanguard Regiment isn't an easy place to survive."

Bai Feng appeared indifferent. He was in no rush.

He changed the topic and asked, "Martial Uncle, we are all leaving and my teacher is entering seclusion. What will happen to Su Yu?"

Liu Wenyan smiled, "It's fine. I already told some old friends to watch over him. He should be fine. Just focus on your own recovery. Your own student is going to catch up to you soon. Your teacher said that the kid has defeated even a few peak Mental Tempering Students. I think he will be able to reach the Skysoar Realm soon."

Bai Feng was feeling rather gloomy. He had already left the academy. Why was the kid still provoking him from out of sight? He really needed to start working on his cultivation level.

After a short chat, Liu Wenyan said, "You should try to enter the Luminous Domain Mansion during its next opening as well. I have never been there, but your teacher was there before. He told me that the Luminous Domain Mansion was most likely something left behind by a cultural researcher Invincible. And that might be a human. Also, that person might even be an existence beyond the Invincible Realm. Of course, I have never been there myself so I don't know for sure."

Liu Wenyan solemnly said, "Don't delay your cultivation. Although your disassembly method is good, it might not be the best way to go around it. Sure, with the help of your disassembly method, I can probably reach the Sunmoon Realm as well. But the Invincible Realm will still be an issue."

Bai Feng nodded. There was no helping it. He had yet to encounter a true human Eternal character so he had nothing to test his theories on or draw references from.

He would only be more confident about his theories if he could study a proper human Eternal character. Without true confirmation, everything they did was akin to a gamble.

Bai Feng looked in the direction of the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy. What a pity. He would probably not be around to see the kid entering the Skysoar Realm. Otherwise, the kid would be an excellent research subject.

"Eternal character?"

He muttered to himself as he looked in the academy's direction. There was one thing he had never told anyone else.

He suspected that...Su Yu had inherited a true Eternal character.

A human Eternal character.

That was his guess. That silly student of his had been using the blood character as a scapegoat, but that was bullshit. He had seen even Sunmoon characters. After all, Liu Wenyan had some in his sea of willpower.

And not even Sunmoon characters were as incredible as the so-called blood character. Thus, it was probable that Su Yu had actually inherited an Eternal character. And it was very likely that this was a human character. That was the only explanation for Su Yu's inability to form non-human characters.

"That silly kid has exposed too much to me. I hope he can be more careful moving forward."

What a silly kid.

Bai Feng had simply not bothered with exposing the kid. Did the kid really think that he could be fooled so easily?

Chapter 459: My Student Is A Future Invincible (1)

Wentan Research Center.

Su Yu returned to an empty building.

It was unknown if Hong Tan had entered seclusion or left on some other business. In any case, Su Yu was left alone in the large building. He calmed himself and went to the second floor. He started reading while tempering his willpower.

It had been a while since he last focused on reading. During the five years he spent at the secondary school, he had spent nearly every day visiting the library to read and learn. But after entering the academy, he had been constantly kept busy by numerous affairs. As the saying went, the trees long for peace but the wind would never cease.

The source of all trouble was the threat multiple character faction posed to multiple parties, such as the myriad races and some factions in the Human Realm. Su Yu decided to forget all that and focus on reading, learning, and growing.

He also aimed to strengthen some of his friends. If he was alone, even if he became an Invincible, he still wouldn't have enough power to suppress everything. He needed to join hands with a group of people.

Su Yu was confident in his talent. And he also had the assistance of his book. But regardless of his talent, he still wouldn't be able to reach the Invincible Realm in one day. Were people like Great Xia King powerful? But even people like them couldn't act freely. They still needed to get some allies to seize some initiative for themselves.

"The biggest benefit I can give everyone is my cultivation methods."

While reading and tempering his willpower, Su Yu was also busy contemplating on numerous matters. He was basically splitting his attention three ways. But the truly genius ones would not lack cultivation methods.

Just look at someone like Hu Qiusheng. He had read over a thousand cultivation manuals over the years. Would the Hu Family lack cultivation methods? No. They only lacked truly powerful or impactful cultivation methods. For example, cultivation methods such as the Water Origin Art or the Soul Devouring Art.

"If I can combine the five elemental arts into one art with 180 apertures, it will become an amazing art. Even if I can't teach anyone the complete version, I can teach them the incomplete version with 108 apertures. Even such a version would be much better than the Myriad Text Sutra."

"This cultivation method is even more valuable due to the fact that it can be cultivated at the Mental Tempering Stage."

According to Su Yu's plan, he could create the version with 108 apertures by combining three of the five arts. Even so, that would result in a top-tier earth-grade cultivation method. And it was something that could be cultivated at the Mental Tempering Stage. Something like that was enough to impact all willpower cultivators in the Human Realm.

That was basically a cultivation method they could keep using until the Cloudbreach Realm. It would save a lot of time for people at the Skysoar and Cloudbreach Realms. And that required him to combine three of the five arts.

"Who can I trust enough to teach this cultivation method?"

Su Yu sank into thought. He had yet to combine the five arts. He might have opened 44 apertures, but he hadn't been able to link up the apertures of the two arts he had cultivated so far.

He needed the assistance of an expert to perform the combination. A few names appeared in his mind. Liu Wenyan and Bai Feng were actually suitable individuals to help him. But Bai Feng's cultivation level was too low. He might not be as helpful. And Liu Wenyan was not someone he could easily contact at the moment.

There was a better option than those two.

Zhao Li!

That was a teacher who had taught him the Soul Expanding Art. And that teacher had taught him without any intentions. Zhao Li had taught him the Soul Expanding Art merely because he was a suitable person to learn it.

"Maybe...I should pay Teacher Zhao a visit. I can get some help from him."

Zhao Li was the fourth principal's son, someone who had lived for 120 years, created his own version of Soul Expanding Art, and was also a grandmaster weaponsmith. He had once attempted to enter the Mountainsea Realm, but he had failed.

Zhao Li was the perfect person for the task. In all honesty, Su Yu still wasn't that close to Hong Tan and Chen Yong. He had not interacted with them that much.

Sure, he really liked the multiple character faction. And he liked his grandteacher and martial uncle. He also agreed that both of them had been kind to him. But he did not wish to tempt anyone he didn't know well enough with something too valuable.

As for Zhao Li, if the old man really decided to snatch the cultivation method from him, he would simply consider the cultivation method a payment for the Soul Expanding Art. After making up his mind, he

checked the time. It was still early. He decided to go after it was dark. He continued reading the willpower text in his hand.

Not long ago, he had bought a decent amount of willpower texts from Xia Huyou. If he continued ignoring these texts, those texts would probably lose all their willpower before he could read them. That would be a big loss for him.

As he read, he sank into contemplation. He was reading the willpower text of a saber technique. Up to this point, he had read a lot of saber manuals. He found that similar types of techniques would actually have a lot of overlapped acupoints. For example, two saber manuals that respectively required 40 and 30 acupoints would have around 20 overlapped acupoints.

What did that mean? Basically, when one mastered a high-tier technique, one would be able to learn a similar technique of a lower tier much easier.

Some of these lower tier techniques could be easily learned after opening only a few acupoints.

"There is actually a lot of overlap between the various techniques. Following this line of thought, does the fact that the Soul Devouring Art requires only 36 acupoints to alter the nature of one's source qi means that there are also some other undiscovered acupoints with unknown special effects as well?"

Su Yu continued contemplating while reading. It had been a while since he last entered such a deep contemplation. While he was doing all that, his willpower was growing without stopping.

Cultural researchers...were supposed to be a group of people in charge of preserving and transmitting culture. It was rumored that some cultural researchers did not even need to read willpower texts. They only needed to read an ordinary book to form a complete Divine Character.

According to the legends, that was how ancient cultural researchers form their characters. Su Yu's 80 percent willpower continued growing as he sat in contemplation. He paid no attention to his willpower as he continued thinking.

...

Night descended.

A new character had taken form.

Su Yu sank into thought.

This was very odd.

This time, the character formation was very smooth. Unlike the previous times, he wasn't forced to beat the new character into submission. Rather, it almost felt like the new character was rushing in to join the team.

Had he attracted the character with his sheer talent? To the point the character itself wanted to work with him?

Also, this character was slightly different from the other characters. All his past characters had been mostly combat focused characters. This time, he had formed the fire character.

At first, he thought that it was a combat character as well. It was fire, so it was understandable for it to be offensive in nature. And he had seen multiple people with the same character. All of them were pretty decent.

But his fire character did not share any similarity with all the fire characters he had seen. When Su Yu realized that, his mood fell.

"A fire character that doesn't burn...what is this?"

Su Yu was completely confused. He already knew what the ability of the new character was. But it was very odd. Instead of offensive, it was supportive in nature.

Suddenly, his willpower ignited.

Yes. The fire character's function was to ignite his own willpower.

Unlike the Soul Devouring Art, this fire character did not cause him any pain when burning his willpower. Instead, it felt like his willpower was actually being purified. But that wasn't exactly accurate either.

After a short silence, Su Yu took out a regular book and started reading it. And he found that his mind was exceptionally clear and his ability to take in information had increased sharply. He flipped through page after page. Before he knew it, he had finished reading the whole book.

"Is this...supposed to be a fire of wisdom or something like that?"

Su Yu was dumbfounded.

By burning his willpower, his comprehension ability had increased greatly, allowing his brain to gain new information at a rapid pace. What was this? Was he being forced to become a top student, to the point he was even getting a character for studying?

"Can it increase my comprehension when reading willpower texts?"

Su Yu performed another text. This time, he used a willpower text. Sure enough, he felt completely different from before. He was able to understand what he couldn't understand previously. Countless ideas appeared in his mind, and comprehending the willpower text felt much easier than before.

But Su Yu had also noticed something else. When reading a willpower text, the fire character was working even harder than before, exhausting a lot of his willpower in the process.

"It's a supportive character."

This was his first time encountering a pure supportive character. His blood character was also an odd one out. Logically, the illusion ability had nothing to do with a blood character, yet for some reason, that was the character's ability.

Perhaps there was a tendency for first characters to mutate. He also had the deceit character that could be considered a supportive character, but he had intentionally forgotten about the existence of that character. Since that fellow was so deceitful, then it could stay deceitful and pretend to not exist. He would gladly forget about it.

"Eight characters."

The fire character wasn't too powerful. It wasn't a second-tier character. It wasn't even a peak first-tier character. But Su Yu was still very curious about the character. His curiosity came from the ease at which he had formed it and the unique ability of the character.

But he put all that for another time. When he checked the time, he noted that it was time for him to pay Teacher Zhao a visit.

...

Zhao Li's research center.

Zhao Li was surprised to see Su Yu. He laughed and said, "Not bad at all. Your willpower feels fresh and clear. You must have thought something through. During your previous visit, despite having strong willpower, your willpower had also been covered by a layer of darkness. It hasn't been long yet you have already adjusted your state of mind."

Clear.

Su Yu did not have the same feeling, but he could guess that this "clear" effect was probably the work of his new fire character. Of course, he had also thought through a matter that had been bothering his mind and made a decision about it.

What decision had he made? Well, he had decided to maintain a low profile.

It was better to be an old, slimy snake than a dumb knight in shining armor.

Su Yu flashed a pure and earnest smile. When Zhao Li saw that, he laughed as well. Suddenly, he felt like even Su Yu's smile looked more sincere than before.

"It is normal for one to stumble upon some troubles in the path of cultivation. It is fine as long as you can adjust your mental state accordingly."

Zhao Li asked, "Do you need any help from me?"

Su Yu nodded, "Teacher, do all cultural researchers cultivate the Myriad Text Sutra nowadays?"

Zhao Li shook his head, "The Myriad Text Sutra is a relatively new cultivation method. Back then, people cultivated a different cultivation method. Or to be precise, they cultivated a weaker version of the Myriad Text Sutra. The current Myriad Text Sutra is actually the strengthened version of what people used to cultivate. It can open 72 apertures. The previous version can only open 54 apertures."

Su Yu was quite surprised to hear that.

Zhao Li looked at Su Yu and asked, "Why are you asking this? Are you making plans for your new willpower cultivation method in the future?"

He was aware that Su Yu had already opened apertures.

He had already noticed during their previous meeting.

He had a slight guess as to why Su Yu was here. He smiled, "There is no rush. It is good that you are able to open some apertures at the Mental Tempering Stage. Let me give you an example. With those apertures, you will be able to easily open the first aperture of the Myriad Text Sutra after reaching the Skysoar Realm. This is the benefit of having a foundation willpower art."

"I know that, Teacher."

Su Yu nodded. He was already aware of that long ago. Zhang Hao was the one who had told him about it.

After thinking about it, Su Yu said, "Teacher, the Myriad Text Sutra is only a public willpower cultivation method. Are there any secret willpower cultivation methods out there that can open even more apertures?"

"I'm not sure."

Zhao Li answered, "But these cultivation methods most likely exist. Both Great Zhou and Great Ming can actually be considered traditional cultural research powerhouses. Of course, when someone is strong enough to establish a prefecture, the difference between a warrior and a cultural researcher is no longer that big. But it is very possible that these traditional willpower cultivation powerhouses have their own secret legacies."

"So is it possible that willpower cultivation methods with 144 apertures exist?"

"..."

Zhao Li was speechless. Was this kid here to mess around with him? How was he supposed to know that? 144 apertures? Did the kid think that cultural cultivation methods fall from the sky or something?

"Just say what's on your mind."

Zhao Li was starting to get impatient. This wimpy kid was a very troublesome fellow. He also enjoyed leaving someone hanging by talking in circles without touching the main topic.

Chapter 460: My Student Is A Future Invincible (2)

Su Yu smiled, "Teacher, your willpower has been compressed numerous times. In terms of durability, your willpower is probably comparable to the willpower of a Mountainsea. But are 72 apertures enough to support your willpower that is clearly beyond the level of a regular Cloudbreach?"

Zhao Li rolled his eyes and asked, "And?"

"I'm wondering what would happen if you could open more apertures. Maybe a dozen or two. Would that make you stronger?"

Zhao Li smiled, "You're thinking of teaching me your foundation cultural art?"

Zhao Li shook his head, "There is no need for that. At my current level, opening new apertures is a very difficult task. And the apertures of your art will belong to an entirely different system from what I'm currently cultivating. Even after opening them, they won't really be that big of a help to me. If the overlap is high, I might not even have that many new apertures to open. For example, out of the 18 apertures of your art, maybe 15 of them overlap. In that case, the 3 additional apertures won't really do much for me."

He was someone with 72 apertures. Opening a few extra apertures wouldn't help him that much. Foundation cultural arts were much more helpful to students below the Skysoar Realm.

At the Skysoar Realm, one could naturally choose to open more apertures. But if one used a different art with a lot of overlap, one would only gain a small number of new apertures. And those new apertures would be separated from the main system one already formed. Independently, these apertures wouldn't really be that helpful.

It would only grant someone a slightly stronger and more robust willpower. For someone who had tempered his willpower countless times like Zhao Li, that was nothing for him. His willpower was already as strong as a Mountainsea's. The only thing holding him back currently was his problematic main Divine Character.

...

Su Yu looked around and asked, "Teacher, will our conversation be spied on?"

"..."

Zhao Li glared at Su Yu. What a stupid question.

No matter what, he was someone with willpower as powerful as a Mountainsea's. Spying on him? What a joke.

Su Yu reminded, "Cough, cough. This is quite important. I'm still worried. After all, we have a certain individual in the Heart Cultivating Pavilion who is very strong."

He suspected that the principal would frequently spy on the activities of everyone in the academy. After all, the principal was even aware of the fact that his character technique required a lot of characters even though they had not met before.

How had the principal found out about that? During their meeting, Su Yu had not once thought about his character technique. And most of the things he had thought about were unrelated to the principal. Those thoughts shouldn't have been sensed.

Zhao Li's expression turned odd as he looked at Su Yu, "You sure are gutsy. You actually have the galls to suspect even the principal?"

But that fellow...was really very strong. The kid was right.

One of Zhao Li's character flickered and formed a layer of incorporeal energy around the room. With that done, Zhao Li smiled, "Is this good enough? This is an anti-spy formation built into the entire research center. Nobody can listen in to us unless they break through the formation with brute force."

Su Yu nodded in relief.

He wasted no time and took out a large sheet of paper before spreading it on the desk. Then, he started writing and drawing on it.

Zhao Li walked over and took a look at the paper. He frowned slightly. Su Yu was drawing an acupoint diagram? But slowly, he noticed that something was off. This wasn't an acupoint diagram. Was this...a replica of a sea of willpower?

It was a sea of willpower filled with numerous dots of light. One red dot after another was drawn out by Su Yu. He stopped at 36 dots. He then drew a line connecting all 36 dots, linking all of them into a system following a complicated pathway.

This was the most important part of a system: the way to link all the apertures or acupoints together.

One could link 36 apertures into numerous different systems through countless pathways. But that did not mean that one could randomly join these apertures together and they would work.

Linking different apertures or acupoints together would result in different effects. And the pathway one chose when linking them together would also result in different effects. For a cultivation method to be considered complete, the acupoints or the apertures were important. But the way to link these apertures or acupoints up was even more important.

Su Yu was the best example. He might have opened 300 acupoints, but he was unable to utilize all of them in a single system. That was because he lacked the method of linking all of them together.

...

Zhao Li frowned.

Was this a cultural art?

Why was Su Yu writing out his foundation cultural art? It was clearly a powerful cultural art. It allowed one to open 36 apertures and could be cultivated at the Mental Tempering Stage.

This was Zhao Li's first time actually looking at a foundation cultural art. It was not a willpower text, so he couldn't get a deeper experience from reading it. In fact, it wasn't even a manual. To be precise, it was merely a diagram. But even a mere diagram like this was enough to teach Zhao Li something new.

The more Zhao Li looked at the diagram, the more surprised he was. There was actually very little overlap with the Myriad Text Sutra. This signified that this cultural art would allow him to open dozens of new apertures if he cultivated it.

An aperture or two wouldn't do much for him. But dozens of apertures would most certainly be helpful for him. After linking the 36 red dots together, Su Yu paused slightly before drawing even more red dots.

Zhao Li frowned. What was the meaning of this? Was the kid drawing random apertures now? One red dot after another was drawn. Before long, another set of 36 red dots could be seen on the paper. Like before, Su Yu started linking all the dots up.

And when Zhao Li saw that Su Yu was going to continue drawing, he said, "Don't mess around. Is this still a sea of willpower? Don't label random positions as apertures. If you open an aperture incorrectly, you might end up punching a hole through your sea of willpower."

True soul apertures were things that were sealed when they were supposed to be open. These were the nodes in one's sea of willpower that could be opened. If one attempted to do the same at a spot without an actual aperture, one would be opening a hole instead. And opening a hole in one's own sea of willpower was the same as suicide.

Su Yu smiled, "Don't worry, Teacher. Be calm."

Only two systems had been drawn out. What was the rush? He still had three systems to draw!

Zhao Li frowned, "Are all of these apertures?"

"Yeah. Just keep watching. You'll see."

Zhao Li frowned, "The two systems are slightly similar. If you aren't randomly drawing things, then these two are two cultural arts with not a single overlap in apertures. But the composition of these two systems are quite similar to each other. Are they actually part of a single cultural art that has been separated?"

Zhao Li muttered, "These two are very likely to be a single art that has been split apart. Is that the case? You're trying to get me to repair these two arts and merge them back into a single art?"

Su Yu smiled. Sure enough, this was a reliable old man. With one look, Zhao Li was able to see that the two belonged together.

Zhao Li stopped asking questions. He focused fully on the 72 red dots. This was a single cultural art that had been taken apart. Su Yu was trying to restore the original version. Or perhaps these two were parts of a single set of cultural arts and there was an issue somewhere preventing them from being linked together?

He continued studying the diagram. After a while, he walked away and took out his hammer. With the hammer, he started hammering at thin air.

Su Yu turned around to look at Zhao Li. As he was only drawing an ordinary diagram instead of writing a willpower text, his diagram was actually not too clear.

Meanwhile, Zhao Li was forging a replica.

A sea of willpower replica.

He was a weaponsmith. It was boring to look at a diagram. He much preferred looking at a replica.

...

Slowly, something spherical took shape.

One red dot after another appeared in the empty sphere.

And one line after another appeared.

While rubbing his chin, Zhao Li said, "Take a look at this. Is it accurate? I don't have enough time to forge a puppet today so I'll settle with a model of a sea of willpower. Sure, seas of willpower are intangible, but there is still a way to properly represent them physically."

At the mention of a puppet, Su Yu recalled the puppet that had chased after him during his meeting with Marquis Xia. Puppets could actually be quite powerful when forged correctly. He walked up to the sea of willpower replica and looked at it before nodding.

The old man's memory was quite good. He was actually able to make such an accurate replica after a single look at his diagram. All 72 of the apertures had been marked at the correct positions.

"Teacher, this isn't enough..."

"Hmm?"

"The apertures..." Su Yu said, "Teacher, can you enlarge this replica? I need a really big replica. A replica big enough for us to walk around inside."

"Sure. But why do you need it to be so big? This thing can actually be considered a cultural weapon. You can change its size as you wish. You only need to add some materials into it..."

It felt really good to talk about forging with a weaponsmith. That was especially true when it was a grandmaster weaponsmith. A series of hammer strikes rang out. Soon, a massive hovering replica appeared.

After walking a circle around the replica, Su Yu pointed at a certain point and said, "Teacher, one here."

"Here."

"And here..."

Zhao Li continued adding red dots with a look of surprise.

80 dots...90 dots...

120 dots...

130 dots...

At this point, Zhao Li's expression had turned completely solemn. Finally, 144 dots appeared. He was looking at 4 different cultural arts with not a single overlap in apertures. And all four of them seemed to operate similarly.

At that moment, Zhao Li was completely stunned. Top-tier heaven-grade cultural art! One art. These four arts most definitely belonged to a single art!

Holy shit!

Top-tier heaven-grade cultural art!

Was this real?

Was it possible for something like this to exist?

Where had Su Yu obtained something like this?

This was a single cultural art with 144 apertures that had been split into 4. Holy shit. This thing would drive the Myriad Realms crazy if it was leaked.

Immediately after, Zhao Li's willpower spread out. The entire room was covered. He started scanning the room inch by inch. He was trying to find out if anyone was spying on them. He even started scanning Su Yu's body. He was worried that someone had planted some spying characters on Su Yu's body.

Suddenly, his expression changed. There seemed to be something in Su Yu's heart. His face fell as he immediately sent his willpower into Su Yu's heart.

While Zhao Li was scanning Su Yu's heart, Su Yu paled slightly. What was going on?

After some time, Zhao Li's expression returned to normal. He looked at Su Yu silently. After a while, he exhaled and said, "It's fine. I was only being cautious. After this, I'll give you a detection cultural weapon that can detect any attempt to spy on you. Nowadays, there are characters capable of spying, eavesdropping, and tracking. You can never be too cautious. Also..."

He looked at the replica and frowned, "You shouldn't have asked me about this. You shouldn't have asked anyone about this. Keep it hidden and slowly study it when you grow stronger."

This was a cultural art with 144 apertures.

Zhao Li reckoned that even Invincibles wouldn't have something like this.

Perhaps only cultural researcher Invincibles would have such a cultural art in possession.

Su Yu smiled, "Teacher, in my eyes, your Soul Expanding Art is just as valuable. In all honesty, without linking all of them into a system, this thing really isn't that valuable. The four systems might resemble each other, but with my intelligence, I might take decades to combine them all."

After a short thought, he said, "Actually, I still have another system. All five systems belong to the same art."

"..."

Zhao Li's expression turned incomparably grave.

"Divine art."

"What?"

"This is a divine art." Zhao Li solemnly said, "Cultivation methods and martial techniques are generally classified into heaven, earth, profound, and yellow grades. And above that is the divine grade. I believe there are some divine-grade martial arts in existence. The Sky Sundering Saber cultivated by Great Xia King himself is probably at that level. Of course, only the heaven or lower grades of the art will be taught to others.

"A single slash of Great Xia King's saber has a power far beyond what the power 144 acupoints can provide. At the Sunmoon Realm, cultivators will fuse all their acupoints into a single acupoint. But that single Sunmoon acupoint will vary between individuals. For example, if you only cultivate a martial art with 144 acupoints, even after fusing 300 acupoints, there will still be a difference between you and someone cultivating a martial art with 300 acupoints. You will understand when you reach the Mountainsea Realm yourself."

Zhao Li stopped talking. He looked at Su Yu for a very long time before saying, "Do not show me the final system. They are all very similar. If we can merge the four systems here, you will be able to merge the fifth system yourself."

Zhao Li then started studying the replica again. After a while, he said, "I will be staying here for a few days. You will be staying here as well. We will try to join all these apertures together. If the aperture locations are all correct and the pathways are also correct, we only need to worry about joining them safely."

Su Yu nodded silently.

Zhao Li did not ask him about the origin of these systems. And he had not told Zhao Li about it either. That was a very sensitive topic to ask. Even without asking, Zhao Li could guess the origin of something like this. Something like this could only come from an ancient ruin.

It was very likely that Su Yu had inherited the legacy of an ancient ruin. And that ruin could very well be a rare cultural researcher legacy. It might even be something left behind by a cultural researcher Invincible.

It would be better for both of them to not talk about such a matter. It was too sensitive and would bring great trouble to both of them.

While walking around the replica, Zhao Li said, "The Myriad Text Sutra is incomparable to this art. Be very strict with who you teach this art to. Even if you're going to teach someone, I suggest that you only teach the version with 108 apertures. Even such a version is already enough to give you a lot of trouble."

"It would be even better if you only teach the version with 2 systems. You can allow someone to start opening apertures at the Mental Tempering Stage. With 72 apertures, even this version is enough for someone to cultivate all the way to the Mountainsea Realm.

"Of course, opening so many apertures might not necessarily be a good thing. Can you even fuse all these apertures at the Mountainsea Realm? The Soul Expanding Art alone is already delaying your advancement. If you open so many apertures, your growth will be slowed down even more. You might even be stuck at the ninth-stage Cloudbreach Realm for decades or even a hundred years. Of course, there is also the option of advancing through physical cultivation first..."

Suddenly, he cursed.

Fuck!

This damn kid had opened a terrifyingly high number of acupoints as well! Did the damn kid intend to spend his entire life at the Mountainsea Realm?

"Kid, don't mess around. Your cultivation methods are too powerful."

"..."

He didn't even know what to say anymore. Looking at the innocent expression on Su Yu's face, he said, "It would be too big of a waste if someone like you doesn't enter the Invincible Realm. You will be spending a lot of time and resources for your cultivation. If you can really enter the Invincible Realm, you will definitely become a super expert among all Invincibles. Someone like you...can probably skip levels to fight Invincibles in the future."

What a crazy kid.

Even someone as crazy as Zhao Li was feeling that Su Yu was crazy. The kid had opened hundreds of acupoints. On top of that, the kid had also opened 180 apertures. Was the kid not afraid of being stuck at the Mental Tempering Stage and Infinite Strength Realm for life?

Of course, the moment someone like him advanced, he would become a terrifying cultivator. He would be able to rapidly surpass the Cloudbreach Realm and enter the Mountainsea Realm before he was faced with yet another bottleneck.

Zhao Li said nothing else. Perhaps a true freak that would shake the Myriad Realms would once again emerge from the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy. For now, his top priority was the combination of these systems into a single art. This art would be far less impressive without joining all the systems together.

"This is supposed to be a job for a couple of Invincibles or Sunmoons. Sigh. Forget it. I suppose it's time for me to start using my brain again."

Zhao Li had no choice but to sigh and do it himself. Sure, those experts could do the job better, but leaking this art could also bring them more trouble. This damn Su Yu was really too gutsy. Why had the kid shown him this art? Was the kid not afraid of being silenced?

Even with Wan Tiansheng around, Zhao Li would most likely only end up exiled to the Allheaven Battlefield instead of being killed after silencing Su Yu. Then again, he was also very gratified at the amount of trust Su Yu was showing toward him.

Sure enough, he had not been mistaken about this kid. Just look at how he was the first person the kid had visited for guidance. What a pity that the kid wasn't his direct student. How was Hong Tan worthy of being this kid's grandteacher?

Su Yu had totally been scammed into joining that declining faction. But if Su Yu really abandoned the multiple character faction, he would only be viewed as a cold-hearted individual. By staying with the faction, he had instead demonstrated his loyalty. A child with such loyalty was very rare nowadays.

Zhao Li continued sighing. If Su Yu really decided to abandon the multiple character faction, he might end up feeling disappointment in the kid instead. Nevertheless, he still couldn't resist cursing inwardly. He really didn't know what to feel.

That bastard Liu Wenyan had misled his great student!

Without Liu Wenyan, the kid would have become his direct student long ago! What a pity.

"This student of mine is a future Invincible."

The more he thought about it, the more regretful he was. Even if Su Yu managed to enter the Invincible Realm in the future, he would be an Invincible of the multiple character faction, not the weaponsmithing faction. Zhao Li felt like someone was stabbing his heart with needles. He reminded himself to give Bai Feng a beating the next time he saw that rascal.