

Oh My God 41

Chapter 41: Trap Made Using an Unidentified Material

Five minutes later, Liao Feijun came back with a dark face. He gritted his teeth so hard that it made cracking sounds.

He had red wine staining his chest, and he looked incredibly pathetic.

“Ning Xueshi!” he hissed the name fiercely. “I originally wanted to get rid of the enmity between us and resolve the grudge between our seniors through the relationship between us juniors, but I didn’t expect that you would not show me any respect at all! This brat stays in a public renting house and has never even seen an elevator before! And he wants to fight against me, Liao Feijun?”

“Young Master Jun! Young Master Jun!”

The young men and women who had come together with him saw the conflict between them, and they quickly went over to dissuade him from attacking Meng Chao. “All the guests today are important people. We can’t attack anyone in public, but we’ll have plenty of chances in the future.”

Liao Feijun sucked in a deep breath. “Don’t worry. I’ll just be dirtying my own hands if I attack this boy. Isn’t he the old bat’s new disciple? I’ll have plenty of chances to make him embarrass himself later!”

At the other side of the trade fair, Ning Xueshi apologized to Meng Chao in a flurry. “I’m sorry, Liao Feijun is a lunatic. Just ignore him.”

“I’m fine. But I didn’t expect that you’d be so feisty. You just went and poured red wine on him.”

Ning Xueshi’s face turned red. She did not expect that she would be so extreme either. No matter what, they were all harvesters. Even if their personal grudges ran deep, it was not good for them to turn into complete enemies.

But just now, she had been engaged in a noble topic of how they should contribute to society with Meng Chao, a strange boy who did not regard fame and riches with any importance, when suddenly, Liao Feijun, a good-for-nothing rich man’s son, came over to bother them. Ning Xueshi felt that her value in Meng Chao’s eyes dropped because of him.

She had been angry and anxious, which was why she splashed wine on Liao Feijun.

Fortunately, the trade fair officially began at that moment, and everyone’s attention was diverted.

The various strange, rare, and valuable materials were an eye-opener for Meng Chao. They also stimulated the memories of his previous life to the point that they were eager to come to the forefront of his mind.

But with his physical constitution, there was no need for him to buy high-quality rare materials to refine them into medicine. It was enough for him to feast his eyes upon those items.

As for the crystalized neurosphere, Ning Shewo used all of his skills to push the price up, and they managed to sell it for one million three hundred and thirty thousand. It was two to three times higher than the market price, and Meng Chao was extremely delighted.

With so much money in hand, he thought of buying valuable things that everyone missed.

But the people in the hall had good judgment. The price for each material was fair and just. Nothing as cliché as a normal high school student with a discerning eye buying a material that was supposed to be worth five hundred million with just fifty million happened.

Without anyone's knowledge, two hours passed, and the trade fair entered the most exciting section.

A built man brought out a wooden plate and walked onto the stage. He said in a loud voice, "My dear experts, three days ago, Bloody Wolf Fighting Squad found an unidentified material in the depths of the fog. We don't know its properties, its use, or its worth. That's why we thought to bring it here. We wish that you would appraise it and we could find a buyer for it. If anyone is able to identify it, we will definitely give you appraisal fees."

There were plenty of monsters, and they were constantly evolving and mutating. No matter how powerful a hunter was, it was impossible for them to be able to recognize all the materials in Monster Mountain Range.

But harvesters had been in close contact with all sorts of materials for years. They had a much better judgment compared to hunters.

A good harvester was usually a good appraiser as well. When powerful buyers and sellers gathered in a trade fair and a rare material was appraised and its worth set, it would usually be bought on the spot.

In time, the identification of unidentified materials became the last event of high-end trade fairs.

Of course, the harvesters were putting their reputations at risk. This was an incredibly risky event.

If they managed to identify a rare material no one knew about, their reputations would definitely shoot up.

But if they made a misjudgment, they could easily fall from their pedestals.

In no time, many harvesters and major buyers gathered together. Everyone was very interested in witnessing the splendor of the unidentified material.

"Wait!" At this moment, Liao Feijun suddenly stood up. With ill intentions, he looked in Ning Shewo's direction. "I know that Elder Ning has recently taken in a successor. He can be considered to be my junior martial uncle. Just now, I spoke to Martial Uncle Meng, and I've been enlightened.

"Why don't we let Martial Uncle Meng come up to identify this item so that everyone can see his skills? We can also judge just how good is Elder Ning's judgment in choosing his disciples. What do you think?"

The crowd was stunned. Then, they became interested.

Ning Xueshi's face turned red. She stood up and retorted. "Liao Feijun, enough with the nonsense. Mr. Meng is not my grandfather's disciple, but his friend. He has nothing with the matters between our families. Stop going around randomly hurting other people!"

“A friend?” Liao Feijun laughed. “Elder Ning was poisoned by a snake, and it seems like he has reached even greater heights—becoming friends with just anyone. The spirit of retiring while one is at the prime of their life and being content with a normal life is something worthy to learn for us juniors.”

Ning Shewo’s face turned dark as a pan, but he could not fly off into a rage.

With his status, if he entered an argument with Liao Feijun, he would just be lowering his status.

Ning Xueshi was so angry that she was scowling. Just when she was about to take a step forward and ask that she could appraise the item, Meng Chao stepped forward.

“Alright, then let me see the item.”

He was never someone who could swallow insults and humiliation. He was already very angry about what happened to Ripple Force, and since Liao Feijun was in cahoots with Gu Ming, he was definitely not someone good. Now, since he provoked them verbally, he could vent on that boy.

Besides, he would awaken to many future harvesting skills later on. He would also remember the structures of future monsters after they evolved. He would definitely be contributing a lot in the harvesting circle at that time.

But if he wanted to do that, he would need a certain amount of fame. Only when his words carried weight would others believe him.

‘Young Master Jun, is it? I’m sorry, but since you decided to put your face under my boot willingly, I have to stomp on it a couple of times, or I would be disrespecting you,’ Meng Chao thought.

Ning Xueshi did not stop him, and Meng Chao strode to the stage and received the other experts’ gazes on him in a relaxed manner.

His confidence moved the built man from Bloody Wolf. He lifted the veil and said respectfully, “Mr. Meng, please appraise it.”

A brilliant light shot to the ceiling. When it was reflected off the colored chandelier, the whole hall was filled with a variety of colors. It was as if there were seven-colored ripples swimming about the hall.

Even the harvesters who had a lot of knowledge could not help but cry out in surprise. They rose on their tiptoes to stare at the item.

Lying still on a fluffy red velvet was a pearl the size of a goose’s egg. It shone with a crystalline hue, and each layer was dyed in a variety of colors. It was like dozens of landscape paintings that used a lot of vibrant colors were gathered in the pearl. It shone with a different colored light based on different angles.

“What is this?”

“What a beautiful pearl. This looks like the crystal core of a superbeast. We just don’t know what sort of superbeast it is.”

“The spirit energy is really thick. The superbeast must have used decades or perhaps even a century to gather that amount of spirit energy. It’ll be great for our cultivation!”

Everyone gathered their gazes on Meng Chao.

All of them were curious. What made this boy who wore a wrinkly high school student's uniform so amazing?

Meng Chao cast the pearl a glance, and he immediately had an answer in his head. Just when he was about to speak, he saw an enchanting light flash in the depths of the crystal core, and his pupils shrank. He gasped.

"Could it be?"

Meng Chao held his breath and observed the pearl carefully. His expression turned graver with each passing second.

He walked three rounds around the unidentified object while drawing close to it. He studied it for three minutes and even asked Ning Xueshi to bring out a magnifying glass that was specifically used to identify items.

The more he looked at it, the more focused he became, and the more immersed he was. It looked as if he was about to crawl into the item itself.

He took a full five minutes, and everyone grew impatient. They started talking noisily. Then, Meng Chao sighed and shook his head before he said, "I don't know."

The crowd burst into a ruckus. 'If you didn't know, why did you put on a show and observe it for such a long time? Do you think that our time is not valuable?'

Liao Feijun smiled.

"Do you know?" Meng Chao looked at him askance and let out a cold huff.

He was not tooting his own horn.

This was an unidentified item. If even he could not be one hundred percent certain of it, no one in the current Dragon City would be able to identify it.

"I know a little about it." Liao Feijun was in high spirits. He strode to the stage and pushed Meng Chao to the side rudely. "There is an etherealized plant called Single-eyed Grass growing in the depths of the fog to the south of Dragon City. It's the favorite food of a local monster Golden-furred Pig.

Single-eyed Grass only bears fruit once every three years. After bearing fruit hundreds of times, it will bear a mutated fruit called Ghost-eyed Fruit. When Golden-furred Pigs eat this mutated fruit, they aren't able to digest it. It stays in their bodies and turns into something similar to stones in their bodies.

"Ghost-eyed Fruit has gentle properties, so it can coexist harmoniously in a digestive system. But Golden-furred Pigs are Grade Three superbeasts Red-tailed Golden Python's favorite food. Once a Red-tailed Golden Python eats a Golden-furred Pig with a Ghost-eyed Fruit in it, even if the pig is digested and absorbed into the python's body, the Ghost-eyed Fruit will be stimulated by the digestive fluid from the Red-tailed Golden Python and form a new shell.

“After decades and even a century, this Ghost-eyed Fruit will be refined into the Red-tailed Golden Python’s crystal core. Let’s use a term from the fantasy novels on Earth and say that it’s the Red-tailed Golden Python’s Dantian region. It would be an apt description to describe the crystal core as such. Now, it has a brand new name—Aquatic Dragon’s Eye!

“Vice Captain Zhao, might I ask if you got this Aquatic Dragon’s Eye from a Red-tailed Golden Python?” Liao Feijun asked the man from Bloody Wolf with a grin.

Mr. Zhao was shocked and impressed. He nodded repeatedly and said, “Young Master Jun, what you said is true. This crystal core is indeed something we obtained from a Red-tailed Golden Python. We also found quite a lot of fur and carcasses from Golden-furred Pigs near its nest. There was even a lot of Single-eyed Grass around it!”

Many of the people in the field, the buyers, and the sellers heard it, and they were also very impressed.

Many of them were able to guess that the pearl was a python’s crystal core.

But they would not have been able to speak as logically as Liao Feijun and figure out what python breed it was and how the crystal core was formed. The details he mentioned made it seem as if he had seen it with his own eyes.

“As expected of Young Master Jun. You know a lot, have great memory, and also great judgment!”

“You’re not like that brat at all. Ha! Forget about the fact that he can’t identify that it’s from a Red-tailed Golden Python, he didn’t even know that this is a crystal core from a python-type superbeast. Why is he still thinking about becoming a harvester?”

“Elder Ning must be desperate now. How could he look for such a successor?”

“He’s not a successor. Didn’t you hear them just now? He’s a ‘friend’. Hahahaha!”

Noise rose all around them.

It was Liao Feijun’s friends causing a ruckus.

The grandfather-granddaughter pair were so angry that their hands trembled, and they felt their hearts ache for Meng Chao.

Ning Shewo glared at Ning Xueshi and said gloomily, “You were too rash just now. You became enemies with Liao Feijun and dragged our young friend into this mess. He’s just a high school student, and even if he has received a lot of guidance from Old Fire Relayer, there’s no way he could identify all the materials in the depths of the fog. He fell hard this time!”

Chapter 42: Did I Ask You To Leave?

Mr. Zhao did not mind the conflict. He only asked in concern, “Young Master Jun, how much do you think this Aquatic Dragon’s Eye is worth?”

“5,250,000,” Liao Feijun answered casually.

Mr. Zhao was slightly stunned. “That’s really accurate. Do you have an explanation for it?”

“Of course I do,” Liao Feijun said calmly. “Let’s analyze the market over the past five years. Four years ago, my grandfather organized a secret auction. At that time, a single Aquatic Dragon’s Eye was worth 8,880,000. Two years ago, through the deep web, one Aquatic Dragon’s Eye was bought by a mysterious buyer for 9,250,000.

“Based on my information, there are people offering more than ten million to buy Aquatic Dragon’s Eyes in perfect condition. This item has absorbed a lot of essence from the world, and it contains a lot of spirit energy. It was also polished for over one hundred years by two different monsters.

“It’s a raw ingredient of various super medicines, and it’s hard to come by. It can help superhumans reach higher standards, increase the strength of bones, the suppleness of muscles, and turn our limbs as indomitable and firm as those of pythons. Ten million isn’t a huge sum.”

Mr. Zhao’s eyes flashed. “Then, why can our Aquatic Dragon’s Eye only sell for 5,250,000?”

“It’s simple. Those offering to buy it for ten million ask for perfect Aquatic Dragon’s Eyes, but there’s a flaw in your Aquatic Dragon’s Eye.”

Liao Feijun snapped his fingers, and a green flame shot out from his fingertips.

He brought the green flame near the Aquatic Dragon’s Eye.

In an instant, an ugly zig-zagging shadow appeared in the dazzling light from the Aquatic Dragon’s Eye.

It was just like how a scar would appear on a beauty’s face. It was incredibly piercing to the eye, and it was a regretful sight.

“This is...” Mr. Zhao’s expression changed.

Even they had not noticed this flaw.

“I reckon that you used a lightning-type killing move to finish off this Red-tailed Golden Python, so the spirit energy in the Aquatic Dragon’s Eye turned chaotic, and when you were harvesting the superbeast’s crystal core, you were too rough and knocked into things, so the spirit energy in the Aquatic Dragon’s Eye went completely haywire.

“It rushed out through this incredibly thin crack. Even though it’s difficult to tell with the naked eye, but it has already lost one-third of its spirit energy. Its condition thus has been largely affected. The effects of the medicine created with it will also be much weaker. That’s why I believe that it’s worth 5,250,000.

“Of course, if you don’t believe me, you can bring it to some place else for an appraisal. But I believe that the price will be about the same.”

Liao Feijun smiled in a relaxed and confident manner.

Mr. Zhao’s face was filled with delight and remorse.

He was happy that he managed to get a supreme grade item from the monster his group killed.

But he felt regretful that they had not properly harvested the item, and the value of the supreme grade item dropped by half!

“Who harvested this Aquatic Dragon’s Eye? Why was he so rough?” Liao Feijun asked with a frown.

Mr. Zhao thought about it and replied honestly. “Our captain harvested it himself.”

“No wonder then. You have specialists in every profession. Those who can kill might not be able to save others. You might be able to reduce monsters to mince meat, but you might not be able to harvest their organs precisely and ensure that their value is maximized. Bloody Wolf has been getting stronger very quickly. It’s time for you to look for a professional harvesting team to work alongside you,” Liao Feijun said.

Mr. Zhao nodded firmly. He was utterly convinced by Liao Feijun’s words. “Young Master Jun, you’re right. I’ll go back and talk to my captain so that we can work together with the Liao family!”

Liao Feijun smiled. He turned his head around and spoke to the person standing in the middle of his friends, “Young Master Nie, aren’t you currently trying to become a three-star superhuman? This Aquatic Dragon’s Eye is perfect for you. Could you give me the honor and buy it for 5,550,000?”

Young Master Nie was dressed in beautiful clothes and had an extraordinary presence. He was also the son of a powerful family, so when he heard this, he stood up.

“Don’t blame me for trying to steal from your pocket,” Liao Feijun said. “While this Aquatic Dragon’s Eye isn’t in good condition, it’s perfect for Dragon Slaying Technique, which you’re practicing. I believe that it will be able to help you become a third-star superhuman.”

Young Master Nie laughed, and he did show Liao Feijun some respect. “Alright, stop trying to explain things to me. I believe in you, Young Master Jun. I’m offering six million. Vice Captain Zhao, will your squad be willing to sell it?”

Mr. Zhao was beside himself with joy. He quickly nodded. “We’ll sell it. Of course we’ll sell it. Thank you, Young Master Nie.”

He also thanked Liao Feijun repeatedly. “Thank you for your guidance as well, Young Master Jun. You’re indeed the future star of harvesters in Dragon City!”

With just a few words, not only had he identified the item and figured out its origins, but also helped him complete a trade. Then, he used his connections and professional knowledge to increase the price of the item by seven million and five hundred thousand. It made both the buyer and the seller delighted with the trade.

This was the elegance of a high-end harvester!

In an instant, Liao Feijun became the center of attention.

As for Meng Chao, he did not even have the right to be looked down upon.

What a joke. All the people present belonged to the upper-class society. They were high-end professionals, and they were very busy. No one had the time to look down on a normal high school student.

... Fine. Liao Feijun had the time.

“Martial Uncle Meng, let me give you a few words.”

Liao Feijun would not allow Meng Chao to just leave silently. He put his hands behind his back and said faintly, “The requirements to join the harvesting circle are very low, but the upper limits are very high. If you want to become a good harvester, you need to come from a family of learned scholars. You need to personally examine and even touch all sorts of treasures since young, for only then will you be able to get the feel of things.

“Perhaps you truly have talent, but due to your family environment and considering the fact that you’re staying in a public renting house, it’s clear that you won’t be able to touch something like the Aquatic Dragon’s Eye.

“This isn’t a field you should step into. You put so much effort to disguise yourself so that you could come here, but that will not only make you feel horrible, if you make a wrong appraisal, you will ruin a major trade. Will you be able to compensate them at that time?

“I don’t know what Elder Ning is thinking about by choosing you, but you should know better in your heart, or else, you’ll just bring harm to yourself and others!”

Once he said those things, the crowd burst into a ruckus.

Meng Chao was dressed in the school uniform of Ninth High School, which was a key high school. Quite a number of students there were pretty well off, which was why no one could figure out his origins.

Now, Young Master Jun mentioned that the boy was staying in a public renting house, so what right did he have to attend such a high-end material trade fair?

Liao Feijun’s friends were the first to laugh.

The technical director of Prosperous, Gu Ming, also said loudly, “I know of the boy’s background. Not only does he stay in a public renting house, his father is also a low-ranking harvester in Prosperous, but because he’s corrupted, he has just been fired!”

At that moment, the other harvesters in the field began whispering even louder.

It was due to their respect for White-haired Ghostly Hands that they did not immediately chase Meng Chao out.

Meng Chao’s gaze turned dark. He stared at the Aquatic Dragon’s Eye for a long time while deep in thought.

Liao Feijun thought that he was dumbfounded because of fear and shook his head while walking down the stairs.

“Young Master Jun, Young Master Nie, should we discuss the details?” Mr. Zhao of Bloody Wolf smiled and chased after them.

Ning Xueshi was so angry that she started stomping.

Ning Shewo covered his chest with his hand and thought to go on the stage to help Meng Chao regain some of his dignity.

“Hold on.” At that moment, Meng Chao suddenly spoke. His voice was cool and calm. “Since you called me martial uncle, did I allow you to leave?”

Liao Feijun frowned slightly. He slowed down a little.

“Hey, you. You’re Liao Feijun, right? Do you really think that this is an Aquatic Dragon’s Eye?” Meng Chao asked, and his voice was filled with puzzlement.

He sounded absolutely baffled that Liao Feijun would answer such a simple question wrong, and he was so wrong that it was ridiculous.

And if he were so wrong that it was ridiculous, how could he have the gall to come out and pretend to be awesome?

And now that he had finished pretending to be awesome, how could he think about leaving?

Liao Feijun, Young Master Nie, and Mr. Zhao went still.

“You just mentioned that you didn’t know what that item was. What are you playing at this time? Don’t you think you’ve embarrassed yourself enough?” Liao Feijun’s expression sank.

Meng Chao shook his head. “I do indeed not know what this is. I just know that it’s definitely not an Aquatic Dragon’s Eye!”

His words caused the crowd to burst into a commotion again.

A few of the experienced harvesters shook their heads. “This is indeed an Aquatic Dragon’s Eye. Liao Feijun is the grandson of Poisonous Hands. He is very knowledgeable, and he has a good eye. This boy is just trying to preserve his dignity. He might end up making a mistake and falling again.”

“My young friend, stop talking and come down!” Ning Shewo was incredibly anxious. He could also tell that it was an Aquatic Dragon’s Eye, but he did not know how Meng Chao could save the situation now. Their family had certainly created huge trouble for him.

Meng Chao sighed. He put on an expression as if he was giving a lesson to elementary school students. “If it’s just an Aquatic Dragon’s Eye, I would naturally be able to tell at first glance.

“But when I looked at it the second time, I found that there’s something strange about it, that’s why I observed it carefully for five minutes.

“It’s good that you know that the Single-eyed Grass bears fruit once every three years, and there is a certain chance that it will produce a Ghost-eyed Fruit each time it bears fruit. It shows that you’re attentive when you study.

“But did you know that the Ghost-eyed Fruit can also mutate? There’s a very small chance that it will mutate a second time and turn into the rarer Monster-eyed Fruit. When the Monster-eyed Fruit is eaten by a Golden-furred Pig which is in turn eaten by a Red-tailed Golden Python, how could the crystal core that is eventually produced end up as an Aquatic Dragon’s Eye? It should be called Monster Dragon’s Eye.”

“What?!”

Liao Feijun was dumbfounded.

Young Master Nie and Mr. Zhao looked at each other, and they saw the shock in each other's eyes.

All the harvesters, including Ning Shewo fell silent. They quickly rifled through their drawers of memories in search of the Monster-eyed Fruit, but they found nothing.

"What do you mean by Monster-eyed Fruit? I've never heard about it before. You're just rambling, right? Or else, why would you not have said anything just now?" Liao Feijun scolded him fiercely.

Meng Chao sighed in a rather resigned manner. "Because the Monster-eyed Fruit has a total of fifteen ways it can mutate during its second mutation, so there are also fifteen different types of Monster Dragon's Eye it can form.

"I am a normal high school student staying in a public renting house. I'm poor and don't have a lot of knowledge. I've just learned how to harvest and appraise items. Even though I can tell that this is a Monster Dragon's Eye, I can't figure out which Monster Dragon's Eye it is despite wracking my brains about it. That's why I can only honestly admit that I know nothing about it."

Chapter 43: I'm Not Trying to Lecture You

Meng Chao's words were like a series of slaps that nearly caused Liao Feijun's face to become swollen.

The others did not say anything. Even some of Liao Feijun's friends could not help but laugh.

Liao Feijun flew into rage. "You're just boasting shamelessly, boy. You don't have proof, so you can weave the wildest tales as you like. But this is clearly an Aquatic Dragon's Eye!"

"It's indeed very difficult to differentiate between an Aquatic Dragon's Eye and Monster Dragon's Eye. That is, unless, we conduct a destructive test. Every Monster Dragon's Eye contains a faint bit of poison. If we can drill a hole into it, get some powder out, and put it into a poison testing fluid, we should be able to get a reaction."

"And after all that yakking, you finally revealed your true colors, huh? If you drill a hole into the crystal core, the material will be useless. You know that it's impossible for us to conduct a test like this here, that's why you spoke so fearlessly, right?"

Liao Feijun was so angry that he started laughing. He shook his head repeatedly, as if he was regretting his act of arguing with Meng Chao. Truly, he had reduced his own status by doing this.

"If we don't conduct a destructive test now, are we supposed to wait for Young Master Nie to turn this Monster Dragon's Eye into a gene medicine? When he eats it and tries to reach higher heights, his energy will deviate, and he will start bleeding from all seven orifices. He will die on the spot, if being factual. Are you going to only acknowledge your mistake by then?" Meng Chao was very serious.

As he spoke, he cast Young Master Nie a pitying look.

Young Master Nie's expression changed.

"Nie Laosi, don't you trust me?" Liao Feijun was so angry that he was boiling. "You'd rather trust a high school student in a public renting house?"

“Of course that’s not what I meant.” Young Master Nie frowned while thinking, ‘You’re not the one eating it, of course you’re fine with it. But what if you really made a misjudgment?’

They were just friends who had fun together. They had not reached the point where they would trust each other with their lives.

“Eight million!”

At that moment, Ning Shewo strode up the stage, and his voice was as great as a bell. “Young Nie, please show me some respect. I’ll pay you eight million and buy this unidentified material from you. We’ll identify it on the spot and see whether it has poison. We’ll know whether it’s the Aquatic Dragon’s Eye or Monster Dragon’s Eye then!”

“Gasp!”

When the people saw Ning Shewo going on stage to support Meng Chao, all of them cried out in surprise.

The trade fair was filled with twists and turns. There were a lot of unexpected changes.

“There’s no need for that. I won’t be bothered with just a few million. Since you’ve stepped forward, we can appraise the item now and see just what it is!” Young Master Nie handed over the unidentified material.

Liao Feijun’s expression was incredibly sour, but he could not go back now, so he had to brace himself and continue. “Then, we’ll appraise it. Hmph, we’re actually wasting an item worth a few million for a stupid brat’s stupid words?!”

“That’s right. While the Monster Dragon’s Eye is poisonous, if we use another method to adjust it, it will stimulate the potential of the human body, and its effects will be much better than those of the Aquatic Dragon’s Eye.

“It’s a pity though. Once we conduct the destructive test, its quality will drop, and you will be losing at least a few million from it.” Meng Chao shook his head. He found the entire situation regrettable.

Once things had progressed in this manner, there was no way it could end on a friendly note. Since the trade fair was equipped with all sorts of identification devices and testing fluids, Ning Shewo personally took action. Soon, he fixed the unidentified item on a device and used an incredibly small drill to gently drill a small hole that was the breadth of a strand of hair on the item. Then, he pushed an exploratory needle that was as thin as a hair into the item.

At the moment the drill drilled through the item, a seven-colored light shot out, and the hall instantly filled with a fragrance.

The crowd sighed. They knew that this meant that the spirit energy sealed in the crystal core had spilled out. The crystal core could already be considered to be wasted.

The expressions of some veteran harvesters changed then. They were filled with puzzlement and shock.

They could sniff a few strange things in the incredibly strong fragrance.

Usually, only poisonous materials would have such a sweet smelling fragrance.

It was just as Meng Chao said.

Ning Shewo brought out powder from the core of the unidentified item. Soon after he placed it into the poison testing fluid, pink bubbles appeared. They tumbled out as if the fluid was boiling.

It was poisonous!

The poison was light, but it was enough to prove that the item was not an Aquatic Dragon's Eye!

It was a Monster Dragon's Eye, an item no one had ever seen or heard about before, but Meng Chao knew about!

"This is..."

In an instant, all the harvesters, buyers, and sellers had complicated looks on their faces. When they looked at Meng Chao, their gazes were filled with respect and puzzlement.

Liao Feijun was dumbfounded, and in an instant, he broke out in cold sweat.

Mr. Zhao of Bloody Wolf's idolizing gaze went from Liao Feijun to Meng Chao, and it was five times stronger.

Young Master Nie, who had nearly refined a poisonous item into a medicine and ate it, turned red with rage. In great dissatisfaction, he glared at Liao Feijun.

Ning Shewo sighed in relief. When he looked at Meng Chao, his gaze was full of admiration.

Ning Xueshi covered her mouth, but her giggles could be heard spilling from behind her hand.

And Meng Chao saw new notifications jumping up in his field of vision.

[Elite citizen Ning Shewo received your guidance and came to understand a new item. His knowledge has increased. Increased contribution by 18.]

[Normal citizen Ning Xueshi received your guidance and came to understand a new item. Her knowledge has increased. Increased contribution by 9.]

[Normal citizen Liao Feijun received your guidance and came to understand a new item. His knowledge has increased. Increased contribution by 11.]

[Elite citizen...]

[Normal citizen...]

He received more than ten notifications, and practically all of them were about people receiving guidance from him and their knowledge increasing. In one breath, Meng Chao farmed more than five hundred contribution points.

'Oh wow, this is pretty good!'

Meng Chao's eyes lit up.

He seemed to have found another way to obtain contribution points.

Liao Feijun was so angry that he gritted his teeth. He was just about to get off the stage when Meng Chao suddenly called out to him.

“Wait. It’s impolite not to reciprocate when you’re given something. You said a few words to me just now, so I should also give you a few words, right?”

Meng Chao thought about it for a while. He was not just looking for revenge when he got himself into this situation.

He truly wanted to give some guidance to Liao Feijun and see whether he could get more contribution points.

“I’m friends with Elder Ning, so if he’s of your grandfather’s generation, ranking wise, I should be someone in your grandfather’s generation as well,” Meng Chao said sincerely.

“But since we’re all of similar age, it wouldn’t be too good if I take advantage of you. Since you called me martial uncle, I might as well reduce my status by a rank and be your martial uncle. My dear nephew, let me teach you some principles of becoming a harvester.

“You have to be brave in admitting what you know and what you don’t know. With how treacherous and unpredictable the fog is and how wide the Other World is, there will definitely be an endless number of mutated monsters and extraordinary creatures. There will also be an uncountable number of valuable materials around. There is simply no way for us to be able to identify all the items in the world.

“No matter how great a harvester is, it’s fine for him to admit that he knows nothing of an item. If he doesn’t know it, he can just learn. It won’t be embarrassing at all.

“But you should be worried about those who only know some details and pretend that they know everything about an item. You treated a Monster Dragon’s Eye as an Aquatic Dragon’s Eye and managed to show off, but when someone ate it, they would have died!”

Liao Feijun found himself speechless. His face alternated between shades of red and white, and the corners of his lips twitched nonstop, making him look as if he was about to suffer from epilepsy the next second.

“This is the way a harvester should be, and it’s also the attitude you should have as a person. That includes the strategies toward the world beyond Dragon City.”

Meng Chao spoke with utmost sincerity. “Right now, we know nothing about the world beyond the fog, and yet we’re talking unrealistically about sending our army outside to march forward like a hurricane and conquer the Other World. That’s just too arrogant. Civilizations aren’t destroyed because of how weak the people are, but by how arrogant they are. My dear nephew, I’m not trying to lecture you here, but I think that you’ve been a little too arrogant lately.”

Liao Feijun was so angry that he nearly exploded from rage.

Young Master Nie, who was from a family about as rich as that of Liao Feijun and the one to whom Liao Feijun had nearly harmed, laughed without bothering to preserve Liao Feijun’s dignity.

Meng Chao blinked. He had been really kind and compassionate when trying to give Liao Feijun advice, so why didn't he receive even a single contribution point?

Was Liao Feijun really that stubborn?

He fell into contemplation for a while and could only guess that Liao Feijun must have misunderstood things.

"Don't misunderstand me, my good nephew, I'm not interested in humiliating you. I'm truly trying to give you some pointers on how to be a good person. Calm down and think about what I said when you go back," Meng Chao said extra sincerely. "Your life and the world in the future might go through an incredible change. If you're going to remain this arrogant, you might end up dead."

"You..." Liao Feijun was absolutely livid. "You dare threaten me?"

Meng Chao felt wronged. Why did this person simply not understand human language? "No, no, no. I'm definitely not trying to threaten you. I'm saying this for your own good. Even if you don't understand me right now, it's fine. Just remember what I said and what happened today.

"When you're free, you can think about it carefully and try as much as you can to change your life so that you can be a better Liao Feijun. Sooner or later, you'll thank—"

Before Meng Chao could finish speaking, Ning Shewo took him by the hand and Ning Xueshi covered his mouth. They dragged him down the stage.

"I'm sorry, everyone, my friend here is a... is a really skilled person. He has a good heart, but is not very good with words. He doesn't know how to form connections with others." Ning Shewo helped him mediate the situation.

"Ning Shewo!" Liao Feijun was mad. "How dare you let this mad dog loose and allow him to cause trouble? Are you seriously not paying my grandfather any respect?"

"Liao Feijun, are you even someone worthy of calling me by my name?"

Liao Feijun's words infuriated Ning Shewo, who was prepared to gloss things over and let this end on a friendly note. His expression instantly changed, and his voice turned fierce. "My young friend was right. Your grandfather only taught you harvesting skills, but he forgot to teach you any skills to be a proper human being!

"I was the one who brought my young friend here. Whosoever doesn't show him respect today is not showing respect to me, White-haired Ghostly Hands! You might have not shown me any respect, but you're a junior, so I couldn't be bothered to argue with you. I'll go and settle scores with Liao Santong!"

When White-haired Ghostly Hands became angry, the entire hall fell silent.

Liao Feijun gritted his teeth. "What do you want to do?"

"I've been competing against my junior brother for decades, and I know what sort of plan he's trying to cook up even when he remains silent. Hmph, he wants to step over my head while I'm poisoned, is it? Then, I'll let him get his wish!" Ning Shewo said in a strong voice.

“One month later, Ghostly Hands will have a public competition against Poisonous Hands. We’ll settle the conflict we had today. Will Liao Santong dare take up the challenge?”

“Of course he will!”

Liao Feijun had been waiting for this. He glared at Meng Chao and said, “Then this is a promise. Everyone in the hall are witnesses. One month later, Ghostly Hands will compete against Poisonous Hands, and we’ll see just who has inherited the true legacy of Jade Assessment Skill. At that time, don’t you dare say that my grandfather bullied you. You’re just someone whose hands tremble so much that you’re practically a cripple!”

Ning Shewo narrowed his eyes, and his beard trembled because of his rage. “I can deal with Liao Santong even with crippled hands!”

Once White-haired Ghostly Hands decided to take action, a mighty uproar instantly broke out.

“Ghostly Hands actually challenged Poisonous Hands?!”

“Could it be that Ghostly Hands Ning has recovered from his injuries? But that doesn’t make sense. It’s impossible for him to win against Poisonous Hands Liao with his current condition.”

“Just who is that teenager? He has such extensive knowledge, and Ghostly Hands Ning is protecting him. If Ghostly Hands Ning isn’t his master, then who is his master? He must definitely be someone with extraordinary skills!”

“Meng Chao? I’ll remember that name!”

Chapter 44: Trouble on His Head

More than ten unidentified items were identified, but even after that, the veterans in the field continued discussing things with each other.

Meng Chao kept a low profile. He had been really lucky to be able to run into a Monster Dragon’s Eye, and when he remembered that his memory fragments only worked occasionally for him, he decided he would rather not go on stage to embarrass himself.

But Bloody Wolf’s Mr. Zhao was really friendly with him. Aside from thanking him, he also asked Meng Chao whether he was interested in forming an alliance with Bloody Wolf.

Meng Chao said that he had not become a superhuman yet, so it might not be suitable for him to follow a fighting squad of superhumans to enter the depths of the fog and fight.

But Mr. Zhao said that with his abilities, he was basically guaranteed a seat in a famous university, so they would definitely have a chance to work together. They praised each other and exchanged contact numbers. Hence, Meng Chao got himself another connection.

Then, Young Master Nie, who had nearly been harmed by Liao Feijun, came over. In a very domineering manner, he transferred three hundred thousand to Meng Chao.

“The rule in the business states that the appraisal fees for unidentified items is around three to five percent of the fees for the trade of the item. It’s amazing that you managed to identify Monster

Dragon's Eye, so I'll pay you the maximum amount. Five percent of six million is three hundred thousand."

Young Master Nie brought out a golden card. "Also, this is my name card. You saved me today, and I, Nie Weihao, do not like owing anyone anything. So you have to keep that card properly with you. If you run into any trouble, you can come to me."

Once he left, Ning Shewo came to him and whispered, "Keep the card, but unless you absolutely need to, do not approach this 'Young Master Nie'."

Meng Chao thought about it. "Is he bad?"

"No, actually. In their circle, Nie Weihao has better morals. At the very least, he's much better than Liao Feijun. But they're all good-for-nothing rich men's children. They live lavish lives and are arrogant. They feel like Dragon City is protected by their fathers and the Other World will be conquered by them. There's no person or thing in the world they don't dare to provoke," Ning Shewo explained.

"Today, Nie Weihao owes you a favor. Tomorrow, if you have something in which you need help, he will definitely say nothing and help you, but the methods these good-for-nothings use always have repercussions, and they might not be things that you can accept."

Meng Chao got the general gist of it, so he switched to another topic. "Elder Ning, what happens if those two ingredients aren't useful? I heard that Liao Feijun's grandfather is your junior brother. He won't be easy to fight against, right?"

"Old Fire Relayer's innovations in the Seven Dissection Methods Performed in Reverse already show how extraordinary he is. Besides, he has extensive knowledge of the world. He just casually taught you a few moves, and you already managed to identify Monster Dragon's Eye. Why should I not believe in him?"

Ning Shewo smiled. "The grudge you formed with Liao Feijun is something that happened because of me and Liao Santong. If it were not for your inscrutable legacy, you would have been humiliated in public. If after this I still refused to stand up for you, how would I ever have the right to meet Old Fire Relayer?"

"Let's not continue this topic. I'll introduce you to a few of my good friends in the circle. Everyone is very interested in you. After all, you're a rising star of hope in our field. Hahahaha!"

Ning Shewo's mood was good, and he had Meng Chao and his granddaughter appear together.

While they chatted with each other happily, Liao Feijun was in a gloomy mood. Young Master Jun's face was so dark that it was terrifying. His friends did not dare go to him.

"Young Master Jun, you want to hurt the boy? Then you'd best wait for a few days. Wait for me to pay him what I owe him, or else, I'll make sure that you pay for what I owe him!" Nie Weihao said coldly.

Liao Feijun was livid, but he did not dare to provoke Nie Weihao, whose family was even stronger than his. He could only cast a hateful gaze on the technical director of Prosperous, Gu Ming.

'Damn it, it's this bastard who said that Meng Chao was just a poor brat who lives in a public renting house. He's the reason why I made a mistake, even when I had been so confident in this!'

When Gu Ming sensed Liao Feijun's murderous gaze, he shuddered and nearly wet himself in public.

'What the heck? Just what sort of monster is Meng Chao? Why is it that whoever provokes him ends up in a tragic state?

'A few days ago, Shen Rongfa annoyed him, and he was sent into the hospital by Mr. Hu.

'Today, I just said a few words, and the grandson my teacher loves the most ran into a wall.'

Gu Ming wanted to cry, but had no tears. He regretted his mistake, but it was already too late.

After the trade fair, Meng Chao was silent for a few days.

He didn't do anything even though his contribution points were increasing so slowly that it was like a seventy-year-old man peeing—it came out so slowly that no one could get any relief. Every day, he only obtained thirty to fifty points. At most, it was seventy to eighty points.

Fortunately, his pockets were full of real cash now. He got a lot of cultivation resources from his classmates, and through Ning Shewo, he also managed to buy a lot of secret medicine not available on the market.

He felt as if the current him had moved from being a pistol to a machine gun. Every morning and night, he bathed twice in monster blood, and before he went to sleep, he spread an ointment made of a secret formula all over his palms, feet, and Jade Pillow Point behind his head. He also started eating muscle growth hormones, bone cell growth hormones, energy fluids, super-dense protein powder, and all sorts of cultivation resources as if they were common food. His living conditions became better than even those of many rich men's sons.

He had always been a cultivation maniac, but due to a lack of resources, his body had been drained beyond its limit.

Now, he had powerful support, and his potential was fully unlocked. During the few days, he started training madly, and he fully mastered the entire body of knowledge required for high school. His strength reached a whole new level.

Over the past few days, he suppressed the urge to use his contribution points, and the Skillfulness of Reckless Bull Technique and Ripple Force rose by 1% and 1.5% respectively. Even the progress of his healing increased by 2%.

Meng Chao was so happy that he could fly.

However, during the afternoon, a very strange notification popped up at the upper right corner of his field of vision.

[You saved elite citizen Yan Zhennan. Increased contribution points by 333.]

'This is...'

Meng Chao was stunned. 'It didn't give me a lot of contribution points over the past few days, and when it did, it gave me over three hundred contribution points. I earned a lot this time, but who is this Yan Zhennan?

'... Oh, I remember now. He's Ripple Force Princess' father. But I'm clearly in the classroom. How did I end up saving his life?'

At the same time, in the depths of the fog located in the suburbs of Dragon City were three monster hunters covered head to toe in injuries. They were gasping for breath while they lay on the ground like three boneless heaps of meat.

"Wheeze..."

Before them was a pile of torn flesh five times their size. It looked like an amalgamation of a large insect, a huge feline-type monster, and a carnivorous plant. It was very dead, and a foul-smelling liquid flowed all over the ground from its body.

"Big Brother Zhennan, you..."

A bald and built man and a woman with a face full of knife scars looked at each other. They were shocked by what they had seen just a moment ago.

They were supposed to be on a normal hunt.

Their prey might have been a Grade Five superbeast known as Great Tiger-striped Praying Mantis, which was a terrifying existence that could wipe out an entire military squad, but the three of them were people who had five-star supernatural abilities.

Superhumans and superbeasts were both divided into nine ranks, but since humans possessed intelligence and also knew how to use all sorts of weapons and machines, they could usually defeat superbeasts which were a rank higher than them.

The three monster hunters were friends for more than ten years. Their teamwork was impeccable, and they had various strategies they deployed while fighting, so they did not think that fighting against a Grade Five superbeast would be difficult. After all, they were going three against one.

But to their surprise, after the Great Tiger-striped Praying Mantis was severely injured, it suddenly mutated in an unidentified direction. Its head burst open, and a lot of sticky sharp teeth resembling those of a saw and tentacles gushed out of its body. A huge man-eating flower popped out from its body.

After the sudden transformation, the Great Tiger-striped Praying Mantis' speed and power increased several times, and it also gained poisonous and corrosive attributes. It even gained other fearsome characteristics like mind interference. In an instant, it turned from a prey to a hunter.

"Unidentified mutation! An evolution while the target is at the last of its life!"

The three monster hunters sank into despair.

While the bald man and the woman with the scarred face ran out of strength and fell to the ground twitching, the desperate Yan Zhennan suddenly changed his fighting style.

In the face of death, he came to understand the principles of a brand new martial art. His breathing and force execution method completely changed, and he executed a series of smooth and beautiful killing moves, which allowed him to miraculously turn the tides!

The group managed to survive a disaster. The bald man and scarred-faced woman were naturally happy, but they were also puzzled. Why did Yan Zhennan's fighting style suddenly improve by a whole level? His fighting strength had increased by at least ten percent just then.

If he had such a powerful martial art, why didn't he use it from the start?

Yan Zhennan panted for three minutes before he slowly sat up.

As he watched the carcass of the savage mutated superbeast, the puzzlement and confusion on his face was even stronger than those of the bald man and the scarred-faced woman.

He thought about it carefully for some time. Suddenly, his pupils shrank, and he started shaking uncontrollably.

"Big Brother Zhennan, what's wrong? You've already killed that mutated superbeast!" The two monster hunters quickly came forward to support him.

But they could sense that goosebumps had broken out on Yan Zhennan's skin.

Regardless of how fearsome the superbeast was and even if they faced death just now, they had never seen such great and unhidden terror on Yan Zhennan's face.

"I-I think I offended someone."

Yan Zhennan looked as lost as a child, and his deep voice was quivering.

The bald man and scarred-faced woman looked at each other. They could not understand it. "Who did you offend? Could he be even more terrifying than this mutated superbeast? Is the Yan family unable to fend against him?"

"That's right. He's ten times more terrifying than a mutated superbeast." Yan Zhennan spoke in a daze.

"I offended an old and unfathomable monster. The Yan family is going to face a great disaster!"

Yan Feirou opened the door to the chamber at the top of Swallow Building. When she did so, she heard cracking sounds coming from within. It sounded like someone was making stir-fried bamboo shoots with meat.

She walked in, and she saw something she would not forget her whole life.

Her father, a mighty man who was as built as a mountain, whose presence was as great as tidal waves, and who had killed countless fierce beasts in the fog, was kneeling on the floor like a child who had done something wrong.

And her grandfather, Yan Hengbo, the master of the Yan family, the martial arts grandmaster who had created Ripple Force, was jumping about in rage like an old monkey.

Her grandfather kicked her father around like a ball with his mechanical legs. He even lifted a cane and struck him mercilessly.

While he caned him, he yelled at him. "You couldn't have offended those beneath us? Why did you have to go and offend those above us?! Did you actually think that this Old Fire Relayer is someone you can provoke?!"

Yan Feirou felt that her views of life, the world, and her morals instantly shattered into pieces.

In fact, she even wondered whether she was hallucinating. Was she dreaming?

She used her fingers to pinch her palm. No, it was not a hallucination, and neither was it a dream. Her grandfather was still caning and yelling at her father.

“Old Fire Relayer saw that your daughter had potential, so he kindly gave her a martial art to research. He even said that he’s not after fame and profit, and he just wants to contribute to society, yet what did you do? With your petty heart, you tried to decipher the heart of a great man!

“How could you suspect that he has ulterior motives? Did you think that the Demonically Modified Ripple Force was fake?! If it’s a fake, then what is our Ripple Force v2? It’s trash! Before this Demonically Modified Ripple Force, Ripple Force v2 is just trash! Trash!”

Yan Feirou was dumbfounded.

Chapter 45: Trouble? Got it.

Yan Hengbo started weeping. “We’ve made a mistake. I’ve been a hero my entire life, but at the end, all our success will come crashing down. Why on Earth did I have such a troublesome son like you?! Tell me, why didn’t you tell me about this when something so important happened?!”

Yan Zhennan had been covered in injuries when he came, and now, his skin broke because of the caning. He was in so much pain that his eyelids twitched, but he did not dare to move.

“I thought that you were in isolated training...” he whispered.

“Isolated, my foot! After that Demonically Modified Ripple Force came out, how on Earth would I have the dignity to even publish Ripple Force v2?!”

Yan Hengbo kicked Yan Zhennan so hard that he fell on the floor. He gritted his teeth and said, “Bastard! The Yan family is going to perish, and it’s going to be destroyed by your hands!”

Yan Feirou simply could not keep watching. She could only brace herself and go up to protect her father.

“Grandpa, what happened?” she asked sweetly. “Why are you so angry? Dad has just returned from the fog, and I heard that he was heavily injured. Yet you are...”

“Hmph!”

Even his favorite granddaughter could not make Yan Hengbo calm down in the slightest from his rage. He said coldly, “Why don’t you ask your useless father just what he did?!”

“Dad?”

Ripple Force Princess was absolutely stunned now. She listened to her father speak in fragments for a long while until she got the gist of it.

“The Demonically Modified Ripple Force isn’t some carelessly made martial art. It’s the real deal. While Dad was at the verge of death, he used the Demonically Modified Ripple Force to support his entire force execution system.

“Not only did his fighting strength instantly increase, when he attacked, his moves were also smoother and more discreet. With every move he made, he hit the mutated superbeast’s weakness, and he managed to completely suppress the unidentified mutated beast which had evolved at the end of its life. Is that correct?”

As Yan Feirou listened to it, she was dumbfounded and even stuttered. “N-No way. Last time, Dad practiced it seriously for three hours. Why didn’t he notice it at that time?”

“Nonsense. This Demonically Modified Ripple Force is profound and contains a lot of secrets. Even I wasn’t able to completely understand it within a short amount of time. The more I think about it, the more interesting it is. Your father might have grand ambitions, but he’s incompetent. Forget about three hours, even if he practiced it for three days and three nights, he might not understand the matchless profound secrets within it!”

Yan Hengbo let out a cold huff. “Fortunately, your dad’s foundation is pretty solid. He might not have understood many of the profound secrets, but at least he managed to memorize the technique. When he was near death, those memories exploded forth, and they managed to save his life!”

Yan Feirou thought about it carefully and shuddered. “If the Demonically Modified Ripple Force is real, just how powerful must the martial artist who created it be? An expert like this was kind enough to provide guidance to me, but not only did I not appreciate his kindness, I even went online to publicly denounce him! That expert must be furious right now!”

“Feirou, do you understand how grave the situation is right now?” Yan Hengbo asked with a dark face. “Modern martial arts aren’t all the nonsense in Wuxia novels. It’s impossible for experts to be able to come up with great martial arts just by entering isolated training in some mountain cave for a year and a half. Real martial arts require deep knowledge of every aspect such as genomics, cytology, ergonomics, exercise physiology, and even spirit energy physics.

“You have to build up a large database, and through the fights of countless martial artists gather a huge amount of data. Then, with it, you use the most modern super biochemical-brain to make calculations repeatedly. After that, you use it in real fights to continuously test it. Just how much manpower, resources, money, and wisdom do you think is required for that?”

“I’ve led a research team formed by more than ten experts, and I used many years to finally upgrade Ripple Force to version two. But based on my judgment, this Demonically Modified Ripple Force is at least at version five. Think, just what sort of terrifying force of power the person who created this possesses?”

Yan Feirou gulped. She did not dare to think about this any further.

“What is even more terrifying is that this martial art has a vision that surpasses the current era. It’s as if this was designed for new monsters who are continuously getting stronger. This can only mean one thing.”

Yan Hengbo’s voice fell a few octaves. “It’s creator managed to travel much deeper into the fog than your dad and even me and has fought against countless unparalleled monsters we have never seen before!”

Yan Feirou cried out in shock. “There are monsters who are even more powerful?”

“Of course there are. Dragon City tore through the sky and descended in this place. It suppressed Monster Mountain Range and caused a drastic change in the geography of the area, so many of the monster nests hidden deep in the mountain range will slowly appear.

“In the past, Dragon City hid in a corner and did not come into a lot of contact with the unparalleled monsters. But as Earthlings’ civilization continues to spread outward, sooner or later, we will clash against those creatures.

“This is something normal citizens and even mid-tier and low-tier superhumans know nothing about. But the higher-ups are actively preparing for war. Even the old monsters who stand at the top of Dragon City have long since entered the depths of the fog and set up sentry stations.

“They’re gathering more specimens and information to enlarge their monster picture encyclopedia and increase their databank. They are constantly thinking about how to upgrade the current martial arts available to us based on the characteristics of the unidentified monsters.”

Yan Feirou’s eyes went wide. “Grandpa, are you saying that the Demonically Modified Ripple Force was created by those old monsters?”

“Who else could do it? Did you think that some random Tom, Dick, or Harry could upgrade our Yan Family Ripple Force to such perfection?” Yan Hengbo asked.

“Feirou, you should know that the old monsters have been fighting fiercely from the moment Dragon City transmigrated to this place. They’re the first group of peerless fighters who woke up to supernatural powers when they were fortunate enough not to turn into zombies after they were infected with the zombie virus. Instead, the shackles of their genes were removed. They went through all sorts of trials and tribulations, and they are the great pillars which have protected Dragon City for half a century!

“But when we just transmigrated to this place, our knowledge of genomics, spirit energy, and life science was very crude, and we made a lot of mistakes. The pioneers stumbled about in their paths as superhumans, and they developed paths that no one had ever taken before. Because of it, they also paid devastating prices.

“Many of the pioneers suffered brain damage. Their minds were corroded by the mysterious power of the Other World, and they have become people who stand on both the side of good and evil. Sometimes, they even descend into madness. They might lose control at any moment.

“When they’re in a good mood, they can casually give you guidance so that you can improve by leaps and bounds in your path to become a superhuman.

“But if you offend them and they descend into a rampage, they can destroy the Yan family in a single breath. Why else do you think they’re known as old monsters?”

“Then, what should we do?” Ripple Force Princess was so anxious that she started pacing. “We’ve definitely offended this old mons—this senior! Will he destroy the Yan family when he flies into a rage?”

“Don’t worry. If he wanted to destroy us, he would have done so a long time ago. It’s impossible for him to not have taken action even now.”

Yan Hengbo thought about it. "I can sense the old senior's love and desire to protect the Yan family through his Demonically Modified Ripple Force. If he didn't have strong feelings for the Yan Family Ripple Force, it would have been impossible for him to have upgraded it to such perfection.

"Perhaps this old senior was once connected to the Yan family through fate. Is he a teacher of mine when I was going through my journey to become a superhuman? If that weren't the case, why would he have taught you?"

"Third, there's nothing for you to do here. Go and heal your wounds. Once you're done, you don't have to bother managing the organization anymore. Just concentrate on becoming a monster hunter."

Yan Zhennan was silent. The old man's words destroyed his future in the Yan family.

But he had offended an old, mysterious, and unfathomable monster. The punishment he received was already the lightest possible.

"Understood, Father," Yan Zhennan said in a dejected manner.

"Feirou, this matter started with you. I feel like the mysterious senior still likes you quite a lot. Why don't you take action again and release a public apology? Try to be as sincere as possible and act pitiful. We'll see if the old senior is willing to forgive the Yan family."

Yan Hengbo sighed. "If that doesn't work, we'll have no other way out. I will have to cast aside my dignity and beg the senior for forgiveness."

That night, when Meng Chao was attending self-study period, a major disturbance rose in the classroom.

"Look! Ripple Force Princess is currently reading a public apology letter on the broadcasting platform!"

"My God! The princess looks so delicate and pitiful! She looks like she's about to start crying!"

"Is there a mistake? With the Yan family's strength, who can force Ripple Force Princess to apologize in such a manner? Has the Yan family cast aside their pride?"

The students were in a ruckus, for all the boys were indignant.

Meng Chao was stunned. He turned on his phone and saw that what they said was true, the eldest daughter of the Yan family had switched to another image today. It was different compared to her gentle look during the public classes and her unyielding mannerisms when she made the public statement. Today, she looked frail and delicate as well as very timid.

"A few days ago, due to my ignorance and immaturity, I was rash, and offended an old senior who has a high and noble status in our city. I started incredibly bad rumors online..."

Yan Feirou might not have thrown herself at Meng Chao's feet, but he could already smell her tears.

The boys were burning with rage as they watched.

Chu Feixiong even started growling beside Meng Chao. "Who is it? Who scared my Goddess to this extent? I'm going to kill that guy!"

In-video comments and comments were turned off for this video.

But many netizens stood up together against their common enemy in the gossip forums online.

Everyone was trying to figure out who the old senior Ripple Force Princess mentioned was. Who could receive such great respect that the Yan family would show such weakness and apologize publicly?

Meng Chao touched his face.

He did not think that he deserved so much respect.

He could not understand it. Why did Yan Feirou switch from arrogance to humility so suddenly? She was like two different people.

However, he was a kind person.

After he finished watching the video, Yan Feirou sent him a really long private letter which was full of apology and sincerity. Meng Chao sighed and decided to spare the Yan family.

[Okay.]

He sent a one word reply to show that he understood.

Yan Feirou was beside herself with joy and soon sent another long text to thank him for showing mercy. She also asked whether there was anything he needed.

[We know that with your abilities, even if we give you money or cultivation resources, it would only be humiliating to you. I wonder if there is anything that you might require that the Yan family could help you with. We will definitely risk our lives for you and will never decline your request!]

The letter left Meng Chao stunned for a long time.

He really wanted to reply with [It's fine. I'm really good at withstanding pressure, and I can withstand all sorts of humiliation. You don't have to hold back. Just use money and cultivation resources to humiliate me as much as you want!]

He was frustrated with himself. Why did he have to put on the image of a mysterious and aloof senior? Now, he found it embarrassing to ask for compensation from others.

He scratched his head for a long time. At some point, he looked up, and he was just in time to see Zuo Haoran staring at him with a gloomy expression.

Meng Chao thought about it and replied, [In three days, help me check Great Waves Corporation.]

Great Waves Corporation was Zuo Haoran's family's company.

Meng Chao knew that Zuo Haoran was a sinister person. He did not have to worry about the conflict between him and Zuo Haoran becoming worse while he was in school, but what if Zuo Haoran used his family and did something to his parents?

His father had just started out with his small company. He only had one small dingey, and it could not withstand any storms. It was only natural then that Meng Chao should investigate all of the uncertain elements before doing anything else.

Yan Feirou hesitated. [Who is Great Waves Corporation?]

Meng Chao was a little embarrassed.

The future Ripple Force was created by Yan Feirou. He was using various tricks to deceive her, and it seemed like he had terrified her quite a lot. Now, he was even asking for her help, which he felt was rather unacceptable. He was, in fact, being rather shameless, wasn't he?

[It's a little troublesome,] Meng Chao replied.

To retain his image as an aloof senior, he did not go into too much detail.

What he meant was that it was rather troublesome to search for the details of a company within a short amount of time. If she could not handle it, it was fine. It was nothing major anyway.

Yan Feirou was silent for a while before she replied. [Trouble? Got it.]

Chapter 46: First Stage of the National College Examination!

Meng Chao lived a relaxed life for the next few days and trained as usual.

His contribution points started shooting up like crazy, just like a man wetting himself.

Aside from Yan Zhennan, he got another "elite monster". He was the master of the Yan family, the elite citizen, Yan Hengbo.

"Elite monsters" were divided into major and minor "elite monsters". The grandmaster of martial arts had personally created Ripple Force, so every time he gave Meng Chao contribution points, he did so in the three digits!

There were also plenty of powerful martial artists working in Yan Organization. They brought in close to one thousand contribution points every day, which felt great.

However, Meng Chao noticed something. His highest amount of contribution points earned every day was renewed daily, but as the Demonically Modified Ripple Force was generalized, he reached the peak of his daily high score for contribution points, and the numbers started falling.

But that was understandable. The future had been changed, and his contribution in this matter ended. He could not be supplied with an endless amount of contribution points just because of one basic force execution method.

If he marked the contribution points he gained daily into a graph, based on the declining curve, he would have gotten thousands of contribution points from the Demonically Modified Ripple Force alone. He also managed to form a connection with Yan Organization, so he was very satisfied with this matter.

Finally, it was the day for the school test—the first stage of the three stages of the national college examination!

Banners were hung all over the entrance of the school gate.

Colorful flags flew everywhere in the school.

There were nearly five hundred people from the eight third year classes, and they would all compete for the one hundred and fifty slots that would send them to the next stage.

Their youthful passion nearly turned into boiling magma that could overturn all the ceilings in the fifteen levels of the cultivation center.

In the meeting room at the top floor of the cultivation center were dozens of screens. Each monitored a different examination area.

One of the screens also showed a continuously changing ranking board, which ranked students based on their results.

The leaders of the school and the homeroom teachers of the third year classes sat under the monitors. Whenever the ranking changed, their expressions also changed slightly. While they chatted with each other, their words were laced with hostility.

The resources in Dragon City were limited, and competitions were everywhere. Humans and monsters competed for resources, and humans also competed against each other. The students fussed over everything for the sake of their rankings. The teachers and school leaders, too, competed against other classes or other key high schools, especially the high-and-mighty city-level key high schools.

The results of the third year students were pretty good. They were almost reaching the lowest possible score of those studying at city-level key high schools.

Principal Sun was nearly seventy. When he was young, he had fought against zombies and monsters and suffered permanent injuries. Gradually, he became hunchbacked, and he was now a shrivelled up old man who dozed every day. He was prepared to work for another two years before he retired. He did not care much about administrative affairs on usual days either, so he just grinned and remained calm.

The teaching director Ma Qingyun was still young and full of energy. He managed most of the daily tasks in the school, and he longed to be able to take a step further in his life once Principal Sun retired.

He was incredibly excited when the students scored well. His horse-like face was red, and he looked like a huge horse monkey jumping around, which, coincidentally, was the nickname his students gave him.

Demon Yan remained expressionless. He tapped against the table lightly while he continued examining Reckless Bull Technique in his mind.

The homeroom teachers of the eight graduating classes all acted as humble as ace students.

“Ah, this is bad. Class 1 this year is really horrible. There are only more than thirty students who are able to outrun Usain Bolt.”

“Class 2 is even worse. These lazy bums are all so weak. They can’t even win against the Olympic weightlifting champions on Earth. Ah, this is so distressing!”

“If all of you in the rocket classes say these things, then doesn’t it mean that the strolling classes are done for?”

“What do you mean by done for? Everyone knows that you’ve all been working hard to compete against the rocket classes. Let’s just talk about Old Wang from Class 6. He might seem harmless, but he has been organizing study groups in secret.

“No one knows what sort of amazing martial art his students are practicing. Old Wang, don’t even think about hiding. Just tell us, what are you practicing?”

“No, I’m definitely not teaching them anything.” Wang Longjun shook his head with a serious look.

“What do you mean by amazing martial art? I know nothing about it.”

Before his voice could fade, the ranking of maximum punching strength started changing rapidly on the big monitor screen.

Someone managed to shoot up the ranks.

Since every class was marked with a different color, everyone could tell who it was from a single glance.

“Class 6’s Chu Feixiong. His maximum punching strength is 249.5kg, and he’s ranked 21st for punching strength!”

“What?!”

“He’s just a student in a strolling class, and his maximum punching strength is greater than of most people in the rocket classes?”

“Old Wang, that’s so dishonest of you. You’re still insisting that you don’t have an amazing martial art up your sleeves?”

The other seven homeroom teachers struck their tables and rebuked him in a semi-serious fashion.

But before they could recover from the shock brought by Chu Feixiong’s punching strength, another student from Class 6 shot up the ranking board.

“It’s Class 6’s Meng Chao! His maximum punching strength is 240.9kg, and his one hundred meter dash is 9.55 seconds. He’s faster than Usain Bolt by 0.03 seconds, and his overall score is temporarily listed at the nineteenth place in the whole school!”

“Meng Chao?!”

“I remember that he was a really talented student during the first year and second year of high school. He was heavily injured later on. So, he has recovered?”

At that moment, the homeroom teachers from the two rocket classes could no longer hide the envy and jealousy in their eyes.

They had been paying attention to Meng Chao for a long time. After all, he had great talent. If he weren’t injured, he would have definitely been slotted into a rocket class.

They did not expect that even though he stayed in Class 6, he would recover fully and even improve. Just how lucky was Wang Longjun?

Even Demon Yan let out a gasp of astonishment. He deliberately switched to Meng Chao’s testing footage.

Teaching Director Ma Qingyun let out a soft huff. There was no expression on his face.

“It’s pretty good.” Principal Sun grinned. He looked like a mascot.

It was written in destiny's books that today was the day of harvest for Class 6, because the shock they delivered was not over just yet.

Soon after Meng Chao obtained the great result of ranking among the top twenty, another shocking news was delivered.

"One hundred meter dash completed in 9.49 seconds... He managed to break 9.5-second wall. His maximum punching strength is 250.1kg, and he also broke the 250kg wall, which is known as the legendary high-school iron wall. Zuo Haoran's total score is temporarily ranked at the ninth place in the entire school!"

"That's impossible!"

"The students in a strolling class have charged into the top ten even though there are nearly one hundred students in the rocket classes blocking their path!"

"Zuo Haoran... So, it's hard. Well... that's not much of a surprise."

Once they read the name of the student who broke the record, the shocked expressions of the other seven homeroom teachers faded away. They put on obsequious expressions for Teaching Director Ma Qingyun as if they were flattering him by using their expressions to say "Teaching Director Ma, you're amazing! You managed to teach your nephew really well!"

The students from Class 6 were also shocked as they stood in the testing room underneath.

They had been immersed in the triumphant feeling of Meng Chao returning with a dominating might and thought that he had a slight chance in winning over the class rep, even if it was in just one single aspect.

But half a minute later, Zuo Haoran's domineering scores shattered their hopes.

Regardless of whether it was his maximum punching strength or one-hundred meter dash, the class rep's impeccable performance told them what it meant to be so strong that nothing could stand in the way.

"What should we do? Zuo Haoran is too strong. He's already above Meng Chao by twenty points after the first two competitions."

"I thought that Meng Chao could surpass him a little in the first two parts. Let's hope that he won't lose too miserably during the shooting test later."

"That guy never put a lot of effort in the past, but over the past week, he went all out. I think he must have taken in some sort of secret medicine and spent a lot of money to use top-grade cultivation machines to stimulate the potential in his cells. Damn it, it's seriously so good to be rich."

The class was so anxious that they ground their teeth.

Meng Chao exchanged a glance with Zuo Haoran.

Meng Chao quickly looked away with a calm gaze, while Zuo Haoran quirked his lips. On his face was a domineering look he did not bother to hide.

“All examinees in Class 6, your test for maximum punching strength and the one-hundred meter dash is over. Now, queue up based on your results and head to the indoor shooting range!”

The invigilator came from another school, which was a customary rule. All schools would exchange teachers to serve as invigilators so that they could prevent cheating.

The teacher from the other school was as grave as a judge. He did not care about the strange atmosphere between the students and just waved his hand urging them forward.

The tenth to the twelfth floor of the cultivation center were indoor shooting ranges. At that moment, the rhythmical sounds of gunfire rang nonstop.

The rocket classes had long since begun their tests. All sorts of ridiculous marks and the smell of gunpowder stimulated the students' nerves, and they were instantly in test mode.

Zuo Haoran took the lead and walked into the sixth shooting range.

Meng Chao followed closely behind him.

Unexpectedly, aside from the invigilator, Principal Sun, the teaching director, Demon Yan, and their homeroom teacher were in the shooting range as well.

“Good morning, Principal Sun, Teaching Director Ma, Mr. Yan, Mr. Wang.”

The students quickly bowed, and they were especially respectful to the principal.

Principal Sun might be a small, shriveled-up old man right now, but he was a hero who managed to turn the tides of battles in the past. He was known as Heavy Cannon.

If Demon Yan killed monsters as if he was just making fillings for dumplings, Principal Sun was a huge meat grinder in food processing factories.

The students who saw the videos of him training and fighting when he was young were unable to link the shriveled-up old man with the moving human fortress.

“You're all pretty good, hmm?”

Principal Sun shut his eyes. He looked as if he was asleep, but it was not the truth.

The teaching director stepped forward and explained their purpose for being here. “This year, Class 6's results are very good. For the time being, you're taking the lead above the other six strolling classes. Students, continue to do your best!”

The students were shocked and delighted. They cheered.

The teaching director slapped Zuo Haoran's shoulder and said with a smile, “The homeroom teacher definitely has credit in helping Class 6 achieve good results, and you also did well by setting an example for the others, Class Rep. Good luck!”

“Thank you for your motivating words, Teaching Director Ma. I will.” Zuo Haoran puffed out his chest, and his righteous demeanor returned to him.

The students rolled their eyes. 'Everyone here knows you're uncle and nephew. Why are you putting up an act?'

"The shooting test is about to start! Compose yourself and focus!" Demon Yan suddenly glared at them. "You only have one chance. It's the easiest for others to pull ahead of you when it comes to shooting. Forget about the marks you scored just now and focus on the target in front of you! If you're the slightest bit careless, you'll end up having no place to even shed your tears!"

The students were startled. They quickly got rid of all other thoughts and focused on calming down their breathing.

"First test group. Zuo Haoran, Meng Chao!"

The invigilator had the top two scorers based on the ranking of the results from the two previous tests come forward.

Chapter 47: Golden Target

"This is bad... Meng Chao is actually going through his test with Zuo Haoran? Will he get disturbed?"

"He definitely will. Even though they're shooting two different targets they'll be able to see each other's actions and results very clearly. Meng Chao's state of mind will definitely be affected, and he might go through a mental breakdown."

"Meng Chao... he's too foolish. He should have read the examination rules carefully and figured out that the shooting test is conducted in pairs formed based on the ranking from the first two tests. His maximum punching strength and speed are good, so he should have preserved some of his strength and gotten third or fourth place in the class. Then, he could avoid competing against Zuo Haoran."

The students were anxious.

But some decided to indulge in wishful thinking. "Would Meng Chao's state and luck be really good today and he would end up getting really good marks?"

Those who had that hope were mostly formed of the low scorers in the class. They did not intend to get into college.

Those among the top ten in class snorted.

"Impossible. You won't be just firing one shot during the shooting test. You'll need to assemble three guns on your own, then fire ten handgun bullets, twenty rifle shots, and thirty caseless bullets specifically made for submachine guns. You need to shoot ten fixed targets and ten moving targets. I won't say anything about managing to get one or two lucky shots, but it's impossible for you to get lucky with every shot."

"You can still try your luck when it comes to fixed targets, but the points for moving targets are three to five times those of fixed targets. They move based on the trajectory and speed of monsters, and each target only appears for a few seconds. They're really fast. They also drift about, so you can't rely on your luck for that."

“The school does not really teach us how to shoot moving targets when it comes to our shooting classes. But Zuo Haoran specifically trains with moving targets when he practices in Falcon Gun Club.”

The low scorers could not accept this. “There’s also the Golden Target, right? Doesn’t it offer you more points than normal targets?”

The ace sharpshooters in the class laughed. “The Golden Target is the last of the twenty targets. It’s the smallest, is positioned the furthest away, moves the fastest, and also has the strangest movement trajectory. That target is the size of a fist, and it’ll be placed fifty meters away. It’s even faster than monsters, and it only appears for one second, so you need to predict its appearance beforehand.

“Unless your shooting skills, feel of the gun, and reaction time are perfect, you won’t be able to hit it. It’s impossible for even Zuo Haoran, so he won’t be wasting his bullet on that Golden Target!”

The low scorers felt all their fight drain from them. “Then, doesn’t it mean that he doesn’t have any hope in winning at all?”

The ace sharpshooters sighed. “He never had any hope. We can only wish that Meng Chao will get good results and win against himself.”

“Zuo Haoran, Meng Chao!” The invigilator called them a second time.

While the students discussed things among themselves, the two people moved forward.

“Meng Chao, wait.” The homeroom teacher suddenly came over and put a hand on his shoulder. He said softly, “Forget about your ludicrous fight based on your personal feelings. Right now, the most important thing for you is to get into the second stage of the national college examination.

“It’s normal if your shooting skills can’t compare to those of Zuo Haoran. Don’t break down. Once you lose your composure, you’ll miss every single target, and no matter how good your results were in the beginning, it’ll be useless!”

“Ahem.”

The invigilator coughed softly.

Meng Chao nodded. “I’ll do my best, Mr. Wang.”

“That’s good, then. Persevere. Try to ensure that your accuracy is higher than seventy percent. You’ll then have a chance to get into the next stage!”

The homeroom teacher punched the air and smiled at the invigilator before he left.

Meng Chao and Zuo Haoran each stood at their shooting spots.

Placed all over the table before them were mixed up pieces.

They belonged to handguns, rifles, and submachine guns and were piled up together until they formed a small hill.

The two men looked at each other.

The mocking look in Zuo Haoran's eyes burned like a fire that seemed ready to scorch Meng Chao to ashes.

Meng Chao's gaze was a little unfocused. It seemed like his mind was elsewhere.

He could not help it. Notifications just kept popping up at the corner of his eye. This was the side effect of gaining contribution points. His gaze constantly drifted about, and it made it look like he was always ignoring others.

When Zuo Haoran noticed that he was being ignored, the anger in him burned even hotter.

Beep!

The invigilator pressed on the timer. Ten fixed targets appeared at the end of the long shooting lane across from them.

The ten fixed targets would be up for three minutes. The examinees had to finish assembling the three guns within three minutes before they were allowed to shoot at the fixed targets in a relaxed manner.

The rules did not limit the examinees on how many fixed targets they had to strike. If they were absolutely sure in their gun technique, they were allowed to completely skip the fixed targets and shoot the moving targets.

After all, the moving targets were worth three to five times more than the moving targets. In fact, some were even worth ten times more.

But there was no examinee who would be stupid enough to do that. The shooting skills of high school students were amateurish, and while they were alright with shooting fixed targets, they could only count themselves lucky whenever they hit.

Kacha, kacha, kacha, kacha.

The rhythmic sounds of compartments being assembled together came from Zuo Haoran.

Every day, after classes ended, he would go and practice at the shooting club, so he was incredibly familiar with the military-grade guns of Dragon City. His movements were smooth, and there were no flaws or redundant movements in his actions.

Even the students who called Zuo Haoran's morals into question had to admit that it was a joy watching him assemble guns.

The teaching director grinned widely when he saw his nephew's outstanding performance.

Demon Yan looked at his watch. "Zuo Haoran's speed has increased by ten percent. He can already catch up to most of the students in the rocket classes. As expected, guns are his strongest subject."

Compared to Zuo Haoran's dazzling performance, Meng Chao kept a much lower profile.

He was not much slower, but he operated at the pace of a normal high school student. His movements were methodical, and he even occasionally stopped to think or rub his fingers against a compartment carefully. His eyes were half-lidded, so no one could tell what he was thinking.

Everyone was anxious, but due to the disciplinary rules in the exam hall, they could not urge him to hurry up or give him encouragement.

Besides, Meng Chao's performance today was already much better than his usual performance during shooting classes.

He had already surpassed himself, so what else could they ask for?

"Alright, at least I got him to calm down." The homeroom teacher sighed in relief.

'That's correct, Meng Chao. Competing is all a child's talk. It's fine even if you can't win against Zuo Haoran. It won't stop you from getting into college!'

As for Principal Sun, he had been sitting in a corner and seemingly taking a nap, when he suddenly opened his beady eyes and swept his gaze over the table of guns.

He was not looking at Zuo Haoran, but at Meng Chao.

He only watched for half a second before his heavy eyelids fell closed once more.

"It's pretty good, hmm?"

The Heavy Cannon of the past and the current small, shriveled-up old man started dozing off again.

"Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!"

It had just been one minute since the test begun, and Zuo Haoran had already perfectly assembled all three guns. Like a whirlwind, he fired all ten of his handgun bullets and all thirty of his submachine bullets.

Inner 10th ring! Inner 10th ring! Inner 10th ring! All forty bullets hit the inner 10th ring, and it was perfect!

The students could not help but cover their mouths. They swallowed their cries of surprise.

At that moment, Meng Chao finished assembling his guns and began shooting.

Unfortunately, more than two minutes had passed.

It was clear that he was affected by Zuo Haoran's perfect performance. Even though his movements were harmonious and he was quite precise, he made the worst possible mistake.

"He's using the semi-automatic rifle?" the students whispered.

Usually, when ace sharpshooters fired fixed targets, they used handguns or submachine guns.

Handguns had a short shooting distance while submachine guns were not very accurate. That's why they were perfect for fixed targets to get basic marks.

Semi-automatic rifles had optical gunsight, so they possessed the highest accuracy. They were used to get high marks when shot at moving targets.

This was the classic strategy, and it was what Zuo Haoran did.

When Meng Chao was done firing all his handgun bullets, he seemed to have been thrown into confusion. He picked up his semi-automatic rifle and started firing without care.

Even though his results were pretty good and he managed to get some inner 10th rings, which made it seem as if his results were about the same as Zuo Haoran's, they were about to enter the moving target stage, and Meng Chao would have to use his submachine gun to shoot at the drifting targets.

What was about to happen was simply too despair inducing. The students looked at each other, and before their eyes, they saw a big, brilliant zero shining brightly.

"I think Meng Chao decided to completely give up on the moving targets so that he can use all his bullets on fixed targets. He has gotten a lot of points this way.

"That's true. Many of the students who are bad at shooting give up on moving targets. But it's still bad! He wasted too much time assembling guns just now, and there's no time left!"

"Then he should hurry up and get as many points as possible! Why is he standing there staring into space?!"

The students were so anxious that they felt like they were about to jump out of their skin. They really wanted to shoot the targets for Meng Chao.

But Meng Chao remained unmoving. He only held the submachine gun and waited for the timer to go down to zero.

Beep.

It was time. All fixed targets fell.

Ten seconds later, the moving targets showed up.

Meng Chao still had thirty caseless bullets for the submachine gun, while Zuo Haoran had twenty bullets for his semi-automatic rifle.

The submachine gun had great firepower, low accuracy, and great recoil. It was not easy to control it. The semi-automatic rifle, however, was designed to be accurate.

The students could not help but release huge sighs.

The homeroom teacher was so frustrated that he stomped on the ground. Why did the child allow his ego to rush into his head after he just praised him?!

The teaching director gave a cool remark. "Meng Chao's heart isn't very steady. He's the student who searched for deviant martial arts and ended up being sent to the hospital because of it, right? He's too extreme, so he will probably have a difficult path ahead of him."

Demon Yan stared at Meng Chao, but he was in deep thought. A hint of puzzlement rose on his tanned face.

"Principal Sun?" Demon Yan moved next to the small, shriveled old man and spoke respectfully. He softly asked for advice.

“Bwuh, wha—? Oh, it’s pretty good, hmm?” Principal Sun was stirred awake because of his words. He nodded with a smile before he shut his eyes again.

Ten seconds soon passed.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!

The moving targets rose like ghosts before the two examinees. They started moving madly in an irregular pattern.

Everyone held their breaths.

Zuo Haoran had a solemn look on his face. He bound the strap of the rifle around his arm and put on the standard triangle shooting stance. He began shooting calmly.

4th ring! 5th ring! 3rd ring! 7th ring!

The results with the moving targets were inferior to his mixed target results, but it still far surpassed the limits of most students.

Every time he shot a moving target, as long as he managed to hit the edge of the target, he would still be able to get marks that were higher than hitting the inner 10th ring of the fixed targets.

As for Meng Chao, he put on a stance no one had even seen before and fired his submachine gun a few times. A few of his bullets missed the target, but those he did manage to hit, he only struck the 3rd ring or was even further outside. The gap between him and Zuo Haoran kept on growing wider.

Ninth ring!

Zuo Haoran managed to get an astonishing result with his final bullet. He pulled his rifle back expressionlessly and showed the bullet cases and magazines of the three guns to the invigilator. Then, he took two steps backwards, turned around, and left. It was at that moment that he finally appeared to be in high spirits.

“Very good, you did really well as the class rep of Class 6!” The teaching director was beaming.

“Zuo Haoran, you did well.” The homeroom teacher congratulated him as well with complicated emotions.

In his mind, he thought, ‘Seriously, you’re too amazing. If you shoot like that, you’re going to end up destroying the mind states of all your classmates, and we might end up having one less student being able to enter college. Just what sort of grudge do you have that you must act so aggressively?’

And just as he expected, Meng Chao seemed to be shocked by Zuo Haoran’s results. He just stayed still and did not move.

Someone saw that he had even shut his eyes. He just let the targets zip past him.

“Has he... completely given up?” The students looked at each other at a loss.

As time passed, the moving targets that appeared became smaller and faster. If Meng Chao had missed the targets in the beginning, it was impossible for him to be able to hit the targets that appeared later.

'You overestimated yourself.' Zuo Haoran laughed coldly in his heart.

At that moment, gold color flashed at the end of the shooting lane.

The Golden Target had appeared. It was the final target, and it was worth a ridiculous amount of points.

This was basically an additional question in the national college examination, and most students never thought about hitting it.

Even Zuo Haoran had only hit seven moving targets. He gave up on the last three.

But at that moment, Meng Chao opened— No. It should be said that right before the Golden Target appeared, he opened his eyes.

Chapter 48: A Brief Fight

At that moment, Demon Yan detected a familiar powerful killing intent, because he was a veteran who had once faced multiple life and death situations.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

The sounds of gunfire from a submachine gun beat down on everyone's eardrums like a violent rainstorm.

But this storm left as quickly as it arrived. When the students looked over in a dumbfounded manner, the sounds of gunshots had already disappeared.

Meng Chao removed the cartridge with familiar ease and opened the magazine. He let the dumbfounded invigilator take a look at it.

His results did not appear on the screen even after a long time had passed, but he was completely fine with it. He just exercised his fingers, turned around, and left.

"Meng Chao, how was it?"

His classmates surrounded him anxiously.

"It was pretty good," Meng Chao said after some thought. "It was within my limits. I'd say I did perfectly."

His classmates were speechless.

'If you're nervous, then say you're nervous! If you had a mental breakdown, then say that! Why are you trying to keep up a stubborn front?!'

Zuo Haoran shook his head in disdain, as if he was rebuking himself for arguing with a person who was just all talk.

At that moment, Meng Chao's results finally showed up.

"Class 6's Meng Chao obtained 588 marks for the shooting test. His total score is 1,434 points. As of now, he's ranked at the eighth place in the school!"

The large indoor shooting range instantly fell silent.

Even the sounds of gunfire from the examination room next door seemed to have become duller.

It was as if the air had filled with a very sticky substance and glued all sounds, oxygen, and even their thoughts together.

“588 points? Zuo Haoran only scored 515 points just now, right?”

“Meng Chao’s marks surpassed Zuo Haoran’s by 73 points. He evened out the gap between them in terms of speed and strength, and his total score even surpassed Zuo Haoran’s by more than twenty marks?”

“How could it be? He missed a lot of targets, and he even used his submachine gun to hit the moving targets. How did he get so many points? Was there a miscalculation?”

Everyone looked at each other at a loss. There was probably a miscalculation. Yes, there had to be one. Maybe.

Zuo Haoran was shocked. “Did they mix my points with Meng Chao’s?”

The invigilator frowned and brought out Meng Chao’s targets.

All the ones in the front were normal.

Then, they reached the final Golden Target.

Zuo Haoran’s Golden Target was clean. There was no hole on it.

But Meng Chao’s Golden Target was covered in thirteen bullet holes. Six of them were within the inner eight rings, so he nearly destroyed the tiny Golden Target.

The Golden Target was the most valuable, and the points from it alone were enough to surpass Zuo Haoran.

Silence fell.

The invigilator and the classmates were all a little dazed.

“Did you shoot blindly? Or did you aim for it?” someone asked in disbelief after a long time passed.

Right now, no one was taking the test. The invigilator was the one who decided whether they could speak or whether they should continue with the test, and judging by his expression, it was clear that he was also very curious about this question.

“Of course I aimed. I told you repeatedly since a week ago that my shooting skills were pretty decent. Didn’t you believe me?”

His classmates could not help but say, “But you assembled the guns really slowly!”

He did not act like Zuo Haoran, who did everything smoothly and quickly.

Meng Chao smiled. “Assembling guns isn’t a circus act. What’s the point of doing it quickly? Am I supposed to turn my hands into a blur?”

“One of the goals of assembling guns is to perform maintenance on the gun, and the other is to get a clear idea of the wear and tear as well as the shape of each compartment by rubbing them carefully. Then, you can deduce the shooting parameters of the gun.

“You have to understand that when each new gun is produced, their shooting parameters are slightly different from each other. Besides, my gun has already been touched by multiple examinees. Their shooting habits are different, and many people’s stances and shooting rhythm are wrong, so the rifling and compartments are all a mess. If I didn’t get a clear idea of the details, how would I be able to shoot accurately?”

One person swiftly came to a realization. “So, you were prepared to shoot the Golden Target since the beginning? Then why didn’t you use the semi-automatic rifle? Why did you use the submachine gun?”

Meng Chao shrugged. “The Golden Target will only appear for a moment, and I can only use one gun. We’re given thirty shots for the submachine gun, but only twenty shots for the semi-automatic rifle.”

His classmates could not believe their own ears. “But the accuracy of the semi-automatic rifle is higher!”

Meng Chao thought about it. “To me, it’s all the same.”

“...”

His classmates were all speechless.

The only thing they wanted to do was scream at the heavens.

Someone ground his teeth and asked, “Then why did you miss so many targets when you just started using the submachine gun to hit the moving targets?”

“I was testing the gun.” This would help the students in the test later on, so Meng Chao did not bother to hide this information. “Even though I did my best to assemble the submachine gun based on my shooting habits, since there was wear and tear in the compartments and rifling and since I wasn’t really sure of its characteristics, I needed to use a few bullets to correct the trajectory. Then, I was able to hit the target with every shot.”

The students looked at each other at a loss. “So, you decided to bet all your hopes on the Golden Target since the beginning?”

Meng Chao was stunned. His gaze was a little unfocused, as if his classmates had just asked a question that he could not understand.

“I didn’t bet everything on it.”

He could only be said to have bet everything when he shot that Ghost-eyed Golden Winged Flame Beetle. At that time, he staked his last bullet on it.

Today, he was only answering a question that had a lot of nitty-gritty steps and complicated calculations, but was not actually very difficult. That was all.

Meng Chao just high-fived Chu Feixiong, who stood at the back row, and walked out.

He brushed shoulders with Zuo Haoran and did not spare a glance for the class rep, who seemed to be absolutely stricken. He did not mention the challenge he issued to Zuo Haoran a week ago in front of the principal or the teaching director either.

But Zuo Haoran sank into a trap made of puzzlement, fear, and embarrassment. It was as if his world had collapsed around him.

A moment ago, he had the winning ticket in his hands, and he had been smiling because of it, but now, his smile had frozen on his face, as if it was a mark left behind when Meng Chao slapped him hard across the face.

“Haoran!” The teaching director pinched his waist hard. “You did well. Go and rest to calm down.”

The invigilator schooled his expression and said, “Pay attention to the disciplinary rules in the examination area. All those who have finished the test have to leave!”

The homeroom teacher quickly went up to them. “Meng Chao, Zuo Haoran, go back to the class first. Remember to calm down. Don’t let this get over your heads.”

The test was still going on, so it was only natural that they could not get into a conflict here.

Meng Chao nodded and waved his hand at the class before he said, “Good luck! I hope that you can hit all your targets and get good results!”

He turned around and left the examination room.

Zuo Haoran followed behind him with a dark look on his face.

When they left the examination center, Meng Chao could not help but raise his fist and swing it fiercely.

He was one step closer to his dream now. This feeling of continuously changing his destiny was amazing!

Zuo Haoran saw his action, and it was only natural that he saw it as an act of provocation.

“Meng Chao, you were lucky today, and it’s out of sheer luck that your overall results are higher than mine. I will naturally be too embarrassed to continue being the class rep. But I will absolutely not admit that you’re stronger than I am when it comes to your practicals!”

He gritted his teeth and said, “Your maximum punching strength, one-hundred meter dash, and the shooting games in the shooting range cannot represent your real fighting strength. Since you already returned to the peak of your strength, do you have the guts to fight against me?”

Meng Chao turned his head around and looked at Zuo Haoran with the ghost of a smile on his face.

‘Here it is. I knew it. It’s exactly the same as in my previous life.’

But last time, the class rep had full advantage. With just a few words, he managed to anger Meng Chao, and Meng Chao jumped straight into the trap.

This year, he would let Zuo Haoran reap what he sowed.

“Sure,” Meng Chao said calmly.

There was a dense grove behind the cafeteria of Ninth High School.

There was also a land full of soft sand there.

It was the place that students often used to settle their conflicts.

Dragon City was an unyielding society and learning martial arts was incredibly common among the people. Even elderly women in their eighties played around with shotguns, so what needed to be said about youths, who were very hot-blooded?

The school usually turned a blind eye to it. In fact, they even advocated going to the cultivation halls to publicly settle any conflicts under a teacher's monitoring.

If anyone wanted to go to the depths of the grove for a private fight, the school usually did not punish the fighters badly as long as the consequences of the fight were not too severe.

Meng Chao stared at the rustling trees before him and sighed.

In his previous life, he was set up by Zuo Haoran in this place, and he failed his national college examination.

Meng Chao stopped at the center of the grove. He hesitated for a moment before he decided to speak. "Class Rep, we're about to take our exam, so let's have a brief fight. Regardless of who wins or loses, let's put all our past transgressions behind us after the fight is over, alright?"

A thought appeared in Zuo Haoran's mind then. "Of course. We'll fight briefly, and once it's over, we'll put everything behind us!"

"Alright. I hope that you'll keep your promise, or else..." Meng Chao furrowed his brow and stepped forward to seize the initiative.

Ripples appeared under his feet and on the sand. With the power from the ground, Meng Chao sent out a force that was as strong as a tidal wave.

Zuo Haoran quickly moved back, and his body became blurry. He used Ripple Force as well.

"Meng Chao, you've only been practicing Ripple Force for a year, while I'm skilled in both Ripple Force and Reckless Bull Force. I can use tough and gentle forces at the same time. You're not my opponent! Give up!" Zuo Haoran intentionally provoked him.

"This time, I won't lose!" Meng Chao's strength increased, and he gradually brought out the essence of Ripple Force.

The two youths looked like two waves that were entangled with each other and pushed one another back and forth. They moved faster with each moment, and sand as well as stones flew everywhere. The grove let out rustling sounds, and a lot of the leaves were torn down by wind stirred up by the punches.

Meng Chao acted as if he had just recovered from his injuries and could not fight for a long time. Hence, he tried to end the fight as quickly as possible.

Zuo Haoran clearly knew about his weaknesses. He remained calm and slowly whittled down his stamina.

After just a brief minute, Meng Chao's uniform was drenched in sweat, and his footsteps became disorderly.

Suddenly, Zuo Haoran shouted. He changed his fighting style and switched seamlessly from Ripple Force to Reckless Bull Force.

Slap!

Meng Chao looked unable to get used to this fighting style, where Zuo Haoran could switch at will, and was stunned for a moment. Then, he was struck firmly on the face. In an instant, blood gushed out from his nose, and his lip was torn.

"Ah!"

Meng Chao's face was covered in blood. He was angered by pain, and his legs let out loud thuds as he charged forward without regard for any cost.

"Perfect timing!"

A savage light in Zuo Haoran's eyes shone brilliantly.

'The trash has finally fallen into the trap.

'Heh, did you actually think that I'm only skilled in Ripple Force and Reckless Bull Force?

'Or did you really think that I only know the three great force execution methods?

'They are all just basic skills. Without true killing methods, they're like unsharpened weapons. They can't kill anyone.

'So-called "good talents" like you can only receive compulsory education in school. You don't know what true fights are.

'But me? I've long since received teachings from my father and the powerful fighters in society. I've learned killing methods that only those in college can learn.

'Meng Chao, witness my Heart Hammer!'

Chapter 49: Put Everything Behind Us

At the instant Meng Chao pounced, Zuo Haoran shrank into himself. His force execution method changed again, and he switched from the fierce and powerful Reckless Bull Force to Dragon Snake Force, the force execution method that allowed the user to accumulate force.

Crackle, crackle.

A string of explosive sounds that sounded like firecrackers came from his body. He was like a python who had been lying in wait for ten years and had finally turned into a real aquatic dragon.

Even his spine bulged out from his flesh, making him look like an aquatic dragon with its claws out and teeth bared. He was about to charge into the sky.

A fierce and excited expression appeared on Zuo Haoran's face. With a growl, he moved his spine and delivered a strange punch with his right hand.

It was like a steel needle that could pierce through bones, and it went right under Meng Chao's ribs.

Before even hitting with Heart Hammer, Zuo Haoran was already imagining Meng Chao falling to the ground and spasming while he vomited and cried.

There was something extremely amazing about his skill. When his father taught him the move, he also showed him a few variations of it so that he could make his hidden force stay in the target's body for a very long time, and if no one examined the target's body in-depth, they would not be able to discover it at all.

Over the next few days, Meng Chao would just feel a bit of pain under his ribs, but he would not find anything strange about it.

When he would discover it, it would be too late. He would have no proof, and Zuo Haoran would just need to deny it flatly. No one would be able to do anything to him at that time.

Meng Chao had just recovered from his wounds, so this would be adding insult to injury. Haha! Forget about getting into college, it would even be up for debate as to whether he could get into a high vocational college!

Zuo Haoran was very happy about the future.

Then, he saw the eyes of his opponent.

His eyes were as cunning as those of a hunter, as callous as those of a butcher, as brutal as those of a monster, and as calm as those of a doctor.

When Meng Chao looked at his target like that, he seemed to have become someone else.

He changed from a high school student to a person who had returned from the apocalypse.

His force execution method shifted from Ripple Force to Reckless Bull Force, and the change was even smoother and more discreet than that of Zuo Haoran.

But it was not the same Reckless Bull Force. It was the future Master Level Reckless Bull Technique!

The contribution points he had gained through the future Ripple Force were enough to upgrade a few of the basic skills by a level, and the first Meng Chao chose to upgrade was Reckless Bull Technique, which had great force, power, and could destroy everything in its wake!

Zuo Haoran felt as if his chest had been struck by a charging rhinoceros.

Meng Chao's fist was like a horn whose force went from his chest to his back.

Crack.

Zuo Haoran's spine made a loud noise.

He was sent flying high like a kite whose string snapped and broke a sapling before he fell to the ground in a heap. He looked like a puddle of mud that Meng Chao had just violently stomped over.

“...”

Zuo Haoran's eyes went wide, and he stared above himself at a loss.

The sky was still as blue as ever, but he felt as if his world was crumbling rapidly.

Puzzlement, distress, remorse, loathing, pain, hatred, and all sorts of emotions flowed freely on his pale face.

He opened his mouth like a fish that was washed ashore by a wave. He tried to breathe, but could not get any oxygen. His upper body burned from pain, but his lower body was growing cold, and soon all feeling from it disappeared.

The two completely different feelings made his eyes go wide. Madness and despair fought for supremacy in his mind.

Meng Chao walked over while slowly wiping off the blood from his nose. He stopped where he blocked off Zuo Haoran's view of the sky.

“You—” Resentment was all over Zuo Haoran's face, but he soon came to an understanding.

“Yup. I held back during the test. I hit the gauge casually and ran without trying hard,” Meng Chao admitted generously.

“Why?” Zuo Haoran could not understand it no matter how hard he tried.

“This is just the first stage of the national college examination. I have no interest in standing out like some low-class clown. Besides, if I did too well, what would I have to do if you refused to fight me?” Meng Chao shrugged.

“You did it intentionally! You set me up!” Zuo Haoran's eyes were practically spitting flames.

“That's right. I intentionally scored second place in class so that I could compete against you in terms of shooting skills. Then, we could leave the examination hall together. The homeroom teacher and our classmates would stay inside, so no one could interrupt us when we went to spar.”

Meng Chao crouched down and sighed. “But I still gave you a chance. Before we started sparring, didn't I tell you that we'll only have a brief fight, stop when the victor is decided, and put all differences behind us?”

“Don't go disbelieving my words now. I was serious. If you hadn't been despicable enough to use a brutal method to cripple me, you wouldn't have reaped what you sowed.”

“I-I...” Zuo Haoran's face was full of fear.

The unknown was always the most terrifying, and right then, he did not know what was going on with his lower body.

“Your spine should have cracked from the shock. Your organs aren't bleeding severely, so your life is not in danger. Don't worry,” Meng Chao said. “With Dragon City's medical skills, even if your spine cracked, it's not as if you can't get it treated.”

“Just get a good doctor and rest well for two years, then you should have no problem regaining the mobility of a normal person. But it’ll be difficult for you to cultivate, get into college, or become a superhuman. Still, I don’t think a person like you should become a superhuman. It’ll be good for you and the society if you don’t.”

“You—” Zuo Haoran started shaking uncontrollably.

Meng Chao, who had blocked off half of the view of the sky, was like a demon in human skin in his eyes.

But what Meng Chao said was the truth.

Just then, two notifications had popped up in his field of vision.

[You severely injured normal citizen Zuo Haoran. You probably saved a large number of soldiers far into the future. Increased contribution points by 99.]

[The future cannot be predicted. Destiny is filled with many ups and downs. Changes done far into the future contribute little to the current civilization. It’s only when you control the present are you able to create the future.]

‘True. I’ve crippled Zuo Haoran, so he won’t be able to get into college or become a superhuman. This means it’ll be impossible for him to be in charge of an entire line of defense and run away at the last moment, thereby harming a lot of soldiers.

‘But this is just one possible future.

‘If we look at this through the butterfly effect theory, my return to the past has already changed many things. Who can say what will happen in the distant future?’

‘So, while I have made contributions to civilization, I haven’t done much yet. It’s best to teach elite citizens future martial arts. This way I’ll be able to get instant results.’

After thinking about this, Meng Chao cast Zuo Haoran a compassionate look.

Could he be considered to have saved the class rep?

Even though he was injured badly and might be unable to become a superhuman, if he looked at it from another angle, this meant that he would not have the chance to become a traitor and become the subject of scorn. He would also never be pinned on the pillar of disgrace.

He could live a simple life as a normal person in the prospering Dragon City, which could also be considered as a form of luck.

No matter what, the grudge between could be considered as settled now. Meng Chao no longer had the slightest bit of interest toward Zuo Haoran.

“Lay still here. I’ll go and call the school doctor. Oh, but it’s not as if you can move.” Meng Chao started heading out of the grove.

Zuo Haoran coughed up blood then.

His originally handsome and righteous face was now a mess of tears, snot, and blood.

When Meng Chao was halfway out of the grove, he suddenly came back.

“I almost forgot something.”

He started groping about Zuo Haoran’s body, and soon, he brought out a recording pen from the pocket in his pants.

Meng Chao whistled. “Look at what we have here? Mr. Class Rep, your ability to learn is this great! You started learning how to record things behind others’ backs as well, huh?”

Crack!

He crushed the recording pen and put all the parts carefully into his pocket. Then, he patted around a little more to make sure that Zuo Haoran did not have a second recording pen before he left in satisfaction.

Zuo Haoran was in complete despair. Aside from using his head to beat against the soft sand, which ended up with his face being covered in dirt, he could do nothing else.

Ten minutes later, not only did the school doctor come, their homeroom teacher, Demon Yan, the teaching director, Principal Sun, and all the Class 6 students—they had just finished their tests—came over.

The bloody scene in the depths of the grove shocked everyone.

The students sucked in sharp breaths, while the homeroom teacher was scared out of his wits. Demon Yan scowled, and his face turned incredibly dark. The teaching director began jumping in anger after almost having a heart attack.

Even Principal Sun, who had been constantly dozing off, opened his beady eyes, which was a rare sight. He looked back and forth between Meng Chao and Zuo Haoran.

“You have absolutely no regard for the rules! How could you beat him to this state?!”

The teaching director was mad with anger. As he watched his heavily injured nephew, he felt like tearing Meng Chao apart. “Student Affairs Office, hurry up and subjugate the student who broke the rules! Wang Longjun, how do you even teach your students? I-Is he even a student anymore?! He’s practically a murderer, a criminal, a-a—”

He started hiccuping because of his anger, then led two teachers from the student affairs office toward Meng Chao.

The homeroom teacher wanted to stop him, but he could not find a reason to do so. He could only rub his hands as he descended into panic. “What should we do?! Meng Chao, you were too rash!”

The students looked at each other at a loss. They found themselves unable to say anything.

The class rep had been quite mean, so if the two ended up fighting each other to a bloody pulp, the students would still be willing to side with Meng Chao. It didn’t matter even if they had to do so in the face of Principal Sun and the teaching director.

But Meng Chao had decided to lay a heavy hand and snap Zuo Haoran’s spine. Wasn’t that too much?

Of course, there were some who found it strange. "Since when did Meng Chao become so strong that he could cripple the class rep?"

Meng Chao appeared to be relaxed. He crossed his arms and just stood still. Even when the teachers from the student affairs office came over, he did not care. He just took two steps backwards.

"What now? Are you still thinking of fighting back?" The teaching director had a fierce look.

"Meng Chao, you can't keep making mistakes!" the homeroom teacher quickly said.

"No, I'm perfectly fine with going to the student affairs office. Things have already progressed to this state, and I am indeed responsible for it. It's not something I can shake off," Meng Chao said in a leisurely tone.

"But I have some evidences here that I should bring out to all of you now, or else, I won't be able to know when they're destroyed in the dark. Mr. Yan, I trust you the most. Please look below the trees around us with banners tied on them. I've put eight super high-definition micro video cameras on them. They should have recorded the fight just now from multiple angles. We'll know what happened when we look at them."

The crowd was stunned.

Even the teaching director was taken aback. "Why did you put video cameras over there?"

Meng Chao smiled. "I didn't come here to fight against the class rep to settle our personal grudge. We were just going to spar and exchange techniques. We wanted to improve together. The class rep is strong, and it's rare for me to spar with him, so it's only par for the course that I'd want to record the entire session from a 360-degree angle. Then, when I go back, I could examine it carefully and improve more.

"Don't you always record our cultivation processes and fights to analyze our mistakes? I don't see anything wrong with what I did."

Chapter 50: It's Just A Surprise

The teaching director had nothing to say about it.

Demon Yan cast a glance at Principal Sun and searched around the area. Soon, he brought out eight video cameras.

When Meng Chao saw the video cameras in Demon Yan's hands, he said, "It's true that Zuo Haoran is injured, but I don't understand what happened. I've just recovered, and my limbs are weak. There's no way I could deliver such a heavy punch. Mr. Yan, Mr. Wang, Teaching Director Ma, please watch the videos before the students and help me figure out what happened, or else..."

"Or else what? Do you think that the school will falsely accuse an innocent man?" The teaching director braced himself. "Mr. Yan, turn on the videos, let's have a look."

Each micro video camera had its own super high-definition monitor.

Demon Yan handed the eight video cameras to the teaching director and the homeroom teachers of the other third year classes. Wang Longjun managed to get himself one as well.

Chu Feixiong and the other students quickly went behind Wang Longjun and craned their necks to take a look.

The fight was very short. It only lasted a bit over two minutes. First, Meng Chao was beat up so badly that his face was a bloody mess. Then, he pounced on Zuo Haoran. After that, Zuo Haoran went flying while coughing blood.

The normal students could not understand it, but the homeroom teachers looked contemplative. The teaching director's face turned white, and Demon Yan's pupils shrank.

He gathered up the other video cameras and slowed down the video five times and replayed the final scene several times from different angles.

Then, he cursed softly and strode to Zuo Haoran, who was on the stretcher.

"Tell me. What move were you about to use against Meng Chao?" Demon Yan asked while glaring at him.

Zuo Haoran's face was pale. He could not say anything even after a long time had passed.

"Hurry up and tell me. Even if you don't tell me, I already know it. But if we don't figure out what sort of injury you have, you might miss the optimal time to be treated, and your injury will accompany you for life!" Demon Yan's expression was fierce.

The ruthless instructor's intimidating presence was not something the heavily injured Zuo Haoran could stand up to. He shuddered and said, "I-It's Heart Hammer."

When he said these words, before the students reacted, the homeroom teachers sucked in sharp breaths and jerked in shock.

"You know Heart Hammer?"

"You were just sparring with another fellow student, and yet you used Heart Hammer! What were you thinking of doing?"

"Ah! Zuo Haoran, y-you were too rash!"

Everyone was shocked and remorseful.

The teaching director covered his face. He looked as if everything was over.

"Mr. Yan, what's going on? How was Zuo Haoran injured? We want to know." Chu Feixiong stood out to represent all of Class 6.

Demon Yan cast a glance at Principal Sun. When he saw that the principal was not reacting to the situation, he faced the excited students and answered honestly.

"Zuo Haoran used a very powerful killing move called Heart Hammer during the sparring session just now, but he hasn't mastered it, and there were obstructions in his force execution. The explosive

strength was all gathered on his spine, and the moment he was about to release it, Meng Chao hit his chest, which caused the strength at the depths of his spine to explode. It resulted in his spine exploding.”

“Heart Hammer... as in the attack described ‘with a crack of the whip, a needle seeps into bones’?” After saying this, a student who was very well-read finally remembered what it was and could not help but cry out. “This is a domineering killing move only used against monsters who have strong defenses.

“The power of the punch can pierce the organs and destroy the heart. Zuo Haoran actually tried to use it on Meng Chao? Isn’t that too diabolical?”

“I see! So he reaped what he sowed?”

“So, Meng Chao was actually defending himself?”

“Meng Chao didn’t injure Zuo Haoran, he hurt himself. You can’t blame Meng Chao for this!”

Demon Yan handed the eight video cameras to the teaching director. “Teaching Director Ma, do you have any opinion regarding my judgment?”

The features of Ma Qingyun’s horse-like face bunched up so much that he looked like a fried dough twist. The color of his face changed several times, but in the end, he said fiercely, “N-no matter what, this was caused by them fighting in secret. Meng Chao, why did you come to the grove to fight against Zuo Haoran?!”

“Teaching Director Ma, allow me to say this again, we were not fighting but sparring, and it was an accident. That Heart Hammer was also something Zuo Haoran mentioned that he would demonstrate to me beforehand. That’s why I believe that it would be better to categorize the whole thing as an accident,” Meng Chao said calmly.

“Otherwise, it would be very hard to understand what went on. Zuo Haoran and I only have a little disagreement between us, which is something that can be resolved with a few words. Why should he use a move that is said to be able to deliver needles into bones with just one crack of a whip?

“That’s a little over the top. If things really go out of hand, it’ll be bad for me, Zuo Haoran, Class 6, and the school. What do you think?”

The teaching director’s expression changed.

The homeroom teachers furrowed their brows.

He was right. Students fighting against each other was common, but if they used Heart Hammer during a fight, were filmed doing it, and word about it spread out, it would be difficult for them to control how things would blow up.

If it were not handled properly, Ninth High School’s reputation would be ruined.

Even the teaching director himself would be disgraced for teaching a nephew who was ruthless and ended up reaping what he sowed. He would have trouble progressing the career ladder.

But if the students were just sparring and an accident occurred, it was a different matter.

The teaching director was still hesitating, but at that moment, Principal Sun, who had not spoken since the start, finally opened his mouth.

“Teaching Director Ma, Zuo Haoran is still lying there. Shouldn’t you send the boy to the hospital? The other classes are still going through their tests. If we continue with the argument, we’ll affect the children’s future. That will not be good.”

The small, shriveled up old man spoke feebly. Since he was missing a few teeth, he spoke with a lisp, and he did not sound imposing at all.

But the teaching director looked as if he had just been struck by a stick. He instantly held his anger back, lowered his head, and said, “Yes, Principal Sun.”

“Mr. Yan, ask Meng Chao what exactly happened and how did the accident occur. Then, write a report about it. By the way, put on a friendlier face. Don’t scare the children now.”

“Understood, Principal Sun!” Demon Yan instinctively saluted. It looked like a ruthless instructor was facing his own ruthless instructor.

“It’s pretty good, hmm?”

Principal Sun smiled and returned to how he usually looked like—a mascot who only knew how to doze off. His hands were placed behind his back when he walked out of the grove.

The class released a long sigh. Judging by the looks of it, the incident would be classified as an accident.

However, Meng Chao should have coincidentally and unintentionally hit a fatal spot on Zuo Haoran, right? It was not wrong, then, to say it was an accident.

What else could have happened? There was no way Meng Chao could have countered Heart Hammer! It would make absolutely no sense if he did!

While the class watched with a complicated gaze, Meng Chao was led away by Demon Yan.

But they did not go to the office or the student affairs office. They only strolled about the schoolyard.

Demon Yan walked at a moderate pace in front of Meng Chao when he suddenly asked an unrelated and very strange question. “How much did you hold back during your speed and strength tests this morning?”

Meng Chao did not intend to hide and thought about it. “About twenty to thirty percent?”

It was twenty to thirty percent right now, but the figures might change in a few days.

“Why?”

“It wasn’t challenging, so I wasn’t interested in it.”

“Heh. And only the Golden Target was able to stir up your interest? Your shooting skills are pretty good. Who did you learn it from?”

“My dad. He was once an ace sharpshooter in the army. A few days ago, a Ghost-eyed Golden Winged Flame Beetle invaded Blessed Heavenly Garden. My dad dealt a headshot to it.”

"I see." Demon Yao suddenly stopped still, turned his head around, and said, "What happened today was intentional."

Meng Chao did not back down from the ruthless instructor's suddenly fierce gaze. Instead, he took a huge step forward, as if he was trying to clash weapons against him. "Yes, it was intentional."

"I need an explanation."

Meng Chao shrugged. "It was purely self-defense."

"Was it self-defense, or were you launching a preemptive strike? If you hadn't been baiting him, Zuo Haoran might not have attacked you."

"Am I supposed to stake my destiny on the possibility that he might not harm me?" Meng Chao smiled coldly. "Mr. Yan, right now, if there was a fierce monster standing beside you and your family, would you carefully judge whether it's hungry or not, whether it would choose to spare you, or whether it was going through some difficulty?"

"Would you try to decipher whether it is a kind monster? Would you think about whether you could find a better way to get rid of it?"

"I'm just a high school student. When I handle matters, I am not able to pay attention to all details. I can only dig a pit and fill it with spikes. Then, I will stand behind that pit to see whether the monster will follow me. If it doesn't come, I won't bother it. But if it insists on coming after me, what can I do? Am I supposed to kneel down and beg it not to attack?"

Demon Yan stared at Meng Chao for a long time before saying, "Alright, I can accept this explanation. I'll handle the trouble that will come later. Just focus on preparing for your exam!"

Meng Chao sighed in relief and smiled brilliantly. "Thank you, Mr. Yan. I knew that you're the fairest and kindest teacher in the entire school."

Demon Yan waved his hand. "You don't have to flatter me. If you're really thinking about thanking me, then have you ever thought about getting into military school?"

Meng Chao shook his head frankly. "Feixiong wants to become a general who fights in wars. Please help him. As for me, forget it."

A cunning look flashed in Demon Yan's eyes. "Why? I don't think you're the type who hates wars."

Meng Chao had been a harvester for ten years of his life, and he had gained some occupational diseases because of it. He pouted. "Being a soldier is too crude. They use guns, cannons, and tanks to reduce the monsters into a mess. Resources that were originally in perfect shape end up mostly destroyed. Fighting in such a simple and crude manner isn't my style."

Demon Yan smiled. "Oh? And what sort of style do you like?"

"Meticulous, precise, and elegant."

Meng Chao thought about it, and he could not help but brandish his hands. It was as if he was holding an invisible scalpel and surgery knives. "I like cutting into monster skin carefully, going through their

blood vessels, gently caressing their organs, searching through every drop of their blood, and separating their organs perfectly before placing them in vessels filled with all sorts of medicinal liquid.

“In the end, a fearsome monster will become exquisite art. This is the art of a harvester, and I want to become an artist in this area.”

Demon Yan was unable to help it and shuddered when he saw the intoxicated expression on Meng Chao’s face.

Were all high school students this crazy nowadays?

Demon Yan took a few steps forward and said nonchalantly, “Last question. You said you dreamt of my death that day?”

Meng Chao was stunned. Then, he remembered what Demon Yan said. He was referring to the day he was reborn.

“Urgh... Mr. Yan, dreams are the exact opposite of reality. Are you bothered by this?” He scratched his head.

“Heh. I’m not bothered by it at all. Instead, I hope that’s the case.” While Meng Chao was shocked, Demon Yan said, “I was once a member of Dragon City’s regular army, Red Dragon Army. Even though I have been discharged from service, I will be a member of the Red Dragon Army till the moment I die.

“The greatest humiliation to a soldier is to die in his sleep. Since a person is going to die either way, I hope that I can die in a monster’s stomach and use my very last bone to pierce a monster’s heart. That is the best way for a member of the Red Dragon Army to die.

“So, thank you for dreaming of me fighting to my death, Meng Chao.”

This time, it was Meng Chao’s turn to be unable to speak.

Demon Yan laughed loudly and strode forward.