

Tribulation of Myriad Races #Chapter 111: Nobody Would Believe That! - Read Tribulation of Myriad Races Chapter 111: Nobody Would Believe That!

Chapter 111: Nobody Would Believe That!

Wilderness.

Several figures could be seen beside a certain small hill.

"Everyone, are we doing it this year as well?"

After a short silence, someone gloomily said, "The Divine Skywing Sect has been destroyed. Great Xia is a dangerous place. I heard that for this year, even a small city like Nanyuan has a Skysoar expert escorting their convoy. What do you think, everyone?"

"Our dao master intends to skip this year."

The person who had spoken was a woman. With a smile, she said, "Great Xia is like a cat with its tail stepped on. Even the Martial Dragon Guards have been recalled from the battlefield. We don't even know where their main force is hidden right now. It's not worth risking ourselves just to kill some hatchlings."

In the cult's hierarchy, a dao master was the equivalent of a prefect. Each dao master was in charge of the cult's operations in an entire prefecture.

The cult leader of each city was called hallmasters. Generally, these hallmasters were Skysoar experts. As for the dao masters, their strength differed. They varied between the Mountainsea and the Cloudbreach Realms.

The sect the woman belonged to had clearly given up on this year's hunt.

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The first person who had spoken replied gloomily, "Your Divine Cloudrat Sect has always been so cowardly. Xia Longwu is in seclusion. That greedy Marquis Xia is the one in charge now. Do you think he will send the Martial Dragon Guards out to ambush us?"

"In fact, this year is our perfect opportunity with Xia Longwu's absence. If we can kill the geniuses from the 28 cities, that's the same as killing at least 10 future Skysoar experts that would otherwise emerge in the coming 20 years."

The woman did not mind the accusation. She smiled and said, "Only by being careful will you be able to live a long life. The Divine Skywing Sect was powerful and courageous. They have been spending many years developing in the other prefectures."

"But the moment they come to Great Xia, their heads fall like wheat and their entire sect is destroyed. Even their sect master was killed together with a large number of divines. Us of the Divine Cloudrat Sect aren't as strong as them. But we are also far less arrogant.

"We won't be participating in this year's hunt. If your Blood Fire Sect wants to make a move, go ahead. We're not stopping you."

The Blood Fire Sect was the same sect that had worked with the Divine Skywing Sect during the attack on Nanyuan not long ago. The woman knew that this sect was filled with lunatics.

Due to their inheritance from the blood fire devil race, they were all crazy. During the event that caused the Divine Skywing Sect's destruction, the Blood Fire Sect had suffered disastrous losses as well. But instead of being scared, they doubled down and sent even more people into Great Xia.

They wanted to get their revenge during Xia Longwu's seclusion. The woman was not interested in going crazy and seeking death with them.

Sure, Xia Longwu was in seclusion, but Great Xia as a whole was still as powerful as ever. They only needed to keep growing silently. Why did they need to provoke the prefecture? That would only harm themselves.

The person from the Blood Fire Sect was unhappy, but he couldn't be bothered to argue with the woman. The Divine Cloudrat Sect was not a powerful sect anyway so he didn't really care about their participation.

Someone else said, "It will be impossible for us to eliminate the geniuses of all 28 cities. But the cult forces have suffered a lot of losses in Great Xia over the years. All the other branches are questioning our ability and the number of new recruits in Great Xia has been dropping sharply.

"The destruction of the Divine Skywing Sect has embarrassed the Myriad Race Cult. If we can't get some revenge, the cult will start declining from this loss of reputation."

The gloomy man sighed, "Our Blood Fire Sect isn't doing all this just for revenge. I know that Great Xia is laying out a trap for us. They definitely thought that Nanyuan would be our target. After all, a genius has appeared there this year, a genius with high-tier war academy evaluation and high-high cultural research academy evaluation. He also has a completed Divine Character...

"News of that person has spread everywhere. There's nothing weird about the news, but a genius like that should have been secretly escorted to the capital. But that isn't happening..."

The man sneered, "That's a bait! A bait waiting for us to bite!"

Someone else asked, "In that case, why are you still preparing to conduct the hunt, Hallmaster Xue'e?"

"Why not?" The man said, "Since they have tossed out the bait, why shouldn't we bite?"

"We of the Blood Fire Sect love nothing more than slaughter. A world without slaughter would be too boring. We will send some people to attack the Nanyuan convoy, but they won't be our main goal.

"Do they think that they're the only ones who know how to misdirect? Our true goal will be the second biggest city in Great Xia, Beifeng City!"

The man smiled sinisterly, "A small group of cult members will attack the Nanyuan convoy, baiting the ambush waiting for us. Meanwhile, we will be attacking the Beifeng convoy. They won't expect that we would have the courage to attack Beifeng!"

"After all, Beifeng is less than 500 kilometers away from the capital. Their convoy is escorted by at least five Skysoar experts. They even have one or two Cloudbreach experts following them in secret.

"In the past years, we had always avoided Beifeng. They look down on us. They disregard us. After so many years, they are starting to relax their security measures.

"In contrast, cities like Nanyuan and Tianshui are instead extremely alert since they are weaker and have been victims to our attacks in the past. They will be very hard to ambush.

"If we launch a surprise attack at Beifeng, we can definitely achieve a great result. They have a lot of geniuses. In fact, their number of geniuses is second only to the capital itself. They have around 10 high-tier students and more than 100 middle-tier students. Killing a high-tier student will grant us at least 30 contribution points. That is basically the same as killing a seventh-stage Infinite Strength cultivator."

"Killing a middle-tier student will also give us 5 contribution points. Killing two of them will be the same as killing an early-stage Infinite Strength cultivator.

"If we can defeat their convoy, we can earn no less than 1,000 contribution points. If we can kill some of their dao protectors as well, we can earn more than 2,000 contribution points.

"Don't forget that Beifeng is rich. Those geniuses will carry their willpower texts, original texts, cultivation weapons, source qi liquid, and so on. If we succeed, we stand to earn more than 5,000 contribution points."

At that declaration, the breathing of the people around him quickened. The value of Myriad Race Cult's contribution points were similar to the merit points of the official human government.

In short, they stood to earn 5,000 merit points from this mission. They would need to kill 50 early-stage Skysoar experts to earn that much. Even killing a Cloudbreach expert would only grant them around 500 contribution points. They would need to kill a Mountainsea expert to earn 5,000 contribution points. But were Mountainsea experts easy to kill?

But now, they only needed to attack a single student convoy. No matter how strong their escorts were, they would be nowhere as strong as Mountainsea experts.

Someone said in excitement, "Beifeng is very strong. We need at least three Cloudbreach experts and five or six Skysoar experts if we want to defeat them quickly. But the gains would be too little for so many experts..."

"Foolish!" The man from the Blood Fire Sect sneered. "If we can kill the geniuses of Beifeng, will the higher ups skim on our rewards? The 5,000 contribution points will be our minimum earning. If we succeed, the rewards from the higher ups will be at least double that amount. We stand to get 10,000 contribution points!

"Our subordinates will be happy with about 1,000 contribution points. We can split the rest among ourselves. Each of us can gain no less than 1,000 points. How long will you need to work for that many points?"

The breathing around him became even quicker. For them, that was a lot of points. At times, a single mission would only earn them double digits or even single digit points. And to earn triple digits in points, they would need to risk their lives.

An early-stage Skysoar expert was only worth 100 points. For 1,000 points, they needed to risk their lives 10 times. But now, they only needed to risk their lives once.

The man asked again, "So are we doing it or not? If we succeed, even the divine skywing race might have some rewards for us. We have taken revenge for them. For the sake of rebuilding their sect, they won't be stingy in their rewards. If any of us is interested, we can even take the leading role in the rebuilding efforts and lead the newly built sect."

"Xue'e, is that your plan?"

Xue'e did not mind speaking his mind, "Who doesn't want to rise up the ranks? What's the difference between fighting for the blood fire devil race and the divine skywing race? Hehe, people like us will never become a part of human society. In that case, we will let money determine who we fight for.

"If we can lead the rebuilding efforts of the Divine Skywing Sect, I will definitely gain a lot of support. With the support, I can probably reach the Mountainsea Realm quickly."

Xue'e did not hide his ambitions. With anticipation in his eyes, he said, "Everyone, during the rebuilding, the divine skywing race will be raining down resources on us. Be aware that founders of a sect will gain a lot more than late joiners."

"Xue'e, are you not afraid that the Blood Fire Sect will punish you for that?"

Xue'e sneered, "What am I afraid of? I have nothing. If I succeed, I will be the leader of a sect. At that time, not even the Blood Fire Sect would dare to touch me. If I fail, I'm still a

Cloudbreach expert. The Blood Fire Sect still needs people like me. Since I haven't really betrayed them, are they really going to put the effort into killing me?

"This isn't the Devil Realm of the blood fire devil race. This is the Human Realm. Is it worth the effort to kill me? They might as well keep me around to work for them. Isn't that right?"

With an impatient tone, Xue'e said, "Everyone, think for yourself. Regardless of whether you're joining the hunt or not, you will have to stay here for a few days. If you have any affairs, you can get my subordinates to handle them for you."

Nobody objected as that had always been the rule to prevent information leak.

"Xue'e, we can attack Beifeng, but the group attacking the Nanyuan convoy needs to be strong enough. Otherwise, it will be too obvious that those are abandoned chess pieces. That will also put us in danger. Will you be able to do that?"

"Of course." Xue'e flashed a sinister smile, "The hallmaster of Tianshui does not get along well with me. How about letting him, a sixth-stage Skysoar cultivator, lead the attack? There is only an early-stage Skysoar cultivator from the Martial Dragon Guards in the Nanyuan convoy. He will practically be getting those contribution points for free. Will he reject the offer? magic

"If you have anyone you don't like, feel free to send them to the various convoys as well. Attacking the Nanyuan convoy alone won't be enough. If we attack more convoys, we will eventually reveal their hidden force. That will only make things safer for us."

Nobody said anything. It was inevitable that all of them would have a rival somewhere. It was hard to do anything to these rivals normally, but it would be a good idea to use this opportunity to get rid of their rivals.

"Attacking the Beifeng convoy can earn each of us at least 1,000 points...and we can even become the founders of the new Divine Skywing Sect!"

They were getting excited. Xue'e was not lying. The divine skywing race urgently needed new underlings in the Human Realm. Their sect had been destroyed previously and they couldn't even build the foundation for a new sect now. If these people jumped ship to the divine skywings, they would receive a lot of support.

Beifeng had enjoyed many years of peace. This time, news about the genius from Nanyuan had been spreading everywhere. That might really be a bait. Attacking the Nanyuan convoy could very well be even more dangerous than attacking the Beifeng convoy.

Normally, they wouldn't dare to lay their hands on Beifeng. But nobody said that things were the same as normal this time. The gathered leaders of the various sects were getting very tempted.

Meanwhile, Xue'e was laughing sinisterly. He knew that these people would agree to join him. The benefits were large enough to tempt them. Their greed would be triggered. If they weren't greedy, they wouldn't have joined the Myriad Race Cult in the first place.

"Nanyuan...bait..."

Xue'e sneered as he looked southward. Eating a single genius was not as good as eating multiple geniuses. Great Xia was looking down on his appetite.

"High-high genius...completed Divine Character..."

He sneered. That was definitely a lie. How could a high-high student emerge from a shitty place like Nanyuan? That was definitely a lie. Who would believe that? A high-high student would grant 100 contribution points per kill. That was the same as killing a Skysoar expert.

A lower tier student would probably fail to attract experts like them. Perhaps that was why Great Xia had claimed that there was a high-tier student there?

"You people are looking down on me too much!"

Xue'e was feeling very proud of himself. If the rumors said that such a genius had appeared in Tianshui, he would have believed it. But they just had to use Nanyuan instead. Was Great Xia treating all cult members as fools?

Then again, it was quite a pity that there were indeed people in the cult that had believed the rumor.

Xue'e merely sneered contemptuously at those fools. He was feeling very smug about his superior intelligence. Who would even believe that a high-high student could come out of Nanyuan? It would seem like the cult still had a long way to go. To grow further, they would need to get rid of these fools from the cult.

Chapter 112: Ambush, Counter (1)

In the wilderness, on a winding road.

The convoy was slowly moving forward. The roads of Great Xia were actually built well, but the roads in the wilderness would encounter a lot of issues such as random damages here and there. Some were caused by humans and some were caused by demon beasts.

On the trucks, the students were tired of the bumpy ride. Their exhaustion wasn't the biggest issue. It had been three hours. The biggest issue was that many of them needed to use the toilet. On each of the trucks, students could be heard demanding a stop. They needed to free their bladder.

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At the rear of the convoy.

Xia Bing frowned. It was very dangerous to stop in the middle of the wilderness. If they continued moving, even in the event of an ambush, they could quickly drive away. But the moment they stopped, an ambush would put them in much bigger trouble.

But there were hundreds of students in the convoy. It was unrealistic to tell them to hold their bladder for five hours.

"Stop. We'll take a 10-minute break."

Xia Bing finally decided to order a rest stop. They picked a spot with flat terrain to stop. That way, they could avoid any ambushes.

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Su Yu got off the truck as well. He had been in the wobbling truck for several hours. He was able to handle it fine, but some of the students were starting to throw up from car sickness. After seeing so many students throw up, even Su Yu himself felt like throwing up.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao looked around gloomily and said, "How am I supposed to piss? There are people everywhere."

They had stopped on a flat terrain. The city guards had formed an encirclement around them, not allowing any student to wander off. In this situation, it was very inconvenient for the students to empty their bladder.

It was still not that bad for the males, but the females were turning pale in desperation. Luckily, Xia Bing ordered, "The males will stick to the left of the vehicles while the females will stick to the right of the vehicles. Deal with your bladder there. If you're unwilling, feel free to piss your pants. Everywhere outside a city is a battlefield. If you can't overcome a little hardship like this, you should just go back home."

Some were still unhappy, but they were left with no choice. They could only split up on both sides of the convoy and relied on the vehicles to give them some privacy. Su Yu's bladder was not full yet so he did not follow Chen Hao away.

Instead, he looked around and looked at the desolate wilderness around them. While studying his surroundings, Xia Bing stopped nearby and beckoned at him.

Su Yu hurriedly walked over. When he was near, Xia Bing said, "Don't get into truck #1 anymore. Get into the truck behind instead...Also, put on a city guard uniform."

Su Yu's eyes flickered in thought as he nodded. He did not tell Chen Hao anything much apart from the fact that he was going to change trucks. He then went to the city guards' truck behind truck #1. In the truck, he changed into a city guard outfit and sat among the city guards.

Xia Bing exhaled lightly and said, "This is for your safety. This will also be better for the others. Things will be much more dangerous for your companions in truck #1 if you're there with them."

"I understand." Su Yu nodded. He softly asked, "Sir Xia, we should be reaching Tianshui City soon, right? I checked the map before. There aren't any suitable ambush locations nearby. The cult won't show up anymore, right?"

"You never know." Xia Bing shook his head.

Su Yu asked, "Every year at this time, these student convoys would be attacked. Is the government not doing anything about it?"

Xia Bing smiled and shook his head without saying anything. They naturally wouldn't take a beating without hitting back. In fact, they would set some bait each year to lure the cult members out. But that was a military secret. Nobody knew for sure which convoy was the bait and which wasn't.

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At the same time.

A few kilometers away from the convoy, a group of people were hiding in a depression on the ground. They were all looking at the stopped convoy.

A middle-aged man in the group asked the old man beside him, "Hallmaster, the Nanyuan convoy has stopped. Do we attack now?"

"No." The Tianshui hallmaster objected. This place was too open. Their targets could choose to flee or cause heavy casualties to them before they could even reach the convoy.

After all, the city guards were equipped with bows and arrows. Attacking from so far away would basically make them live targets.

"Hallmaster, we won't have a better opportunity moving forward..."

The old man indifferently said, "If we can't find an opportunity, we will simply not attack. It's not like this is a profitable job. If we have the chance, we'll go take a bite. If not, we give up."

"It would be hard to explain ourselves to Sir Xue'e."

"He's a hallmaster. I'm a hallmaster too. Why do I need to explain myself to him? I only need to assist with his mission. We didn't promise to throw our lives away."

The old man was unbothered. Xue'e was also a hallmaster like him. He was only cooperating because Xue'e was a Cloudbreach expert. He never got along well with Xue'e. Thus, although he was cooperating, he definitely wouldn't risk his life for it.

After a short observation, the old man was able to get a good measure of the strength of this convoy. They only had one Skysoar expert and a few Infinite Strength cultivators. The rest of them were ordinary Great Strength city guards.

"Let's go. We'll wait at the Yuanshui Village ahead of them."

"Yuanshui Village?" The middle-aged man said in shock, "Hallmaster, that's already within Tianshui City's borders. That village is less than 30 kilometers away from the city itself..."

"That's the only place we can make a move." The old man coldly said, "As Tianshui City is near, the convoy will relax when they reach the village. There are also many roadside houses in the village. That will make it easier for us to hide. We only need to be fast enough and withdraw before the reinforcements from Tianshui arrive. Attacking there will be safer than attacking here."

"Cut the crap. Go get ready. We need to finish our preparations before they're there."

They then retreated and started moving toward Tianshui City through a different path. These people were all powerful cultivators, so they were able to run rapidly through the wilderness while keeping their back bent to keep themselves hidden.

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The instant the cult members retreated, Xia Bing looked in their direction with a frown. He had a feeling that someone or something was looking at him a moment ago. Was it a human or a demon beast? Or maybe it was a regular wild animal?

"Get into the trucks. We'll resume our journey. Tianshui is two hours away."

With Xia Bing's command, the convoy resumed their journey. In the truck, Su Yu had his saber in his hands while paying close attention to his surroundings.

After a while, Su Yu exhaled in relief when he saw that there were no attacks. Although he had never encountered any wilderness attacks before, he wouldn't dare to relax since even Xia Bing was so nervous.

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The trucks continued advancing. The ride was bumpy and the journey was slow.

Beside Su Yu, a squad leader of the city guards smiled and said, "Don't be so tense. It's not good to be too nervous either. Don't worry, Student Su Yu. After reaching Tianshui, our remaining journey will be much safer."

Su Yu nodded and said, "Big Brother Ma, do the city guards normally go out to suppress the demon beasts and cult members in the wilderness?"

"At times." The squad leader said, "Only a small number of cult members would actually hide in the cities. Most of them are outside the cities. The wilderness is basically their homeground. We would frequently send our scouts out to look for them. The moment a stronghold is found, we will set out and exterminate them."

Su Yu nodded in understanding. He asked, "Big Brother Ma, I'm very curious. The cult has lost a lot of their members in Great Xia. Why are there still so many people joining them?"

"There are many reasons." The squad leader was a veteran soldier. He sighed and said, "The Myriad Race Cult is composed of many types of people. Firstly, the deserters."

Su Yu's pupils shrank. He had never considered that possibility.

"Because of the constant battles on the Allheaven Battlefield, casualties are high. Not everyone there is fearless. Some lose their courage and become deserters. And if they're lucky to leave the Allheaven Battlefield alive, they can no longer remain with the army as desertion is punishable by death. They can only join the Myriad Race Cult.

"Secondly, escaped convicts. Some cultivators prefer to kill and rob others of their wealth instead of making a living on the battlefield. When they are discovered by the authorities, they become wanted criminals. There are some who have simply turned to a life of crime for easy money. As criminals, the lawless nature of the Myriad Race Cult proves much more attractive to them than the regular armies.

"Thirdly, the believers. This subset of the cult is actually the hardest to deal with. They truly believe in the divines and devils. They believe that the divines and devils are omnipotent and can live for eternity. They wish to one day enter the Divine Realm or the Devil Realm. For them, each word spoken by the divines or the devils is akin to the word of a god.

"And fourthly, the swindlers."

Su Yu blanked out. Swindlers?

The squad leader softly said, "That's what they are. Some people will gather a group of people and claim to be the believers of a certain race. Then, they will swindle a large amount of resources from that race."

The squad leader had an amused expression as he continued, "They discovered that it is very easy to swindle some of the minor races. Thus, these people started joining the Myriad Race Cult as well. There are actually quite a lot of them around. Many of the minor sects were founded by these people. They only need to gather dozens of people and try to get a connection to a random race before swindling a large amount of resources from that race. This is much easier than working honestly for what they want..."

"Are there actually such stupid races out there?"

Su Yu could not believe it. But then again, anything was possible.

The squad leader smiled, "The foreign races are not in the Human Realm, so what do they know? If these people are willing to spread their faith in the Human Realm and provide them with some information, that will be enough for the foreign races. In fact, a lot of the minor races are aware that they are being swindled, but they still need the information provided by these swindlers.

"Although those people are swindlers, they are still humans living in the Human Realm. The random information they provide could still prove to be useful for the other races."

The squad leader sighed and said, "You might think that these swindlers are not as hateful as the others. But in truth, they deserve death too! Some information that they regard as unimportant could be very important for the foreign races at times. For example, a few years ago, a cult member informed the foreign race about a relative of his that was serving in a certain human army. He told the foreign race that his relative was back home to visit his friends and families.

"But through that information, the foreign race discovered that the entire army was in the middle of reorganization with many of their soldiers absent. The foreign race took the opportunity to launch a surprise attack on the army, resulting in disastrous losses."

Su Yu sighed and stopped asking questions.

Chapter 113: Ambush, Counter (2)

Time passed slowly.

They were getting closer and closer to Tianshui. At this time, the city guards were getting even more nervous. As veterans, they understood that this was the most likely moment for danger to appear.

Xia Bing had already flown into the sky several times to scan the area.

Beside him, someone reported, "We are dozens of kilometers away from Tianshui. Ahead of us is the Yuanshui Village. After passing through the village, we will reach Tianshui in 30 minutes."

They were already inside the borders of Tianshui. Tianshui was a much larger city than Nanyuan. They had more than 5,000 city guards with a large number of Skysoar experts in their ranks. In fact, they even had Cloudbreach experts in the city. When they reached Tianshui, the cult would no longer dare to attack them.

They could already start seeing some houses beside the road. Some of the locals were even gawking at the convoy. Children could be seen running around by the road. The convoy slowed down. Since this was a residential area, accidents might happen if they moved too fast.

It was at this moment that many of the city guards relaxed. Finally, they were back at civilization. Generally, this meant that they were already safe. The journey had been smooth as they had not encountered any attack.

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More and more buildings could be seen on the two sides of the road.

Right ahead of the convoy was a relatively small roadside house. Inside the house, the hallmaster of Tianshui took a deep breath and said, "They have a Skysoar cultivator. I will keep him busy. Remember, your targets are not the city guards. Aim for the students.

"Don't kill them all. Leave some alive to slow the city guards down."

"Seriously injure some of them and lightly injure some of them before withdrawing. That way, the city guards and Martial Dragon Guards will not be able to focus on chasing after us."

If they killed all the students, this would turn into a battle until the bitter end. But if they keep some injured students around, the city guards and Martial Dragon Guards would be forced to look after the students.

The city guards would most likely stay behind to keep watch over the students while the Martial Dragon Guards would not have enough people to pursue them. This wasn't the hallmaster's first rodeo. He was well-experienced.

In the past, some brainless cult members had actually killed all the students during one of these hunts. As a result, the city guards and Martial Dragon Guards went crazy and chased after the cult members relentlessly. Ultimately, both sides ended up with disastrous losses.

"It's enough to kill some of them. This won't be too dangerous yet it will earn us a decent amount of points. After the mission, leave Tianshui's borders immediately. Do you understand?"

"Roger." The other ringleaders answered.

The hallmaster exhaled and sent his willpower out to cover the house, preventing the enemy Skysoar cultivator from discovering them.

Although warriors didn't specialize on willpower, at the Skysoar Realm, their willpower would start growing. Sure, their willpower wouldn't be as strong as proper cultural researchers, but it would be good enough for concealment.

"Xue'e..."

The hallmaster muttered to himself. That fellow never got along well with him. That fellow had ordered an attack against Nanyuan yet he himself was nowhere to be seen.

"Is he trying to use me as bait?"

The hallmaster was feeling uneasy. But Xue'e was a Cloudbreach cultivator. He couldn't disregard the order. He had spent a long time observing the convoy. He did not discover any signs of ambush.

"We'll strike once before withdrawing immediately."

The hallmaster decided. He couldn't disobey Xue'e's orders, but his mission would be considered accomplished as long as an attack was launched. He would then flee quickly. As a sixth-stage Skysoar cultivator, he could easily escape so long as he didn't try to actually kill the Skysoar cultivator from the Martial Dragon Guards.

"Xue'e, are you trying to make me serve as the bait while you profit somewhere else?"

The hallmaster started guessing, but he soon stopped thinking as the Nanyuan convoy was drawing near.

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"We're near Tianshui."

They were slowly driving out of Yuanshui Village. Beside Su Yu, Squad Leader Ma exhaled in relief and said, "We will reach Tianshui in half an hour. This is quite a smooth trip..."

There were only a few buildings ahead of them. A vague outline of a massive city could be seen in the distance. They were around 30 kilometers away, so they still couldn't get a clear look at the city. Right that moment, a pop sounded from a truck ahead of them.

Next, someone shouted, "The tire burst."

First, everyone turned tense. But upon hearing that, everyone relaxed again. Su Yu could hear someone asking, "Can the truck keep going? We can change the tire at Tianshui."

However, the convoy still stopped. With the first truck stopping, the other trucks couldn't keep going.

"We can't. We'll have to change the tire here. It won't take long..."

Xia Bing was scanning his surroundings. Beside him, a Martial Dragon Guards soldier was doing the same. There were still some houses around them. The ruckus had attracted some gazes from the locals who were gathering around them to gawk.

"Squad Leader..." The soldier beside Xia Bing said, "Something isn't right."

"Huh?" Xia Bing was instantly on alert, "What's wrong?"

He did not notice anything. Since they were near their destination, he had relaxed considerably.

"There are too many men...and there are no children around."

The soldier's face changed. There were men and women around them. These people were all dressed in civilian outfits. But this place felt somewhat different. This place should be large enough to house around a dozen families, but not a single child could be seen or heard.

Further ahead of them, children could still be seen running around. Meanwhile, not even a domestic animal could be seen in their vicinity. There were men and women in the Myriad Race Cult, but there definitely wouldn't be any children during their missions. magic

Xia Bing instantly came to a realization. He was furious at himself for not noticing the same.

He hurriedly shouted, "Enemy attack! Get ready!"

Immediately after, the gawking villagers started charging at them.

Rumble!

One of the trucks was instantly slashed open by one of the villagers, causing a series of surprised shouts to ring out. Xia Bing was about to move over to help when a figure charged straight toward him.

A loud boom sounded as a saber and a sword clashed. The truck Xia Bing was on burst apart from the impact. The other Martial Dragon Guards were also kept busy by the other cult members. Xia Bing was forced to take a few steps backward before he charged the figure in the air with a roar.

They had been ambushed!

Only then did everyone in the convoy come to this realization. They couldn't believe that the enemies were actually attacking so near Tianshui City.

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At the same time, Su Yu's truck was under attack as well. An Infinite Strength cult member was leading several Great Strength cult members in the attack. The city guards roared and jumped off the truck to face the attackers.

"Protect the trucks!"

"Students, don't wander off! Some of you go protect truck #3!"

"Team #7, protect truck #7!"

The commander of the city guards shouted a series of commands. There weren't a lot of attackers, but some of the students were running around in panic. If they left the city guards' protection, they would be killed with a single strike.

Su Yu did not take part in the fight. When he saw that the city guards near him had things under control, he jumped off the truck and rushed toward truck #1.

Chen Hao was still there!

Clad in a city guard uniform, he wasn't the priority target of the cult members. Along the way, a Great Strength cult member noticed him and was about to attack before his vision turned dark.

That was a new illusion Su Yu had created recently. Darkness. Before the cult member could react, Su Yu swung his saber and split the cult member into two. He had already consumed a drop of blood essence. This was not the time to hesitate.

With his Divine Character, the offensive strength of a seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator, and a profound-grade martial technique like the Lightning Source Blade, he was able to easily kill the Great Strength cult member.

He did not stick around and continued running toward truck #1.

The attacking cult members weren't too strong. Their Infinite Strength cultivators were all facing the city guards and Martial Dragon Guards while their Great Strength cultivators were in charge of hunting the students.

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Before long, Su Yu reached truck #1. Chen Hao and the others had their weapons out. Some looked alarmed while some looked fearful. However, all of them were staying silent. No matter what, these were elite students that were far calmer than the regular students.

Outside the truck, the city guards were able to hold the line against the cult members, so the students did not panic.

Before reaching the truck, Su Yu heard Chen Hao shouting, "What are you afraid of? If they come, we'll kill them! It's not like I've never killed any of these cult animals before!"

Su Yu heaved a breath of relief when he saw that they were safe. He did not take his city guard uniform off as it wouldn't be too surprising for a city guard to kill a few cult members. But if he did it as a student, he would immediately attract the attention of all the cult members.

In that situation, even a fool would know that he was a genius. Su Yu believed that it would be safer for him to keep pretending to be a city guard. When he saw that Chen Hao and the others were fine, he stopped approaching the truck and rushed toward the battling cultivators.

Ahead of them, a few city guards were facing a few cult members. He silently recreated his illusion. The vision of the cult members turned dark. That split second of interruption was enough for the city guards to kill a few of them.

The remaining cult members were instantly placed in a disadvantageous position. They wouldn't be able to hold on for much longer. Beads of sweat formed on Su Yu's forehead from the exertion. Forming those illusions had drained a lot of his willpower.

He was standing near truck #3. The students in the truck were shouting as some cult members had approached them. When he looked over, he saw that there were only two city guards protecting the truck while five cult members had approached.

He wasted no time and rushed over. One of the cult members turned around to face him. The same scene repeated as the cult member's vision turned dark. While swinging his saber around in panic, his head was cut off by Su Yu.

"Kill him!"

Two alarmed cult members turned around and charged him. Su Yu took a deep breath and consumed another drop of blood essence. A layer of electricity appeared around his saber as he imbued the power of his lightning character into the blade.

Rumbling Thunder!

This was Su Yu's first time using the second move of the Lightning Source Blade. His blade instantly sped up. Thunder boomed as he swung his blade. The visions of the two cult members darkened. When they heard the booming thunder, they hurriedly stepped back in panic.

One was able to move out of the way while the other was split apart by Su Yu's blade. The exhaustion caused Su Yu to stagger. He barely avoided falling onto the ground. When he saw that the other cult member had tumbled onto the ground, he took the chance to stab out, nailing the cult member on the ground.

In the blink of an eye, three cult members had been killed. Everything had happened too fast. When the two city guards saw how ferocious their comrade was, their morale rose as they roared and charged the two remaining cult members, forcing the two to retreat.

Chapter 114: Ambush, Counter (3)

Before anyone knew it, the surroundings of the convoy had turned into a field of slaughter. The battle between Skysoar cultivators was ongoing in the sky. Xia Bing looked incomparably sorry with numerous wounds on his body, his blood raining down from the sky.

Everyone else was too busy to pay any attention to the fight between the Skysoar cultivators. After a short rest, Su Yu continued creating illusions. This time, he hid somewhere and played a support role instead of fighting personally.

Sure, it felt good to kill the enemies with his own hands, but the source qi exhaustion was too great for him. He was better off supporting his allies in the battle. That way, he would be able to maximize his value.

The enemies did not have a lot of people in the first place. With Su Yu's interruptions, it did not take long for over 20 cult members to fall. In the sky, the hallmaster could feel that something was off.

The gap between the two parties shouldn't be this big. Why did so many of them die suddenly? The cult members were only supposed to keep them busy instead of fighting to the death. Why were so many of them dead?

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"This isn't right..."

When he saw another cult member being cut down by a city guard, he finally noticed the issue. He exclaimed, "There's a cultural researcher around!"

A cultural researcher had appeared!

That was clearly a willpower interruption or some other trick of a cultural researcher. In any case, it wasn't the trick of a regular warrior. The cult member had clearly panicked for no reason right before he was cut down. That wasn't normal at all.

And the appearance of a cultural researcher meant that there was another Skysoar cultivator around. Even his life was under threat now.

"Retreat!"

With a roar, the cult members started fleeing in all directions. Right that moment, a golden streak of light shot over and stabbed through the hallmaster's head. Then, more golden streaks of light arrived.

Instantly, dozens of cult members were killed.

An old man appeared out of nowhere and landed on the ground. When he looked around, he frowned and said, "My apologies. I was away to scout our surroundings as I thought they would attack in the wilderness. I was mistaken."

Evidently, this was the expert in charge of protecting the Nanyuan convoy in secret. He had left to scout around, clearly neglecting the possibility that an attack might happen in Yuanshui Village.

Xia Bing landed from the sky with his body dyed red in blood. He looked at the old man and demanded, "You're alone?"

If he was alone, then it wasn't surprising that the cult members had been able to get through him.

The old man nodded, "Yeah. There were two of us, but the other person heard that something happened in Tianshui so he went ahead of us."

"His actions have negatively affected the battle."

After giving that remark, Xia Bing ignored the old man. He did not seem to care that the old man had instantly killed a sixth-stage Skysoar cultivator. After looking around, he exhaled in relief.

Fortunately, the losses hadn't been too great. About seven or eight had perished on their side. There were some unlucky students who had been killed when running around in panic. Some had only suffered light injuries. Some of the city guards had died as well.

Xia Bing did not feel sad for the students who had been killed while running around like headless chicken. They had been told to stick together. But they disobeyed and even affected the formation of the city guards. Nobody would pity them if they ended up killed.

When Xia Bing's gaze landed on Su Yu, an odd expression appeared on his face. Others might not recognize Su Yu in his new getup, but that was not the case for Xia Bing.

When the hallmaster shouted that a cultural researcher had appeared earlier, he wasn't referring to the old man. Rather, he was talking about Su Yu. This kid's willpower was still very weak yet he had been able to play such a big role in the battle. How did he accomplish that?

Xia Bing was aware that Su Yu had helped the Windcatcher Department with an Infinite Strength cultivator before, but that was an entirely different situation. Previously, the Infinite Strength cultivator had been surrounded by them. That was not the case this time.

The old man was looking at Su Yu as well. He hadn't been around to see what Su Yu had done, but he could see that Su Yu had exhausted his willpower. He could even feel the aura of a Divine Character around Su Yu.

"City guard?" magic

The old man muttered doubtfully. There was someone with a Divine Character among the guards? No, he soon recognized the person. That was Su Yu! The high-high genius from Nanyuan!

"He's actually able to use his Divine Character in combat..."

The old man scanned the dead cult members as the look in his eyes turned odd. This kid had used his Divine Character at least seven or eight times. That was not supposed to be possible!

...

Su Yu was sitting on the ground while panting for breath. With the city guard helmet covering his face, most people couldn't recognize him. When he sensed a gaze on him, he looked up and saw that it was the newly arrived old man. He hurriedly stood up and bowed slightly to show his respect.

That was an expert. A true expert. An enemy that had forced Xia Bing to stay on the defensive and deal him numerous injuries had been killed by this old man with one hit from afar.

This person was at least at the Cloudbreach Realm. Of course, there was also a possibility that he was at the peak of the Skysoar Realm. In any case, Su Yu wouldn't be able to differentiate between the two. He had never seen an expert of this level fight before.

The old man had also released golden streaks from afar to instantly kill dozens of cult members. This was probably not something a warrior of the same cultivation level could do. It was very likely that this old man was a cultural researcher.

When the old man saw Su Yu looking at him, he smiled and nodded in greeting. He then moved his gaze toward the other students. Some of them were crying bitterly. After scanning the crowd, the old man spoke with a voice that was soft yet could be heard clearly by everyone present.

"This is something you will experience one day.

"It might be a tad bit too early, but as soon-to-be academy students, this is not an experience you can skip. In fact, you will come to experience scenes that are even crueller than this."

"Schoolmates, teachers, comrades, friends, lovers, any of them might die before your eyes one day."

The old man slowly said, "The path of an expert is lonely and sorrowful.

"If you can't withstand that, give up now.

"From now on, death will constantly accompany you. Death will be present on the Allheaven Battlefield. Death will be present on missions. Death will be present during cultivation. From weak to strong, death will accompany you every step of the way.

"This is merely an appetizer.

"It is pointless to cry. Being cowardly is useless. If you want to give up, you can do it now. If not, get yourself together."

Meanwhile, Xia Bing was busy cleaning the battlefield. He was still bleeding badly.

When the old man was done talking, Xia Bing looked up and coldly said, "The moment you stepped out of Nanyuan, you are all soldiers. Do not say that you weren't given time to prepare or adapt. The five years you spent in secondary school was meant for getting you ready.

"The capital is the place where you will get practical experience and lessons. Did your secondary school not teach you to follow military commands? You were told to stay where you were. Why did you disobey?"

"If you're so scared, don't bother leaving Nanyuan. Keep staying there. Why walk the path of cultivation?"

"Do you think you're going to the capital to enjoy life? Or do you think you're there to pick up money from the ground and receive free resources?"

"Those who couldn't get used to this life will be eliminated from the competition. A weakling is not worth nurturing. There are countless warriors risking their lives on the front line for meager resources compared to what you're given. Yes, you guys have talent. But what's the big deal about having some talent?"

"If you only have some talent but not the right mindset, no fortitude, and no courage, you still can't become a true expert. Rather than waste our resources on you, we might as well send the resources to the front line. The soldiers there need them more than you!"

"You're safe behind the front line yet are rewarded double what those at the front line could get for the same job. Why? Because of your talent. Because of the hope that you can grow into experts. But if you stop showcasing that hope, my apologies. Nobody will keep useless people around."

Xia Bing was very frank. He even pointed at the corpses of the dead city guards and furiously said, "If it wasn't for some of you who had failed to obey your orders and messed with the military formation with all that running around, these comrades wouldn't have died here."

"Because of you, they're dead. They are fellow humans. They are young too. Why must they throw their lives away for you? Because they're soldiers. They know the meaning of responsibility. Do you know the same?"

Some of the students started crying. Those who had been running around in panic earlier cried bitterly. They had survived, but that was because someone else had died for them. The city guards and Martial Dragon Guards were cleaning the battlefield silently.

The atmosphere was cold. This was the first lesson for these academy students. A true practical lesson.

Today, there were city guards and Martial Dragon Guards around to protect them. But that wouldn't always be the case. Students who couldn't withstand this pressure were better off not entering an academy.

Amid the frosty atmosphere, suddenly, someone in the crowd wailed loudly.

"Yu? Where are you? Yu...wuwuwu...he's dead..."

Chen Hao's voice rang out. He had been looking for Su Yu to no avail. When he saw the corpses on the ground, he panicked, thinking that Su Yu was dead.

Xia Bing wanted to continue scolding the students when he heard Chen Hao's wail. His face twitched.

What the fuck was that?

Chapter 115: I'm Rich And Strong! (1)

Su Yu hurriedly took off his city guard uniform and walked out from behind a truck. He softly scolded, "Shut up!"

Chen Hao was relieved when he saw Su Yu. He rushed over and asked in astonishment, "Yu, why are you so scared? Did you piss yourself?"

Su Yu was wet, but he was wet with sweat, not piss. His face was also pale. When he heard Chen Hao's question, he felt like beating this fellow to death.

Su Yu glared at Chen Hao and berated, "Shut up! If you don't know what to say, don't talk!"

Chen Hao felt somewhat awkward. He softly asked, "Did you kill someone?"

Previously, he had helped Su Yu kill two Great Strength cultivators. He concluded that Su Yu was definitely not hiding in fear. He must have killed some cult members earlier. In his opinion, Su Yu was a very brave person!

He looked at Su Yu's saber and sure enough, there was some blood on the blade. He complained, "You should have called me earlier. I can help you lure some cult members over..."

"Scram!" magic

Su Yu couldn't even be bothered to entertain that remark. There were enemies everywhere. Did he still need bait? Chen Hao could have lured dozens of cult members to him instead. At that time, it would be too late for regret.

The old man suddenly said, "Clear the battlefield. The remains of the soldiers and students will be sent to Tianshui. They will send the remains back to Nanyuan.

"We need to head to Tianshui immediately and link up with the convoy there. Keep an eye out for more cult members."

Xia Bing said, "Students, get into the trucks. Abandon the damaged trucks. The Martial Dragon Guards and city guards will be traveling on foot."

"Yes, sir!"

The military order was given for the soldiers to empty their trucks for the students.

Some students were embarrassed and refused the offer. When Xia Bing saw that, he berated, "Do not disobey orders on the battlefield. If you really want to help, make sure to kill more enemies in the future. That's better than wasting everyone's time being all hesitant here. You're a bunch of Source Opening cultivators. Can you even keep up with us on foot? You'll only slow us down!"

"On the battlefield, don't bother trying to help the experts in their fights. Do your job properly. That is the biggest help you can give.

"If you're ordered to retreat, obey. Follow your orders. Do not let your feelings dictate how you act.

"Do not waste any time with drama on the battlefield. If your loved ones are dead, retreat immediately so that you can avenge them in the future, not staying like fools to be killed and become one of the casualties.

"You genius students are indeed quite talented, but each year, many soldiers would die on the battlefield because of your recklessness.

"Some of you are too arrogant. Some do whatever they want. Some are too confident. Ultimately, the soldiers will be forced to save you. Each year, more than a thousand soldiers will die because of genius students like you.

"People like you should really be put through more suffering!"

"Squad Leader Xia..." The old man coughed. This should be enough. If Xia Bing continued, these students would probably lose all their confidence.

Xia Bing did not mind and started shooting orders to the soldiers instead.

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A short while later, the convoy resumed their journey.

They did not search the area. The soldiers from Tianshui would be doing that. Their mission was to protect these students, not suppressing the cult. With the old man around, their remaining journey would be much safer.

At the rear of the convoy.

Xia Bing and the soldiers were traveling on foot. As the trucks weren't moving too fast, they were able to keep up.

The old man was also traveling on foot. He suddenly asked, "Was that student Su Yu?"

"Yes."

"Is the battle report ready?"

Xia Bing shot the old man a glance and said, "This is a report for the military. There is no need for me to share it with you."

"Xia Bing, I'm only asking. I didn't intend for what happened earlier to happen either," said the old man helplessly. "Our mission is to find out if there are any large movements on the cult's part. The cult members who had attacked earlier did not have a lot of people. They weren't too strong either. They have even created some confusion to obscure their presence..."

Xia Bing cut him off, "I don't have the right to criticize your performance. I bear some responsibility for the attack as well. But since there are supposed to be two of you, why is the other person not here? Tianshui has their own forces, so there is no need for either of you to leave. You have failed in your duty."

"I'll be sure to report this. The other person will bear the responsibility. If it turns out that he has a relationship with someone in Tianshui and has left his position in an active mission for his relative, I want to see just how the academy is going to answer for this."

The old man was getting a headache. He felt very helpless. Because Xia Bing was actually right.

That colleague of his was really related to someone in Tianshui. His grand nephew was in the Tianshui convoy. Thus, when he heard that the Tianshui convoy had encountered some problem, he rushed over immediately. This would be very troublesome to deal with.

Of course, the old man only felt a little bit of pity toward his colleague. In truth, the matter would not affect him much. He said, "He will definitely take the responsibility for this. There is no doubt about that. Can you tell me about Su Yu instead? The more attention on him, the more opportunity he will get. Am I right?"

Xia Bing sank into a short silence before saying, "I checked. About 20 enemies had been killed after showing signs of confusion. We are still unsure of the exact circumstances of those deaths. As for those he had personally killed, based on the corpses I checked, there should be four of them."

One would receive merit points by killing enemies. No soldier would say no to more merit points, but they wouldn't steal someone else's claim either.

And there were four kills that had yet to be claimed. When Xia Bing checked, he concluded that these were probably Su Yu's kills. Traces of lightning could still be seen on those corpses. They were most likely killed by the Lightning Source Blade.

"Killing four and interrupting over twenty enemies..." The old man muttered, "He's only a ninth-stage Source Opening cultivator. Even with Divine Characters, it is still very surprising that he could kill four of them. I checked his records before. He shouldn't be this strong..."

Xia Bing wanted to say something but he hesitated. He had actually noticed something. Su Yu had unleashed an offensive strength that was beyond the Source Opening Realm. He had killed the four cult members in a very straightforward manner. The kills had been very clean.

That wasn't something a normal Source Opening cultivator could do. After a short hesitation, he decided to keep that to himself. That might be Su Yu's trump card. There was no need for him to expose someone's trump card for no reason.

It was never a bad thing for someone to have more trump cards to defend themselves. After all, who could be sure that this old man wasn't an enemy either?

"He has the blood and lightning characters as his Divine Characters. So is illusion creation an attribute of the lightning character or the blood character?"

Xia Bing frowned, "How am I supposed to know that? I'm not a cultural researcher."

"Two Divine Characters..." The old man wasn't paying any attention to Xia Bing. He muttered to himself, "Illusion creation...that attribute is not too special as a lot of Divine Characters have the same attribute. But if he can use it so many times before even reaching the Mental Tempering Stage, that means his Divine Character has very low willpower requirements..."

"This Divine Character will be very strong during the early stages!"

That was the conclusion the old man reached. As for how strong the Divine Character would be at the Skysoar Realm and beyond, it was too early to talk about that. At the very least, he was sure that this Divine Character was very strong at Su Yu's current level.

This Divine Character was at least strong enough to render the Great Strength cultivators completely helpless. But this illusion might be less powerful against those in the Infinite Strength and Skysoar Realms.

Furthermore, this ability was only suitable for clueless opponents. It would be considerably less effective against opponents that were already aware of its existence.

"His willpower isn't strong yet he has two Divine Characters..." The old man sank into thought. Suddenly, he asked, "Is he Liu Wenyan's student?"

Xia Bing nodded.

"Then that's understandable. Back then, Liu Wenyan specialized in Divine Characters and is a genius character master..."

Xia Bing said doubtfully, "Instructor Liu still wasn't a cultural researcher back then."

Character master was not a term to be used lightly. And Liu Wenyan had only reached the Skysoar Realm recently. Someone like him shouldn't be a genius character master back then.

The old man laughed and said, "You don't understand. That fellow...sigh. He has a junior brother. You should be aware of that, right?"

"Yeah. Master Hong Tan."

"Since you know that Master Hong Tan is his junior brother, aren't you curious why he sank so low?"

Xia Bing said, "I'm not interested. Knowing too much won't benefit me."

"You people..." The old man burst out laughing. "The people from the Martial Dragon Guards are all blockheads. Liu Wenyan has indeed delayed his willpower materialization. But he was already at the Mental Tempering Stage many years ago. He was at the peak of that stage.

"Fifty years ago, he had already formed over twenty Divine Characters. At that time, he was the most promising student among those walking the path of Divine Characters. Among his peers, he has the highest potential to reach the Mountainsea Realm and beyond."

Xia Bing was listening attentively but the old man suddenly stopped talking. Xia Bing stayed patient and did not ask anything.

The old man couldn't help but to laugh and ask, "Aren't you curious?"

"Say it if you want."

"Liu Wenyan is actually someone with a background. He was the student of the previous principal. When the previous principal passed away 50 years ago, he left a Divine Character behind..."

"Shut up!" Xia Bing suddenly said, "I've heard about that before. You can stop talking. If you keep talking, I'm worried it will bring some troubles to me."

He was starting to understand. And he was unwilling to learn more.

Fifty years ago, an internal conflict nearly broke out in the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy. Ultimately, the crisis ended with Wan Tiansheng expelling a bunch of people from the academy.

Those expelled were all geniuses. Many of them were related to the deceased fifth principal. That incident was known as the incident where Wan Tiansheng cleared the academy of the fifth principal's influence.

He had thought that Liu Wenyan was merely an ordinary member among those expelled. But he had not expected that Liu Wenyan was actually one of the main characters of the incident. He was actually a student of the fifth principal.

He never knew that. People had stopped talking about Hong Tan's teacher. Thus, not many people knew about that. Now, he finally learned that both Hong Tan and Liu Wenyan were the students of the fifth principal.

In that case, Liu Wenyan's delay in willpower materialization might be related to the internal conflict among the higher ups of the cultural researchers involving people at the level of Wan Tiansheng. That was not something he could get involved with.

"Principal Wan, Instructor Liu, and Researcher Hong..."

Xia Bing's gaze landed on one of the trucks. Since Su Yu was Liu Wenyan's student, would he be implicated?

Back then, Liu Wenyan was kicked out by Wan Tiansheng. If Su Yu was untalented, he would be fine. However, he was actually a genius. Would he be implicated?

The old man was also looking at the same truck. He smiled and said, "Don't worry. He should be fine. Back then, Principal Wan was forced to do what he did. It was either that or have the academy fall apart. It has been so many years. If they are still holding a grudge, people like Bai Feng wouldn't have been able to do so well in the academy."

Xia Bing moved on from the topic. "Since you're asking about Su Yu, are you trying to take him as your student?"

"We'll see. Bai Feng is not doing very well recently. He is very busy dealing with his troubles. Su Yu has a decent talent. He shouldn't be affected by that."

The old man narrowed his eyes and said, "No matter what, I'm an intermediate researcher. Am I not a better choice than Bai Feng?"

Xia Bing had no interest in getting himself involved in that. He nonchalantly said, "That does not concern me. My mission is to escort them to the academy safely."

The old man nodded and said, "Then I'll have to trouble you. Can you help arrange a meeting between me and him?"

Chapter 116: I'm Rich And Strong! (2)

About half an hour later, they arrived at Tianshui. Instead of entering the city, the convoy stopped at a visitor's zone outside the city. Some people from Tianshui had arrived as well. These people were here to talk about their cooperation moving forward.

An attack by the Myriad Race Cult was a major incident that the city viewed seriously. Furthermore, the incident had happened within their borders. Their city guards had long been dispatched to search the surroundings of the earlier battlefield and Yuanshui Village.

...

Su Yu and the other students were not involved in all that. Due to the attack, they were all gathered at the visitor's zone. They would be stopping there for a night before resuming their journey the next day.

Inside a room.

Su Yu heaved a breath of relief. The arrangements of Tianshui were decent. Two students would share a room and he had been given the same room as Chen Hao. The attack was nerve-racking, but he also felt much more at ease after the attack.

The anticipation of an attack actually felt even worse than to have it over with. Now that the attack had come and gone, he felt much better than before.

While wiping the sweat off his body, someone knocked on the door. Standing outside was Squad Leader Ma. One of his arms was in a sling while some wounds could be seen on his face. When Chen Hao opened the door, Squad Leader Ma laughed heartily and said, "Su Yu, my good brother, I couldn't thank you earlier so I'm here to visit you."

Su Yu walked out of the bathroom and asked anxiously, "Big Brother Ma, are you fine?"

"These are tiny injuries." Squad Leader Ma was unbothered by his injuries. He looked to the side and said, "This is a cultural researcher from the capital. He has something to tell you later but that will wait until we finish our conversation."

He gestured at Su Yu to take a seat and seriously said, "We have heard of your contribution to the Windcatcher Department, but this time, we got to personally witness you in action. I doubted your contribution previously, but you now have my heartfelt admiration.

"If it wasn't for you, at least 10 more of our brothers would have perished earlier.

"Cultural researchers are indeed different. Even a Source Opening cultural researcher is more useful than an Infinite Strength warrior..."

Behind him, the old man smiled. He enjoyed hearing people praise cultural researchers the most, especially when it came from a warrior.

"I told the commander earlier that it's pointless to ambush the cult. We should just face them head on. Would the cult actually dare to face us in battle? If we had only relied on the so-called hidden experts today...even more of us would have perished."

Behind him, the old man's face turned stiff. The people of Nanyuan...were really bad with their words. He was a great intermediate researcher. However, someone like him had been subjected to so much criticism since his arrival.

But soon, Squad Leader Ma was smiling again. "Let's not talk about all that. As soldiers, casualties are inevitable. I am here on official business. We need to finalize your contribution during the battle earlier.

"Su Yu, attention!"

"Here!" Su Yu hurriedly stood up.

Squad Leader Ma solemnly said, "I'll ask and you'll answer."

"Yes, sir!"

"Did you kill four cult members today?"

"Yes, sir!"

"Did you interrupt several cult members with your Divine Character?"

"Yes, sir!"

"There are 7 recorded instances and 21 cult members confused during those instances. Is that accurate?"

Su Yu gave it some thought and answered, "There should be 8 instances and 23 cult members in total..."

Su Yu gave a short explanation on each instance while Squad Leader Ma noted them all down. Finally, he said, "I'll report the eighth instance. At present, we only have seven instances in our records."

After they were done with the business, Squad Leader Ma stopped being so serious and laughed heartily before saying, "Well done! If all cultural researchers are like you, there will no longer be any need for people like us!"

"I only provided some interruptions. The soldiers were the ones who had actually killed the enemies."

"Don't worry. The contribution will be distributed fairly."

Then, Squad Leader Ma turned around to leave. Su Yu hurriedly asked with a soft voice, "Big Brother Ma, so was what I did earlier considered military contribution?"

"Of course."

"Then...how many merit points can I get?" magic

Squad Leader Ma blanked out slightly. He scratched his head and said, "They will make the calculation and notify you at a later date. But if you're in a rush, I'll tell them to get yours done first. It's understandable. You're going to enter an academy soon."

He laughed heartily again and said, "You will get a decent number of merit points. Interrupting over 20 enemies can earn you at least a point per person even if you didn't kill them with your own hands. This is considered a military conflict so the higher ups will be more generous with their rewards. Out of the four you personally killed, three were middle-stage Great Strength cultivators and one was seventh-stage Great Strength cultivator. You can get nine merit points for that.

"The combat will be considered a mission accomplished and you will be considered a helper during the mission since it was an emergency. Therefore, you will get some additional rewards such as the spoils of war. You won't get much though since those cult members were all broke. All in all, you can probably get around 40 merit points."

Su Yu was overjoyed. That was totally worth it. He had used two drops of blood essence for the battle and only had one drop remaining. He was getting worried about his stock. But now, everything was fine since he had earned a lot from the battle.

The military was very generous when it came to actual military operations. A point per interrupted enemy was not the type of reward they would normally give out.

"Then...when can I get the points?"

"It won't take long. We'll submit the report at Tianshui and you can claim your points by the time you reach the academy."

Su Yu was relieved to hear that. He was basically penniless now. With the reward, he did not need to worry about basic things like a roof over his head or food.

Squad Leader Ma smiled and said, "Talk to this cultural researcher. I'll be taking my leave. Rest early. We'll need to wake up early tomorrow and resume our journey."

"Ok. Thank you, Big Brother Ma."

After seeing Squad Leader Ma off, Su Yu looked at the old man and respectfully said, "Sorry for the wait, sir."

"Don't call me sir. Just call me instructor, teacher, or even senior."

The old man was very friendly. However, he did feel somewhat uncomfortable. Not because of Su Yu, but because of Chen Hao. That silly kid was staring attentively at him. What was the meaning of that?

Excitement could be seen in Chen Hao's eyes. He had witnessed how this old man had killed the cult members earlier. It was evident that this was a super expert. And he adored experts. Thus, he couldn't help but to stare when one such expert was right before him.

It almost felt like he was looking at an animal in the zoo. The old man was speechless. If this was the academy, he would have put the silly kid in detention. But he did not have the grounds to do that here.

Finally, Su Yu noticed that and coughed before saying, "Hao, go stay in the bathroom."

"What?"

"Go."

"Fine..."

Chen Hao left helplessly. He wanted to stay and listen to the conversation, but unfortunately, he was being kicked off.

"Senior, he's an honest kid. Don't mind him."

"It's fine." The old man smiled. "Let me introduce myself. I come from the Great Xia Cultural Research Academy. I am Zhao Li, an intermediate researcher and a seventh-stage Cloudbreach cultivator. If I can reach the Mountainsea Realm in a few years, I can become a senior researcher like Bai Feng's teacher."

Su Yu was alarmed. A seventh-stage Cloudbreach cultural researcher! This old man was much stronger than he had imagined.

"I have taught a lot of students. But I stopped a few years ago. My best student has recently reached the Cloudbreach Realm, currently serving as a junior researcher in the academy.

"Today, you interrupted your enemies with your Divine Character and killed them with your own hands. To speak the truth, I admire that. You are both talented and decisive. At the academy, you can definitely get a senior researcher as your teacher. But I'll be frank. Senior researchers are too mysterious. They are rarely around and can often leave the academy for years on end.

"Someone like that will only be your nominal teacher. You will still have to rely on yourself.

"Meanwhile, assistant researchers and junior researchers are too weak. As for intermediate researchers, not many of them are without a student like me. You need to understand that

between a researcher with ten students and a researcher with one student, things will be very different for the students even if both researchers are of similar strength.

"You're decent at physical cultivation so I'll be honest. I'm not good at Divine Characters. I specialize in weapons. I made my name through the weapons I forged.

"You saw my weapon today. The sixth-stage Skysoar cult member was killed using the Hundred Sword Box I forged myself."

A golden box appeared in his hand. "This is the Hundred Sword Box, a top-tier profound-grade cultural weapon. Weapons can be split into cultural and martial weapons. Martial weapons are easier to forge. Meanwhile, cultural weapons are much harder to forge. There are no more than five cultural researchers in Great Xia capable of forging profound-grade cultural weapons."

Zhao Li solemnly said, "If you follow me, you won't lack any weapons or willpower texts. Plenty of people are willing to trade their willpower texts with me for my weapons.

"Even physical cultivators need the help of us weaponsmiths. As someone walking both paths, weaponsmithing is very suitable for you as well."

Su Yu was overwhelmed by the favor shown to him. He said, "Senior, I..."

"Spend some time thinking about it. You don't need to rush your answer." Zhao Li smiled, "As for Bai Feng, don't worry about him. He's only an assistant researcher. Will he dare to challenge me?"

Su Yu could only awkwardly stay silent.

When Zhao Li saw Su Yu looking at the golden box curiously, he smiled and said, "A top-tier profound-grade cultural weapon is worth five times a martial weapon of the same grade. A top-tier profound-grade martial weapon is worth more than 300 merit points. The better ones can be even more expensive. As for a cultural weapon of the same grade, the value can go beyond 2,000 merit points."

Su Yu's eyes widened. He couldn't even imagine how it would feel to own 2,000 merit points.

"As for earth-grade cultural weapons, 5,000 merit points would be the minimum price. Although I don't have a 100 percent success rate when forging earth-grade weapons, I had still succeeded before. In the entirety of Great Xia, there is only one cultural researcher capable of forging earth-grade cultural weapons."

Su Yu looked at Zhao Li in astonishment. Was he actually talking to the best weaponsmith in Great Xia? Zhao Li smiled without saying anything.

Yes, there was only one such person. And...cough, cough. That wasn't him. He had only succeeded once through complete fluke. He still couldn't forge a proper earth-grade cultural weapon. After all, luck was not something one could rely on.

Then again, he had not lied to this kid since he had not claimed to be that person. From this kid's conversation with Squad Leader Ma, it was obvious this kid was lacking money. That was normal. After all, he was from Nanyuan.

Zhao Li said, "By forging earth-grade cultural weapons, you can earn thousands of merit points selling each of them. How many points can you earn killing a Skysoar cultivator? How many can you earn killing a Cloudbreach cultivator? You probably need to kill 10 Skysoar cultivators for a single earth-grade cultural weapon..."

"Alright. I'll be taking my leave. Just know that character masters might not necessarily be superior to weaponsmiths. We're rich and strong. Not to mention Bai Feng, I don't even fear his teacher."

Su Yu only laughed awkwardly as he saw Zhao Li off. After Zhao Li left, Su Yu finally laughed to himself. Zhao Li was clearly bluffing earlier. That was especially true when he talked about Bai Feng's teacher when his tone wavered.

"Weaponsmith...cultural weapons...martial weapons..."

Su Yu muttered to himself. He had learned something new today. He was previously unaware of all this.

Those cultural weapons were truly valuable. He couldn't help but be moved by the offer. After hearing about the value of cultural weapons, the merit points he earned earlier didn't feel like they were worth much anymore. Just look at Zhao Li. A random weapon of his was worth thousands of merit points.

Meanwhile, Zhao Li also heaved a breath of relief after leaving Su Yu. What a joke. Random weapon? That Hundred Sword Box was his trump card. His best weapon!

Even the earth-grade weapon he had forged by fluke was an incomplete weapon that could not be used. He had basically emptied his pockets forging this single Hundred Sword Box. His financial situation was only made worse by his attempt at forging the earth-grade weapon.

