

Oh My God 121

Chapter 121: Everything is Ready

Gu Jianbo was stunned for a very long time, then he suddenly jumped up.

His hair had been combed neatly to the point that it shone, but because of the experimental cultivation, it became messy and fell over his face. Now, it stood up, making him look like the mad scientists from films.

His gaze and expression made it clear that he was losing his composure. He suddenly grinned, then at the next moment, he sat down in front of the research table and started writing fiercely. Sometimes, he clenched his fists and smacked his head. It made Meng Chao and Ma Hong's skin crawl.

He suddenly stopped moving and mumbled to himself, "It's impossible. If the answer was so simple, why did Zong Ye didn't think of it ten years ago?"

"Ten years ago, Dragon City's medical technology wasn't that advanced. The medical cabins were still very crude or didn't even exist!" Meng Chao said loudly. "There's no cultivation method that can pop out of nothing. You need pre-existing technology to help you and accumulate experience for you!

"Perhaps in his era, Senior Zong Ye was really a genius, but medical technology was not developed enough, so stimulative mediums and the medicinal medicines did not exist. No matter how much of a genius he was, it was impossible for him to create an entire skill tree on his own.

"No matter what, his fate was predestined, but is still a great regret and distress.

"But today, more than ten years later, everything is right. We have the most advanced medical cabins. A few days ago, after I fought against a Bloody Moon Wolf King, I was unconscious for more than a week and received treatment in a medical cabin. I know just how modern and strong they are. If we could modify one such medical cabin into a cultivation cabin, we would definitely manage to make the seed that was planted more than ten years ago blossom!"

"Meng Chao is right." Ma Hong had a contemplative look on his face. "In the past ten years, the Red Dragon Army's medical technology has become much more advanced. The medical cabins that I know of have been changed three times. Many of the comrades I know love cultivating in them as well. They said that the effect is really good, and they can recover really quickly."

Gu Jianbo looked as if he had been enlightened, and he could now see the path ahead of him.

He looked at Meng Chao as if he was seeing Zong Ye from the past. Hope shone in his eyes once more.

A golden notification lit up before Meng Chao's eyes.

[Under your guidance, heroic citizen Gu Jianbo has discovered a brand new research direction for the Ultimate Style. Increased contribution points by 666.]

'I knew it, he's a heroic citizen!'

Meng Chao's cheeks burned red. He was embarrassed by the undeserved praise.

The correct research direction for the Ultimate Style in his previous life should have been something that Gu Jianbo figured out on his own a few years later.

So, could Meng Chao be considered to have guided a hero, or did the hero guide him?

“What you said makes sense. We can try experimenting in this direction. But forget about the problem of using mediums first. The point is that the pain of clearing 1,024 branch meridians in one go would be something a human cannot withstand.”

Gu Jianbo thought about it for a long time before he extended a finger. “Branch meridians are really thin. Every time you clear them, you feel pain as if you’re pushing your finger into a needle hole. Your mental strength index will fluctuate greatly. If you’re the slightest bit careless, you’ll destroy the branch meridians.

“It was extremely painful to clear just five branch meridians, so if anyone tried to clear 1024 branch meridians in one go, they would die from pain or their mental strength index will fall to zero and they’ll go insane.

Gu Jianbo did not even notice it, but he was already treating Meng Chao as a research partner to whom he could talk on equal grounds.

“You won’t.” When it came to this, Meng Chao was absolutely confident. “There’s an upper limit to a person’s pain threshold. Once you reach that limit, you can’t go any further. In other words, the pain you feel when you clear five branch meridians is about the same as when you clear hundreds or more than one thousand in one go.”

When he saw that Gu Jianbo was still hesitating, he suddenly raised his right leg and showed his leg hair.

“What are you doing?” Gu Jianbo was stunned.

Meng Chao grabbed his leg hair and yanked them out. He was in so much pain that he hissed.

“Big Brother Bo, do you have the experience of putting on ointment patches after you’re injured?” Meng Chao asked while enduring the pain. “Many of the topical ointments have amazing effects. They can promote blood circulation, strengthen the bone marrow, and increase cellular activity to promote muscle growth.

“Everything about them is great, but there’s one problem. When you keep an ointment patch for an entire night, it goes cold and freezes up. When you tear it off, you often yank off your hair as well, and it hurts.

“This is especially so for the men with a lot of body hair. Whenever they tear off those ointment patches, it feels the same as going through torture. If you hesitate even in the slightest and act too slowly, your hair are yanked off one by one, and you hurt much more than if you had peeled off the patch in one go. Yet the more pain you’re in, the slower you go, and the slower you go, the more pain you’re in. It turns into a vicious cycle.

“You must be vicious and yank the patch off instantly. No matter how much it hurts, it will only hurt for a moment.”

Meng Chao’s comparison was simple and crude. In fact, it was a grotesque description.

But Gu Jianbo understood what he meant, and he started thinking deeply.

“Pain is indeed a major problem that will throw our mental strength index into chaos, and it’s not something that you one endure with just willpower,” Meng Chao said seriously. “The way you solve it is by reducing the number of branch meridians you clear each time and reducing the power of the electricity, but I think that it’s the same as slowly tearing off an ointment patch. You’re just prolonging the pain.

“Besides, you can only clear up to five branch meridians each time, so in a few days, the branch meridians shrink back, which makes your suffering pointless. Like this, when will you ever cultivate all 1,024 branch meridians?

“You can clear main meridians one by one because there’s only a few of them. There are only 108 of them in total, and they’re very strong. When you clear them once, they stay clear for a long time too.

“But we can’t imitate that blindly. We have to open a new road for ourselves. It’s only when you stimulate more than one thousand branch meridians and cultivate them repeatedly every day that you’ll be able to ensure that they’ll stay cleared for a long period of time. In the end, the body will remember it, and you will finally succeed.

“Of course, in consideration to the limits of what a body can bear, we can lower the power of the electricity by fifty percent. That should be safe enough.”

Gu Jianbo frowned and said, “What you said before makes certain sense, but if you continue lowering the power of the electricity, the runoff volume of the branch meridians won’t be high enough, and you won’t be able to create spirit energy magnetic fields to execute killing moves.”

“You don’t need killing moves at all,” Meng Chao said. “Big Brother Bo, if we think about killing moves, we’ll continue walking down the paths of the Overkill Style and Beast Soul Style. We’re cultivating our branch meridians, so why are we competing against them in terms of killing moves? We’ll just be using our disadvantages to fight against other people’s advantages.”

Gu Jianbo thought about it for a long time and shook his head. “If we don’t have killing moves, we won’t have enough power. Even if you punch others one hundred times, others can still bring you down with one killing move.”

“I won’t use major moves, and I won’t let my enemies have the chance to use major moves either,” Meng Chao quickly said. “Regardless of whether it’s humans or superbeasts, when they use their skills, they need to create a spirit energy magnetic field. They accumulate energy, then stiffen up and need to cool down, which uses up a lot of time. During that time, they reveal all sorts of openings.

“The brand new martial artist who cultivates 1,024 branch meridians will be much stronger than a normal martial artist in terms of speed, strength, stamina, and five senses. They can use the openings and destroy the opponent’s spirit energy magnetic field before it’s formed.

“Once the opponent is stopped a few times, they will lose their confidence and will no longer be able to execute major moves in a relaxed manner.

“At that time, neither side will have killing moves, but we’ll have the advantage of our branch meridians being cleared and having enough spirit energy to attack nonstop. Is there a need to mention who will win at that time?”

“Besides, it’s not as if I’m not going to use any killing moves. When it comes to cultivating my main meridians and branch meridians, I can choose both, not just one. Only children would choose one. Adults would definitely choose both!”

“Even a broken-star superhuman can cultivate all 1,024 branch meridians, and at the same time, have a few of their main meridians cleared. It’ll be enough for them to have only one or two killing moves.”

“In truth, right now, it’s not that the Overkill Style and Beast Soul Style have too few moves. They have too many of them. You can create millions of combinations out of 108 main meridians, but even if you have millions of killing moves, there’s only one move you’ll use to kill your opponent, right?”

Meng Chao spoke eloquently, and Gu Jianbo sank into deep thought. He was incredibly shocked.

Ma Hong also seemed to have come to a realization. “He makes sense. It’s just like how we fought in the canteen against the undergraduate students. They’ve clearly cleared more main meridians and can use more than ten major moves, but we used our rich fighting experience, the terrain, the various items available, and the chaos of the situation to stop them from creating a spirit energy magnetic field. That’s how we won that fight!”

“If we can cultivate our branch meridians, we won’t even need to do so to the point of the main meridians. As long as we can strengthen them by twenty or thirty percent, our advantage will become even more obvious. I can assure you that they won’t be able to unleash even a single move!”

“That’s right,” Meng Chao said with a smile. “I can imagine that the future martial arts will be just as Ma Hong said. We’ll be focusing on weakening our opponent, limiting their movements, and whittling them down. We won’t be standing in our stances dumbly and making fireballs so that we can execute major moves.”

“Meng Chao, did you... figure this out all by yourself?” Gu Jianbo asked in disbelief.

Meng Chao’s face turned red.

When he just returned and gave pointers to Feixiong, Ning Shewo, and Yan Organization, he tried to fish for fame, and he quite enjoyed the feeling of leaving other people dumbfounded.

But after experiencing new things and learning how many pioneers had sacrificed their lives and futures to pave the way for the birth of the Ultimate Style, how could he shamelessly claim the credit?

At that moment, he was regretting providing guidance to Yan Organization. He had been too frivolous.

‘Mr. Yan Hengbo and the martial arts researchers in Yan Organization had put in a lot of effort to research Ripple Force.

‘In my previous life, Yan Feirou had also gone through all sorts of hardships to upgrade Ripple Force.

‘What right do I have to be full of hot air and enjoy all the credit before the real pioneers and creators?’

Meng Chao shook his head and said, “Impossible. Even if I’m a genius with great talent, am willing to help people, and am a rare jewel, I’m still just a freshman. I don’t have enough experience, knowledge, and professionalism. It’s impossible for me to have thought of all this.

“Honestly, all that I said just now was told to me by a senior who goes by the name of Old Fire Relayer in the deep web.”

Gu Jianbo was slightly stunned. “It’s him?”

This time, it was Meng Chao’s turn to be shocked. “You know the Old Fire Relayer?”

“This senior has caused quite a ruckus in the deep web recently. He seems to have a few words for every topic. What he says seem to be wild dreams, but when you think about it, they’re things that surpass our current era and can actually provide us with enlightenment.

“I also heard that Yan Organization is about to promote Ripple Force V2, for which they received guidance from him,” Gu Jianbo said. “There are many people who guess that the Old Fire Relayer isn’t just one person. Instead, they’re a research group from a mega corporation or a brain trust of a secret organization. They have obtained a lot of the newest information from the depths of the fog and came up with a series of theories that are ahead of their time in order to gather more data.

“We have a guest lecturer by the name of Ning Shewo in Agricultural University’s resource course. Recently, he suddenly offered up half of his wealth to form the Fire Relayer Foundation. He also wants to teach all that he knows in a research refresher course. Judging by the name, his foundation is definitely connected to the Old Fire Relayer.

“Professor Ning has great influence in the field, but even he is impressed by the Old Fire Relayer, so I’ve naturally heard about him as well.”

Chapter 122: Acting as the Go Between

“That’s great!” Meng Chao sighed in relief. “Just now, I mentioned that I have super great healing abilities, and I wasn’t lying. It’s because of this talent that I was chosen by the Old Fire Relayer and joined a lot of experimental cultivation methods. It helped me stand out despite being from a key high school in the region and become one of the top fifty in the city.

“After I read your articles about cultivating with branch meridians, I was very interested in them, so I went to ask for guidance from the Old Fire Relayer, and from him, I heard high praises about the project.

“The Old Fire Relayer believes that as the monsters evolve and mutate, reducing openings will be more important than increasing one’s attack power. Cultivating branch meridians will definitely become the main form of cultivation in the future, so Project 1024 has a brilliant future.

“Coincidentally, I was at the point of my life where I had to fill in my application form for university, so the Old Fire Relayer suggested that I join Agricultural University’s martial arts course and enter your camp.

“That’s the truth of it. If you don’t believe me, you can ask for verification from Professor Ning. I got to know him through the Old Fire Relayer.”

Gu Jianbo's expression changed.

"So, Zong Ye's efforts weren't wasted. Zhou Tianrui and the others' sacrifices weren't in vain either. There are plenty of powerful people out there who are paying attention to Project 1024!"

He slowly tightened his fists.

When Meng Chao saw this, he quickly said, "Big Brother Bo, does that mean you'll let me join Project 1024?"

Gu Jianbo thought about it for a while, then said hesitantly, "Meng Chao, thank you for the brand new train of thought you brought me, but reactivating a project isn't that simple. The key is resources.

"Previously, I was alone, and I could cultivate based on the old path. I had these machines, and after getting some money, I could somewhat keep the project going.

"But if we're going to walk down a new path, I need to change a lot of the cultivation equipment, add a few new medical cabins and modify them into cultivation cabins, and make a lot of medicine. If we're going to submerge ourselves in medicinal fluid, we'll need at least ten or twenty times more fluid than the amount we drink.

"We don't know the correct formula, so we'll have to keep trying. We can only use a tub of medicinal fluid once, so if it fails, it was all useless. With this sort of consumption rate, the cost for the experiment will rise ten times compared to the past. How am I supposed to get that much money and resources?

"Of course I can make a report to the department and apply to relaunch Project 1024, but there's a lot of complicated procedures in this.

"Dean Zong Yue is a generous and tolerant person, and he won't stop the development of brand new cultivation methods and fighting styles just because he practices the Beast Soul Style. Besides, Project 1024 is Zong Ye's blood, sweat, and tears. He should know about what I have been doing over the past few years. He might not support it, but he won't stop it.

"The problem is, the martial arts course is not a place where the dean has full authority. If we want to relaunch an old project that has come to a halt for a few years, it'll be even more troublesome than trying to apply for a new project. I have to apply for a budget review meeting and state the importance of relaunching the project and its success rate to the lecturers in the martial arts course. Then, I'll need to get more than half of the lecturers to agree with me. I will also have to explain how I'm going to use the money.

"You must understand that Agricultural University is Monster University. The martial arts course's specialty is the Beast Soul Style. Its most popular project over the last few years has been Ms. Li's beast soul fusion technology. She spends more than thirty percent of the course's money and resources, and now, she's at the critical stage where she's about to get results. This year and next year, most of the resources will definitely be given to her.

"If we apply for the relaunching of our project now, the lecturers will be evaluating it for a few months and arguing over the budget for a few more. By then, more than a year would have gone by. Even if we really manage to get it through, since I'm just a four-star superhuman, I will only get a little money.

"I can wait for it. After all, I've managed to get through so many years already, but you're at the golden period after just becoming a superhuman. You're at the stage where your realm and fighting power will increase the fastest. You can't wait that long.

"Let's do it this way. I will apply for the relaunching of the programme based on the procedures. As for you, go and look for Ms. Li now. Then next year, or the year after next, I'll get the money and will rebuild the lab.

"I'll talk to Ms. Li after that and ask you to come over to help. I won't be slowing you down, and you won't miss out on the newest development of Project 1024 either. You'll be killing two birds with one stone."

Meng Chao thought about it.

Soon after he failed his national college examination in his previous life, the Monster War became more intense in all aspects. Dragon City lost a few battles, and countless soldiers were lost. Many of the powerful elites died because of it.

He could not wait until next year or the year after that.

He could not wait even a second longer.

"Big Brother Bo, if we can get enough resources and sponsors, we can immediately relaunch the project, and the university won't stop us, right?" Meng Chao asked with sparkling eyes.

"Due to the unique nature of cultivation, many of the lecturers have their own private projects. They pay for it out of their own pockets or accept sponsors from organizations outside the university.

"As long as they do not get themselves involved in any perverse experiments that are crimes against humanity, the university will not stop them. After all, if they succeed, the university will also share the glory.

"But do you have a way to get enough investments? I don't have any methods. A few years ago, while I was still handsome, I could get some investments from female entrepreneurs. Over the past two years, though, the project did not make any progress, and I've become like this. Ah... let's not talk about this anymore."

He waved his hand, unable to bear thinking about the past.

Ma Hong's expression changed. "Big Brother Bo, so, when you went to harass those rich women, it was to get money for your project?"

"What did you think I was doing?" Gu Jianbo asked gloomily.

"Big Brother Bo, you've worked hard over the past few years!" When Meng Chao heard this, his eyes teared up. "Trust me. The time is right now, and even heaven will be helping you. The time for the birth of a brand new martial art is here. Senior Zong Ye will definitely be guiding us forward from heaven to seize the victory!"

Meng Chao did not delay matters. He immediately contacted Ning Shewo.

Elder Ning was in the resource course.

To take revenge on the monsters for the accident they caused during the national college exam, the Red Dragon Army had been conducting a series of military operations at the perimeters of Dragon City.

The Supernatural Tower also summoned quite a few superhuman squads to attack the monster nests, as if they were surgeons cutting up a human body to operate them.

They gathered a pile of monster carcasses and noticed a lot of mutated monsters they had never seen before. They also had complicated structures.

Normal harvesters could not deal with them, so the superhumans could only toss these monsters into preservatives and put them in cold storages before delivering them to Monster University.

The resource course lecturers and students from Agricultural University worked diligently day and night.

Before the new students could settle down, they were made to be assistants. The staff could not be bothered about who was skilled or unskilled anymore, so the new students got to learn while harvesting.

Meng Chao and Gu Jianbo went straight to the resource course to search for Ning Shewo in order to explain the situation with Project 1024.

Ning Shewo had been working together with Agricultural University for around twenty years, so he had heard about Zong Ye before.

He listened to Meng Chao talk about it quietly, and he lamented the fact that even heaven was jealous of Zong Ye's talent, which was why he died, but he was also full of emotions when he heard about Gu Jianbo's perseverance and how he had worked quietly over the years.

"Mr. Gu, while you were still a student, we were acquainted. At that time, I had a deep impression of you. Don't belittle yourself and say that you're far from Zong Ye. In my eyes, you're equals. It's just that your personalities are like ice and fire, and you're two completely different beings."

Ning Shewo thought for a moment and said, "Since my young friend and the Old Fire Relayer regard Zong Ye and your project so highly, I will definitely do my best to help you. After all, without the Old Fire Relayer's selfless help, I wouldn't have been reborn."

He put a monster organ in preservatives and used sanitizer to wash away the blood on his hands. Then, he tapped his numb waist.

"I don't have much of anything, but I can still get some monster materials and gene medicine for you, as long as it's within the scope of my authority. You came at a good time too. Right now, the resource course has all sorts of monster carcasses, and it won't be a huge problem for us to make some adjustments to deliver materials to share with another course.

"But I have a condition."

Ning Shewo suddenly winked at Meng Chao.

Gu Jianbo looked at him in a troubled manner. "Professor Ning, you know that I'm in charge of the martial arts course's refresher course. I don't have a lot of monster coins in my hands."

"I don't want monster coins. I just want Meng Chao." Ning Shewo pointed at the busy sight of the people harvesting ingredients. "You saw it. The war has increased in intensity, and in just a short moment, our spoils of war have increased ten times. It's a good thing that we have a lot of resources, but with the people we have right now, we can't harvest everything. The clumsy new students can't do anything either. They only cause trouble."

"My young friend, if you're free, why don't you come and help us in the resource course?"

"Recently, they've shipped a lot of strange new species over. The experienced lecturers from the resource course and I have been working day and night, but if we had an assistant with good skills, our harvesting and research efficiency would increase several times."

In other words, as long as Meng Chao agreed to come every day to be a harvesting and lecture assistant for two hours in the resource course, Ning Shewo would use his authority to give them the resources Project 1024 required.

After Meng Chao helped harvest a mutated monster, the experienced lecturers in the resource course gasped in amazement at the skills of this new martial arts course student. They thought that the martial arts course had just gotten themselves a great deal.

Meng Chao did not intend to set harvesting aside, anyway. After all, it was a golden supporter course. Naturally, he agreed to it.

Once they settled the problem with experimental materials, Meng Chao contacted Yan Feirou and Yan Organization.

"After one strengthens branch meridians, a brand new fighting model that focuses on delivering chain attacks nonstop will come to be. If that's the case, since Ripple Force focuses on endurance and has long-lasting momentum, its importance will greatly increase. There's a possibility that it might become the strongest force execution method!"

Meng Chao's words the truth he knew all too well.

Yan Organization paid a lot of attention to what he said. Yan Hengbo himself spent a whole day to investigate the related articles and the experimental data.

In the end, they gave Meng Chao and Gu Jianbo a sponsorship that was much higher than what they expected.

But they had a condition: Gu Jianbo and Meng Chao had to ensure that Ripple Force would fit perfectly with Project 1024.

It would be best if they came up with a brand new fighting model that was based on the characteristics of Ripple Force.

Of course, Yan Organization would provide technological support, including the most modern cultivation machines and the core data of Ripple Force.

After all, Yan Organization always had the ambition of breaking into the market of high-end martial arts. It was just that they knew that Ripple Force's foundation was in the low-end and middle-tier market. If they made changes recklessly, it might get hard for them to keep themselves afloat and they might end up destroying everything.

Project 1024 gave them hope. The potential profit hidden in the project was enough for them to try putting in a lot of money into it.

Meng Chao was not surprised to get Yan Organization's investment, but he did not expect that Luo Hai and Master Luo Wu, who supported him, would take the initiative to look for him as well.

Chapter 123: Not the Ultimate!

Meng Chao and Luo Hai were already working very closely with each other.

If being more specific, Soul Breaking Saber was working with a large weapon manufacturer to create a brand new saber specifically for the One Hundred Saber Techniques, and it was created based on the characteristics of the future version of the technique.

The strength, arc, thickness, sharpness, materials, weight, center of gravity, and every detail of the saber could bring out the full potential of the future One Hundred Saber Techniques.

This saber was mainly targeted at the low-end and middle-tier market. More specifically, it was meant for normal students and soldiers.

Based on Luo Hai's words, it would be the first saber for youngsters.

As long as they could provide thirty percent of the city's sabers for middle school and elementary school, then get a few deals from the army, the profit would definitely be much higher than creating one or two amazing weapons that had a lot of harsh requirements to use.

Since it would be a beginner's saber, it would not be very suitable to sell it using Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu as the selling point.

Coincidentally, they could have Meng Chao serve as the spokesperson. He could work together with Luo Hai, and Luo Wu would train up two children like this.

The two youths contacted each other often. Hence, it was not difficult for Luo Hai to learn about Project 1024. He immediately mentioned that he could get a lot of sponsors from his circle of friends.

"Isn't Dragon City University's martial arts course the main camp of the Overkill Style? Our new project is going to kind of go up against the Overkill Style. Why are you getting in on this?" Meng Chao could not understand.

"When we're doing business, we only talk business. Practicing the Overkill Style and investing in the new style isn't a conflicting matter," Luo Hai answered with a grin. "Anyway, last time, after we sparred against each other in the Supernatural Tower, I was impressed.

“My dad also said that you and your supporter are unfathomable. I am to constantly keep an eye on you. If you do something, I have to participate in it, for that’s how I can become rich as well. Hey, we’ve fought together before. Since you have a good project now, you have to let me join in on the fun.”

Meng Chao was lacking money and resources, so he naturally did not reject the offer.

When he saw Luo Hai joining his project so readily, a thought appeared in his head. “If the new martial art style is born, would you switch to the new style?”

Luo Hai immediately said, “Sure. As long as you can do one thing, I will immediately give up on the Overkill Style and learn the new martial art. I’ll even become your disciple!”

“No way, what is it?” Meng Chao could not believe it.

“It’s very simple. Once you create the brand new martial art, come to Dragon City’s martial arts course and defeat all the Overkill Style martial artists...”

“Ah, you don’t have to defeat ‘all’ of them. You can just choose some five hundred martial arts course students, including me, and beat us up. That’ll do,” Luo Hai said with a smile.

Meng Chao thought about it.

“Sure. That’s a promise,” he said very seriously.

At that point, it was Luo Hai’s turn to be dumbfounded.

With Ning Shewo, Yan Organization, and the Luo father-son duo’s support, Meng Chao went to Fengshui Medical Center to look for Dr. Su Yuan.

Then, through Dr. Su Yuan, he contacted a few manufacturers of medical cabins.

“Over the past few years, medical technology in Dragon City has been developing really quickly. All sorts of medical cabins have been created, and the competition in the market is really intense. The frequency at which you replace old models with new ones is also very high.

“The rate of profit with them is very high, but the capital and risks involved when researching them are even higher. There are plenty of products which are no longer in use even though their weaknesses aren’t actually very obvious, and it’s a real pity for them.

“If we can modify medical cabins into cultivation cabins, we will be expanding the market by several times its size. Many of the technology and production lines will be used again. You can dilute the cost and avoid risks as well as increase your profit, thereby getting multiple birds with one stone.

“We already have Yan Organization, the Fire Relayer Foundation, and Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu supporting this, so we don’t lack money. We just want to rent some medical cabins from you to modify them and do research on them. We’ll just be reusing your trash, so the price you have to pay for failure won’t be high, but if we succeed, the return on investment is going to be shocking!”

Meng Chao did not go overboard with his request.

Medical cabins were the newest technology, and many of the factories were still groping around in the dark when it came to them. When a factory managed to win a tender in a hospital, it meant that

another factory would have no one asking after its product, and the investments put into researching and developing the product would go down the drain.

But the standards of good and bad for medical cabins and cultivation cabins were completely different.

Medical cabins which were not mature enough, did not fit the standards, and had flaws could be developed into cultivation cabins that were suited to create people for the Ultimate Style.

Just like that, in a short five days, everything was ready but one last thing.

As Gu Jianbo looked at the large amount of money in his account, the cultivation resources in his storage, and the brand new medical cabins, he could hardly believe his eyes.

“Meng Chao, you are simply... amazing!”

If he had not known that Meng Chao came from a public renting house and a key high school in the region, he would have begun to wonder if this kid wasn't a bastard of some Deity Realm elite.

But Meng Chao knew that it was not his doing.

Instead, it was due to the value of the Ultimate Style. It had run into all sorts of suitable conditions, and the timing was right. The conditions were ripe, so everything fell into place.

Even if he were not around, if Gu Jianbo persisted for a few more years, he would have seen the solution, and with the unique charm of the Ultimate Style, he could have attracted Yan Organization, the production factories of the medical cabins, and all the other major forces of power to invest in his project.

Meng Chao was just going along with the flow and bringing the investments to the project ahead of time.

“Big Brother Bo, you don't have any reason to reject me from joining the alliance now, right?” Meng Chao asked with a smile.

“Alright. Even if Ms. Li curses me to death, I'm not going to care anymore! Meng Chao, welcome to Project 1024!” Gu Jianbo laughed and hugged Meng Chao tightly with tears in his eyes.

“Zong Ye, Xu Fang, Zhou Tianrui, Li Yufei, watch. This time, we'll definitely succeed!”

He hugged Meng Chao so tightly that the youth started wincing.

Gu Jianbo then glanced at the brand new medical cabins and the sufficient amount of materials and rubbed his palms in eagerness. “When are we starting?”

“Wait. There's something else.” Meng Chao rubbed his elbows and said, “Shouldn't we give the new martial arts a name? Look, everyone else goes by Overkill Style, Beast Soul Style, machine armor style, and whatnot, and they sound really amazing. But Project 1024 doesn't sound amazing at all!”

“You're right. What sort of name should we give it?” Gu Jianbo rubbed his chin and thought about it.

Meng Chao flipped open the research notebook Zong Ye had left on the table.

The title page had a line of words written so powerfully that the strokes had left imprints on the next page. It was as if the pioneer's passion and blood had seeped into the words themselves.

They had been sealed for ten years, but even so, that passion never died down.

Gu Jianbo narrowed his eyes and thought about it. "Only death is ultimate in life."

"No," Meng Chao said firmly. "Even death is not ultimate in life!"

The two of them looked at each other, and they saw the sparks burning in each other's eyes. Together, they shouted, "Ultimate Style!"

Meng Chao was ranked at the top of the admission test for the martial arts course. He had twenty-five thousand worth of monster coins in his hands, but he went to the refresher course and chose Gu Jianbo as his tutor, who was only a nameless four-star superhuman. This caused a ruckus among the students.

Some people were puzzled, some found it a pity, and some mocked him.

And after many people learned of the "secret" behind how Meng Chao got his twenty-five thousand worth of monster coins, they regarded him in disdain and jealousy, and they said among themselves, "He was just being opportunistic and used flowery words to trick Sun Ya and the others. If I were in his place, I could have done it too!"

As for how Meng Chao snatched dozens of monster coins from Duan Lian, they believed that it was because Duan Lian had an arm in a hole at that time, so Meng Chao landed the first strike. They did not talk about whether it was despicable, but they agreed that it was nothing amazing.

"Broken-star superhumans don't have enough room for growth. Even if he had chosen an ace lecturer, he would not have been able to match the other students' cultivation speed. He wouldn't be able to create even half of the amazing and exquisite spirit energy magnetic fields from the lecturers. There was no point for him to choose them.

"It's better for him to just behave and get guidance from that refresher course lecturer. After all, most of the refresher course students are broken-star superhumans!"

After the students analyzed things carefully, they came to a realization.

During this period of time, they had come into contact with the upperclassmen, and they had learned about the situation in regard to the refresher course. They also inherited the disdain the upperclassmen held to the students from society.

Naturally, they regarded Meng Chao's choice with disdain too.

And Meng Chao's performance during their professional courses verified their guesses.

They had just begun, but when they met up in the basic classes about rune studies and spirit energy studies, Meng Chao's face was pale. The shadows under his eyes were prominent, and he was always tired and sleepy.

It was as if he had been ravaged by female monsters every night.

Sometimes, when they were going through academic drills, he was like a badly damaged porcelain doll with myasthenia gravis. His limbs were limp and did not have any strength in them. When someone touched him, he just fell. His movements no longer contained the glory he had during the admission test.

It was as if all his talent and spirit energy had been released on the first day. Then, with a shocking speed, he crashed into the ceiling of broken-star superhumans and became a normal person. He fell to the slumps.

However, just like all news and gossip over meals, news about Meng Chao's glory and subsequent fall into obscurity only lasted for a few days before it slowly faded away.

Everyone faced a new environment, new challenges, and new competitions. They had to learn a completely different strength system and cultivation method. They also had to control all sorts of complicated spirit energy magnetic fields as well as digest a lot of lecture materials and books. They were so busy that they felt faint. No one had the time to bother a broken-star superhuman.

As for Sun Ya and the rest of the Four Great Kings, they continued creating news and attracting everyone's attention.

Sun Ya and Xie Feng chose Lion Vulture Li Yingzi as their tutor and learned her beast soul fusion.

Jiang Rui chose Jiang Ming and cultivated the most orthodox method of the Beast Soul Style.

The first half a year since a superhuman awakened was their golden period.

The aristocratic children who came from cultivation families were able to unleash all the spirit energy their bodies had been devouring, absorbing, and nurturing for eighteen years. It made them grow like bamboo shoots after a rain, and they improved visibly every day.

"Jiang Rui just created a spirit energy magnetic field that requires twenty-four main meridians, and it's really hard to use! He can now execute the Swallow Slash, a really difficult but powerful kicking technique that can deliver certain killing moves!"

"It has only been ten days since he joined the course, but Xie Feng has already discovered the profound secret of beast soul fusion and learned to absorb two types of beast souls at once!"

"A dragon meridian! Sun Ya actually cleared a dragon meridian! My god, just what sort of monsters are they?!"

Shocking news trampled the students' nerves almost every day. In the beginning, they were filled with disbelief, but in time, they got used to it and turned numb.

Chapter 124: Legend of the Nobody

The competitions between the ace courses were divided into major years and minor years.

The major years were when prodigies registered into the university in large batches. It meant that stars had gathered together to compete against each other and chase one another. They formed a good competitive environment and gradually created the Golden Era.

But during the minor years, when no one showed interest in the course and there were no prodigies competing against each other, the lecturers also lacked a certain passion when they taught.

The past ten years were the minor years for Agricultural University's martial arts course. They were not able to get really good talents, which was why they just kept being suppressed by the monster controller course.

But every dog has its days. God seemed to want to compensate for the martial arts course, and stuffed all the good talents he had not given to the martial arts course previously into the course in one go, creating a rare major year where geni and "monsters" competed against each other.

There was no need to talk about how outstanding Sun Ya, Jiang Rui, and Xie Feng were.

Even Duan Lian, who was the only one among the Four Great Kings who had not gathered twenty thousand monster coins and had to choose a normal tutor, trained madly day and night with great motivation. He improved quickly and posed a great threat to Sun Ya and the others.

Meanwhile, the monster controller course had been getting really talented people for the past ten years, but this year, their streak was cut off, and no outstanding newcomer showed up.

The outstanding new students from both courses were about the same in terms of national college examination marks and the number of spirit meridians they cleared, but the martial arts course had a slight advantage.

Hence, many of the martial arts course lecturers rubbed their palms together and poured all their blood, sweat, and tears into guiding the new students, hoping that they could take revenge for the humiliation suffered in the past and help them stand with their heads held high once more.

Just like that, the Four Great Kings spent practically every day creating new spirit energy magnetic fields and mastering all sorts of powerful killing moves. Once every few days, they also cleared another main meridian, and spirit flames circled them. Their spirit tattoos shone brilliantly, and no one could stop their momentum.

The other students were not as talented as they were, but they had created their own spirit energy magnetic fields and could activate some killing moves as well.

Although, since they had just learned to do it, the time they spent accumulating power, stiffening up, and cooling down was very long.

But their tutors told them that their opponents, regardless of whether they were humans or monsters, also had to face the problem of accumulating power, stiffening up, and cooling down.

"Don't worry about the long time you take accumulating power and cooling down. As long as you continue training and your muscles come to remember it as well as turn it into your instincts, your time will become shorter than your enemy's, and that's enough."

The mainstream martial arts' train of thought was that simple and crude. It all boiled to these words: Form your stance and execute your power.

And in real fights, most of the hunting squads had martial artists practicing the Beast Soul Style, Machine Armor Style, and Gun Fighting Style following around the martial artists practicing the Overkill Style, and these martial artists had monster controllers, machine masters, or heroic spirit users by their side. Perhaps they would even have a large group of normal soldiers and tanks or armored cars helping them.

They could work together and launch attacks one after another. Hence, the problem of accumulating power, stiffening up, and cooling down was not really a problem.

The students mastered many killing moves in their classes and cultivation centers. When sparred against each other, all sorts of sparks flew around, and it was incredibly dazzling.

The newer anyone was to their technique, the less likely they were to be able to control the surge of their spirit energy. Their spirit tattoos would shine brilliantly, and their spirit energy would spread out, which made the electricity even more dazzling. They were fighting like amateurs, but they were somehow also fighting as desperately as peerless elites, and it helped them walk further down the path. In fact, they even started running through it.

But they did not know that in the underground basement of the old lecturer hall of the martial arts course, the brand new Ultimate Style was being quietly created. It had now taken root and sprouted.

The main participants of the Ultimate Style Project were just Gu Jianbo and Meng Chao.

So, they had to work themselves to the core. They were the researchers as well as the experiment subjects. They were also the modifiers of the cultivation machines, and sometimes had to go out to get more investments. Meng Chao even had to form a close relationship with Yan Feirou, a future entrepreneur.

Meng Chao was new to this whole thing. Aside from forming a closer relationship with Yan Feirou, his main role was the experiment subject. He was often submerged in different medicinal concoctions to train.

In the beginning, Gu Jianbo refused to let him do this.

After all, no one knew better than him just how painful and dangerous it was to cultivation the branch meridians.

Gu Jianbo was still thinking about doing it himself.

But Meng Chao knew that the future Blade Dancer had already accumulated many hidden injuries and could not be allowed to go through any more suffering.

Anyway, Meng Chao had endured pain that had sent him close to death in his previous life. And not just once.

He also had the Initial Stage Healing Skill and the Middle Stage Healing Skill to get rid of all his hidden injuries.

As long as he had enough nutrients, he could torture his body however he wanted.

Hence, he bravely volunteered for the first experiment. He stayed for a total of three hours in the cultivation cabin modified from a medical cabin and gritted his teeth to bear the great pain while ensuring that his mental strength index remained stable as he guided the electricity and spirit energy into his branch meridians. As if he was guiding a thread through a needle hole, he cleared the fine branch meridians one by one.

When he crawled out of the cultivation cabin with great difficulty, his blood vessels all burst apart, and his skin burned red, as if he was being roasted.

Gu Jianbo turned pale. He thought that his spirit energy had deviated.

But Meng Chao used two Initial Stage Healing Skills and drank two high-calorie nutritional fluids made from superbeast blood, and in ten minutes, he regained normal skin color.

During the entire process, his mental strength index had fluctuated between eighty percent and one hundred twenty percent, but he did not go over the warning line.

This performance left Gu Jianbo, who was a four-star superhuman and had seen many things, dumbfounded. He was forced to believe Meng Chao's words now. The boy was really a monster whose cell regeneration ability was ten times greater than that of a normal person.

Dragon City was a land of miracles, and many citizens were born with all sorts of strange divine abilities.

When superhumans awakened, they sometimes also activated strange abilities.

Gu Jianbo did not think much about it. He could only marvel at his tremendous luck. Meng Chao was truly a blessing from heaven. If he did not manage to create Ultimate Style like this, he would give up on being a human!

From that day on, Meng Chao was practically in the lab every day, and he went through three-to-five experimental cultivations that lasted for more than ten hours.

Every time they went through an experiment, his blood vessels and nerves tore up and created fine wounds. It had an impact on his organs, and a lot of blood flowed out of his pores.

But as long as he traded his points for the Initial Stage Healing Skill and drank a lot of gene medicine, high-calorie nutritional fluids, and ate monster flesh, he could restore his health instantly. It also filled him with energy.

Of course, the price he needed to pay for the Initial Stage Healing Skill just kept on growing.

In the beginning, it was one thousand contribution points, but now, it was nearly two thousand points.

Meng Chao guessed that it was because the injuries he was accumulating were getting worse, so the difficulty in treating them continued to get higher.

But it was nothing. He had tens of thousands of contribution points. Aside from awakening the skills he needed for his compulsory courses, he threw all his points into healing himself.

Besides, each time they went through an experiment, a notification popped up in his field of vision, congratulating him on making outstanding contributions to the birth of the Ultimate Style. It gave him hundreds or sometimes even more than one thousand contribution points.

The points he gained and traded off offset each other. Every time he gave up more than one thousand contribution points, he had the chance to save Gu Jianbo and more of his peers' lives.

He felt that it was worth it.

Time passed, and half a month went by. Meng Chao and Gu Jianbo finished their 112th experiment.

As they repeatedly modified the medicine formulae, changed the strength and frequency of the bioelectricity, and modified the medical cabins the pain Meng Chao suffered while he cultivated grew lesser, and the effect when he cleared his branch meridians also became better.

In the darkness, they gradually saw a path formed by dazzling stars leading them to the skies.

Meng Chao's cultivation base grew day by day.

His senses grew sharper, his organs became much better, and the amount of spirit energy his limbs could contain grew higher as well.

When he carefully guided spirit energy into the branch meridians around his eye sockets, he could see the fine letters of a notebook more than one hundred meters away.

When he guided spirit energy into the spot behind his nasal cavity, he could tell that the canteen was cooking dozens of dishes while being hundreds of meters away based on the smell. He could also identify most of the ingredients.

When he guided spirit energy into his cochlea, he could hear autumn leaves falling down, the whispers of the wind, and worms squirming about in the ground, getting entangled with each other.

As for the sensitivity of his touch...

In the first few days, when he could not control it at will, he was so sensitive that he could not wear clothes, if cloth rubbed against his crotch, he ended up getting tingles.

But he did not know just how much his fighting strength had increased because of his incredibly sensitive senses.

However, it benefitted him in every way when it came to supporting courses.

As agreed, Meng Chao went to the resource course to be an assistant for two hours every day.

Very soon, he became a target for Ning Shewo and all the other lecturers to fight over in the resource course.

He was also the nightmare of all new students and even the upperclassmen in the resource course.

His harvesting skills improved by leaps and bounds, and his meticulous control over the monsters' mutated organs was matchless among his peers. It allowed the lecturers he helped to feel like they could do whatever they wished, and their harvests would still be perfect.

The only problem was that after they worked with Meng Chao and called over their own students, they felt that they could not perform smoothly no matter what. Even when they performed the simplest movements, they felt that there were hiccups everywhere, and they no longer felt the pleasurable feeling of operating smoothly.

The lecturers became increasingly gloomy, and they could not help but scold their students.

“Look at how careless you are. How could you not even be able to compete with a new student from a martial arts course?”

The new students from the resource course moaned incessantly. ‘Meng Chao is a monster. You might not find one of him even in ten years. How can we hope to compare?’

In the beginning, some people could not take this lying down and wanted to compete with this boy from the martial arts course.

However, the three sophomores were all stunned by Meng Chao’s lightning fast and perfect movements, and no new student acted hostilely toward him anymore.

Their hostility faded away even more when Meng Chao spoke with great familiarity about various mutated monsters. Before the lecturers could say anything, he would give clear explanations about mutated organs that the new students had never seen before and which looked completely different from the ones in textbooks.

He could tell them how the organ mutated, what its functions were, how they should harvest it, and how it could be refined with other materials. There was nothing that he did not know.

The resource course students were dumbfounded, and they could only be impressed by him.

This was the weird thing about human psychology. When the difference between the two sides was not great, the weaker party might get jealous.

But when the distance was so wide that the other party could not even get close, the person would become idolized as if it were completely normal.

There were also a few students from Ninth High School who had gotten into Agricultural University.

Hence, very soon, Ace Student Chao’s name spread from Ninth High School to Agricultural University’s resource course.

As Meng Chao faded further into obscurity in the martial arts course and became a nobody, he became a legendary existence in the resource course.

Chapter 125: Improving by Leaps and Bounds while Remaining Nameless

Meng Chao did not intend to keep his knowledge to himself.

Every day, he went to the resource course to be an assistant, and aside from working at high intensity like a harvesting machine, when he was free, he would answer questions from the new students, and they would compare their harvesting skills with each other.

Since he was also a student, the angle from which he viewed a problem was different. Sometimes, his answers were more suited for the new students' needs. Because of it, his relationship with the resource course students became better than his relationship with the people in the martial arts course.

He also got a lot of contribution points from the resource course lecturers, and he used them to exchange for the Initial Stage Healing Skills so that he could explore the Ultimate Style further.

Of course, everyone had questions.

"Ace Student Chao, if you're so good at harvesting, why did you run off to the martial arts course? You should just join the resource course!"

"That's right, we're the real ace course in Agricultural University. The martial arts and monster controller course have to ask our resource course for favors all the time!"

The students were not the only ones who said that. Quite a number of lecturers extended the invitation as well. If he just said yes, they would handle the matter of him changing courses.

Meng Chao understood their good will, but he was very satisfied with his current situation.

He experimented, trained, harvested, went to his professional classes, visited the library, went to the canteen to eat, used his contribution points to trade for the Initial Stage Healing Skill, awakened new skills, and improved his Skillfulness. He worked day and night without wasting a second. Forget about going home, he seldom even called home.

Even though it was tough, he enjoyed it. He felt like he had turned into a rocket, and dazzling flames were coming out from behind his butt. He improved by leaps and bounds every day, every hour, every minute, and every second. There was not even a need to mention just how much he enjoyed exploring an unknown world.

Besides, he got to know a group of new friends.

Even though he did not come into a lot of contact with people in the martial arts course, he had been socializing with the students in the refresher course, and he found that they were very interesting people.

Perhaps it was because Meng Chao had been tormented by society for decades in his previous life, so he could not be considered a completely new student. He was like an old veteran who was sent back to the furnace to be recreated, and he was on the same wavelength as the students from society.

Among them were people like Ma Hong, who was a scout from the military who had fled from the jaws of a monster and even killed it. In the process, he awakened to supernatural abilities.

Some of the students from society worked for organizations that built communication towers. They were tasked to build signal towers in the fog and often had to climb more than one hundred meters barehanded. While the fog rolled around them and they listened to the monsters' cries, they had to focus and work for several hours, which was how they refined an unbreakable mind.

Some of them were also miners. They had to work in horrible conditions with high radiation, and each squad had to quickly remove themselves from the situation after working for around ten minutes. Otherwise, their bodies would be affected by all sorts of radiation sicknesses.

And there were all sorts of powerful underground creatures around the mines.

Hence, the miners had to use picks and impact hammers to break the monsters' heads aside from digging out crystals.

They fought day and night. Some people died quietly, while some awakened to supernatural abilities and went to universities and their refresher courses.

Everyone was a broken-star superhuman, and when they leveled up, they usually had to pay a huge price for it. Aside from their main meridians shrinking, a lot of them had a lot of terrifying scars.

But when they talked about their past, about their wounds, and how their comrades had sacrificed themselves, they spoke in a relaxed manner and even laughed about it. They had the elegance of those who forgot about their fear after they healed from their injuries.

Compared to the rich children who enjoyed a large amount of resources since they were young and broke through according to procedures, Meng Chao preferred staying with the students from the refresher course. Based on their lively descriptions, Meng Chao could see and remember a wider and more exciting world.

"The Ultimate Style is meant for us." Meng Chao said seriously to the students from society. "As long as our minds and wills are strong enough, anyone can reach the ultimate stage of life. Very soon, the days of people saying that broken-star superhumans don't have enough room for growth, are limited, and can never be like normal superhumans will be gone!"

The students from society believed his words.

Under Ma Hong's lead, they bravely volunteered themselves to help Meng Chao and Gu Jianbo.

Based on Ma Hong's words, aside from having flirtatious relationships with female entrepreneurs, Gu Jianbo was a pretty good person.

Many of their friends were in the refresher courses of other universities, and they were really just there to get a cert. The lecturers did not teach them seriously, and the students usually did not have the heart to learn either.

But here, Gu Jianbo taught them everything he could. He even helped them get resources and risked his reputation to do something as deviant as telling them to bet on the monster controller course.

"We've never treated Big Brother Bo as our brother, but a friend with whom we share an unbreakable bond. Since we know that Big Brother Bo and Big Brother Zong have done so much for the Ultimate Style and this brand new cultivation method can help broken-star superhumans break our bottlenecks and the ceiling above us, how can we just watch the two of you risk your lives for us?" Ma Hong said with a smile.

Meng Chao and Gu Jianbo spoke with each other. The most dangerous and torturous part of the experiment was already over. With Meng Chao's great regenerative ability, they had already figured out a few low-danger medicine formulae.

With the factories providing technical support, they had also modified the medical cabins in different ways and turned them into brand new cultivation cabins.

If they wanted to promote the Ultimate Style, they would definitely need the acknowledgement of normal martial artists and low-grade superhumans.

If this were a style that only a monster like Meng Chao could practice, it would be meaningless.

Hence, they passionately invited Ma Hong and the other students from society to join them.

By then, they had already sent the results of their experiments to Yan Organization. Yan Hengbo was very pleased with the results, and he gave them another huge sum to sponsor them.

And Gu Jianbo had used some sort of method to convince Dean Zong to give them experimental equipment and cultivation machines that had been eliminated from the martial arts course but were still mostly new. They could now launch seven sets of comparison experiments simultaneously.

Their efficiency increased by leaps and bounds, and they could now conduct dozens of experiments per day.

The legend of Meng Chao the Monster also continued spreading among the students working in society.

Most of the students working in society, including Ma Hong, who was still serving in the Red Dragon Army, could only take electrical shocks and their branch meridians being cleared for ten minutes maximum. Then, they would start groaning in pain. Their mental strength indices would shoot over the safe zone, and they would have to leave the cultivation cabin.

But Meng Chao could calmly stay in the cultivation cabin for a few hours. In fact, it even looked like he enjoyed being in there.

His record was staying submerged in gene medicine for seven hours while being shocked by electricity. He also managed to absorb every last drop of the thick medicine.

As he faced the dual stimulation from the gene medicine and the bioelectricity, his bones crackled, his muscles swelled, and spirit tattoos that were as fine as hair and incredibly profound and complicated appeared on his skin. The aggressive and burning spirit tattoos were something that even the cultivation cabins could not hide. It gave others a feeling that they were standing beside a steel smelting furnace.

Even Ma Hong and the students who had fought hundreds of battles could not help but shudder.

In the second half of September, the experiment reached a critical period.

Meng Chao became even busier. He practically stayed in the lab twenty-four hours a day, which made it difficult for him to fulfill his promise of being a harvesting assistant for two hours every day.

To the martial arts course students, his existence was now as thin as a ghost's.

And by that, they meant that it was very difficult to see him even in major lectures that hundreds of people attended, cultivation centers where the students loved going because they could show off, the canteen, the dorms, or the clubs that the new students participated in passionately. Meng Chao could not be met anywhere.

Even if he occasionally showed up in the very important professional classes, he looked as if he had been squeezed dry and moved around like a drifting ghost. His sense of presence was extremely lacking.

Another month or so passed, and no one mentioned his shocking performance during the admission test anymore.

Some people heard about Ace Student Chao from the resource course, but since they were from a different course, his deeds felt completely unrelated to their world. A pure martial artist usually thought that a harvester's skill was nothing extraordinary. They believed that harvesters only cleaned up after them and cleared the battlefield.

There were also those who thought that Meng Chao was derelict in his studies and did not focus.

"If he wants to be a harvester, he should have applied for the resource course. Since he awakened in the battlefield and killed a Bloody Moon Wolf King by chance, he overestimated his fighting abilities and enrolled in the martial arts course.

"But after he entered university, he noticed that the path of a martial artist is not easy for a broken-star superhuman, so now he wants to become a harvester. That must be the case."

That was what Duan Lian told the other students behind Meng Chao's back.

Meng Chao had launched a counterattack and struck him first during the admission test, which made him miss getting under the tutelage of the two ace lecturers. It was a major regret that he could not forget.

He was filled with anger, and when he spoke, his words were, naturally, laced with fury.

Yet even if the students thought about it carefully, they felt that they could not refute Duan Lian's words.

"By the looks of it, before long, he will leave the martial arts course." Duan Lian gritted his teeth in exasperation. 'But before he leaves, I will definitely let him know that even without the two ace lecturers, I am still one of the Four Great Kings of the martial arts course!'

Xie Feng had also heard about Duan Lian's intentions to cause Meng Chao trouble, so he found Meng Chao and advised him earnestly.

"Meng Chao, what have you been doing lately? This is your precious golden period, so you can't waste it just like that!

"Look, Sun Ya, Jiang Rui, and I all got ourselves ace tutors. We have ample resources and a lot of chances to get monster coins. In just a short month of so, we've cleared a lot of spirit meridians and can create around twenty spirit energy magnetic fields. Our fighting strength has increased more than three times!

"But what about you? You always hide in a corner during classes and daydream. When you cultivate, you look like you have myasthenia gravis. You don't join the clubs either even though they can increase your knowledge, help you earn monster coins, and introduce you to our upperclassmen!

“I mean, I know that broken-star superhumans can’t master a lot of killing moves, but even if you’ve only cleared four main meridians in your right arm, when you organize them, you can still create quite a number of spirit energy magnetic fields. Yet how many have you mastered?”

“Also, over the past month or so, aside from shoving food down your throat in the canteen, you haven’t been using your monster coins at all. You haven’t even registered for a lavish single dorm. You should still have ten thousand or so monster coins left, right?”

“The protection period for new students is now over. Students can challenge each other freely. I heard that Duan Lian is not the only one who wants to cause you trouble.”

“Many of the new students have also improved by leaps and bounds, and they’re all sharpening their weapons knowing that you have a lot of money in your hands. They want to snatch your coins! After all, you’re famous, and your strength is... obvious to all. Everyone bullies the weak, so if they don’t bully you, who else are they going to target?”

“If you really don’t have the heart to walk down the path of a martial artist, it’d be best for you to switch courses as soon as possible. I heard that you’re doing pretty good in the resource course. If you still want to become a martial artist, don’t involve yourself in Project 1024 anymore! Ms. Li said that it’s a dead-end that can never be cleared!”

Chapter 126: I Want to Take Part in the Fight!

Xie Feng’s advice filled Meng Chao’s heart with warmth.

This guy might look prideful, but he was worthy of being offered guidance and to become good friends.

Meng Chao was not a person who liked pretending to be weak so that he could show off later.

Before his good friend, hiding his strength and being a wolf in sheep’s clothing was simply poor taste.

“Xie Feng, thanks for the reminder, but you don’t have to worry about me.” Meng Chao repaid honesty with honesty. “In truth, Project 1024 is going very smoothly. While you’re strengthening a few main meridians every day, I have been strengthening my 1,024 branch meridians. It might not show, but my strength has also increased by leaps and bounds compared to a month ago.”

“I know about Duan Lian’s newest development as well. He has absorbed a lot of feline-type monsters’ beast souls and can now create seventeen spirit energy magnetic fields. He also knows some sort of very powerful killing move known as Lion Frenzy. It might sound intimidating and domineering, but it’s filled with openings.”

“Let’s make a conservative estimate. If I face someone like Duan Lian, I can fight around five of them in an arena. If we were in a real fight with a complicated terrain, I could fight ten of him. Of course, what I’m saying is that this would be the result if I didn’t bring guns to those fights. If I had a gun...” Meng Chao calculated with his fingers carefully. “Welp, I can’t come up with a number.”

“...” Xie Feng sucked in a deep breath. “Meng Chao, wake up. You have to realize your error. Honestly, Ms. Li regards you highly, so you still have a chance to change your tutor!”

“What, we can switch tutors now?” Meng Chao’s eyes lit up with delight. “Then, hurry up and switch to Mr. Gu! If we stay with Big Brother Bo, we’ll have a bright future ahead!”

“You—” Xie Feng almost fainted. He cradled himself and said, “I treat you as a friend, and you just think of me as entertainment? Ah, fine, let me beat you up then. Instead of letting you benefit Duan Lian and the others with more than ten thousand worth of monster coins, it’d be better if you gave them to me.”

“Yeah, sure.” Meng Chao agreed to it readily. “If I beat you up until your parents can’t recognize you, you have to admit that the Beast Soul Style has a weakness, and even the beast soul fusion technology can’t help you solve the problem of accumulating power, stiffening up, and cooling down. The Ultimate Style that Project 1024 came up with is the one that will determine the direction of the future development of martial arts and is the correct path.”

When he saw how serious Meng Chao was and how he started exercising his limbs, Xie Feng found his exasperation leaking out of him.

“Ah, forget it. I don’t have time going nuts with you today. I have to join a special training program later. In a few days, we’ll have a new student competition between the martial arts course and monster controller course. That’s the most important competition in our first year. After I’m done with all my work, we’ll talk about your matter.”

“New student competition?” Meng Chao asked curiously. “Why don’t I know about this?”

“You’ve been really elusive, you don’t stay in the same dorm as the martial arts course students, and you even have a refresher course lecturer who is marginalized as your tutor, so it’s only natural that you don’t know about it.”

Xie Feng sighed. “The rules of the new student competition are such: the martial arts course and monster controller course will each choose fifty new students to fight in a back-to-back tournament. The candidates will be selected by the ace lecturers. Since you followed Gu Jianbo, it’s only natural that he didn’t mention anything, since he doesn’t have the right to recommend any candidates.

“There’s no need to mention that Sun Ya, Jiang Rui, and I are in. Duan Lian is also joining the competition. Many students who weren’t as great as you during the admission test now have the chance to show up because they’re under the tutelage of rather powerful tutors. This is an important event in our semester, so all the competitors are going to fight with everything they have. Otherwise, why do you think Duan Lian and the others would not be causing you trouble even though the new student protection period is over?”

“I see.” Meng Chao nodded.

“Now, do you understand the benefits of following an ace lecturer? Also, recently, the Red Dragon Army has been frequently going with the Supernatural Tower to the edges of the fog to fight. I heard that they have managed to advance dozens of kilometers to the north of the city and discover another incredibly large composite mine. It’s filled with rare metals and high-purity crystals, which have a high strategic value.

“To explore and defend this strategic piece of land, the city has been hastily mobilizing forces. Many of our upperclassmen have gone to the frontlines, and even the freshmen have chances to go into the fog to fight.

“Ever since the 10-year Expedition ended, Dragon City did not have a lot of chances to launch such large-scale attacks. This is a rare good chance. The effect of fighting in a real battle once is better than cultivating for half a year in the university.

“But the fighting power of freshmen is rather weak, and not everyone has the chance of going to the frontlines. It’s only if we’ll show good results during the tournament between courses that we’ll be chosen to represent Agricultural University and join the battle. But you’re definitely out of it.”

“Something like this happened?!”

Meng Chao’s pupils shrank.

He did not remember all the details about the Monster War, but he knew that after he failed his national college examination, Dragon City experienced a series of devastating losses.

In other words, no matter how many kilometers the Red Dragon Army managed to push forward and if they found a mine with a lot of ores that had a lot of strategic value, there was a high chance that the battle would not end well.

“No, I have to join the battle!” Meng Chao blurted out.

“Isn’t it too late for you to realize that? You don’t even have the right to join the tournament, so how could you be chosen to go to the battlefield in the north?” Xie Feng said, frustrated that Meng Chao had not fought for his chance.

Then, he noticed that Meng Chao was staring at him with a strange look.

“What’s wrong?” Xie Feng felt his heart tremble.

“It’s nothing.” Meng Chao looked away and drew closer to smile sweetly at him. “Xie Feng, you’ll definitely be ranked at the top during the tournament between courses, right?”

“The competition is yet to start, so how would I know?” Xie Feng thought about it. “But based on the current situation, the monster controller course has run into a rare minor year. They don’t have outstanding talents among their new students. I can’t say that I will stay until the end of the tournament, but I have hope in winning against five or more of them.”

“That’s good. Don’t worry. At that time, I will definitely cheer for you!”

Meng Chao slapped his good friend’s shoulder.

‘Once Xie Feng shows his glory during the tournament among the new students, I’ll just have to beat him up to show the strength of the Ultimate Style. Then, I’ll be able to prove my worth, right?’

‘Oh, that’s right, there’s Duan Lian too. Based on the standards of a normal university student, that person has been doing pretty well with his training lately, so he should be able to show off his might during the tournament.’

'After I beat up Xie Feng, I might as well beat up Duan Lian to the point that his parents can't recognize him too. There will be a double guarantee that way.'

He was not being ruthless, and neither was he not honoring the bro code.

He was just showing truth and reason. He wanted to use the hard truth to make the students learn the right path for the development of martial arts. He wanted to provide them guidance and contribute to society!

Meng Chao looked over with sparkling eyes. "Xie Feng, do your best. Work hard so that you can defeat a lot of monster controller course students and everyone can cheer for you.

"I'll also do my final push with every second I have!"

Five days later, the 575th experiment for Project 1024, also known as the Ultimate Style, was launched.

The conditions of the Ultimate Style lab were very good. They no longer used cultivation cabins modified from secondhand medical cabins.

Instead, they had a cultivation cabin that had been specifically designed for the style, and it was three meters long.

The walls of the cabin were made of a transparent material similar to glass, but which was highly durable. It could withstand an impact of nearly one hundred tons.

The benefit of their cultivation cabin being magnified was that even if the cultivator was not completely immersed in gene medicine, they could still move around.

That meant that not only did they have ample space to take up stances or execute force, they could also use their hands as sabers and use the One Hundred Saber Technique, Thunder Rapier, or even stronger killing moves.

Ever since the upgraded version of the cultivation cabin was set up, Meng Chao fell in love with it and cultivated in there for three days and three nights.

The feeling he had this time was completely different.

"575th experiment: We have added a density 35 Silver-chained Snake Venom to the base of Gene Medicine No.99. We modified the components of amphetamine and the antisymptomatic drugs. We also used nikethamidol and strychnine to stimulate the central nervous system. The subject has already entered the cultivation cabin. All his physiological parameters are normal."

Gu Jianbo, Ma Hong, and the students all looked at Meng Chao with nervous expressions.

During the past few experiments, Meng Chao's condition had been getting better. He could now withstand bioelectricity of a stronger voltage, and through his branch meridians, the spirit energy that he could instantly absorb and release increased in amount.

Everyone had a feeling that they were infinitesimally close to success.

And just as they expected, right when the cultivation cabin was activated, Meng Chao felt different.

The pain and difficulty in cultivation from before was all gone. He did not need to do anything for the spirit energy in the gene medicine to enter his branch meridians either.

The intersecting spirit apertures in his branch meridians naturally formed a mysterious suction force that absorbed the spirit energy in endless waves.

His body was originally a dark void that no one could see through, but suddenly, just like dark clouds disappearing, stars that covered the sky appeared. The thousands of spirit apertures sparkled brilliantly.

Among the “stars”, silver threads as fine as hair grew out and intersected with each other. They entangled and surrounded each other to form a crystalline person filled with energy.

‘This is the formula! This is the key to branch meridian cultivation!’

Meng Chao opened his eyes in the light-silver medicinal liquid. They shone with a delighted spark.

‘Increase the voltage!’ He made a gesture to the people outside the cultivation cabin.

Gu Jianbo turned on the switch to increase the density of the gene medicine and the voltage of the bioelectricity.

‘No, that’s not enough! Stronger!’

Gu Jianbo increased it by another degree.

‘No, we can make it stronger. I can sense that the formulae’s nourishment and protective properties are really good. It can maximize our ability to resist the shock from the bioelectricity and reduce the side effects from the pain. It can widen our branch meridians, awaken our cells, and devour more spirit energy!’

Meng Chao was still not satisfied.

In the end, Gu Jianbo increased the bioelectricity over the warning line., but Meng Chao looked like he was enjoying it. His mental strength index and physiological parameters remained stable.

“We’ve clearly increased the amount of medicine, so why is the density of the medicinal liquid still reducing so quickly?”

“Look! The gene medicine is becoming clear. It’s like pure water!”

“The energy contained in it has all been absorbed by Meng Chao!”

Ma Hong and the students cried out in surprise.

Before their voices could fade, Meng Chao moved.

He used Ripple Force, Dragon Snake Force, Reckless Bull Force, the One Hundred Saber Techniques, Thunder Rapier, and the middle-stage fighting techniques he had recently learned in university.

Since he was immersed entirely in thick medicinal liquid, he faced great pressure and resistance. It was much harder for him to train here when compared to when he was surrounded by air.

But he ignored it. He moved effortlessly as if he could tear down everything in his path.

Every time he punched or kicked, he stirred up undercurrents and created waves, which made the walls of the cultivation cabin clang loudly.

The durability of the cultivation cabin was incredibly high. Even if a four-star superhuman like Gu Jianbo hit it, it would be hard for him to break it.

Even so, Meng Chao's attacks left a deep impression on the group. They felt as if a fierce creature was about to come out of the cage.

The shocking waves lasted for around ten minutes, and the originally thick and light-silver medicinal liquid turned into clear water.

They turned on the drain holes and got rid of the residual liquid. Meng Chao sat down in a meditative pose with his body radiating heat.

It was as if he had not been put into icy cold medicinal liquid, but magma that could melt steel.

"Has... the Ultimate Style been completed?" Gu Jianbo stared at him.

The depths of his eyes sparkled just like Meng Chao's.

Chapter 127: The Terrifying Branch Meridians

'Activate the spirit energy test.' Meng Chao made a gesture to the people outside the cultivation cabin.

Principal Sun had turned into a beacon of light in the darkness to protect the students. Granny Wang turned into a zombie, but retained a spark of humanity. Countless Dragon Citizens in his previous life advanced wave after wave during the apocalypse to fight. These scenes turned into a high-energy particle flow that charged into his brain and spirit and activated his spirit magnetic field rotation energy.

Meng Chao growled. His spirit energy circulated quickly in his 1,024 branch meridians and turned into 1,024 streams that flowed from his organs to his limbs. Then, they fought against each other to spill out of his pores.

A dense but exquisite spirit tattoo instantly arose on his skin.

It was created by his branch meridians which were like runic symbols drawn with neon pens. They were not as dazzling and eye-catching as the ones formed by main meridians, but they were much more exquisite and complicated.

At first glance, the spirit tattoo looked like a marvelous fighting armor that was thin as a cicada's wing. It made his body look even stronger and nimble.

"This is..."

Everyone sucked in sharp breaths.

When the supporting class superhumans circulated their spirit energy, their branch meridians would also show up to present a dazzling spirit meridian.

But in usual circumstances, this sort of spirit tattoo only appeared in certain spots.

If that person was a doctor or a harvester, they would usually have the spirit tattoo around their eyes and hands, because they needed those parts to perform meticulous operations.

If they were scientists or leaders skilled in calculations and deductions, the spirit tattoos would appear near their temples, showing that the spirit meridians near their minds had been cleared.

The sight of all 1,024 branch meridians being cleared and filled with so much spirit energy that the spirit tattoos became clear and changed as if they had life, like Meng Chao's, was unprecedented.

"Current spirit energy value, 61 Crystals!"

This number shocked Gu Jianbo and the others.

Spirit energy value was the standard to measure the explosive energy of superhumans.

One Crystal meant that they could execute power equivalent to one cubic millimeter of a standard crystal when all of its energy was released and turned into spirit energy.

For one-star superhumans, or rather, for those in Spirit Tattoo Realm, there was a rather simple and crude formula to calculate the value of their spirit energy.

The number of main meridians they cleared would show just how much spirit energy they could produce.

If they cleared sixty main meridians and took in a lot of resources, after training for a period of time, they could control 60 Crystals of spirit energy.

Of course, the talent, skills and medicine the superhumans took were different, so the specific numbers were different.

Outstanding newbies like Sun Ya and Xie Feng might produce more than 100 Crystals of spirit energy, even if they had only cleared sixty to seventy main meridians, because they had the guidance of ace lecturers.

But generally, the spirit energy they produced would not go over twice the number of main meridians they cleared, unless they had already become two-star superhumans and reached Spirit Transformation Realm.

Broken-star superhumans were usually only able to clear a few main meridians.

Even if these main meridians were thicker than the usual ones, it was difficult for their spirit energy value to surpass 20 Crystals.

Of course, such figures were not what decided the outcome of a fight.

The gap in fighting strength could not be decided by simple mathematics based on spirit energy value.

But at the end of the day, the higher a person's spirit energy value was, the more they could control the fight, and the more skills as well as different strategies they could execute.

Yet right now, as a broken-star superhuman, Meng Chao had released 61 Crystals worth of spirit energy, which was the average standard for a martial arts course student.

How could this not fill the broken-star superhumans who were watching with their necks craned forward outside the cultivation cabin with emotion? Their blood stirred.

Meng Chao was just as excited in the cultivation cabin. He really wanted to throw his head back and roar to express his delight.

He knew that Sun Ya, Xie Feng, Jiang Rui, and even Duan Lian's spirit energy value had already gone over one hundred.

But 100 Crystals that came from main meridians were completely different from 100 Crystals that came from branch meridians.

If main meridians delivered that amount of spirit energy, they would need a long time to regain energy, which was known as the cooldown period. It was very hard for them to maintain a steady flow of output. The amount of energy they wasted to execute moves was much higher than that of the branch meridians.

All the flashy electricity effects were also part of the output, but if it was not considered into the final attack, the user would be considered lucky if thirty percent of the spirit energy of the final attack landed on the target.

But the output, accuracy, endurance, stability, and concealment from branch meridians could be adjusted at will. The damage rebounded to the user was rather low, and even if they ended up burning a few branch meridians when they executed their moves, they could repair them within a short period of time.

While looking at the spirit tattoo flowing over his skin, Meng Chao laughed. He stood up and opened the lid. He climbed out of the cultivation cabin and strode to the punching force gauge in the corner.

Bang!

The force of his first punch was worth 1,500 kg.

Two months ago, with just his body, his maximum punching force was 300 kg.

Now, it had increased by five times its original amount.

Of course, with the help of spirit energy, having a punching force amounting to 1,500 kg was nothing shocking.

Many of the new martial arts course students could easily reach 2,000 kg.

Even Ma Hong and the rest of the students from society had that sort of power.

But what happened next was the terrifying part.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Meng Chao did not show any signs of stopping. He repeatedly punched the bag with his fists, and each punch was faster than the last.

In the beginning, the people could still see the entire process. He would take a step forward, twist his waist, pull his shoulders back, and his biceps would bulge up.

But soon, they only saw two afterimages and two burning whips as they repeatedly ravaged the pitiful punching bag.

In the end, aside from Gu Jianbo, no one was able to see Meng Chao's attack trajectory. They only saw a series of astonishing numbers on the screen.

1,615 kg! 1,647 kg! 1,684 kg!

When Meng Chao's punching force reached 1,688 kg, only the decimal numbers changed, not the qualitative numbers.

In five minutes, he delivered 624 punches, and all of them had the force of 1,688 kg.

They would only change by 0.1 to 0.3 kg. At most, it was a 0.5 change.

This shocking control could make anyone feel their skins crawl and chills run down their spines.

When Meng Chao delivered his 625th punch, his punching force jumped to 1,689.2 kg.

Meng Chao pulled his fist back, took a step away, and exercised his shoulder and wrist. He grinned and turned around to look at the dumbfounded group.

"That's the power output from branch meridians.

"It might not be as powerful as the maximum punching force from main meridians, but it's advantage is in the density of punches, the accuracy, and the endurance. I can suffocate the target with these."

Meng Chao had not had his fill yet. He went up the treadmill and switched the speed to eight.

That did not mean that the treadmill would be moving at a speed of 8 km/h.

Instead, it meant one hundred meters in eight seconds!

This far surpassed the limit of the short-distance running legend on Earth, Usain Bolt.

But Meng Chao could run faster and with ease.

He even poked around the buttons to continuously increase the speed. From one hundred meters in eight seconds, he turned it to one hundred meters in 7.8 seconds, then 7.7 seconds, then 7.5 seconds.

In the end, he fixed it at one hundred meters in seven seconds. He was basically moving as fast as the wind.

If super humans had spirit energy helping them, many of them could run at even faster speeds.

But Meng Chao used this speed to run five kilometers. In the end, it was the treadmill that was unable to bear with him stomping on it as he charged forward. It let out creaking sounds and started swaying madly.

During that period of time, his heartbeat, breathing, amount of liquid he lost, and his physiological parameters did not change much.

It seemed like he could run a few marathons at this speed.

‘Compared to attack power, this sort of ability to keep running at high speed is even more important,’ Meng Chao thought. ‘The monsters in the future are going to keep getting stronger. The soldiers and superhumans in the wild often run into dangers they did not expect, but Dragon City still lacks firepower right now. Yet each veteran who has gone through hundreds of battles is a valuable treasure. If they can’t fight, they should be able to run. With Ultimate Style, they could flee to safety and eventually find a chance to fight back.’

But speed and strength were not all that the Ultimate Style could offer.

Meng Chao used another method to show the benefit of cultivating branch meridians to the students, whose, by this point, eyes had almost popped out of their sockets and whose jaws were almost on the floor.

He put a monster coin on the back of his left foot. Then, he placed his hands behind his back and did not move.

His muscles started moving in waves.

Faint spirit energy shot out of his pores like electrical arcs to guide the monster coin from the back of his foot to his calf. Then, he moved it to his stomach before moving it to his stomach. After that, he rolled it to his face and made it stop on his head.

From his head, he had it roll slowly to the back of his right foot.

Even if the students from the society had a lot of knowledge about society, they had never seen a superhuman display such fine and meticulous control over their bodies. They gasped in amazement and looked at each other. Even after a long time had passed, they could not say anything.

Meng Chao did not move. He suddenly had a muscle fiber on the back of his foot shrink, and with a crack, it expanded. The monster coin was flung up, and he caught it in his hand.

“Big Brother Bo, we’ve obtained progressive success for Project 1024, right?” he asked with a smile.

Gu Jianbo’s eyes were a little red. He opened his mouth, but he could not say anything. He went to the wash basin and washed his face for half a minute before he sucked in a deep breath and said in a quivering voice, “That’s right, we’ve verified a brand new formula for medicine and a cultivation method.

“We can now help broken-star superhumans reach the standards of a normal superhuman in terms of basic strength and instant output of spirit energy value. Also, they will be able to do things that cultivators of the main meridians at the same level won’t be able to do.

“Even though the data can serve as reference as to how we can turn the basic figures into fighting strength, we still have a long way ahead of us to find the perfect fighting model that is of equal strength to this cultivation method.

“But even though the road is long and filled with obstacles, we’ll reach the end eventually if we keep moving forward. I really didn’t think that I’d be able to walk down so far on this road and that I’d be able to see hope on it.

“Zong Ye, Xu Fang, Zhou Tianrui, Li Feiyu...”

“Meng Chao, I... I thank you on their behalf!”

Gu Jianbo usually had a glib tongue, but now, he was dazed yet stern. His voice was even a little choked up.

He smoothed out his wrinkled lab coat and took half a step back to give Meng Chao a serious bow.

But Meng Chao was ahead of him. He wrapped his arms around him in a tight hug.

“Big Brother Bo, I should be the one thanking you,” Meng Chao said sincerely. “All of us have to thank you.”

Gu Jianbo was a little stunned. “What? Why?”

“Everyone, for... everything.”

Meng Chao smiled, and the strange flame appeared in front of his eyes.

[Completed the first segment of the chain quest: Fight for the Ultimate Style. The instant spirit energy output of the Fire Relay’s branch meridians is one-tenth above main meridians.

[Quest Remarks: You helped Blade Dancer Gu Jianbo develop a brand new cultivation path five years ahead of the original time and prevented heroic citizen Gu Jianbo from gaining more hidden injuries. His life might be extended. You performed extraordinarily, and you gained $\frac{3}{5}$ stars for the quest.]

[Quest Reward: 10,500 contribution points and twelve of your main meridians being healed.

[The repairs of your main meridians have begun. Current progress: 0.1%. Estimated time of completion: 15 days.]

Chapter 128: Double Quest

In an instant, Meng Chao felt a numb and unbearable feeling fill his limbs.

The spirit energy circulating in his branch meridians surged to his damaged main meridians and infiltrated them.

It was like spring rain had rained down into a stream that was filled with refreshing sweet water and that water had flowed into a dry river.

Just as he expected, main meridians and branch meridians were inseparable and interconnected.

If his branch meridians were filled with spirit energy, he could slowly nourish his main meridians, and it would naturally allow his withered main meridians to see life again.

This was the most effective way to repair main meridians based on the memory fragments from his previous life. It was now verified.

‘Huh? After I awakened to supernatural powers, Kindling leveled up too. Now, it has a remark system.

'I remember that when this quest was given to me, the reward was eight thousand contribution points and the repair of ten of my main meridians. But now, the reward has increased. Does it mean that I completed the quest beyond what I needed to?

'Looks like, from now on, not only do I have to complete the quests at high quality, if possible, I have to complete the quests perfectly and get a five star rating!

'If that's the case, not only will my 1,024 branch meridians be as strong as dragons, even my 108 main meridians might end up fully awakened, right?'

Meng Chao thought about it, and the strange flame flickered before his eyes to show him new information.

[Fight for the Ultimate Style: Second segment.

[Quest Details: Use the Ultimate Style to win against at least three hundred fighters of various styles, including, but not limited to, Beast Soul Style martial artists, Machine Armor Style martial artists, Gun Fighting Style gunslingers, Overkill Style martial artists, monster controllers, machine masters, and heroic spirit users.

[Quest Description: Figures are not everything. How will you search for the best fighting model that is a match to the figures? How will you spread this brand new martial art to the citizens? This is the key to the Ultimate Style's rise to prominence. Please use the truth to persuade the citizens and spread this martial art!

[Quest Reward: If you win against three hundred people, you will be considered to have completed the quest. Based on the number of people you win against and your performance, you will get at least 10,000 contribution points and ten of your main meridians will be healed.

[Five-star Achievement Unique Reward: Method to create spirit energy magnetic field—Mind Lightning.

[Mind Lightning: Your spirit energy will pulsate at a certain frequency to impact your brain cells, and you will release brainwaves as powerful as lightning, which will allow you to disturb the minds of intelligent creatures around you. The time necessary that intelligent creatures accumulate power, stiffen up, and cool down will increase by at least 10%, and they will reveal even more openings that are a danger to their lives.]

'Wow...'

Meng Chao kept staring at the notifications.

He could vaguely remember that Mind Lightning was a very domineering skill, and it was especially suited for the Ultimate Style.

When the lightning created by the brainwaves started crackling, the user could basically kill people with their eyes. No matter who they directed this gaze at, they would die.

Mind Lightning had not been created yet in this era.

Meng Chao could get it ahead of others, but the requirement was a five-star achievement.

Even though he did not have the specific details, the general gist behind it should be that he needed to win against as many people at the same level as him as possible, right? For example, he might need to use the truth to persuade from five hundred to one thousand people that the Ultimate Style was the way to go.

‘Eh, it’s okay. There are around seven hundred new students in Agricultural University’s martial arts course, and there should be even more in the monster controller course. There should be enough if I beat up all the freshmen.

‘Hang on. By “same level”, does it mean that I can only beat up one-star superhumans? If that’s the case, the number isn’t high enough anymore.

‘Ah, it’s fine. The University of Technology, Medical University, and the military school are nearby. Once I beat up everyone in Agricultural University, I can go next door and play with Feixiong. Then, I can also persuade the military school, which should be enough.’

Meng Chao blinked, but the strange flames at the corner of his eyes were still burning.

New information popped up in his sight.

[Fight for the Ultimate Style: Third Segment.

[Hunt at least one thousand normal monsters and one hundred Grade One superbeasts.

[Quest Description: Dance beautifully among the jaws and fangs of monsters!

[Quest Reward: When you kill the minimum number of monsters required, you can declare the completion of the quest. You will be rewarded at least 10,000 contribution points and ten of your main meridians will be healed.

[Five-star Achievement Unique Reward: Method to create spirit energy magnetic field—Monster Blood Combustion.

[Monster Blood Combustion: Stimulate the dormant parts residing in the depths of your genes with spirit energy and release an ancient power. Your maximum output will increase above 10%.]

‘It’s a double quest!’

Meng Chao could not help but whistle in his heart.

Monster Blood Combustion and Mind Lightning were both very practical skills.

If he could create these two spirit energy magnetic fields ahead of their time, not only would he be able to bring out the full power of the Ultimate Style and use it to provide guidance to more citizens, he could also increase Dragon City’s fighting power.

He had to get those two five-star achievements!

“Meng Chao, please stop. You’ve been hugging me for a full three minutes,” Gu Jianbo whispered.

Meng Chao quickly let go.

“Sorry, Big Brother Bo, I was too excited.”

"I get it. I'm very excited too. But you've been working for three days and three nights straight. Do you want to go back and rest so that you can recover a little?"

"Don't need to. I'm filled with energy right now, and I can cultivate for another three days and three nights. I really want to go and look for a few opponents and test the power of the Ultimate Style and figure out how I'm supposed to fight in a real battle!"

"About that..."

Gu Jianbo remembered Meng Chao's performance at the punching force gauge and the treadmill. It did seem like he was perfectly fine.

He looked at Ma Hong and the other students.

Ma Hong's eyes lit up. He rubbed his fists and stepped forward.

"Meng Chao, this time, I'm not going to hold back!" The Red Dragon Army scout's eyes burned intensely.

In the cultivation room, seven built men surrounded Meng Chao.

The other students watched nearby.

"Isn't that too many people? Among the seven of us, three of us are currently serving in the Red Dragon Army, and the other four have survived through hundreds of battles in the fog. We might be broken-star superhumans, and even if we add up all the main meridians we've cleared, it's only around thirty of them, isn't this a little too much? Won't it be bullying you?" Ma Hong frowned.

"It's fine. Practitioners of the Ultimate Style have shaped senses and few openings. Our endurance in a fight is high, so we're in our element when fighting against many people." Meng Chao smiled. "We're going to be fighting in the fog in the future, and it'll be normal for us to be surrounded by monsters. Are we supposed to not fight just because there are a lot of monsters?"

"Makes sense. Then, let's start!"

Ma Hong threw a punch at Meng Chao's face.

He had also gone through a lot of experimental cultivation, so even if he did not improve as quickly as Meng Chao, he was still a completely different person compared to a month ago.

When Ma Hong pushed his fingers together, his hand was like a drawn saber. It whistled with the wind and attracted Meng Chao's eyes.

In the past, he would have either moved back or dodged.

Then, it would be very easy for the other six students to surround him.

But now, Meng Chao did not retreat. Instead, he moved forward and used his enhanced sight as well as enhanced senses to instantly determine Ma Hong's attack trajectory.

He turned his neck to the side by 9.5 degrees, and the price he paid was that Ma Hong's fingernails cut into his cheek slightly, but he managed to ram his shoulder violently into Ma Hong's chest.

In an instant, his spirit energy exploded from him. It charged out from every pore like invisible needles.

Ma Hong looked like he had been struck by lightning. His body trembled.

Two of the other students roared and launched a pincer attack.

But Meng Chao acted as if he was weightless. He tapped against the ground and slid behind one student, where he jabbed his armpit. Because of it, the student had to raise his arm in spite of himself, which blocked the other student's attack.

The other students saw that the situation was bad for them. They put on their stances and created their spirit energy magnetic fields to release their killing moves.

This fit into Meng Chao's plans. His spirit energy flowed through his branch meridians, and his spirit tattoos shone even more brilliantly. As if he had turned into a Lightning Saber, he attacked them by targeting their openings. He seized the moment they switched from accumulating power to stiffening up to kick them, because that was the moment they were at their weakest.

It was as if there was electricity in his limbs. Every hit he delivered caused great pain, and the students were unable to get up even after a long time had passed.

When Ma Hong registered what had happened, Meng Chao had already drifted to a corner and watched him while completely unharmed.

The other students groaned on the floor. The spirit energy magnetic fields they had created were forcefully destroyed by Meng Chao, and now, they suffered a backlash. The spirit energy charged about their flesh and nerves, causing great pain.

"Again!" Ma Hong swung his fist.

"Is there a need for that?" Meng Chao asked. "If we were in a real fight, I wouldn't have come empty-handed. I'd have a dagger, and I'd have put a steel plate in my combat boots as well as a sharp knife. Its blade, of course, would be coated in poison. I'd never let my enemies have a chance to get up."

"Then what about me?" Ma Hong's fierceness and unrelenting spirit started burning. He glared at Meng Chao and said, "I haven't lost! Again!"

"But I don't want to." Meng Chao crossed his arms and smiled. "Judging by how you want to fight against me no matter what, if you were a monster I ran into in the wild, you'd be the type that's incredibly fierce and wouldn't mind dying with me. Why should I fight head-on against that?"

"The greatest advantage of the Ultimate Style is an endless supply of spirit energy, which leads to high endurance. And when it comes to fighting spirit, it doesn't mean simple and crude fighting. It means the ability to leave the battlefield at any time I want. I can make decisions in a flexible manner.

"If I met fierce 'monsters' like you, I'd choose to run away, and while I run, I'd look around at the landmarks to toy with you while kite you. Then, I'd go back and report your existence, get hundreds of artillery or hundreds of unmanned aerial vehicles, and turn you into mince meat. That's the way humans should fight."

Ma Hong fell into deep thought.

He was part of the Red Dragon Army, so he did not mind using a steel army to turn monsters into mince meat.

“Makes sense,” he mumbled. “In the past, regardless of whether it was the Overkill Style or the Beast Soul Style, we’d only pay attention to fighting with our lives on the line and facing death fearlessly. There were many times when even if we ended up killing the monsters, we had to pay a devastating price for it.

“There are only so many people in Dragon City, and we can’t bear the loss of manpower. Even if we sacrifice one human for the lives of ten monsters, we’re still the ones with the losing deal.

“If a fight broke out in the city and we were supposed to fight to protect our homeland, everyone would naturally face death with a smile.

“But as the defense line gets stronger and we gradually gain strategic initiative, more humans will take the initiative to fight, and the flames of war will reach the depths of the fog and the wild.

“We’re going to be in a brand new war, and the dull way of taking a stance and delivering our attacks will no longer be a suitable way to fight. Instead, the Ultimate Style’s flexibility will give us a higher chance of survival. It’s beneficial to obtain the final victory in terms of strategy.”

“That’s right.” Meng Chao looked around and swept his gaze over the students before his eyes landed on Gu Jianbo. “We need to be able to see the advantages and disadvantages to develop a martial art, and we also need to figure out what the future will need. When Dragon City switches from defense to offense, I believe that the Ultimate Style will definitely rise to power!”

Chapter 129: A Young Girl

The students from society did not have a high cultivation realm, but they were the pillars of strength of their professions or the military. They had a large circle of friends and were rather influential.

Meng Chao hoped that he could spread the ideals of the Ultimate Style as quickly as possible through them.

And just as he expected, while the group fell into deep thought, the notification at the top corner of his eyes changed.

Not only did he get contribution points, his completion rate for the second segment of the Fight for the Ultimate Style went from 0/300 to 6/300.

After all, Meng Chao had not just defeated Ma Hong, but six other broken-star superhumans.

If he calculated things that way, the difficulty in completing the quest at the bare minimum was not high.

But if he were to only challenge broken-star superhumans and the freshman ranked at the bottom, even if he defeated three hundred people, he would only get a one-star achievement.

If he wanted to get a five-star achievement, he had to fight against all the outstanding people in Spirit Tattoo Realm within the city.

Meng Chao smiled and said, “Big Brother Ma, everyone, you’ll be the ones who will play a major role in the next stage of the experiment. My main task will be to go for my practical test and gather data in fights.”

Ma Hong looked regretful. He shook his head and said, “Meng Chao, we’re really interested in the Ultimate Style, and we seriously want to stay and cultivate a little longer, but I just received orders from the squad to return to the army immediately. The Red Dragon Army has a major operation in the north, so my cultivation has to come to a halt for the time being.”

Meng Chao was slightly stunned. “Then, what about all of you?”

“We’re the same,” one of the students from society said with a grin. “The scale of the operation this time is the greatest in the past ten years. All the people from all professions have mobilized their forces. The Red Dragon Army and the Supernatural Tower aren’t the only ones involved.

“Broken-star superhumans are superhumans too. Compared to undergraduate students, we’re nothing, but in our units, we’re the pillars of strength. We have to participate in the fight, so we have to put a stop to the refresher course for now.”

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It made sense.

When Dragon City expanded, it would not just be the matter of the military alone.

As the Red Dragon Army pushed forward, the companies in charge of building communication towers had to set up signal towers behind them to ensure that the internet was smooth and faced no interference. Then, it would be possible for unmanned aerial vehicles to dance about under the guidance of the tactical data chains. The Supernatural Tower would also be able to get clear and concise reports. Hence, the humans in the fog would be able to have “ears” and “eyes”.

Similarly, the construction companies had to follow to smooth out the land, clear water channels, electricity channels, and spirit energy channels, thereby turning the uncultivated mountain range into a area suitable for humans to live.

There was not even a need to mention mining companies. They had to fight against monsters in bumpy, hot, and unstable mines. Their fights were even bloodier and more dangerous than the fights on the ground.

Most of the students from society had their fees for the refresher course paid by their companies, which was done to make them stronger.

Now, their companies sent them an order to go on an expedition, so they could not avoid their duties. They had to go back immediately.

Meng Chao thought about it for a moment. “Big Brother Ma, if that’s the case, we can talk about this after the fight. Big Brother Bo and I will make a small booklet that is easy to understand, so you can

bring it to the military and your companies. Then, you can think together about ways to fight using the Ultimate Style.

“Also, over the past ten years, Dragon City has not done any large-scale expansions. Will this be very dangerous? What I mean is, over this period of time, I have been harvesting monsters in the resource course, and I noticed a lot of new mutated and evolved monsters. We can’t be careless. If things go bad, we might end up suffering a major loss.”

“Don’t worry, the military and Supernatural Tower have monster experts. Their data is shared with Agricultural University, and they know much more than we do. The higher-ups definitely have full confidence that we can win. As foot soldiers at the frontlines, we just need to fight with courage!” Ma Hong said with a smile.

The students from the society looked relaxed. In fact, they seemed to be eager to expand the land and become successful.

Meng Chao wanted to say more, but could not.

He knew that this was a battle that mobilized all forces from the military and various parties, which meant an unprecedented battle that involved tens of millions of people, along with hundreds of millions of resources. It was impossible for him to stop it with just a few words.

Besides, he did not know how the war had progressed in detail, so he could not change it nor stop it.

He had to go to the frontlines to gather more information. Only then could he plan his next step.

“Wait, what’s the date today?” he suddenly asked.

“The tenth. What’s wrong?” Ma Hong asked.

“Isn’t that the date for the tournament between the freshman of the martial arts course and the monster controller course?” Meng Chao’s expression changed drastically. “Oh no! It’s already eleven in the morning! The tournament began at nine! Even if it’s a 50 vs 50 continuous tournament, it would have almost ended!”

A few days ago, he had received the official notice from the course that even if he was not chosen to be in the tournament, he should go and observe, because this concerned the glory of the martial arts course.

He had also promised Xie Feng that he would go and cheer for him!

But it had been the crucial period for the Ultimate Style’s experiment. He and Gu Jianbo had not slept for three days and three nights, and they were so busy that they could not differentiate day and night. At such a time, there was no way they would remember something as “minor” as a tournament between freshmen.

“Big Brother Bo, what should I do?” Meng Chao scratched his head.

“It’s my fault. I’m your tutor. I should have reminded you.” Gu Jianbo smacked his head. “The matter of us betting on the monster controller course went way over the top last time. I was lectured sternly by Dean Zong, and he forbade me from causing any trouble.

“Since I wasn’t allowed to gamble, there was no need for me to pay attention to the tournament between courses. Anyway, regardless of whether it’s the Beast Soul Style or the monster controllers, they’re all... Ah, let’s not mention this. Ms. Li is going to be so angry and scold me for leading you astray!”

“Then, I should go and take a look. If the tournament hasn’t ended, I can sneak in through the backdoor and make everyone think that I have been there from the start,” Meng Chao said.

“Go, I need to go and report to Dean Zong about the latest development in Project 1024. It has been so many years, and now, I can finally stand tall and proud of myself!”

Gu Jianbo was happy. “By the way, if you find Ms. Li, please help me and check her mood. If it’s good, I’ll go to her later and let her know that I haven’t actually been derelict in my duties over all these years. I’ve just been hanging around to find the time to rise to the top in one shot!”

Meng Chao rolled his eyes three times at him.

“Big Brother Bo, don’t worry. You’ve contributed greatly to the Dragon Citizens, and the citizens won’t forget you. Just let me handle what’s next!” He patted his chest.

Gu Jianbo was stunned. “What is it?”

“It’s nothing. I have to go now. You should hurry up and get a makeover as well as gather your strength. Get your hair done, get a suit that looks better, and go to Ms. Li at night. Then, you can share your joy with her!” Meng Chao ran out of the underground lab like the wind.

The custom of the two fighting courses had it that the tournament between them would be held in turns between the cultivation centers of the two courses. This time, it was the martial arts course who was the host.

The old lecture building was in a diagonal line to the cultivation center that had just been built not long ago. If Meng Chao walked on the main path, he would pass the canteen, library, and two lecture buildings. It would be very easy for lecturers to spot him.

But Meng Chao knew an alley. He first had to move behind the canteen, then he could climb up to the fifth floor through the drainage pipes. After that, he had to jump to the grove beside it and use the bounce from the branches to fly above the trees. Once he was done, he could get to the backdoor of the cultivation center.

‘I wonder how many rounds Xie Feng has won? Are there any good students in the monster controller course?’

‘I came late and even arrived in such a flashy manner. What sort of reason should I use to not appear to be offensive and as if I’m pretending to be awesome?’

Meng Chao jumped around while he thought about it.

Suddenly, he felt his eyelids twitch.

It was as if a fine needle of ice had just stabbed the center of his eyebrows.

Before his thoughts could flare, he instinctively stopped moving. All his muscle fibers were like sabers that had already accumulated power and could attack at any moment.

The dense branches ahead of him were swathed in darkness.

But his eyes were sharp, and he could see a black figure among them.

It was a monster.

No, its scent said it was a superbeast.

In fact, it was an incredibly dangerous superbeast.

It was an amalgamation of a lion, jackal, and panther.

Its pure black pelt shone brilliantly, and it gave off a shine that was a mix between a crystal and metal.

Its dark eyes were like man-eating black holes that absorbed Meng Chao's soul.

Even though it had a spirit energy magnetic collar around its neck and a hoop-shaped receptor on its brain to show that it was a controlled biochemical beast, the spines of most new students who suddenly saw it in a quiet corner of the university would crawl. After all, it was a creature with a suffocating presence.

But Meng Chao licked his lips and smirked.

His professional habits came up.

Over the past month or so, he had harvested nearly one thousand monsters for the lecturers and students from the resource course. Now, he was surrounded by a murderous intent that monsters could clearly sense, but humans could not detect.

And he felt an urge. When he saw wild monsters or controllable biochemical beasts, he felt like he was looking at blank canvases and really wanted to spill ink on them. He wanted to turn them into beautiful pieces of art.

'What a beautiful pelt. I really want to use a thin blade to cut into it and flesh beneath. The feeling of the blade moving smoothly through it is definitely going to be incredibly pleasurable!

'Look at those nimble muscles. The tendons in its front paws are at least fifty centimeters long. It might even be more than fifty-five. It's the best raw material to make tanned tactical back belts. It's also very good to bind the handles of cold weapons.

'The superbeast's ability to stay hidden is very good. While lurking in the trees, it doesn't release even the slightest bit of heat. This means that it has a unique organ that allows it to control its heat. Otherwise, it wouldn't be able to solve the problem of releasing heat when it's involved in a fierce battle.

'I really want to cut this creature into pieces and examine its structure...'

Meng Chao gulped and smiled in a friendly manner to the biochemical creature.

The biochemical beast shuddered and shrank back into the branches.

Then, a dirty face showed up.

It belonged to a young girl.

She seemed to be only slightly older than Bai Jiacao and have pretty decent features. But she was a completely different type of girl compared to his sister.

His sister had a round face, and before she was corrupted, her cheeks were rosy-pink, so she looked like a really delectable red apple.

The young girl had an oval face. Her skin was tanned, and even if she pursed her lips, she could not hide her sharp canines.

Her gaze was also very strange. It was not friendly, but it contained no enmity either. There was only extreme hunger.

She was dressed in Agricultural University's uniform, but there was a controller ring on a monster skull sewn on her chest.

It was the emblem of the monster controller course.

Meng Chao really wanted to smile.

This was because he finally noticed someone whose uniform was even more torn and wrinkled than his.

The girl was definitely not above 155 cm tall, but she wore the largest uniform possible.

A part of her sleeves and pants were ripped off, and what remained was bound tightly above her elbows and knees with rubber bands.

Her uniform was like a sack, and most of it had been torn, revealing her dark but smooth skin. It was also dyed in all sorts of strange colors, making it look like a multicolored camouflage uniform.

The uniform was really "cooling", but she still looked really uncomfortable. She kept on scratching herself.

The displeasure on her face made her look like an angry black cat.

Chapter 130: That's All I Can Help With

When the black kitten saw that Meng Chao had terrified her biochemical beast before he trained his gaze on her, she became angry.

The girl bared her teeth at Meng Chao and growled.

Meng Chao's smile froze, but the interest in his eyes grew stronger.

The black kitten seemed to be... the same type of person as he was.

Ever since he returned from the apocalypse, he had never sensed such strong, sharp, and unconcealed killing intent from a peer.

Even if Luo Hai, Sun Ya, and Xie Feng were aristocratic children, came from cultivation families, had cleared a lot of main meridians, practiced a lot of skills, and could deliver 100 Crystals or 200 Crystals worth of spirit energy, in Meng Chao's eyes, they were flowers in greenhouses. They had yet to experience a real storm.

But this kitten was different.

She had the scent of death on her, which belonged to people who had crawled out of a pile of corpses.

It turned her from a small black kitten into an incredibly dangerous black panther.

Even her eyes turned from dark black to green. They were like two highly condensed will-o'-the-wisps.

Meng Chao did not doubt that if they were to fight, they would not be in some boring battle because of a few monster coins like the new students. Neither would they be bound by rules and expectations.

Instead, they would be fighting with everything they had, and they would use everything around them, including their lives. They would be dancing beautifully between life and death.

'Judging by her looks, she shouldn't be an upperclassman, right?' Meng Chao was puzzled. 'Didn't they say that the monster controller course ran into a minor year and doesn't have any talents? Why do they have such a new student, then?'

When the girl sensed his interest, she was slightly stunned. Then, her cheeks, eyes, and canines started shining with hunger.

Their gazes met in the air, and at the same time, they looked around themselves.

They scanned the trees in the grove and the distribution of the branches to calculate their durability as well as how much of a bounce each of them could provide. They also calculated attack trajectories once they figured out how much of a bounce they could get from the branches.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Sparks flew in their eyes, and all sorts of offensive and defensive strategies formed in their heads.

The profound and complicated spirit tattoos on Meng Chao's skin appeared faintly. Even though they were covered by his sleeves, he could not hide the raging spirit flames.

The mysterious girl from the monster controller course crouched down and let out a deep growl from the back of her throat.

The biochemical beast appeared like a ghost behind her. The creature and human seemed to have fused together to form a brand new monster. Four burning will-o'-the-wisps seemed to be burning through Meng Chao's throat and heart.

A light breeze blew through the forest.

The branches rustled.

But there were a few branches around them that did not move. It was as if two strange forces of power controlled them.

Crack! Crack!

They stayed still for a few seconds. Then, the branches that the two people had chosen cracked, and they lost the platforms they could use to launch their first attacks.

“Wu Wu!”

A shout came from outside the grove.

The mysterious girl frowned a little. It looked like she was very displeased that her exciting game had been interrupted.

But she only let out a soft huff. From a black panther, she changed back into a small kitten.

She looked at Meng Chao before she licked her sharp canines. Her nostrils flared, and she sniffed the air for a long time, as if she was putting Meng Chao’s scent to memory.

The black kitten then jumped out of the grove with her biochemical beast.

Meng Chao climbed to the top of the tree and shouted, “Hey, don’t go! You’re also a freshman, right? Let’s be friends! If we have the chance, let’s spar!”

But the black kitten was already gone.

On her way back to the monster controller course from the martial arts course, the black kitten sat on her biochemical beast’s back. She was in a meditative position with her hands cradling her cheeks as she thought.

The other new monster controller students were at least five meters away from her. They were filled with reverence and fear.

“Wu Wu, where did you go just now?”

A monster controller lecturer with white hair, a white beard, and a necklace made of monster skulls on his neck said, “This is the territory of the martial arts course. Don’t run around as you please, especially today. If you gave a really shocking performance, it’d be very easy for you to attract gossip.”

The black kitten named Wu Wu nodded in a distracted manner. After a long time had passed, she made a gesture and said, “Someone, smells nice.”

Her voice was hoarse. She spoke slowly, and she faltered after the first word. It seemed like she was more accustomed to using gestures to show her intentions.

“Smells nice?” The lecturer was stunned.

“Yes. Smells nice. Must taste nice, too.” Wu Wu narrowed her eyes and gulped. Then, she revealed her sharp teeth again and smiled. “I wants to eat him.”

Due to the delay brought by the black kitten, when Meng Chao reached the cultivation center, the tournament between the new students had already ended.

He wanted to sneak in through the backdoor, but he was just in time to run into the students from the martial arts course stumbling out in scattered streams while sighing.

'They lost?' Meng Chao scratched his head. 'Didn't they say that there's no genius this time in the monster controller course and that there's a high chance that the martial arts course may win? Besides, even if they lost the tournament, everyone's mood seems to be off.'

In the past, when someone won the tournament between courses, they were naturally overjoyed, and if they lost, they rubbed their palms like they could not accept the results.

But today, he saw more than just dejection on the students' faces. He also saw... fear.

That was right. It was fear. It seemed like something horrifying had happened, which broke their spirits.

At that moment, Meng Chao saw Duan Lian coming out with a bruised face and an arm fixed to his chest. He had a dispirited look on his face.

Duan Lian saw Meng Chao as well, but he only glared at him before he left without a single word.

'Was Duan Lian's spirit... also broken?' Meng Chao scratched his head. 'Ever since I taught him a lesson during the admission test, he has been causing a ruckus by saying that he wants to take revenge against me.'

'A few days ago, I ran into him in the canteen, and he said that after the tournament between courses ended, he would fight me, but he didn't even say anything harsh to me now. He must have lost horribly.'

'But that shouldn't have been the case. He's still one of the Four Great Kings. Even though he didn't manage to get an ace lecturer, he has been training hard by relying on the resources of his family. When he goes nuts, he can be as crazy as a Demonic Halberd Pig that has been single for twenty years. Even if he lost, there's no reason for him to have lost so terribly.'

Meng Chao thought about it and decided to move against the flow of the crowd. He walked into the cultivation center.

The audience seats were empty since most of the people had already left.

Sun Ya and Xie Feng sat stunned by the arena. They were the two most outstanding new students in the martial arts course, but their faces were stark pale, and they looked like they were scared out of their wits. They were similar to Duan Lian.

Jiang Rui, who was known to be the best in terms of speed and kicking techniques among the Four Great Kings, was reduced to a bloody mess and was receiving treatment in the corner.

The tournament was a bloody stage, and there were terrifying claw marks everywhere. They were a testament to how fierce the tournament had been.

Griffin Li Yingzi stood at the center of the arena while observing the marks of the fight as she thought about a difficult problem that had no answer.

When she saw Meng Chao, she frowned and said darkly, "Meng Chao, you're finally here. I'm not your personal tutor, so there's no need for me to say too many things to you, but—"

"Wait, Ms. Li, I have something really important to tell you!" Meng Chao quickly wiggled his eyebrows before Li Yingzi could scold him and brought her to a corner with no one around. He whispered, "Do you

know why I was late on such an important day? Because we've reached success in Project 1024. We found a way to cultivate using branch meridians!"

Li Yingzi's pupils shrank swiftly, and she said in disbelief, "What? Tell me what happened clearly!"

"Well, the project is a success, and we're cultivating with branch meridians, but that's not important. What's important is that to celebrate the breakthrough of the project, Mr. Gu got drunk and held me back like a mad man while having a heart-to-heart with me for a few hours. I couldn't stop him!" Meng Chao said seriously.

Li Yingzi was stunned. "What are you trying to say? What does him having a heart-to-heart with you have to do with me?"

"It has everything to do with you. Mr. Gu said while crying that his love for you over the ten years hasn't changed and that he has only grown to love you more and more." Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath, and before Li Yingzi could interrupt him, he continued like a machine gun. "But he knows that his thoughts are completely different from yours when it comes to Project 1024. Neither of you could convince the other, but as a man, he had to carry on his friend's dying will and continue on silently.

"So, he could only hide his love deep in his heart. He's been hiding it in hopes that there will come a day that he can get some results and his love can explode in a dignified manner!"

Li Yingzi was stunned. "But—"

"But why has he never said anything and kept smiling and acting in such a carefree manner? It's because he was conflicted!" Meng Chao said hurriedly. "On one hand, Mr. Gu really wants to get together with you again, but on the other hand, he has been conducting an experiment that is extremely dangerous and has dangerous side effects.

"He could have died at any moment, so he felt that it was too dangerous. Since his future was so uncertain, he couldn't give you happiness and turned into a coward!"

"What?!" Li Yingzi became anxious. "You've just relaunched your project not too long ago, right?"

"We've just relaunched the project fully, yeah. But over the past five years, he has been conducting research by himself, and he has gone through a lot of pain, suffering, and grievances," Meng Chao said.

"Mr. Gu said that every time he entered the cultivation machine, he didn't know whether he'd be able to survive, but he didn't dare to tell you since he knew you'd be worried.

"He also said that the person he has let down the most in his life is you. Every time he conducted an experiment and endured great pain, the only thing that flashed in front of his eyes was you.

"He even said that before he succeeds with Project 1024, his life will belong to the project, but once it's done, he will dedicate his life to you."

"That bastard..." Li Yingzi's face lit up as hot as burning coal. She gritted her teeth. "He did this behind me, and he even told you?"

"Yeah, I felt really awkward. Mr. Gu is such a coward. He should have told you these things. Why did he tell me?" Meng Chao said. "But when I thought about it carefully, it must be because he cares a lot

about this relationship you once had with him. That's why he used alcohol to provide a cover for himself and used me to deliver his words. So, even if you fly off into a rage or ignore him, he'll have room to save the situation.

"Ms. Li, based on my position, I naturally have no right to say anything, but Mr. Gu is really pitiful. Could you at least visit him?"

Li Yingzi sucked in a deep breath. "Is he still drunk?"

"He's slightly better now, but I think that all his courage has faded away. I have to say, he can be really cowardly sometimes. If you don't torture him, he won't say what he's truly feeling," Meng Chao said. "But I promise you that everything I said just now is real. If you don't believe me, you can strip him off and see his scars. Then, you'll know how much pain he has endured in silence over the years. Oh, and that fatal injury..."

Li Yingzi frowned. She grabbed Meng Chao's wrist and asked in a trembling voice, "What fatal injury?"

"It's the one on his butt. I think he was trying to use electricity to stimulate his spine in hopes to clear the 188 branch meridians around the spine, but the electricity was too strong, so his spine was damaged. I don't know the details, but Mr. Gu didn't want me to take a detailed look of his butt."

Meng Chao shrugged and said, "Every time I ask him to have a doctor check him, he just waves it off. Do you know what I'm afraid of the most right now? He has been very tense and stressed while the project was unsuccessful, so he just kept on going through sheer willpower. Now, he finally saw hope and relaxed. What I'm worried about the most is that if the fatal injury on his spine will act up, everything may come to an end!"

"That's enough! Stay here. I have something to do. I need to go out." Li Yingzi turned around and left.

"Wait, Ms. Li." Meng Chao pondered over his words and added, "I know that there are a lot of rumors in the university saying that Mr. Gu has been frolicking around outside and got into ambiguous relationships with many female entrepreneurs.

"I'd like to defend him in this regard. He went to those female entrepreneurs because he wanted to get investments for Project 1024.

"Of course, I can't guarantee that they didn't do anything exciting and entertaining to get investments.

"But based on my personal experience, before you find the correct formula and way to cultivate with branch meridians, it's very difficult and torturous to cultivate them. The rampaging spirit energy will charge about the branch meridians, which feels like stuffing a stick the size of a fist up your nostril. Every time the spirit energy charges into you, you'll feel like dying and be drained of energy.

"Even if I'm just eighteen years old and am filled with energy, whenever I finished cultivating my branch meridians, my fingertips were limp, and when I peed, my pee fell on my shoes.

"So..."

Li Yingzi glared at him, and like an aggressive female griffin flapping its wings, she left in a hurry.

When she disappeared behind the door, a satisfied smile appeared on Meng Chao's face.

'Big Brother Bo, that's as much as I can help you. What happens next will depend on you!'