

Tribulation of Myriad Races #Chapter 473: Curious Coincidence (3) - Read Tribulation of Myriad Races Chapter 473: Curious Coincidence (3)

Chapter 473: Curious Coincidence (3)

In truth, Su Yu had opened a total of 57 apertures thus far. If he was cultivating alone, he would be able to open one aperture every half an hour. But it was tiring to constantly run around. He would rather cultivate slightly slower in exchange for not having to worry about that. Inwardly, Su Yu was still slightly unhappy, but he forced himself to accept it.

At this point, he slightly increased his absorption speed.

Liu Hong had been keeping watch while Zhou Pingsheng was nowhere to be seen. This allowed Su Yu to cultivate in peace.

Before long, Liu Hong said, "With 30 single eradication points, you can cultivate here for 3 hours. Remember to leave when your time is up."

Su Yu was unhappy to hear that.

He was having a great time. Why was this fellow chasing him away?

He had only been in the grotto for 8 hours. He still needed to wait for 16 hours before it was his grandteacher's turn to run the grotto.

"Six hours! If Zhou Pingsheng comes before that, I'll leave early."

"You..."

Liu Hong cursed inwardly.

"Be sure to hide yourself well. Don't bring trouble to me. Su Yu, screwing me up won't benefit you either."

After saying that, he started cultivating as well.

But he didn't dare to use too much of his strength. With both him and Su Yu cultivating here, if he used all his strength, the flow of willpower in the area would be far more intense than what a peak Skysoar like him was supposed to be able to generate.

...

At the same time.

Zhou Pingsheng was raging.

During the two hours he had spent observing Xia Yuwen and Hu Wensheng, the odd incidents had stopped.

Damn it!

Damn it!

The culprit was definitely one of these two!

Why would the incidents stop the moment he started paying attention to them otherwise? And it was very likely that Hu Wensheng was the culprit.

Treacherous snake!

Alas, Zhou Pingsheng had no proof. Damn it!

Not far away, Hu Wensheng frowned and asked, "Senior Brother Zhou, why are you here again?"

Zhou Pingsheng had passed by the area around seven or eight times in the span of two hours.

Hu Wensheng said with an upset tone, "Senior Brother, don't tell me that you think Su Yu is hiding here."

Zhou Pingsheng was being too excessive. Why would he help hide Su Yu?

It was fine for Zhou Pingsheng to pass by once or twice. But this was so frequent that it angered Hu Wensheng. Was Zhou Pingsheng here to cultivate or mess with Su Yu? Or perhaps this fellow was here to monitor him?

Zhou Pingsheng smiled and said, "You misunderstand me, Junior Brother. Su Yu is too treacherous. I'm still looking for him. I have been able to detect traces of him nearby multiple times, but I just can't find him."

Hu Wensheng cursed inwardly. What a piece of trash. Eight hours had passed. And the grotto wasn't even that big of a place. He couldn't even find a

mere Mental Tempering Stage student? Just how had this fool reached the seventh-stage Cloudbreach Realm?

"Since you can't find him, why not give up and find a good spot to cultivate instead?"

Despite his anger, he still decided to advise Zhou Pingsheng to find a place to cultivate instead of wasting time.

But after hearing those words, Zhou Pingsheng was further infuriated. This fellow was trying to send him away? If he did that, this fellow would be able to continue creating trouble everywhere before framing him for it!

No way!

He said nothing and left silently, but he lingered not far away. He sat down cross-legged and pretended to cultivate while monitoring Hu Wensheng in silence. After a while, he snorted inwardly and left for real.

Hu Wensheng noticed that. He frowned speechlessly.

Was this person crazy?

After suffering some losses in the hands of Su Yu, this fellow had been somewhat erratic. Just look at how this fellow had spent a few hours monitoring him. Someone who didn't know them might even wonder if his name was actually Su Yu, not Hu Wensheng.

He decided to throw that matter out of his mind and resume his cultivation.

...

At the same time.

Liu Hong suddenly said, "Leave! That fellow is approaching!"

Su Yu was alarmed. His Perception Jade had yet to detect anything yet Liu Hong had already noticed Zhou Pingsheng's approach?

He said nothing and hurriedly left. There was no need for Liu Hong to lie about this. It would seem like it was time for him to resume his guerilla warfare.

While running, Su Yu complained inwardly. Why was that fellow running around again? He would have no choice but to start emptying random locations of willpower again. As for framing Hu Wensheng as the culprit...it had really not crossed his mind. He was unaware that Zhou Pingsheng was suspecting Hu Wensheng as the culprit.

...

Before long, Su Yu was gone.

Shortly after, Zhou Pingsheng arrived. After giving Liu Hong a glance, he said nothing and turned around to leave. At this time, Liu Hong smiled and said, "Senior Brother, I think I heard some people shouting earlier. I was too busy to care. What happened?"

Zhou Pingsheng wanted to ignore Liu Hong, but after thinking about it, he decided to answer. With a sneer, he said, "Some people just can't sit still. When they see that I'm losing favor, they're starting to kick me while I'm down. But that person has affected the entire grotto. I truly want to see how that person is going to frame me after leaving the grotto."

Liu Hong was completely dumbstruck. He didn't understand what Zhou Pingsheng was talking about. Wasn't Zhou Pingsheng hunting for Su Yu? How did someone else get involved?

And it was clear that Zhou Pingsheng wasn't talking about him or the other Mental Tempering Stage students. In the entire grotto, only Xia Yuwen and Hu Wensheng could catch his attention.

After a short thought, Liu Hong concluded that Zhou Pingsheng was probably talking about Hu Wensheng.

Hu Wensheng had done something to affect the entire grotto?

What?

Right that moment, an intense willpower undulation appeared far away.

Liu Hong's heart thumped. That was...Su Yu?

Holy shit!

That fellow's absorption speed was way too terrifying. Even from so far away, he could sense an entire area instantly emptied of willpower.

He thought that Zhou Pingsheng would rush over to give chase, but instead, Zhou Pingsheng hurriedly flew toward Hu Wensheng.

While flying, Zhou Pingsheng was sneering. The incident had resumed so soon after he left! Gotcha, Hu Wensheng!

Meanwhile, Liu Hong was blinking in stupefaction.

Holy shit!

He finally understood!

Zhou Pingsheng thought that Hu Wensheng was the person emptying random areas in the grotto of willpower.

He promptly contacted Su Yu and said, "I have a piece of information to sell you for 1,000 merit points."

"What is it?"

"Pay up. 1,000 merit points."

"I got no merit points. What about single eradication points? You can use it to buy stuff in the club."

"How would I know if you're scamming me?"

"Fine. Forget it."

"..."

But after thinking about it, Liu Hong smiled.

Sure!

He would deliver this information even for free!

This was too interesting.

Zhou Pingsheng was actually suspecting Hu Wensheng. An internal conflict was about to break out among Zhou Mingren's students.

Liu Hong had only been able to obtain a promotion in the faction after Zhou Pingsheng angered the elders. But with Hu Wensheng's reappearance as a Cloudbreach, Zhou Mingren would definitely pass the authority to him instead. After all, his own student would be much more trustworthy than an outsider.

But now, Zhou Pingsheng was suspecting Hu Wensheng! This was too amusing!

"Zhou Pingsheng suspects that Hu Wensheng is the person running around emptying random areas of willpower. He must have been monitoring Hu Wensheng for quite a while. Right after he left Hu Wensheng, you ran off to empty an area of willpower. So now, he has returned to Hu Wensheng's place. You understand what's going on, right?"

Su Yu instantly understood what was happening.

He was quite dumbstruck. Zhou Pingsheng was suspecting...Hu Wensheng?

Interesting. This was too interesting.

"That idiot..."

Su Yu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He had not expected something like this to happen. But since that was the case, perhaps he could take advantage of this.

He could very well provoke an internal turmoil between Zhou Mingren's students.

Let them suspect each other.

That would make things fun.

"Alright. I'll return to your place to cultivate. Later, maybe you can invite Zhou Pingsheng over and have some chat with him. That way, he won't suspect you and I will have the chance to create even more trouble. Teacher Liu, after reaching the Cloudbreach Realm, you can even consider fighting for the position of faction master..."

Liu Hong snorted disdainfully.

Was this wimpy kid trying to instigate him? Discover new chapters on [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

Did he care about that position?

What a joke.

What was so great about that position? He wanted a job where he could be paid without doing anything. But as the faction master, alongside the power, he would also gain a lot of responsibilities. And the moment anything bad happened, he would be made the scapegoat.

And that wasn't even the crux of the issue. The biggest issue was the fact that the multiple character faction was in the middle of hitting back against them. Two Mountainseas had died not long ago. He wasn't suicidal enough to become the next faction master.

Only someone as dumb as Zhou Pingsheng would want that position. Then again, before gaining enough strength, the support and favor of his faction would still be very important.

"Sure. You can come here for now. I'll console Senior Brother Zhou and have a chat with him later..."

Liu Hong smiled. Well, he had some time to kill anyway. It wouldn't harm him to do something this trivial.

He had already reached the very limit of the Skysoar Realm. He could actually step into the Cloudbreach Realm at any time. But there was no need to do so. It would be too eye-catching for him to break through the grotto. He much preferred to stay low key.

Speaking of, was Su Yu hiding some of his apertures? The kid had definitely opened more than 20. From the speed he had observed, the kid had probably opened at least 30 apertures.

No wonder Zhou Pingsheng would suspect Hu Wensheng. Liu Hong himself would have probably reached the same conclusion.

Previously, he had suggested his faction to have several Skysoars surround and absorb all the willpower around Su Yu. But if they really did that, perhaps those Skysoars wouldn't even be able to absorb willpower as fast as Su Yu.

"That kid...has matured."

Su Yu had indeed matured somewhat.

And the kid was practically guaranteed a smooth path to the ninth stage the moment he entered the Skysoar Realm. At that point, the kid would turn into an extremely terrifying competitor.

The kid could very well be one of his competitors during the struggle for the slots two years later.

"The conflict between the multiple and single character factions..."

Liu Hong laughed. That was none of his business.

Suddenly, he thought of his teacher again. His teacher was still stuck in seclusion even now. Was his teacher also suffering from the intense repelling force of the non-human characters? Could the club solve this issue?

It was very unlikely for his teacher to step into the Sunmoon Realm. But what if they could remove a few of his problematic characters? Would that help? Even though that would result in a weaker Sunmoon with a few missing characters, a Sunmoon was still a Sunmoon.

"Single Eradication Club...single eradication points...backlash-free character removal!"

His teacher was already near the end of his lifespan. If he had to destroy his own characters, the backlash would definitely kill him. But what if he could remove the characters without the backlash? The removal might be completely safe!

Single Eradication Club!

Suddenly, the club seemed a lot more important to Liu Hong.

Were there really experts in this club?

Most likely.

After all, Su Yu had obtained even something like a foundation cultural art from the club. That was an art with 36 apertures. The backer of the club would either be an Invincible or the family members of an Invincible.

It was also possible that the Xia Family was the actual backer of the club.

Just where had Su Yu obtained all those heaven-grade methods and techniques of his? Previously, Hong Tan had taken credit for that. But Liu Hong did not believe that. What bullshit.

If those were really the inheritances of the multiple character faction, Bai Feng would have cultivated all those techniques as well. Clearly, Su Yu was the only one in the faction with all those techniques.

But Su Yu came from Nanyuan. With his background, he had either obtained those techniques from Liu Wenyan or some other fortuitous encounter. But Su Yu hadn't been too eye-catching during his time in Nanyuan. It was possible that he had obtained all those opportunities after entering the academy and joining the Single Eradication Club.

"He should have joined the club after entering the academy."

That was Liu Hong's conclusion. If Su Yu had obtained those heaven-grade methods and techniques long ago, why would he purchase the War God Art back then? Why would he fight Zheng Yunhui for a single Skybreak Technique? Sure, that was a scam, but still, there was no need for him to even cross Zheng Yunhui, right?

"Single Eradication Club!"

Liu Hong inhaled deeply. Interesting. Perhaps this invitation to the club was not a trap. Rather, it was the start of his rise to power.

"Lin Yao...that silly kid has probably joined the club as well. It's obvious from how he has been behaving."

Liu Hong decided to wait and see. He needed to observe Lin Yao's progress. If even someone like Lin Yao could benefit from the club, he would be able to benefit even more.

Excellent. This would be the start of his rise!

Chapter 474: Fear Not, Grandteacher Will Cover This Up! (1)

"Senior Brother Zhou!"

Zhou Pingsheng was surprised to see Liu Hong appearing before him.

"Junior Brother Liu, why are you here?" Liu Hong sighed, "About the matter you told me, I noticed something off as well. Senior Brother, listen to me. You should just change your plan and cultivate silently instead."

Liu Hong earnestly said, "Senior Brother, we can start cultivating together starting now. After leaving the grotto, I can serve as your witness if everyone starts accusing you of something you haven't done. This is the only thing your little junior brother can do for you. I can't afford to offend anyone or do anything for you."

Liu Hong looked exceptionally sincere. He was basically saying that he couldn't offend Hu Wensheng or do much for Zhou Pingsheng. The only thing he could do was provide an alibi for Zhou Pingsheng.

At that moment, Zhou Pingsheng's emotions turned complicated. At this very moment, at a low point of his life, an outsider like Liu Hong was actually the only person willing to stand up for him.

Liu Hong said, "Senior Brother, you're already a seventh-stage Cloudbreach. In all honesty, it is pointless to get into these pointless squabbles at this time. When you reach the Mountainsea Realm, some things will naturally fall into your hands even if you reject them."

"Just take this chance to cultivate more and try to reach the Mountainsea Realm as soon as possible. You're near the eighth-stage Cloudbreach Realm. Why waste your time in the grotto?"

Liu Hong had a look of regret as he said, "You're already the mortal enemy of the multiple character faction. They are going to continue targeting you. And to be honest, internally, our people won't really care about it unless it affects them personally."

He shook his head with a sigh and said, "If you keep this up, your reputation will be completely ruined. The people in this grotto are all the important seedlings of the various factions. Do you want to offend all these people, Senior Brother? Even if you're not the culprit, would any of them believe you? Would anyone listen to you?"

Liu Hong helplessly said, "Senior Brother, listen to me. You really need to stop now. I can start cultivating with you from now. I don't know about the things that have happened before this, but from now on, we can stick together. We

can even get a few junior brothers to cultivate with us as well. At that time, they can no longer blame you if the incidents keep happening."

Zhou Pingsheng's eyes flickered as he nodded, "You make sense. But I can't accept this. I'm not reconciled to this. Some people...are already being too excessive!"

He couldn't accept this. Hu Wensheng had left seclusion suddenly to take advantage of his recent downfall. He was not willing to accept that. He had done a lot for the single character faction!

What had Hu Wensheng done for the faction?

Nothing!

He had cultivated in peace until the Skysoar Realm before being defeated by Bai Feng. Then, he cultivated in peace until the Cloudbreach Realm. But right after leaving seclusion, he was rewarded with a slot into this grotto?

Zhou Pingsheng was the one who had gathered a large portion of the riversand used to open this grotto! Not only was Hu Wensheng benefiting from his hard work, that fellow was also trying to kick him while he was down! How hateful!

Zhou Pingsheng looked at Liu Hong. He knew that Liu Hong was definitely not a good person. This Liu Hong was probably doing this after feeling a sense of crisis from Hu Wensheng's appearance.

After all, Liu Hong had benefited after he lost the trust of the faction. But with Hu Wensheng's return, Liu Hong's position was in danger as well. Thus, he knew very well that both him and Liu Hong were on the same boat.

Liu Hong was not helping him out of kindness. Instead, Liu Hong was doing this to resist Hu Wensheng. Knowing all that, he believed that Liu Hong was sincere in helping him this time. Who would be willing to help you without a reason? This was understandable.

Liu Hong's action wasn't surprising at all.

"Junior Brother Liu..."

Liu Hong stopped from talking and solemnly said, "Senior Brother, Where there's life there's hope. You have plenty of time to do what you want in the future. For now, you need to settle down or you might even end up offending the elders! We can take it slow! If you continue roaming around, it would be too difficult to prove your innocence!"

He lowered his voice, "We can take a few people with us and find a place to cultivate together. We can even get Hu Wensheng's student, Guo Shengquan, with us. With that, he can accuse everyone of lying, but can he say the same about his own student?"

Liu Hong sneered, "Hu Wensheng is getting really ambitious. He should look at himself in the mirror. Over these years, he had only faced Bai Feng once. And that one encounter had resulted in an utter defeat. Meanwhile, I have been able to compete against Bai Feng for so many years. A few years ago, he had even called me incompetent for failing to defeat Bai Feng. Would you believe that?"

He was furious.

Zhou Pingsheng could fully empathize with him.

Sure, he was one of those who had called Liu Hong incompetent as well. But in hindsight, was Liu Hong really so incompetent?

No.

In fact, Liu Hong was incredible.

A normal person would have been completely defeated by now. Meanwhile, Liu Hong had been able to let Bai Feng suffer several small losses. That was actually very impressive. Just look at Hu Wensheng. He had only clashed against Bai Feng once and look what happened. Was he not ashamed of himself? He actually dared to compete against them with that shameful performance?

"You're right, Junior Brother." Zhou Pingsheng nodded, "Sure. Let's get a few people and cultivate together."

"Senior Brother, let's take the Skysoars with us." Liu Hong's eyes flickered as he said, "Let him go crazy. He probably won't approach the spots claimed by the Skysoars. He will run around creating trouble while we will be staying with

all the Skysoars. Excluding us, only him and Xia Yuwen will be able to do something like that. At that time, would people suspect him or Xia Yuwen?"

Liu Hong continued giving more ideas.

Inwardly, he was greatly amused.

Time for a great show to unfold!

He would gather all Skysoars together and let Su Yu run wild. As long as the kid didn't provoke Hu Wensheng and Xia Yuwen, the two would probably ignore him.

As for Zhou Pingsheng, he would definitely place all the blame on Hu Wensheng. Meanwhile, Hu Wensheng would conclude that Zhou Pingsheng was the culprit.

Even if they were able to prove that Zhou Pingsheng had been staying with so many other cultivators while all those incidents were happening, Hu Wensheng was the type of person that would insist that Zhou Pingsheng had bought them all out instead of changing his mind.

In short, this was not something that could be cleared up. The only way they could clear things up was if they could prove that either Xia Yuwen or Su Yu was the culprit.

But if even Liu Hong himself was finding it hard to believe that Su Yu was the culprit, would the others even believe it? Also, that damn kid had probably hidden even more of his strength. So the kid was probably capable of creating an even bigger ruckus.

According to Zhou Pingsheng, the absorption speed that had emptied the random areas of willpower had reached the level of a Cloudbreach. But earlier, Su Yu had only revealed the absorption speed of a fourth-stage Skysoar in his presence.

Liu Hong was curious, but he couldn't be bothered to say more to the damn kid. He only needed to focus on removing Zhou Pingsheng and giving Su Yu the space to create more trouble.

As a mere spectator, he was more than happy to create more drama. In any case, as a peak Skysoar who wasn't trying to break through in the grotto, he

had quite a lot of free time. He only needed to nurture some characters while he was in the grotto.

...

Liu Hong was quite efficient when he decided to get something done. He had really managed to instigate Zhou Pingsheng to gather a group of people and cultivate together.

This group would serve as his alibi.

Of course, he had not made that point clear when gathering those people up. But with those people around him, they could no longer blame him when another spot was emptied of willpower.

...

Before long, Su Yu received an update from Liu Hong.

He looked dumbstruck.

It was...that easy?

Holy shit!

So in this decently sized grotto, only Hu Wensheng and Xia Yuwen were left isolated from the other Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators. But those two had been staying at the same spot for a long time. It didn't look like they were going to move around anytime soon. Did that not mean that the entire grotto was now his playground?

Su Yu was completely unbothered about anyone below the Skysoar Realm. Why should he put much thought into those weaklings?

"I thought I have to wait until tomorrow before I can cultivate properly, but looks like I can go crazy right now."

Su Yu was overjoyed.

He had already opened 58 apertures. And it had been nearly 12 hours since the opening of the grotto. During this period of time, he had opened 14 apertures. Since he needed to keep running around, his speed had slowed

down considerably. Even so, opening 14 apertures in only half a day was actually a terrifying feat.

Su Yu grinned. The grotto was now his personal playground! Before long, yet another area was emptied of willpower.

This time, Su Yu didn't even bother leaving anything behind. He turned the entire area into a void of willpower before heading to Zhang Hao's place to digest the willpower he had absorbed.

Half an hour later, he left to empty yet another area of willpower before returning to Zhang Hao.

...

Boom!

Outside the grotto.

A loud rumble rang out while creaking sounds started coming from the grotto portal. Zhou Mingren hurriedly stabilized the grotto in panic while the faces of Yu Hong and the others fell.

Elder Sun furiously said, "Bastard! Has he gone mad?"

They had paid a large cost to open this grotto!

They had done this to allow the members of their faction to grow, lending them the strength to once again establish their dominance in the academy. But right now, a damn bastard was constantly creating trouble in the grotto.

At present, there were three particular spots in the grotto with high willpower expenditure. However, the absorption speed at those three spots had remained stable thus far. Those spots were manageable as the people there had gradually increased their absorption speed instead of suddenly pushing their absorption speed to the peak.

That way, they could avoid suddenly emptying an area of willpower. But there was a certain asshole who had directly emptied random areas of willpower all over the grotto. This person had the absorption speed of a Cloudbreach, and because of this person's meddling, the balance of the grotto was being disrupted.

This had happened again and again, infuriating all the elders maintaining the grotto. They had spent resources worth over 100,000 merit points to open this grotto. For the sake of this grotto, the single character faction had pushed themselves into the brink of bankruptcy.

Knowing all that, this bastard was still running around creating trouble for them! They were furious!

Not far away, Hong Tan frowned, "Don't force yourself. If you're already at your limit, let me take over."

Zhou Mingren and the others ignored him.

Based on Zhou Mingren's observation, two Cloudbreach cultivators were steadily cultivating at two different spots while a few Skysoars had gathered at one spot to cultivate together. In that case, it was clear that Zhou Pingsheng was the person who had been creating trouble for them.

Damn it!

Damn that bastard! Discover new chapters on [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

But he stubbornly persisted. He was adamant on maintaining control over the grotto for as long as he could. If he allowed Hong Tan and the others to take over, the Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators of their faction would no longer be given special treatment in the grotto.

Chapter 475: Fear Not, Grandteacher Will Cover This Up! (2)

Su Yu was naturally unaware of the hard time he was giving Zhou Mingren and company.

14th hour, 16th hour...

Every half an hour, Su Yu would go out for a stroll.

And during each stroll, an area would be emptied of willpower.

By the time the 20th hour drew near, Su Yu had opened his 69th aperture.

It hadn't even been a day.

Su Yu was in a good mood.

This felt great.

In fact, it felt so good that he was starting to wish he could stay in this grotto full time.

Benefiting from the extra willpower leaking out of Su Yu, Zhang Hao had also progressed rapidly. He had opened five apertures. That left only one of the six apertures he had learned about unopened.

Su Yu did not spend more time at Zhang Hao's place. Shortly after, he found Wu Jia.

...

Wu Jia was in the midst of her cultivation.

Not far away, Wan Mingze could be seen.

When he saw Su Yu, he had an odd look on his eyes. Zhou Pingsheng had been hunting for Su Yu for so long to no avail. This fellow sure was good at hiding.

Su Yu wasn't even bothered to say anything to Wan Mingze. Instead, he looked at Wu Jia and smiled, "Senior Sister!"

"Junior Brother!"

Wu Jia opened her eyes. She was pleasantly surprised to see Su Yu here. She hurriedly asked, "Did that old dog find you?"

"Nope." Su Yu laughed, "I was running circles around him."

"But that's delaying your cultivation."

"I'm fine."

Su Yu walked over to her and said, "Senior Sister, stop bothering Brother Wan here. Let me take you out for a stroll."

Since he still wasn't sure if Wan Mingze was really a saint or merely a hypocrite, he decided that it would be better to maintain a safe distance from that fellow. Naturally, when trouble was coming his way, he would move here and lead the trouble Wan Mingze's way instead.

And when there was no trouble, he would stay further away from Wan Mingze. Seated not far away, Wan Mingze smiled. He didn't mind that he was being ignored. Looking at the departing duo, his expression changed slightly. The willpower around Su Yu was very dense.

This fellow had most likely learned a foundation cultural art.

He wondered how many apertures Su Yu had opened. Perhaps even Wu Jia was practicing something like that.

Wu Jia wasn't weak, but she wasn't strong enough to hide the flow of willpower around her when she was cultivating. And with her cultivating so near him, Wan Mingze was able to see that she had opened at least three apertures since entering the grotto.

...

While traveling.

Su Yu asked in a low voice, "Senior Sister, how many apertures have you opened?"

"Four." Wu Jia happily said, "Junior Brother, with these apertures, I will be able to quickly reach the second stage the moment I enter the Skysoar Realm."

"The second stage is boring. Absorb more willpower and open more apertures. This is a rare chance. You still have about two days here."

As they talked, they arrived at Xia Huyou's place.

He wasted no time and said, "I'll gather some willpower for you. As payment, take care of my senior sister. If something happens to her, I won't spare you!"

Xia Huyou was speechless.

Did he even need Su Yu to gather willpower for him?

He had already opened 25 apertures himself! Was Su Yu aware of that?

Was Su Yu not aware of how amazing he was?

Before this, he had opened around 18 apertures using the Xia Family's foundation cultural art. These days, he had been cultivating hard as well. He was actually quite talented. The high-middle evaluation he entered the academy with was bullshit. That was not the representation of his actual talent.

With 25 apertures, if he stepped into the Skysoar Realm, he would instantly become a seventh-stage Skysoar expert.

1 to 4 apertures would put one in the first stage, 18 to 24 apertures would put one in the sixth stage, 25 to 28 apertures would put one in the seventh stage, 29 to 32 apertures would put one in the eighth stage, and 33 to 36 apertures would put one in the ninth stage. At 36 apertures, one would be a peak Skysoar.

Of course, even after advancement, his character and willpower would still not be strong enough, so he wouldn't be considered a true seventh-stage Skysoar for some time. But with enough opened apertures, progress would be fast.

He was such an amazing cultivator. Yet Su Yu was looking down on him? Su Yu was offering to gather willpower for him?

Xia Huyou was confident that apart from those Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators, nobody in the grotto had opened more apertures than him. But immediately after, he stopped his monologue.

He suddenly felt like he had been slapped across his face. And Su Yu was the culprit.

A storm of willpower erupted around them as a large amount of willpower moved over from far away and converged around them.

Xia Huyou cursed inwardly.

Holy shit!

How many apertures had Su Yu opened to be capable of this?

36?

No. More than that!

He looked at Su Yu with an odd expression. This fellow was treating him like a fool! Was this his so-called 36 apertures? Just what was going on? Did Su Yu know more foundation cultural arts?

Sure, Xia Huyou had multiple foundation cultural arts as well.

With both arts, he could open 45 apertures if he wanted.

But the remaining 9 apertures were incompatible with the 36 apertures. Opening those apertures would only grant him a slight increase in the endurance and recovery of his willpower. His offensive prowess would remain the same.

He didn't know if Su Yu had a second cultural art, but he was certain that Su Yu had opened more than 36 apertures. Follow new chapters at (.).com

Meanwhile, Wu Jia appeared very indifferent. She had just opened a few apertures and was still incapable of sensing just how many apertures her junior brother had opened. The only thought she had was that her junior brother was amazing. Nothing else.

Xia Huyou gave Su Yu a deep look, but he said nothing. He was a smart person. He knew what to ask and what not to ask.

When Su Yu was about to leave, Xia Huyou finally spoke, "Are you interested in selling your second cultural art? I can trade it with my family's cultural art with 18 apertures..."

Su Yu grinned.

Instead of replying, he left.

Trade his ass.

That 18-aperture art was basically garbage. That garbage art probably overlapped with the arts he knew. Why would he want a piece of trash like that? He could probably achieve a complete overlap after opening all 180 apertures of the five arts.

He couldn't even be bothered to give a reply. With this fellow here, his senior sister would be fine. Xia Huyou was aware of his cultural art since Xia Huyou himself had also been given a cultural art by him. Thus, his senior sister could

freely cultivate around him without worrying that someone would go after her cultural art.

...

Looking at the departing Su Yu, Xia Huyou had a look of regret on his face. He shot Wu Jia a glance.

But Wu Jia completely ignored him and sat down cross-legged to cultivate.

"Women."

Xia Huyou muttered to himself. Why was she ignoring him?

Why was she behaving like he owed them this favor? What the hell?

When he looked in Su Yu's direction once again, he clicked his tongue. That fellow was definitely going out to create trouble again.

More importantly, it was likely that very few people knew that Su Yu was the culprit behind the disappearing willpower. Him, Xia Huyou, was one of the few who knew the actual truth.

"I am probably not the only person helping him. He definitely has more helpers in this grotto."

Xia Huyou was getting curious. Who were these helpers? How had this fellow developed these connections?

Looking at the voice transmission talisman in his hand, Xia Huyou frowned. Previously, when Su Yu had given Chen Hao a voice transmission talisman, he had noticed that Su Yu had prepared a lot of these talismans. Anyone with a voice transmission talisman in hand could very well be this fellow's ally.

Incredible.

That fellow had developed his own group of helpers without anyone noticing.

"Chen Hao..."

Recalling that person, Xia Huyou curled his lips in annoyance. That was a scoundrel that looked like the most honest man ever. His second grandpa was

right. You should never judge a book from its cover! Entering the cultural research academy had been a correct decision, after all.

He had decided to enter the cultural research academy because of the messy and chaotic internal competition. According to his second grandfather, at the war academy, one would be able to experience the brotherhood between comrades. But one would not be able to experience crafty plots and machinations. One would not be able to see the dark side of society.

That was not a good environment for growth.

After all, he was aiming to become the future prefect, not a general of the army. Even a general needed to know how to deal with plots and schemes. That was why the previous prefects had all graduated from the cultural research academy.

Yes, despite how they behaved, they were all graduates of the cultural research academy. Their experience during their time in the cultural research academy would prepare them for their future as the ruler of a prefecture.

The war academy was a place to produce soldiers. The cultural research academy, on the other hand, was a place to produce leaders.

"Su Yu..."

Xia Huyou muttered under his breath. What an incredible fellow. If he really managed to become the prefect, this would be a person he needed to rope in.

Su Yu was someone with intelligence, strength, and talent. In fact, Xia Huyou was starting to discover that Su Yu was suited for a lot of positions in the prefecture. But as the peer of such a person, it would be too embarrassing if a future prefect like him looked too mediocre in comparison. He might be able to explain why some other people were stronger than him. But there was no way he could explain why Su Yu, a boy from Nanyuan, was stronger than him.

"I have already fused 14 acupoints. Should I fuse 16 acupoints before advancing into the Infinite Strength Realm?"

Xia Huyou sighed. He could have entered the Infinite Strength Realm long ago if he was satisfied with only fusing 14 acupoints. But he cultivated the heaven-grade Sky Sundering Saber. With this cultivation method, at maximum, he could fuse 16 acupoints before his advancement.

But fusing acupoints was an extremely difficult task. As the future prefect, he would either not cultivate at all or do his very best and reach the limit of the Sky Sundering Saber like his father had before him.

"Su Yu is also cultivating the Sky Sundering Saber. I guess there's no rush. It won't be so easy for him to fuse his acupoints either. I still have plenty of time."

He only needed to ensure that he stayed ahead of Su Yu. At present, Su Yu had yet to fuse even a single acupoint while he had fused 14 acupoints. Catching up wouldn't be too easy. As for his apertures...well, he would aim to open more while he was in the grotto.

Chapter 476: Fear Not, Grandteacher Will Cover This Up! (3)

"How is Su Yu comparable to me? I am already a ninth-stage Infinite Strength cultivator. When I return home, I can get some divine or devil blood essence to push my body straight to the third or fourth stage during my advancement into the Skysoar Realm. How can he catch up to that speed?"

Xia Huyou grinned smugly. This was the benefit of being the descendant of an Invincible. What could anyone do about it?

Others would need to spend their own money for their cultivation resources. Meanwhile, he only needed to get what he wanted from home, directly reaching the third or fourth stage during his advancement.

At that time, his physical cultivation would be at the third or fourth-stage Skysoar Realm while his willpower cultivation would be at the eighth or even the ninth-stage Skysoar Realm. Hehehe...how could Su Yu compete against him?

He could even get a top-tier profound-grade weapon right after entering the Skysoar Realm. He would surpass Su Yu with the power of money!

"Idiot."

A disdainful voice rang out, interrupting Xia Huyou who was laughing to himself.

Holy shit!

Did Wu Jia just sneer at him?

He looked at Wu Jia gloomily and asked, "Do you know what your junior brother's real strength is?"

Wu Jia looked at him in astonishment, "You don't know that? He's unrivaled below the Skysoar Realm."

"..."

That was actually right.

Forget it. Xia Huyou decided to stop wasting time and resumed his cultivation.

This was a decent grotto.

His family needed to get something like this as well. Their existing grotto wasn't as good. He told himself that the next time his father, Xia Longwu, decided to cut someone down, he should cut down someone with a character that could turn into a similarly useful grotto. It would be even better if he could cut down an Invincible and get their family an Invincible grotto. Check new *novel chapters* at [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

This was only a Sunmoon grotto. It was not good enough since it was only useful up to the Cloudbreach Realm. If they could cut down an Invincible for a grotto, that grotto would probably be good enough for even those at the Mountainsea Realm.

...

While Xia Huyou was busy indulging himself in all those random thoughts, Su Yu was running around the grotto.

Absorb.

And absorb.

All the single character faction members were greatly frustrated.

Zhan Hai, who was near the Skysoar Realm, was greatly frustrated as well.

Damn it! Just what was happening here?

Was there something wrong with this grotto?

Why was the supply of willpower so inconsistent? There were a few instances where they nearly suffered from cultivation deviation because of the abrupt cut in the supply of willpower.

Su Yu made sure to pay the beloved daughter of Director Ji some of his attention as well. He had emptied the willpower around her several times.

Since everyone else had received his love, he had to be fair and let her experience the same love as well, right? Sure, she was an honest girl, so she would probably demand for compensation from Zhou Mingren after leaving the grotto.

Ji Xiaomeng was a very straightforward person. After the willpower around her was emptied a few times, she decided to stop cultivating and ran off. Where was she going? She was looking for Zhou Pingsheng.

The strongest person in the grotto was Zhou Pingsheng.

Thus, she naturally had to get the help of Uncle Zhou to gather some willpower and stand guard for her while she was cultivating. Uncle Zhou was such a kind person. He would definitely agree to help.

Ji Xiaomeng was the sole individual who did not feel troubled over Su Yu's shenanigans. She decided to seek help immediately. If Zhou Pingsheng refused to help her...well, he should start preparing for an early retirement.

Xia Yuwen was also an option. For her, this was not an issue. She would definitely be able to get someone to help her so she was not worried at all.

...

None of that mattered for Su Yu. he continued roaming the grotto and emptying random areas of willpower.

In the blink of an eye, a day and a night had passed.

Over a period of 24 hours, he had pushed his total opened apertures to 71. He was one aperture away from fully opening all the apertures of his second cultural art.

"I'll try to open all the apertures of the third art by the end of the third day."

This was the goal Su Yu had set for himself. That was totally not a lofty goal. He only wanted to open 108 apertures. All his arts would require him to open 180 apertures. And he was only aiming to open 108 apertures for now. That was not ambitious at all.

He had entered the grotto with 44 apertures. Thus, he only needed to open 64 apertures while in the grotto. That translated to about 20 apertures per day. Easy. And thus, Su Yu worked even harder to meet this goal of his.

...

Outside the grotto.

It had been one full day.

Elder Sun and company had long reached their limits. At this point, Zhou Mingren was finally reaching his limit. He looked at Hong Tan.

Not far away, Hong Tan was smiling happily. Looking at the newly arrived elders, he said, "I need a few of you to help me with this. We only need to keep this up for a day."

Having said that, he stepped forth and received control over the grotto.

Zhou Mingren said nothing. Go ahead, Hong Tan. Let's see if he would enjoy this. There was a troublemaker constantly emptying random areas of willpower in the grotto. This fellow had been thinking that this was an easy job. Let's see how this person would react after experiencing it for himself.

With that, Zhou Mingren and his people retreated, leaving the grotto in the hands of Hong Tan and a few other elders. The moment Hong Tan took over, his willpower shook.

Fuck!

Zhou Pingsheng?

Was this fellow deliberately giving him trouble right after he took over as a show of dominance?

What a bastard.

Right after Hong Tan took over the grotto, a spot in the grotto was emptied of willpower.

Hong Tan held nothing back and instantly reduced the willpower density of several spots. These spots had enjoyed a comparatively higher density of willpower when Zhou Mingren and company were running the grotto.

Why should Hong Tan let those fellows benefit when he was in charge? Instead, he created a new spot with high willpower density before using his willpower to guide Su Yu over.

Pitiful kid. He must have spent an entire day not cultivating.

How pitiful.

Fear not. His grandteacher had finally arrived to save the day! His backer was here!

Hong Tan fearfully did what he wanted. With his willpower, he covered the senses of the other elders to prevent them from sensing what he was doing. He grinned happily. There was no way these people would be able to sense anything.

He was a pseudo Sunmoon. Unless Zhou Mingren returned to take control of the grotto alongside him, none of these elders would be able to sense what he was doing.

The most they could sense was the fact that he had dispersed the willpower at several spots. But that was only natural. It would be weirder if he allowed those places to enjoy a large concentration of willpower.

...

At the same time.

Inside the grotto.

Su Yu's heart thumped as he looked at the misty sky above him.

A line had appeared in the sky.

The line extended far into the distance.

That reminded Su Yu of something. It was the second day. Had his grandteacher taken over? He did not hesitate and followed the guidance of the line. Was his grandteacher finally here to give him special treatment?

Of course, Su Yu was not the only person who had noticed the line in the sky. The two Cloudbreach cultivators, Hu Wensheng and Xia Yuwen, had also noticed the line after the willpower density around them had dropped to normal. They immediately followed the line. Liu Hong's group was also doing the same.

By the time Su Yu arrived at his destination, he saw that some other people were already there. Zhou Pingsheng was there. This was actually the first time he saw Su Yu in the grotto. He had an unfriendly look in his eyes, but he said nothing.

Ahead of them, a mountain had appeared. That was a mountain formed of willpower. The Skysoars did not hesitate to rush toward the mountain. Su Yu did the same. As he approached the mountain, his eyes flickered as he took out a small saber. The moment the saber appeared, a tunnel opened up ahead of him.

"It's indeed Grandteacher!"

Su Yu was overjoyed. He followed his saber and before long, he was separated from everyone else.

He ignored them and continued ahead. By the time the saber stopped, he looked around and was overjoyed. His surroundings were filled with thick willpower. And the area seemed completely blocked off from the outside, making entry impossible for anyone else.

His grandteacher was truly amazing!

With this, even if others knew that this place had a lot of willpower, they could only wait outside and absorb a little bit of the dispersed willpower. Meanwhile, he could happily absorb inside the mountain. He held nothing back and activated all 71 of his apertures, instantly absorbing a large amount of willpower.

...

At the same time.

While Hong Tan was busy feeling sad for his pitiful little grandstudent, his heart jolted.

Holy shit!

Did he lead the wrong person inside the mountain?

Holy shit!

Who the fuck was that?

What was that absorption speed?

Please stop messing around with him. Wasn't this the same fellow from earlier? This was the same person who he had assumed to be Zhou Pingsheng. The way the willpower had been instantly emptied was an exact repeat of what had happened earlier.

But...he had used his light of Sunmoon to borrow the power of the first principal's character. That special mountain was the territory of the multiple character faction.

After all, this was a grotto left behind by the first principal. Thus, the multiple character faction knew more about it than the others.

He was certain that only those from the multiple character faction could enter. Had Zhou Pingsheng joined the multiple character faction? Or perhaps...there had been a misunderstanding. Su Yu was the bastard who had been creating all those troubles.

Hong Tan was greatly shocked. What should he do?

Was it Su Yu?

With his powerful cultivation, Hong Tan covered everything, not giving even Zhou Mingren the chance to pry into what was happening in the grotto while feigning a calm expression.

Fear not! That was no problem at all. Even if Su Yu was the culprit, his awesome grandteacher was here. There was nothing to fear! His grandteacher would back him up!

But while doing all that, Hong Tan continued grumbling inwardly. Was this really Su Yu? Was this really the kid?

Wasn't this absorption speed a tad bit too crazy? Wasn't this supposed to be the absorption speed of a Cloudbreach?

The immense absorptive force would erupt in bursts.

Every 15 minutes or so, it would happen, causing Hong Tan to shake. He continued cursing inwardly, asking himself if this was really Su Yu. That was way too fast. Was the kid not afraid of bursting apart from absorbing too much?

...

Meanwhile, Su Yu was having the time of his life.

His grandteacher was such a great person.

That old man had actually created this special zone for him to absorb as much willpower as he wanted. This felt amazing! He no longer needed to be afraid of getting discovered by others. He was able to freely absorb the willpower with all his apertures.

Not all the absorbed willpower could be used to open new apertures as some would go to waste. But Su Yu made good use of even the leftover by powering his hammer with the leftover willpower and hammering his sea of willpower, tempering his apertures, and purifying his willpower.

He would have an endless supply of willpower here so what was there to fear? After an hour, he finally opened the final aperture of his second art with a rumble. The final aperture had been rather difficult to open.

Su Yu did not even pause as he continued absorbing willpower to open the apertures of his third art. This time, his absorption speed was even faster than before. Thanks to his increased speed and the endless supply of willpower, he was able to open his 73rd aperture in less than half an hour.

74...75...

One aperture after another opened.

Eventually, Hong Tan grew numb.

He was starting to wonder if he could last one full day.

Holy shit!

He was a pseudo Sunmoon from the multiple character faction! He was a lot stronger than Zhou Mingren! Even someone like him was having a hard time lasting a day.

Was that crazy fellow really Su Yu?

He was using at least 50 percent of the willpower in the grotto to supply Su Yu alone. The single character faction had paid a large price to open the grotto. If this fellow was really Su Yu, then he was single-handedly milking the single character faction dry.

"It shouldn't be him, right?"

Hong Tan didn't even know if he wanted that person to be Su Yu anymore. The longer it went, the faster that person's absorption speed became. At this point, that absorption speed had reached the level of a ninth-stage Cloudbreach while it was only at the level of a sixth or seventh-stage Cloudbreach before.

If this continued, would that person reach the level of a Mountainsea? This grotto was not meant to sustain the cultivation of a Mountainsea!

"Holy shit! He wouldn't cause the grotto to collapse with his excessive absorption, right?"

Hong Tan was starting to panic. There were a lot of people in the grotto. Kid, if that was really him, he needed to calm down. If the kid really caused the grotto to collapse, those people would kill him!

Hong Tan even started to wonder if he should just grab the kid and flee. This was too terrifying.

He would cover for the kid. He would cover everything for the kid. He would not allow anyone to see or sense anything. Look at how relaxed he was! Su Yu was definitely not the culprit. It was Zhou Pingsheng. Yes. It was Zhou Pingsheng!

...

Meanwhile, nobody realized that the grotto was being pushed to its limits.

As a large amount of the grotto's willpower had gathered in the vicinity of the mountain, they were all cultivating near the mountain. Looking at the nearby Hu Wensheng, Zhou Pingsheng sneered inwardly.

Sure enough!

When he ignored this fellow earlier, the incidents had not stopped. The moment they were all here together, the incidents had stopped.

The students had stopped roaring in anger.

The people had stopped screaming in frustration.

Areas devoid of willpower had stopped appearing.

Hu Wensheng...hmph!

Chapter 477: The Grotto Is Collapsing (1)

Absorb!

Absorb more!

Absorb crazily!

Su Yu had not even considered the fact that his grandteacher was having a terrible time. What a joke. What was his grandteacher? His grandteacher was an expert capable of fighting Sunmoons!

He was only absorbing a tiny bit of willpower. And he wasn't even absorbing directly from his grandteacher. He was absorbing the willpower produced by the resources of the single character faction. It wouldn't affect his grandteacher, so he naturally wouldn't hold back.

Willpower saturation?

Willpower overflow?

Yeah. That would happen with how much willpower he was absorbing.

But fear not! He had his little hammer!

Compress!

Purify!

He was uninterested in garbage willpower. He only wanted the purest of willpower!

All 80 of his apertures were full?

He couldn't absorb more?

Fear not!

He could open more! He could open even 180 apertures if he wanted!

With 80 apertures, his absorption speed was terrifying.

Even a regular ninth-stage Cloudbreach would only have 72 apertures opened.

Of course, since Su Yu's willpower was weaker in strength, his absorption speed was still incomparable to that of a ninth-stage Cloudbreach. But with 80 apertures, his speed was almost comparable to a seventh or eighth-stage Cloudbreach.

Continue!

Five hours...six hours...

This continued for 12 whole hours.

Little did he know, the materials supporting the opening of the grotto had been fully exhausted. The willpower expenditure was simply too high. At this point, Su Yu had opened a total of 100 apertures.

12 hours ago, he only had 71 opened apertures. In total, he had opened 29 new apertures. This was much faster than before. The thick willpower walls around him had thinned considerably.

And Su Yu's willpower had been tempered so much that he could no longer further temper them, forcing his willpower cultivation to reach 90 percent full. His willpower had turned extremely compact. If he continued tempering it, his willpower would probably turn solid.

But for willpower to turn truly solid, one needed to first reach willpower materialization. Since Su Yu had yet to achieve that, he could no longer continue tempering his willpower.

...

Meanwhile, Hong Tan felt like he was dying.

He kept telling himself that he was fine.

He could do this!

He needed to lie to everyone and show that he was fine!

He was really reaching his limit. The absorption speed was too fast. With 100 apertures, Su Yu was basically absorbing as much willpower as a Cloudbreach.

And that pressure was too much for the grotto to handle.

The grotto was on the verge of collapse.

Hong Tan knew that if this continued, the grotto would definitely collapse. But that couldn't happen while he was the one controlling it. He looked around before stopping on a certain elder. He would have to trouble Old Qi for this.

Old Qi was Fatty Xia's friend. He would be the perfect person to take the fall for the grotto's collapse. He hoped that Old Qi wouldn't take it to heart. He was already at his limits.

Old Qi wouldn't be afraid of offending all these people, but Hong Tan was. The multiple character faction was already in a difficult position. Thus, Old Qi would have to take on this task.

Despite all those thoughts running through his mind, Hong Tan maintained a tranquil expression.

He removed some of the willpower around Su Yu and dispersed it all over the grotto to keep it operational, ensuring that nobody would notice that the grotto was on the verge of collapse.

Old Qi would take over a grotto that was a shell of its former self. The collapse would happen in the blink of an eye.

Of course, since Su Yu was the culprit, he had to notify the kid in advance.

He couldn't converse with the kid?

That wasn't an issue!

...

Inside the grotto.

Su Yu was still busy cultivating. He could sense that the willpower density around him had dropped, but he wasn't too bothered.

Suddenly, the willpower wall beside him rippled.

He looked up at the wall.

A word formed on it.

Run!

Yes, that was the word on the wall. Su Yu blanked out. What was that?

"Run!"

The word became clearer and clearer. Before long, the word rippled and was replaced by: Collapse.

Su Yu blanked out.

Holy shit!

What was the meaning of that? Was the grotto collapsing? Or was this spot collapsing? What the hell was that? Wasn't this a grotto left behind by a big shot Sunmoon? How would it collapse?

Su Yu had a lot of questions, but he calmed down and waited a short while. No new words appeared while the willpower wall kept thinning. He could already start to see some silhouettes through the wall.

He hurriedly covered his apertures with the shadow barrier generated by his deceit character. Then, he stood up while maintaining a calm expression. He nonchalantly strode through the wall.

The moment he walked out, everyone focused on him. Ji Xiaomeng, who was cultivating beside Zhou Pingsheng, asked curiously, "Why are you stopping?"

Everyone knew that Hong Tan was giving Su Yu special treatment. Zhou Pingsheng and the others were unhappy, but they also knew that they couldn't do anything to something produced by a pseudo Sunmoon. Even if they could do that, they would probably do so much damage that the grotto itself would fall apart.

Thus, none of them had bothered to attack the mountain even if they knew Su Yu was inside.

Su Yu flashed a genial smile and said, "I'm only at the Mental Tempering Stage. There is a limit to how much I can absorb. After reaching saturation, it's pointless to stay inside."

Su Yu looked at the people cultivating nearby and smiled, "I would like to express my thanks to the seniors from the single character faction. My willpower has reached 90 percent. I have benefited greatly from this grotto. I think I'm not that far away from the Skysoar Realm."

Both Hu Wensheng and Xia Yuwen only gave him a glance before ignoring him. Zhou Pingsheng had a cold expression, but he said nothing either.

Liu Hong had an amused look as he asked, "Su Yu, you're growing fast, but have you formed all your characters? Are you going to join our single character faction after your advancement?"

Su Yu laughed, "What are you saying? Am I not a single character faction member currently? Wait, that's wrong. We only have a character faction in the academy now. There are no longer single or multiple character factions."

"..."

Liu Hong laughed, but inwardly, he was suspicious. Why was the kid stopping? Had the kid really reached saturation? That was possible. After all, the kid had absorbed a lot of willpower. It wouldn't be too surprising if he had reached saturation.

Su Yu started leaving. While walking, he said, "I really need to thank you guys for the free entry into this grotto. I'm being earnest. I'm not being sarcastic."

Su Yu spoke with a solemn expression. He was serious! He was really thankful for them. These people sure were kind. It was only a pity that he had only opened 100 apertures. Why had his grandteacher told him to leave?

The grotto was going to collapse?

Really?

He had planned to open at least 108 apertures! Fortunately, his willpower was at a state of saturation, with all 100 of his apertures stuffed full with willpower.

This was still a decent harvest for him. After leaving the grotto, he would probably be able to open two or three more apertures after digesting all the willpower he had stuffed in his sea of willpower. There was always the option of going crazy one last time before leaving the grotto. Even if he couldn't open 108 apertures, he could accept leaving with only 105 apertures.

Su Yu started heading toward Wu Jia.

He completely ignored the group behind him. With a bunch of Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators there, these people would be fine even if the grotto collapsed.

As for Ji Xiaomeng and the other students there, they would be fine. Those Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators would protect them. If those single character faction members dared to let any harm fall to these students, they would probably die themselves after leaving the grotto.

After losing his daughter to a mere grotto visit, Ji Hong would definitely kill all of them in a fit of anger.

...

"Wu Lan!"

While on his way, Su Yu saw Wu Lan. He greeted her and smiled, "Have you reached saturation?"
Get your *f*avorite *n*ovels at [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

Wu Lan glanced at him and decided to ignore him. She had reached saturation long ago! She was in the midst of nurturing her characters!

"Let's go together. The willpower here is too dense..."

Wu Lan was speechless. Was this guy stupid? Dense willpower would only make this a better cultivation environment! At first, Su Yu was inclined to ignore Wu Lan. But this girl was Wu Yuehua's grandniece. And Wu Yuehua was...his martial mother?

In a way, that was accurate.

Probably.

He wasn't too sure, but he knew that his Teacher Liu had a special relationship with Wu Yuehua. He felt pity for his Teacher Liu.

In the past, Teacher Liu had told him that all women were obstacles in cultivation. Perhaps these women were the reason why Teacher Liu had been stuck under the Skysoar Realm for so many years.

No wonder Teacher Liu had given him such a warning. He wouldn't doubt his Teacher Liu anymore. Teacher Liu was speaking from experience!

"Wu Lan, Xia Huyou said that you're garbage. He's planning to challenge you to a match. Do you know that?"

"..."

The moment those words were said, Wu Lan stopped cultivating and stood up. She coldly asked, "Are you speaking the truth?"

"Yes."

Su Yu said, "I met him earlier. In his words, you have been relying on your elder sister and grandaunt to act all cocky in the academy. He has been wanting to beat you up for a long time."

"Hmph!" Wu Lan snorted coldly and asked, "Where is he?"

"Ahead of us..."

Su Yu continued walking while sending a message to Xia Huyou.

Chapter 478: The Grotto Is Collapsing (2)

At the same time.

Xia Huyou checked his talisman. He had received a message from Su Yu.

"Wu Lan is going to challenge you to a match. I'm sorry. I was casually telling her how strong you are. I told her that you're not trash. For a high-middle student, you're pretty good. She disagreed and insisted on challenging you. I'm afraid you'll have to deal with her after this."

"..."

Xia Huyou wanted to punch someone in the face. How was that his fault? Instead of cultivating, why was Su Yu chatting with Wu Lan? Was that bastard deliberately doing this to mess with him?

Looking at the nearby Wu Jia, Xia Huyou flashed a wide smile and said, "Senior Sister Wu Jia, Su Yu just told me that he's returning with Wu Lan. He wanted me to remind you that you should watch your attitude around Wu Lan. She is a haughty person by nature and enjoys looking at someone with her nostrils. Don't mind her and don't provoke her...".

Wu Jia frowned and asked, "Why hasn't my junior brother told me that himself?"

"He felt awkward saying that himself." Xia Huyou had an embarrassed look as he said, "He's just worried that the two of you would get into an argument. Elder Wu is a friend of your faction. It would be awkward if the two of you get into a fight. Senior Sister Wu Jia, Wu Lan might even start picking fights after arriving. This is how she has always been. Don't mind her. But since she doesn't know you well, she might target me first instead to bait you into an argument. After all, she dislikes all women."

"Target you to bait me?"

Wu Jia frowned. Why would she care if this person was targeted?

Xia Huyou said, "That's how she is. She enjoys pretending to scold someone while scolding someone else entirely. She might call me a piece of trash right after arriving. In truth, she's talking about you. After all, well...you were seriously injured not long ago..."

Wu Jia's expression turned ugly.

Xia Huyou said, "Of course, she only has a bad temper. She is actually a nice person. And she worships experts. If you are willing to compare notes with her and teach her a lesson, she will immediately become docile in front of you."

After saying all that, Xia Huyou exhaled in relief. Go and fight. The two could fight to their hearts' content. He really couldn't be bothered to get into such a stupid fight.

That damn Su Yu was definitely doing that to screw with him. Thus, it was only fair that he used Su Yu's senior sister to solve this issue. He couldn't be blamed for that, right?

Wu Jia snorted and said, "I joined the academy before her. What's the point of comparing notes with her?"

"You're wrong, Senior Sister. You're not comparing notes with her. You're teaching her a lesson. You need to show her what's up or she will keep calling you garbage. Honestly, not even I can take something like that."

Xia Huyou continued instigating while Wu Jia remained silent. It was unknown if she had agreed or if she was planning to ignore Wu Lan. After a short while, Su Yu arrived. Sure enough, Wu Lan was with him.

At this time, Su Yu was busy notifying Zhang Hao and the others to stay somewhere with low willpower density. That way, they would be fine even if the grotto collapsed. The moment Wu Lan arrived, his gaze landed on Xia Huyou.

She had an unfriendly look in her eyes. But she was still polite enough to ask, "Xia Huyou, are you challenging me to a fight?"

Xia Huyou cursed inwardly.

Fuck!

Damn that Su Yu! He was right! Su Yu was trying to mess with him! Good thing he was smart!

"Not at all..."

Xia Huyou denied and laughed dryly before saying, "Did Su Yu tell you that? That's nonsense. In truth, I wasn't the one who had said those words..." He then glanced at Wu Jia.

He was basically hinting that Wu Jia was the person who had said those words. It wasn't him! It was Wu Jia! Pick a fight with her instead!

But after looking at Xia Huyou's indirect hint, Wu Lan cluelessly said, "So you don't have the balls to admit what you did? What a piece of trash. If you really want to fight, bring it on!"

"..."

Xia Huyou was speechless. He felt like he had just gestured at someone blind. Was she not getting the hint? She wasn't supposed to be this stupid!

Sure, her temper was bad, but she was actually quite smart. She only had a low emotional intelligence. How was she not getting the hint?

Before he could say anything else, Su Yu smiled, "Since Brother Xia has conceded, forget about it. Wu Lan, don't bother yourself with him. Brother Xia might talk a lot of trash, but he is a nice guy. Since we're all together, let us talk about what we have comprehended during our cultivation. We are on similar levels, after all..."

He could see that this fatty was trying to instigate his senior sister to face Wu Lan in his stead. What a black-hearted fellow! Wu Lan snorted. Meanwhile, Xia Huyou glanced at Su Yu before rolling his eyes. The two exchanged knowing looks.

Both of them were assholes, so neither could blame the other for what they did. Whatever. He couldn't be bothered to pursue this matter. He was more curious about the reason Su Yu had brought Wu Lan here.

Ignoring Wu Lan's disdainful gaze, Xia Huyou smiled and said, "Wu Lan, Senior Sister Wu Jia has something to say to you. The two of you should have a chat. I'll need to discuss something with Su Yu as well."

He then dragged Su Yu to the side. While walking, he whispered, "What are you doing? Are you treating me as a professional nanny? Are you trying to get me to take care of them both?"

"Nope."

Su Yu looked around before whispering, "Be careful. This place is going to collapse."

"..."

Xia Huyou was surprised. What did that mean? Collapse?

"How is that possible? No matter what, this place is a Sunmoon grotto. Unless its expenditure is too high due to an imbalance in willpower distribution that is interrupting the grotto's normal operation, it won't fall apart and throw everyone out of the grotto..."

But at that point, his eyes flickered. He stared at Su Yu in shock. Dang! That couldn't be it, right? This fellow had sucked the entire grotto dry? But that didn't make sense.

Even if this fellow had opened 40 or 50 apertures, he would only have the absorption speed of a ninth-stage Skysoar. This grotto shouldn't be so weak. Su Yu shrugged and gave no explanation.

That was what his grandteacher told him. How was he supposed to know why? In fact, he also believed that he had not absorbed too much willpower at all. For some reason, his grandteacher told him to run and claimed that the grotto was going to collapse. What could he do? He could only take his grandteacher's warning seriously.

"The details don't matter. I only know that this place is going to collapse." Su Yu added, "It probably won't happen now, but it will happen when the next elder takes over the grotto."

That was Su Yu's guess. His grandteacher wasn't stupid enough to take the blame for a mess like this. In fact, his grandteacher had probably told him to leave the mountain earlier to remove any suspicion from him as well.

With his departure, only a bunch of Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators were left near the mountain. If the grotto really collapsed, it would be their fault, not him! And his grandteacher was definitely not to blame as well!

That place had a high density of willpower. Those people had all gathered there and sucked the grotto dry, causing the collapse of the grotto. That wasn't even surprising. After all, all the Cloudbreach cultivators were there.

Xia Huyou understood the hidden meaning behind Su Yu's words. He asked, "So we still have some time?"

"Yeah."

Xia Huyou was speechless. Hong Tan was the one in charge of the grotto right now. Did this not mean that they were going to let someone else take the blame? Who would be the lucky person?

It wouldn't be Elder Qi, right? He remembered that this was the arrangement made by the elders. Elder Qi would be the one taking over after Hong Tan. He hurriedly took out a voice transmission talisman.

Su Yu looked at Xia Huyou in astonishment. Xia Huyou met his gaze and calmly asked, "Why are you looking at me like this? We can transmit messages outside the grotto as well. I'm going to notify Elder Qi to not get dragged into this mess. Let the single character faction enjoy it instead. They should have recovered enough after a day of rest."

Su Yu was dumbfounded.

Holy shit!

He had completely forgotten about this. He should have given his grandteacher a voice transmission talisman as well. With that, they wouldn't have needed to communicate with some vague willpower words.

He was somewhat speechless.

That thought had never crossed his mind. And it seemed like Hong Tan had never thought of that as well. Generally, most people wouldn't think of using a voice transmission talisman since a communicator was more than enough.

"Wait a moment..." Su Yu asked, "Will Elder Qi sell us out?"

"Of course not!" Xia Huyou said, "That's my seco--cough, cough. That's Marquis Xia's old friend. In reality, he can be considered the Xia Family's spokesperson in the academy. Of course, he isn't from Xia Yuwen's line. He is

from our--I mean Xia Chan's line. He is the spokesperson of the main line of the family."

Su Yu was feeling tired just listening to Xia Huyou. This fellow sure was attached to the act of hiding his identity. Was this his final struggle before his identity was fully revealed? Why was he pretending even now? The two of them knew each other so well that it was pointless.

Xia Huyou sent the message while talking to Su Yu. After doing that, he said, "I need to look for Xia Chan as well. I don't want her to get injured. The collapse of a grotto isn't a big deal, but it is still able to give Mental Tempering Stage students some troublesome injuries. My second--Marquis Xia would not spare me if I ignored her. He would take it out on you as well. Kid, you won't be able to hide this from my...second grandpa."

Whatever. He was tired of pretending. It was way too tiring to keep up the act in front of someone who was already aware of his identity.

Su Yu rolled his eyes.

Was this fellow finally tired of acting?

"Sure, but don't make it too obvious. After all, Xia Chan has joined the single character faction..."

Xia Huyou was indifferent, "That's not an issue. The separation between single and multiple character factions is only a big deal for you guys. For the Xia Family, all of you are citizens of Great Xia. As long as the single character faction does not rebel against the Xia Family, they will be considered an ally. You don't need to worry too much about her. Just take you for an example. We're close, but it doesn't mean that the Xia Family will be close to you. Generally, the Xia Family tries to be fair. The only exception is when someone does something too excessive."

Su Yu nodded. That was understandable. In the Xia Family's point of view, both the single and multiple character factions would be their people as long as they avoid doing something like rebelling. Find new stories on (.).com

In Su Yu's opinion, the only reason the Xia Family seemed somewhat prejudiced against the single character faction right now was because the single character faction seemed to be getting closer and closer to Great Zhou. And that was not something the Xia Family was happy with.

Su Yu said, "Do what you want. Just remember to hide somewhere with low willpower density. That way, you won't suffer too much when the grotto falls apart. Just don't go to Zhou Pingsheng's place. Oh, take care of my senior sister and Wu Lan for me. I need to take another trip."

"Where are you going?"

Su Yu smiled, "I'm going to absorb more willpower. I can't let the willpower go to waste, right? I won't be able to absorb more after the grotto collapses."

Xia Huyou was speechless.

This fellow was so obsessed with squeezing every benefit he could get that he would risk his own well-being for it.

...

Su Yu was not concerned about Xia Huyou's thoughts. He went over and told Wu Jia to stay with Xia Huyou. He also spoke a little with Wu Lan. As for how Xia Huyou was supposed to keep Wu Lan with him, well, that was a problem for him to solve.

...

After leaving the group, Su Yu started roaming the grotto.

Whenever he arrived at a location with high willpower density, he would absorb the willpower there. He told himself that he was doing this for the good of everyone here. What if the high willpower density ended up hurting these people?

He was doing this for the greater good! In this manner, Su Yu absorbed a decent amount of willpower. Most people did not mind him.

At this point, most of the Mental Tempering Stage students had reached saturation. They were using their remaining time to nurture their characters instead of absorbing more willpower.

Chapter 479: The Grotto Is Collapsing (3)

While Su Yu was taking a stroll, Hong Tan was finding it harder and harder to hang on. This time, it wasn't Su Yu's fault. Rather, it was because the grotto had only been reduced to an empty shell of willpower, and that shell had been

getting dangerously thin. Before long, the willpower would be completely exhausted.

The willpower that was supposed to last three days was emptying fast.

Seeing that the third day had yet to arrive, Hong Tan's willpower rippled slightly. Next, Chen Yong rushed over and anxiously said, "Teacher, I heard from Junior Brother. His injuries are flaring up again! You need to take a look at him!"

"What?"

Hong Tan blanked out and exclaimed, "His injuries are flaring up?"

He looked at Zhou Mingren and frowned, "Fine. I'll take a look. Old Qi, do me a favor and take over this grotto from me..."

Elder Qi smiled and said, "Sure. Don't worry. I'll help you..."

But immediately after, someone ran into the room while gasping for breath and hastily said, "Teacher, Little Nine broke a bottle of your experimental product. I don't know what happened, but he has fallen unconscious!"

"Fool!" Elder Qi furiously said, "That is a sleeping concoction meant to be used against Mountainseas. I need to leave as well. That damn bastard. I'll be sure to teach him a lesson when I return..."

But at that moment, he recalled something and hurriedly looked at Hong Tan.

The two looked at each other. Hong Tan's eyes flickered as he said, "Let's call Vice Principal Han or Vice Principal Su over..."

Nearby, Zhou Mingren frowned and unhappily said, "I'll do it."

Looking for the other two vice principals? What was the meaning of that?

The single character faction was the one who had opened the grotto this time. They had already reached an agreement and the two vice principals were not supposed to be involved. Since he had already recovered fully after resting for a day, he was more than capable of taking control of the grotto yet again.

"You..."

Hong Tan had a dissatisfied expression as he said, "Are you going to be targeting my people again?"

Zhou Mingren frowned, "The majority of the people in the grotto are from the single character faction. Your faction has so few people inside that it's almost negligible. I'm not about to waste my energy and time on something this trivial."

Since a majority of the people in the grotto were from the single character faction, it would not be easy for him to locate the few individuals that were actually not members of his faction.

It really wasn't worth the effort. He would need to spare a lot of energy for that. Perhaps only someone as unreasonable as Hong Tan would do something this pointless. Find new stories on (.)com

Hong Tan was about to say more when Chen Yong's anxious voice rang out, "Teacher, let's return first. I'll keep watch here instead. Junior Brother's injuries are very difficult to deal with!"

"Fine."

Hong Tan had a gloomy expression as he muttered, "It hasn't even been one full day..."

How regretful. He could no longer provide his two grandstudents with preferential treatment. He then left.

Zhou Mingren became the new controller of the grotto. Also exiting the room was Elder Qi. Both Elder Qi and Hong Tan exchanged knowing looks before flying away. This had nothing to do with them! The single character faction itself had resumed control over the grotto!

...

The moment Zhou Mingren took control, he frowned. The grotto was very unstable. What was going on?

But after giving the grotto a rough scan, he saw that the willpower was still quite thick. This shouldn't be a problem. Perhaps the grotto was still somewhat unstable because Zhou Pingsheng had absorbed too much willpower.

This shouldn't be too problematic. It was evident that Zhou Mingren was still weaker than Hong Tan. As a crafty old fox, Hong Tan had given the grotto a shell of willpower. At one glance, the grotto looked relatively normal, so Zhou Mingren wasn't too worried.

When he scanned the grotto, he found that a specific spot had a much higher density of willpower. But there were also a lot more people there. It would seem like all the Cloudbreach and Skysoar cultivators had gathered there.

He did not bother changing that. This would only make things easier to manage. After about half an hour, Hong Tan and Elder Qi returned. Elder Qi looked at Hong Tan with surprise. This fellow actually dared to return?

Hong Tan ignored the odd look Elder Qi was giving him. The moment he entered the room, he said, "It's not too serious. The brat is fine. Old Zhou, I can resume my task."

"There is no need for that." Zhou Mingren said, "Changing controllers frequently might also result in the collapse of the grotto."

Hong Tan frowned and said, "The second day is almost over so you might as well let Old Qi take over instead..."

Zhou Mingren was about to say something when Elder Qi laughed and said, "It's fine. Since Old Zhou can keep doing it, let him do it."

He was not interested in getting involved. Hong Tan was definitely not harboring any good intentions. This fellow had most likely returned to enjoy the show that would unfold. This was a fellow with a black heart! He even returned to fight over the control of the grotto to remove all suspicion from him.

...

At the same time.

After sensing the willpower flow in the grotto, Su Yu transmitted a message to Xia Huyou, "What did Elder Qi say?"

"Your grandteacher ran off long ago. He's currently waiting for the show to start."

Su Yu was very impressed. In that case, whatever happened next would be unrelated to his grandteacher, right?

"Prepare yourself. Don't get injured."

After giving Xia Huyou a reminder, Su Yu ran off toward the area with the highest willpower density. While traveling, he continued absorbing the willpower along the way, only leaving a small amount of willpower behind to continue masking the lack of willpower in the grotto.

He stopped not far away from the area with high willpower density. After checking his Perception Jade to ensure that nobody had noticed him, he started rapidly absorbing the willpower in the area.

His speed kept increasing.

Soon, the color of his Perception Jade started changing. Someone seemed to have noticed something. Instantly, Su Yu activated his deceit character and covered his entire body with shadow before fleeing.

With Su Yu's mad absorption, the entire grotto had been nearly emptied of willpower..

...

At the same time.

Zhou Mingren's expression changed.

An area in the grotto had suddenly been cleared of willpower. When he attempted to move some willpower elsewhere to balance out the willpower distribution in the grotto, he cursed. There was no willpower to be found!

The entire grotto was almost devoid of willpower! Zhou Mingren blanked out blankly before realization hit him. He turned his head and glared at Hong Tan.

Damn that bastard!

"People, support the grotto!"

Zhou Mingren suddenly yelled.

"The grotto is collapsing!"

The expressions of the elders changed upon hearing that.

Hong Tan and Elder Qi exchanged looks before stepping forth to help. While doing so, Hong Tan scolded, "Idiot! I told you to let me take over earlier but you insisted on doing it yourself! Damn it! If something happens to my grandstudents, I won't spare you!"

Zhou Mingren was so furious he felt like he was going to get a heart attack.

Fuck Hong Tan and all his ancestors!

Would Hong Tan really dare to take over if he had agreed to hand over control earlier?

Damn it!

That bastard had sensed something wrong long ago and had escaped promptly.

Damn it! Couldn't Hong Tan have given them a warning or something if the grotto was on the verge of falling apart? Instead, that bastard had used this chance to screw with him!

But Zhou Mingren did not have the time to play the blame game. His willpower erupted and forcefully stabilized the grotto before howling, "Everyone in the grotto, stop cultivating--"

Crash!

Before he could finish his words, a loud rumble resounded.

Boom!

A large shockwave spread through the room.

And a silhouette was spat out from the portal.

Whoosh!

One silhouette after another was spat out by the portal. Zhou Pingsheng and company were the first group to leave the grotto. All of them were coughing blood. These people had yet to reach willpower saturation. And the willpower around them had the highest level of density. Thus, they were still busy

absorbing willpower when the grotto suddenly collapsed. As a result, all of them were badly injured.

Even with his heavy injuries, Zhou Pingsheng was using all his strength to protect a certain individual.

Inwardly, he was cursing. What happened? Why had the grotto collapsed suddenly?

The beloved daughter of Director Ji was right beside him. He was forced to take care of her. Fortunately, he was not too weak so he was capable of doing that much. But as a result, he wasn't able to protect himself well enough and ended up suffering a heavy injury.

The others weren't much better off than him. Every single one of them was coughing blood.

And every single teacher was protecting the students near them. Most of these students were from the single character faction. The teachers had called these students over after noticing that the area had a much higher density of willpower.

People were continuously spat out of the portal. The same happened to Su Yu. After the sudden and forced teleportation, he promptly coughed a mouthful of blood. Thanks to his blood character, this was something he could do any time he wanted.

He had a pale expression and a shaken sea of willpower. That was accomplished by smashing himself with his hammer. This trick had nearly failed due to how solid his willpower was. It was important that his willpower didn't look too stable or it would be too conspicuous.

Fortunately, after a few hammer strikes, he finally managed to shake his sea of willpower somewhat. He had a pale expression and a blurry look in his eyes as he had hammered himself so hard that he was starting to feel dizzy.

Boom!

Students were dropping on the ground all around Su Yu. Meanwhile, the experts were busy dealing with the grotto's collapse and couldn't spare any attention to them.

With a wave of his hand, Chen Yong gathered both Su Yu and Wu Jia to his side. Wu Jia was relatively fine. She was almost fully uninjured. But when Chen Yong's gaze landed on Su Yu, his expression changed to worry. His willpower instantly surged forward to help stabilize the kid's sea of willpower...

But the moment he did that, the look on his face changed.

Holy shit!

Solidified?

Was this a joke?

What the fuck?

Why was the kid's willpower so solid?

Were his senses lying to him?

With such a powerful willpower, could the aftermath of the grotto collapse even harm the kid?

Sensing something, Su Yu hurriedly hammered himself a few more times. He kept telling himself that he was injured. He had lost consciousness. He knew nothing. He had done nothing.

With the hammer strikes, his sea of willpower shook again as he coughed another mouthful of blood.

Chen Yong was dumbstruck.

Holy shit!

What was the kid doing?

But he quickly changed his expression and said, "Teacher, Su Yu is injured. I need to send him back first."

Hong Tan was still busy stabilizing the grotto. When he heard that, he turned his head and looked over. When he saw Su Yu, his expression changed as he said, "Alright. Go back immediately. I'll return shortly."

"Sure."

Chen Yong grabbed both Su Yu and Wu Jia before flying away.

They couldn't stay here for long. If someone decided to check Su Yu's status, everything would be revealed.

At this time, Zhou Mingren also shot Su Yu a glance. He saw that the kid had a pale face and an unstable sea of willpower. He snorted inwardly. It would seem like the kid had been seriously injured as well. He deserved it!

The kid must have gotten greedy and insisted on staying in an area with a lot of willpower. That was the only reason the kid would be injured so badly. He looked around and exhaled in relief. Things weren't too bad.

Due to a lack of willpower, the grotto had collapsed. But only a small number of people had been injured. Nobody was killed. And most of the victims were those from the single character faction. This wouldn't bring him too much trouble.

That thought had barely crossed his mind when a furious voice rang out, "Manager Zhou had been creating trouble everywhere and interrupting our cultivation. Not long after the disturbances stopped, the grotto collapsed. Teacher, I obtained nothing from this cultivation session. The single character faction needs to compensate us!"

"..."

Among the crowd, a Mountainsea elder blanked out slightly as he looked at Zhang Hao. The kid had obtained nothing from the grotto?

Zhang Hao had a furious look as he said, "Teacher, after entering, Manager Zhou has intentionally targeted me a few times. He eventually stopped, but I hadn't been able to cultivate for long before the grotto collapsed. I have gained nothing from this grotto!"

Immediately, a different voice rang out, "Same here!"

"Yeah, it's the same for me!"

"The willpower around me was emptied a few times in a row!"

"..."

The students of the other factions started complaining one after another.

The price of entry wasn't cheap! But after entering, they encountered trouble after trouble.

This was an opportunity given to them by their Mountainsea teachers. Some of their teachers had been forced to use the favor of a Mountainsea on top of paying a large price to get these slots. But after entering, they weren't able to cultivate peacefully. How would they be willing to accept this?

Ji Xiaomeng, who had received Zhou Pingsheng's protection, had a look of hesitation. After giving the ashen-faced Zhou Pingsheng a look, she softly said, "Uncle Zhou is a good man. I don't blame him. But they need to compensate me. I spent all my savings on that slot!"

The faces of Zhou Mingren and the others turned purple from anger.

Bullshit!

Had she even paid anything for the slot?

Nevertheless, they were still greatly troubled.

Elder Sun and the others had unsightly expressions. What the fuck happened? Why would the grotto collapse suddenly? A pseudo Sunmoon like Zhou Mingren wasn't even able to detect the collapse in advance? They felt terrible.

After paying such a large price to open this grotto, they had been able to earn the favor of a number of people with the slots they had sold. But now, they had earned the ire of all these people.

Chapter 480: Heavy Burden (1)

Inside the hall.

The single character faction was being held accountable.

All the students from the other factions were unhappy. Firstly, the grotto had not lasted three days. Secondly, there were many interruptions when they were cultivating.

Sure, these Mental Tempering Stage students did not need a lot of willpower since without apertures, they could only passively absorb willpower. But a lot

of them were here to nurture their characters. That required a lot of willpower. And they had not been able to achieve their targets.

At this point, Zhou Mingren and the other elders had finally stabilized the grotto. The collapse earlier did not have much effect on the character that had formed the grotto itself. As a Sunmoon character, it wouldn't be so easily damaged. Unfortunately, they would not be able to reopen the grotto unless they used a large amount of materials once again.

In truth, even if the collapse hadn't happened, the grotto still wouldn't be able to last much longer. After all, there wasn't much willpower left in the grotto. Their initial estimate was to keep the grotto open for three days, but it hadn't even been two full days yet. This wasn't what these people had expected when they bought the slots to enter the grotto.

At this time, Hong Tan muttered, "They insisted on getting a few Cloudbreach cultivators inside. Look what happened. If there were only Skysoars and students inside, the willpower expenditure wouldn't have been so high."

He was actually right. The absorption speed of the Cloudbreach cultivators had played a large role in expediting the collapse of the grotto. Of course, the main culprit was a certain someone who had absorbed even more willpower than all the Cloudbreach cultivators.

In fact, they had reduced the number of people entering the grotto to allow the Cloudbreach cultivators they were sending in for this reason. They were worried that the willpower would be emptied too fast.

Zhou Mingren looked at Hong Tan and coldly said, "Previously, the grotto was already almost empty of willpower. Why hadn't you shut the grotto from further operation?"

Hong Tan had an innocent expression as he said, "When I left, the grotto was still filled with willpower. If those Skysoar and Cloudbreach cultivators had not absorbed so much willpower, how would the grotto have collapsed so early?"

"With your strength, you can keep the grotto running even after the grotto runs out of willpower. Since you guys have promised to keep the grotto open for three days, just use more materials and open it up again."

He made it sound so easy. But that was only because he wasn't the one paying. Even the single character faction didn't have that much of those

unique materials in stock. Otherwise, they would have opened the grotto long ago.

Zhou Mingren gave Hong Tan a deep look and said, "We all know what you're thinking. What's the point of acting all clueless? What is your goal here?"

None of them was an idiot. Everyone could see the truth.

Hong Tan smiled, "I have no goal. Since the grotto is out of willpower, it is naturally your responsibility to add more materials and reopen the grotto. This has nothing to do with me. Are you trying to say that I've intentionally exhausted the grotto's willpower to cause the collapse? It's clear that the Cloudbreach cultivators you sent in there were the reason for the collapse."

Zhou Mingren calmly asked, "How are you sure that it's the Cloudbreach cultivators? Maybe it's your people. Su Yu is an exceptionally talented young man. Is it not possible that he was the one who had been absorbing willpower all over the grotto, eventually causing the collapse?"

Hong Tan shrugged, "Sure. Whatever you say. Su Yu is such an incredible kid. He alone could absorb as much willpower as those late-stage Cloudbreach cultivators. He must have opened at least 100 apertures or this wouldn't have been possible. After all, he's still at the Mental Tempering Stage."

Hong Tan snickered and said, "In truth, Su Yu is actually a Cloudbreach in disguise. Are you happy with this explanation? Oh, and there's also Wu Jia. She's actually a Mountainsea in disguise. How's this for an answer?"

Zhou Mingren said nothing. There was really nothing he could say. If Su Yu was a Skysoar, it would be easier to lay the blame on him. But it was unreasonable to make a Mental Tempering Stage student the scapegoat.

In fact, the single character faction would turn into an even bigger joke if a mere Mental Tempering Stage student was actually the one who had caused the grotto to collapse. And everyone saw that Su Yu himself had been injured by the collapse. The kid was in such a bad condition that he had been brought away in advance.

Hong Tan said, "Old Zhou, this is not the time for you to pick petty fights with us. You should focus on dealing with your own trouble. Most of the people here are innocent. If you want to blame someone, blame that bastard who had

been running around emptying random areas of willpower in the grotto. Why did you send someone with such a fast absorption speed into the grotto in the first place?"

That was the crux of the issue. The premature closure of the grotto was mainly the handiwork of that one asshole.

Zhou Mingren inhaled deeply and looked at Zhan Hai, Zhang Hao, and Xia Huyou before saying, "The grotto has indeed lasted shorter than our expectations. But I believe everyone here also understands that your slots had not been purchased with a proper price in the first place. At the price we had set, the slots might as well be free."

They were unhappy, but they couldn't help but nod in agreement. That was true. The single character faction had been using the slots to earn the favors of the various factions. Thus, the slots had been sold for relatively cheap prices.

"I will refund all of you at a later date." Zhou Mingren calmly said, "We won't take a single cent from all of you. The grotto might have ended earlier, but all of you must have still gained something from it. The interruptions shouldn't have been too serious. Consider this our gift for everyone as an apology for the bad experience."

Since he was offering full refunds, the others naturally had nothing to say. Even though the grotto had closed early, they had still benefited from it. At the very least, their willpower cultivation had all grown.

In fact, they were quite pleased to hear that they would receive their money back. Even those Mountainsea elders were nodding approvingly. One of them smiled and said, "Old Zhou, you misunderstood us. That wasn't what we were trying to see. We should thank the single character faction for opening the grotto and benefiting everyone. We were only feeling regretful at how the whole thing had ended. Do not misunderstand us, Old Zhou."

Zhou Mingren snorted inwardly. Misunderstanding? If he hadn't offered a full refund, these people would definitely not let the matter slide. This was still acceptable for him. The loss wasn't too big. Very few of the slots had been actually sold for money, anyway. And those slots hadn't been sold for much. In total, only about 10,000 merit points needed to be refunded.

The materials they had used to open the grotto were worth much more. Since they had lost the materials, adding 10,000 merit points on top of their loss was really not that big of a deal.

Hong Tan beamed and asked, "How about the 10,000 merit points provided by the academy? Since those merit points were meant to sponsor the tournament, maybe you should reward the top five students with the money instead?"

Zhou Mingren looked at Hong Tan and indifferently said, "The slots we gave out during the tournament were never meant to be given out. The chance to cultivate in the grotto for two days is enough for these students. They shouldn't get too greedy. Also, have we guaranteed that the grotto would stay open for three days? No! Hong Tan, I only agreed to refund them as compensation for the damage due to the collapse of the grotto. The time the grotto had stayed open has nothing to do with the compensation."

Hong Tan shrugged, "Sure. Most of the top five students are from your faction anyway. Su Yu is the only person from my side in the top five. Since you're not willing to compensate, forget it."

Zhou Mingren didn't even deign to give that a reply.

He looked at the crowd and said, "The grotto is now closed. I admit that this is a result of our carelessness. The collapse has affected everyone's willpower so all of you should return early and get a good rest."

He was basically indirectly telling these people to leave.

The others looked at each other. Before long, one of the elders said, "Sure. We'll be taking our leave, Old Zhou. However...it's time you clean your house. You have been the one to act as the scapegoat every single time. This is not right."

They all knew that this wasn't actually his fault, so they didn't say much. They were telling him to stop taking the blame for the few rats in his faction. He was a pseudo Sunmoon. But he had been reduced into a professional scapegoat by these idiots. These juniors were too unreliable. If they were in his shoes, they would have lost their temper long ago.

Zhou Mingren smiled and said nothing. He watched on as everyone left.

But when he noticed that Hong Tan was not leaving, he coldly asked, "Hong Tan, are you staying for dinner?"

Hong Tan indifferently said, "Sure. I'll be leaving as well. Old Zhou, take care of your health. Don't get too angry. Sigh. Some juniors are truly unreliable. That student of mine is the same. This is too worrisome. He's going to the Allheaven Battlefield soon..."

Hong Tan finally swaggered off. Right after he left, Elder Sun and the others snorted. There was something about that bastard's tone that they couldn't stand. But there really wasn't anything they could say.

At this moment, someone softly said, "Grandpa Zhou, I didn't pay for the slot, but I used all my savings and bought Grandpa Qi a gift for the slot. But it's too embarrassing to ask for the gift back..."

Only then did Zhou Mingren notice that there was still someone there. He looked at Ji Xiaomeng speechlessly.

Hiding behind Zhou Pingsheng, Ji Xiaomeng poked his head out and bashfully said, "Grandpa Zhou, don't misunderstand me. I wasn't asking for anything. But...wuwuwu...I really have no money left..."

She started sobbing. She had obtained the slot after giving Grandpa Qi a gift! But they had not offered to refund her anything! But the gift had already been given out. How was she supposed to ask for her money?

Zhou Mingren didn't know what to say. After a while, he forced himself to smile and said, "Xiaomeng, how much money did you spend on the gift?"

"30 merit points." Ji Xiaomeng answered, "I'm not lying! I even have the receipt! Do you want to check the receipt?"

"It's fine."

Zhou Mingren smiled, "You're a good child. Return and take a rest. I'll get someone to send you 30 merit points later."

"Thank you, Grandpa Zhou!" Ji Xiaomeng was overjoyed, "Grandpa Zhou is such a good person! Uhm...don't tell Grandpa Qi about this, ok? I don't want him to think that I'm a stingy person!"

"I won't." Check new *novel chapters* at [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

Ji Xiaoment then bounced off happily.

30 merit points...

Zhou Mingren didn't know what to say. Was this daughter of Ji Hong really so innocent or was she faking it? He had thought that she would take this chance to demand a large amount of money from him, but she had only asked for 30 merit points.

She had waited until only the single character faction members were left before asking for only 30 merit points. She had helped them save face and asked for only a paltry sum of money. What else could he say?

In fact, Zhou Mingren even felt grateful that she had allowed him to solve this issue for only 30 merit points. Otherwise, this daughter of Ji Hong would not be so easy to deal with.

Finally, all the outsiders were gone. No, to be precise, Xia Yuwen was still there.

Looking at Xia Yuwen, Zhou Mingren smiled, "Yuwen, that was an embarrassing display. I hope the collapse hasn't affected you much."

Xia Yuwen nodded, "I'm fine. Faculty Head Zhou, this matter is unrelated to me, but I still need to say something. Don't turn yourself into a clown."

Zhou Mingren smiled, "Of course."

"I'll be taking my leave, then."

Xia Yuwen strode off with a calm expression with Zhou Hao behind him.

Finally, only the single character faction members were left in the room.

With a calm expression, Zhou Mingren scanned the crowd. He focused on Zhou Pingsheng for a while before asking, "Who was the one who had been absorbing willpower all over the grotto?"

Nobody said anything.

Zhou Mingren waited for a while before asking, "Wensheng, was that you?"

Hu Wensheng shook his head, "Teacher, I did nothing except cultivate in the grotto. I had only changed my location once after Hong Tan took over the grotto. He had created an area with a high level of willpower density."

Zhou Mingren looked at Zhou Pingsheng and asked, "Was that you, Pingsheng?"

Zhou Pingsheng lowered his head and said, "Teacher, I didn't cultivate on the first day, but I spent all my time cultivating with Junior Brother Liu and the others during the second day."

Zhou Mingren frowned. Liu Hong hurriedly said, "That's true. I was with Zhou Pingsheng during the second day. Senior Brother Wang, Senior Sister Chen, and the others were all with us as well."

Zhou Mingren looked at the people Liu Hong mentioned. Those were all Skysoars.

They nodded. One of them said, "Around the end of the first day, we all gathered up."

In other words, they were all cultivating together during the second day. Of course, the grotto had also been relatively calm during the second day with no instances of random areas constantly emptied of willpower.

These incidents had mostly happened during the first day. And Zhou Pingsheng had moved all over the grotto during the first day. On the other hand, Hu Wensheng had been cultivating at a single spot during that time. Naturally, Zhou Pingsheng was the most likely culprit.