

## Canon 851

### Chapter 851 Rather Than Merely Surviving, It's Better To Die in Battle (2)

On the coast of the Endless Sea, countless migrating humans brought their families to the ferries that the various grotto-heavens had prepared.

Anyone who saw this scene would never forget it!

When Zhou Shu saw this scene, he recalled some of the disaster movies he had seen in his previous life.

This scene was extremely similar to the scenes of the end of the world.

This was indeed the end of the world.

The human race had been forced to retreat to the grotto-heavens. No matter how one looked at it, this was an out-and-out humiliation.

Zhou Shu stood in a camp and sighed as he looked at the humans migrating like ants.

"How do you feel looking at this?" A voice sounded. Zhou Shu didn't need to turn his head to know that it was Ji Lutian.

"How is Emperor Yuan Feng?" Zhou Shu asked without turning around.

"The pill you brought back is just right. After he recuperates for some time, he will return to normal," Ji Lutian said. "I didn't expect that you could really find Wang Xuanyi."

"I was just lucky." Zhou Shu looked at the people and fell silent again.

"Heaven and earth are unkind. They treat all creation as sacrificial straw dogs," Ji Lutian said slowly.

"What you see is just history repeating itself.

"This has happened many times before. I've seen it often enough to get used to it."

"You've seen it often enough?" Zhou Shu turned to look at Ji Lutian. "Mr. Ji, may I ask if you're a disciple of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain?"

Zhou Shu remembered that Ji Lutian had given him the library of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain.

"No." Ji Lutian shook his head straightforwardly. "I did obtain some things from the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain, but I'm not a successor of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain. I've never learned anything from the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain either."

"Do you want to ask who I am?" A bitter smile appeared on Ji Lutian's face. "If I told you that I don't know who I am, would you believe me?"

"Mm?" Zhou Shu looked at Ji Lutian in confusion.

Ji Lutian spread his hands and made a helpless gesture. "It's the truth. I lost some memories, but there are some things that I remember very well. As a result, I know what I should do and what I have to do, but I don't know where I come from or who I am."

Zhou Shu was puzzled. "Zheng Chengan, Zhang Jiping, and the others don't know either?"

If Zheng Chengan, Zhang Jiping, and the others didn't know Ji Lutian's identity, why were they so respectful to him?

"They were only so tall when I met them." Ji Lutian smiled and moved his hand to his knee. "Do you think they know my identity?"

"In the past, I stayed in the various grotto-heavens, so I spent some time with them. That's why they give me some face."

Hearing this, Zhou Shu was even more shocked.

Zhang Jiping, Zheng Chengan, and the others were not young. They were Grotto-Heaven realm experts. Grotto-Heaven realm experts had cultivations in the thousands of years.

Even if they weren't a thousand years old, they were at least hundreds of years old.

In that case, wouldn't Ji Lutian be more than a thousand years old?

He really couldn't tell.

But then again, Wang Xuanyi might be even older than him, and he only looked like a middle-aged man.

When people's cultivation reached a certain level, their age could no longer be seen from their appearance.

"It doesn't matter who I am," Ji Lutian continued. "I can be called Ji Lutian or Zhang Lutian. It's just a name. There's no doubt that I'm human."

"I believe you." Zhou Shu nodded.

Although his ideals were different from Ji Lutian's, there was no doubt that Ji Lutian's actions were also to resolve the crisis of the human race.

"Mr. Ji, you said that the scene in front of us is a repeat of history. Could the human race have also retreated to the grotto-heavens in the past?" Zhou Shu asked.

"In the past, the human race had thirty-six grotto-heavens. Now, there are only sixteen left. The other grotto-heavens were all breached by demonic beasts." Ji Lutian sighed. "The misfortune of demonic beasts will erupt once every thousand to few thousand years. Almost every time, the human race suffers a disastrous defeat.

"If not for the human race still having experts at the peak of the Grotto-Heaven realm who can use grotto-heavens to protect the human race, there would probably be no humans left in this world."

Ji Lutian's description made an image appear in Zhou Shu's mind.

In the war between the human race and the demonic beasts, the human race had suffered a crushing defeat and retreated to the grotto-heavens.

Then demonic beasts breached the grotto-heavens. The grotto-heavens shattered, and humans died tragically.

Some grotto-heavens might have been lucky or strong enough to barely withstand the impact of the demonic beasts.

And for some reason, after the beast tide retreated, the human race returned to land to reproduce.

After a thousand years, the demonic beasts attacked again.

As history went on, the grotto-heavens became fewer and fewer, and the hope of the human race became smaller and smaller...

“Do you know why the Martial Dao is lacking outside the grotto-heavens?” Ji Lutian looked at Zhou Shu.

“If a Grotto-Heaven Realm expert appears in the outside world, it will alarm Heaven,” Zhou Shu said. Back then, when Tang Qianluo framed him, he had said that the Demon Realm had attacked the human world in advance because he had helped Hu Li break through.

“That’s right.” Ji Lutian nodded. “Be it humans or demonic beasts, as long as they break through to the Grotto-Heaven realm, they will trigger a heavenly tribulation. From then on, the world will sense it and wake Heaven from its deep slumber.

“The awakening of Heaven will definitely be accompanied by a heavenly crack, which is the arrival of the beast tide.

“But the resources in the grotto-heavens are limited, and we need humans to reproduce outside. Without a choice, we can only make the Martial Dao incomplete. When the heavenly crack appears, the grotto-heavens will open their doors and complete the Martial Dao.”

Ji Lutian didn’t hide anything and explained everything to Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu nodded. “In that case, the early arrival of the heavenly crack might really be because of me?”

He didn’t feel guilty. Even if he had to do it again, he would still do what he had to do.

He didn’t think that the grotto-heavens’ actions were right.

What they did was just to survive on their last breath.

This disaster had been happening again and again. Finally, when the grotto-heavens were completely shattered, how could the human race resist?

Short-term was better than long-term pain. If humans couldn’t live openly, they might as well die spectacularly.

What was the point of living so ignobly?

“This beast tide is even fiercer than before,” Ji Lutian continued. “I wonder how many grotto-heavens will be able to hold on this time.”

He let out a long sigh.

Ji Lutian looked at Zhou Shu. “About what I said last time—”

"Mr. Ji, do you really think that without Grotto-Heaven realm experts in the world, Heaven won't eliminate the human race?" Zhou Shu asked seriously, looking straight at Ji Lutian.

"Yes," Ji Lutian said solemnly. "I've done many deductions. Other than this, we have no chance of winning."

"Is that so?" Zhou Shu said calmly. "I feel that instead of fighting for survival, it's better to fight heroically."

"So what if it's Heaven? If Heaven dares to bully me, I'll poke a hole in Heaven!" Zhou Shu looked up at the sky, his eyes full of fighting spirit.

"The younger generation will surpass us." Ji Lutian shook his head. "I hope you will continue to think this way."

"But now, don't forget that you promised me that you would help me."

"Wait. Before I help you, I have another question." Zhou Shu interrupted Ji Lutian. "You said that Wang Xuanyi and the others have another battlefield. What's with that battlefield? Does that battlefield have anything to do with the war here?"

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"You can say it's related, but it's not related at the same time," Ji Lutian said.

Zhou Shu frowned. "Can you not beat around the bush?"

"Let's put it this way. Wang Xuanyi and the others, as you've said, want to poke a hole in Heaven."

"Are they fighting against Heaven?" Zhou Shu's eyes lit up. This is a good idea! Won't it be over if they directly kill Heaven?

"I don't know the details." Ji Lutian pointed at his head. "They're probably facing Heaven."

Zhou Shu realized that Ji Lutian was really a shameless person. If he had really lost some of his memories, who knew what he remembered and what he didn't?

If he didn't want to talk about something, he could just say he didn't remember it.

This was simply being shameless!

But he really couldn't do anything to Ji Lutian. He couldn't beat him up over such a minor matter.

If he didn't want to talk about it, even if he beat him up, he still wouldn't talk about it.

"Alright, let's not talk about them for the time being. Mr. Ji, you've been around the world for so many years, so you should know about Tianji of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain, right? Who used Tianji to publish the Armament Manual and cause chaos in the world?" Zhou Shu stared at Ji Lutian without blinking.

Once upon a time, Zhou Shu had suspected that the person behind the Heavenly Mountain Villa was Ji Lutian.

But from all the signs, Ji Lutian didn't seem like the person who released the Armament Manual.

"I don't think it causes chaos in the world." Ji Lutian shook his head. "I do know about the Heavenly Mountain Villa. You also know the person behind it."

"I do?" Zhou Shu asked curiously.

Many figures flashed through his mind in an instant, but he eliminated them one by one.

He knew many people, but the only person he suspected to be the mastermind of the Heavenly Mountain Villa was Ji Lutian.

"Who is it?"

Since Ji Lutian said so, it definitely wasn't him. Zhou Shu really couldn't think of who it could be.

"Shi Changsheng," Ji Lutian said.

"Shi Changsheng?" Zhou Shu was a little stunned. He really hadn't thought of him!

It was mainly because Zhou Shu had never treated Shi Changsheng as a human!

After all, when Zhou Shu met Shi Changsheng, he was a sword.

"Shi Changsheng is the master of the legendary Heavenly Mountain Villa?" Zhou Shu said in disbelief.

"The so-called Heavenly Mountain Villa is just a rumor based on Tianji," Ji Lutian said. "But Shi Changsheng was indeed the one who came up with the Armament Manual.

"This can't be considered causing chaos in the world. He only created the Armament Manual to promote the development of forging techniques."

Zhou Shu frowned slightly. "That's it?"

"That's right," Ji Lutian said. "What else could it be? After so many years, has the Armament Manual really caused any harm? On the contrary, its existence has promoted the competitiveness of the forgers of the Ten Nations."

"So what? Before me, the forging techniques of the Ten Nations were far inferior to those of the grotto-heavens. Since Shi Changsheng wanted to promote the development of forging techniques, why didn't he teach them to the forgers of the Ten Nations? What's the use of just an armament manual?"

"Didn't you show up?" Ji Lutian asked.

"I'm different!" Zhou Shu said.

"How are you different?" Ji Lutian said. "It's not that Shi Changsheng doesn't want to impart his knowledge, but there are actually problems with the forging techniques back then. He did it so that he wouldn't implicate the forgers of the Ten Nations.

"Otherwise, I wouldn't have held the legacy of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain for so many years without looking for a successor in the Ten Nations.

"This is also the reason why I handed over the library of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain to you after you comprehended the forging technique of connate divine weapons."

Zhou Shu frowned. Ji Lutian's words answered many of his doubts, but the answers didn't satisfy him.

He had a feeling that Ji Lutian wasn't telling the truth. Perhaps Ji Lutian's old illness was acting up again, and he lost some of his memories.

Zhou Shu felt that his words about the Armament Manual didn't make sense.

But he didn't know where Shi Changsheng had gone. Even if he could find Shi Changsheng, Shi Changsheng was even more difficult to deal with than Ji Lutian. Nine out of ten sentences that this old man said were false.

"Although I still don't understand what you're doing, it doesn't matter." Zhou Shu looked at Ji Lutian.

"Now is my era. I have the final say in what I do."

"Mr. Ji, why don't you tell me how you intend to get rid of all the Grotto-Heaven realm experts in the world?"

Zhou Shu's eyes were as calm as water, but his body emitted a special aura that gave Ji Lutian a slight illusion. He felt as though he was young again and facing a dignified master.

"It's enough to get all the Grotto-Heaven realm experts to cut down their cultivation," Ji Lutian said.

Zhou Shu's face darkened. Aren't you talking nonsense?

How can you make them cut down their cultivation? Will Grotto-Heaven realm experts obediently let you cut down their cultivation?

If they don't cooperate, can you defeat so many Grotto-Heaven realm experts?

Even if you can fight them, won't you die of exhaustion if you fight them one by one?

"I'm confident in persuading them to cut down their cultivation, but I need your help to do it," Ji Lutian said seriously.

Zhou Shu said, "I don't think I can help you. I can't even appear in front of those Grotto-Heaven realm experts."

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He was already 'dead', and he now wanted to focus on developing for a period of time. He wouldn't expose himself again for the time being.

"There's no need for you to come forward. This matter won't involve you." Ji Lutian shook his head.

"What I want you to do for me is your usual job, forging!"

"Forging?" Zhou Shu was puzzled. "Aren't you a forger yourself? If you want to forge something, you can do it yourself."

"Although I know a little about forging, I'm not proficient." Ji Lutian shook his head.

Veins popped out on Zhou Shu's forehead. If the forgers of the Ten Nations heard this, they would probably want to kill themselves.

When Ji Lutian was in Great Qin, he was a rare forging genius. Later, he was even known as the number one forger in the Ten Nations.

But this person actually said that he only knew a little about forging. How could the forgers of the Ten Nations endure this?

"Aren't you overestimating me?" Zhou Shu said.

He was indeed very confident in his forging skills, but he didn't think that Ji Lutian was much worse than him.

"No," Ji Lutian said seriously. "I've lived a little longer than you, and I've seen a few more people than you."

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes inwardly. A little longer? A few more?

You're an old monster who has lived for thousands of years.

"I can't be wrong. You can do it, and only you can do it," Ji Lutian continued. "Just like in the Heavenly Hub Armory, no one else could complete the Demon Subduing Pagoda."

"Alright, since you've said so, if I don't help you, I'll go back on my word," Zhou Shu said. "Although I don't think you can get those Grotto-Heaven realm experts to cut down their cultivation themselves."

It didn't matter if he just helped Ji Lutian forge a few weapons, although he didn't know how Ji Lutian would use these weapons.

"What weapons do you want me to forge? Do you have the forging formulas?" Zhou Shu said. "Or you can just tell me what weapons you need, and I'll do it myself."

"No need," Ji Lutian said in a low voice. "The weapons I need have all begun to be forged, just like the Demon Subduing Pagoda back then."

"What I need you to do is complete the last step and let the weapons appear in the world!"

Zhou Shu was slightly stunned. "There are still many divine weapons like the Demon Subduing Pagoda?"

The Demon Subduing Pagoda had been personally forged by the master of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain back then. It had even been tempered by the heavenly fire in the furnace of the master of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain for thousands of years.

In Zhou Shu's opinion, such a divine weapon could only be chanced upon by luck.

"Not a lot, just a few dozen," Ji Lutian said calmly.

Looking at Ji Lutian's calm expression, Zhou Shu really wanted to leave a pair of footprints on his face! Not a lot? Just a few dozen?

Even Zhou Shu had only forged half a connate divine weapon at the level of the Demon Subduing Pagoda.

A few dozen was not a lot?

Many forgers couldn't even forge one connate divine weapon of this level in their entire lives!

"Compared to the number of Grotto-Heaven realm experts, a few dozen is indeed not many," Ji Lutian continued. "I can't let everyone have one."

"You want to use these connate divine weapons to bribe Grotto-Heaven realm experts and get them to agree to cut down their cultivation?" Zhou Shu didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Ji Lutian, are you crazy? Which Grotto-Heaven realm expert would be so useless as to be fooled by a connate divine weapon and cut down their cultivation?

Which Grotto-Heaven realm expert doesn't have a connate divine weapon?

"Of course it's not what you think." Ji Lutian couldn't help laughing. "Am I that stupid in your eyes? The dozens of divine weapons I'm talking about are similar to the Demon Subduing Pagoda."

Ji Lutian changed the topic. "King Zhou, do you know my current realm?"

"Your realm? The peak of the Grotto-Heaven realm?" Zhou Shu sized up Ji Lutian. Ji Lutian's aura was unclear, making it impossible to tell his strength.

But considering that he had fought the Demon King who could tear open the barrier between the two worlds and still won slightly, his cultivation should be at the peak of the Grotto-Heaven realm, slightly stronger than Zheng Chengan, Zhang Jiping, and the others.

"Earth Immortal realm." Ji Lutian's lips curled up. "My current cultivation level is at the Earth Immortal realm. A thousand years ago, I had already cut down my cultivation and returned to the Earth Immortal realm."

"Look, I'm an Earth Immortal, and I've lived for so long. And to be honest, my combat strength isn't too weak."

Ji Lutian smiled. "This is why I'm confident in convincing the Grotto-Heaven realm experts to cut down their cultivation."

Zhou Shu looked at Ji Lutian, and for the first time, true shock appeared on his face.

He had always thought that Ji Lutian was joking and felt that Ji Lutian was a little naive and idealistic.

But now, he realized that Ji Lutian was serious!

He really wanted there to be no more Grotto-Heaven realm experts in the world!

Moreover, his way of thinking didn't seem to be as weak as Zhou Shu had thought. He wasn't showing weakness to Heaven and begging for mercy. He seemed to have discovered another way to become stronger.

"Mr. Ji, are you saying that even if you don't break through to the Grotto-Heaven realm, you can still continue to become stronger? Moreover, you can still have a lifespan comparable to a Grotto-Heaven

realm expert?" Zhou Shu asked. If this was the case, then it didn't seem to matter if people became Grotto-Heaven realm experts or not.

"Yes." Ji Lutian nodded. "I've always felt that we humans and Heaven can coexist peacefully. After all, all things are born to nurture humans, right?"

"As long as the human race no longer has Grotto-Heaven realm experts and doesn't steal pieces of the world from Heaven, there will naturally be no conflict of interests between the two parties.

"But if martial artists want to become stronger and have a long lifespan, they will aim for the Grotto-Heaven realm.

"That's why some fellow experts and I thought about it and came up with this method.

"I've tried it myself. Even without a grotto-heaven, we can still become stronger and live forever.

"In that case, why do we have to fight Heaven?"

Ji Lutian looked at Zhou Shu sincerely.

Zhou Shu was shocked and speechless. Why are you looking at me like that? Although I've said a few harsh words, it's not like I want to fight against Heaven.

If Heaven doesn't provoke me, do you think I have nothing better to do than to poke a hole in it?

Zhou Shu pondered. "Does your method have to rely on divine weapons?"

Ji Lutian explained, "If you want to have powerful combat strength, you must have the corresponding divine weapon. But if you just want to have the lifespan of a Grotto-Heaven realm expert, there's no need for one."

"I understand." Zhou Shu nodded. Actually, Ji Lutian's train of thought was the same as the humans' train of thought when dealing with demonic beasts.

At the same cultivation level, humans were inferior to demonic beasts. They could only use weapons to make up for this difference.

It was the same for Ji Lutian's idea. Without a Grotto-Heaven realm cultivation, he had strength comparable to the Grotto-Heaven realm, so didn't this mean that he had to rely on divine weapons to make up for it?

But divine weapons that could make up for this difference were not ordinary divine weapons.

It wasn't easy to control such powerful divine weapons.

Ji Lutian likely had some unique secret techniques here.

"In that case, there's no time to lose. Let's take action now. The sooner I help you forge the divine weapons, the sooner we won't owe each other anything." Zhou Shu wanted to see how Ji Lutian would use divine weapons to let Earth Immortals have combat strength comparable to peak Grotto-Heaven realm experts.

If he mastered this secret technique, wouldn't he have combat strength comparable to the peak of the Grotto-Heaven realm?

"King Zhou, aren't you curious about my method?" Ji Lutian couldn't help asking.

"I'm curious. That's why I will help you forge the divine weapons quickly. When you give the divine weapons away, you won't mind me watching, right?" Zhou Shu said casually. He looked calm and composed, as if everything was under his control.

This feeling made Ji Lutian feel like he couldn't use his strength. He wanted to keep him in suspense, but the other party didn't give him a chance!

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Ji Lutian smiled without saying anything.

Zhou Shu wasn't the only one who objected to his ideas.

Since he had chosen this path, he didn't care about any criticism.

As for objections or even hostility, he didn't care at all.

Compared to Zhou Shu's ruthless words, after the divine weapons were successfully forged, he would have to face the true predicament when he went to find those Grotto-heaven realm experts.

At that time, there would inevitably be a fight.

"Mr. Ji, where are the unfinished divine weapons you mentioned?" Zhou Shu said.

He was a straightforward person. Since he agreed to help Ji Lutian, there was no need to delay.

To be honest, he wasn't optimistic about Ji Lutian's plan.

Even if Ji Lutian had created a Divine Dao, there were probably not many martial artists willing to take this path.

For example, in the myths and legends of Zhou Shu's previous life, if not for the Investiture of the Gods, how many cultivators would have been willing to become gods?

Wasn't it good to be a carefree immortal?

How similar was Ji Lutian's path to the legendary Investiture of the Gods?

"Come with me." Ji Lutian stepped into the air and rose into the sky.

Zhou Shu turned around and looked at the camp. The people of Great Xia were gradually moving into the Sima Grotto-Heaven. Even without him around, there wouldn't be any problems for the time being.

He would use this time to solve Ji Lutian's matter and return the favor he owed him.

With a step, Zhou Shu rose into the air and chased after Ji Lutian.

Ji Lutian was actually heading into the depths of the Endless Sea.

He flew hundreds of kilometers into the Endless Sea, then dived down and entered the seawater.

The Endless Sea was boundless. No one knew how big it was or how deep it was.

Zhou Shu followed behind Ji Lutian and dived for more than two hours. With their speed, they had probably already dived hundreds of kilometers.

There was no longer any light around them. Even with Zhou Shu's eyesight, his surroundings had become pitch-black.

At this moment, Ji Lutian's body lit up slightly, guiding the route like a beacon.

After diving for another six or so hours, just as Zhou Shu felt that they had already dived more than ten thousand kilometers, a ball of red light suddenly appeared in front of them.

Zhou Shu looked over. The ball of red light was a volcano!

At the bottom of the Endless Sea, there was actually an active volcano that was constantly erupting!

The hot magma kept rolling. Even from afar, Zhou Shu could feel the fiery heat assaulting him.

Strangely, the active volcano seemed to be separated from the sea. Magma spewed and churned in the crater, but it didn't merge with the seawater.

Ji Lutian didn't stop. He stepped into the range of the volcano without hesitation.

His body flashed with light, and the light isolated the magma. He stood in the middle of the magma and waved at Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu didn't hesitate and stepped forward. After a slight delay, he also entered the isolated space.

The temperature within the entire range of the volcano was extremely high. Zhou Shu felt that ordinary steel would melt into molten iron under this temperature.

But his body was sturdier than gold and iron. This temperature couldn't do anything to him.

He didn't even use his protective divine light and arrived beside Ji Lutian.

Ji Lutian glanced at Zhou Shu, a look of appreciation flashing across his face.

"The first divine weapon is here," Ji Lutian said. "I can't remember exactly how many years ago it was. I once obtained a piece of otherworldly divine iron.

"Even without forging, otherworldly divine iron still has some characteristics of a divine weapon. It can be big or small and can change indefinitely. Most importantly, ordinary heavenly fires can't do anything to it.

"So I placed it here and used the fire of the earth's core to temper it.

"After so many years, it should have already been tempered. But I'm hesitating about what divine weapon to use it to forge, so I'll have to trouble you to do it."

Ji Lutian pointed at the volcanic magma.

In the churning magma, a black head-sized stone was bobbing up and down.

"It can be big or small?" Zhou Shu looked curiously at the otherworldly divine iron in the magma.

With his Forging Materials Knowledge, he knew the characteristics of tens of thousands of forging materials like the back of his hand. But there were really no forging materials that matched Ji Lutian's description.

But this wasn't strange. There were more than a billion types of forging materials in the world. Even he couldn't know all of them.

"Since it can already be big or small and change indefinitely, even if you don't forge it, can't you just use it as a divine weapon?" Zhou Shu said casually.

"Yes, of course. But it's still just an incomplete item. Wouldn't it be too wasteful to do that?" Ji Lutian smiled. "This otherworldly divine iron is extraordinary. If we use it as the main material to forge a connate divine weapon, we will definitely be able to forge an earth-shattering connate divine weapon!"

Ji Lutian was also an expert in forging. By him saying this, it naturally meant that otherworldly divine iron was indeed a good forging material.

In the path of forging, the better the materials, the better the weapon forged. This was an ironclad rule.

Even Zhou Shu admitted the existence of this ironclad rule. It was impossible for him to use ordinary iron to forge a connate divine weapon.

If this otherworldly divine iron was really as good as Ji Lutian said, then he was really interested in using it to forge a connate divine weapon.

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Zhou Shu pondered. "Alright, I'll try."

Before Ji Lutian could speak, Zhou Shu had already grabbed at the air, and an invisible hand grabbed the stone.

Swish—

Zhou Shu felt his arm sink. The head-sized stone was abnormally heavy!

With his current strength, he could lift even a small mountain.

But he didn't manage to grab this piece of otherworldly divine iron.

Zhou Shu's expression turned serious.

He exerted a little strength and grabbed the otherworldly divine iron out from the magma.

The corners of Ji Lutian's mouth curled up slightly. He didn't remind Zhou Shu because he wanted to see him embarrass himself.

But Zhou Shu was much calmer than he had imagined.

As expected of the most talented forger he had seen in so many years...

Zhou Shu used his strength to grab the otherworldly divine iron in front of him. His eyes flickered as a strand of divine sense landed on the otherworldly divine iron.

A moment later, he tentatively sent out a strand of spiritual essence.

The head-sized pitch-black otherworldly divine iron instantly became several times larger.

A thoughtful look appeared in Zhou Shu's eyes. He frowned with his fingers on the otherworldly divine iron. The thoughtful expression on his face became more and more serious.

Ji Lutian knew how forgers reacted when they studied forging materials. He stood at the side and didn't disturb Zhou Shu.

As he watched Zhou Shu constantly experiment with the otherworldly divine iron, he saw Zhou Shu constantly taking out various forging materials and tools and constantly studying the characteristics of the otherworldly divine iron.

Ji Lutian was impressed. He was even more certain that he had made the right choice.

From the things that Zhou Shu had done after obtaining a forging material he had never seen before, it was apparent that his skills were beyond the capabilities of ordinary forgers.

Even Ji Lutian himself couldn't do it to this extent.

Zhou Shu's understanding of forging was indeed above Ji Lutian's.

Ji Lutian was getting more and more confident in Zhou Shu, so he simply stopped worrying. He walked to the side and sat down, waiting for Zhou Shu to finish experimenting and come to a conclusion.

It wasn't easy to determine the characteristics of a forging material. It was no different from scientific experiments. One had to go through countless experiments to determine the use of a new element.

It was the same for forging materials. One couldn't immediately forge a divine weapon just by obtaining a forging material.

This was especially true for connate divine weapons. A millimeter missed was as good as a difference of a thousand miles.

Before thoroughly studying the otherworldly divine iron, Zhou Shu wouldn't start forging.

Immersed in the research of the otherworldly divine iron, he had completely forgotten about the outside world. He had even forgotten where he was.

His mind was full of the otherworldly divine iron. Time flew by, and before he knew it, more than ten days had passed.

Ji Lutian couldn't sit still anymore. Zhou Shu's fake death gave the human world a lot of time, but they still had a lot of things to do, and they couldn't waste too much time in this place.

Ji Lutian sighed. He had cut down his cultivation and fallen from the Grotto-Heaven realm. Although he could unleash combat strength comparable to the peak of the Grotto-Heaven realm with the help of the

power of incense and divine weapons, compared to Grotto-Heaven realm experts, he had the greatest flaw in this state.

He didn't have a grotto-heaven.

This sounded like nonsense.

But indeed, the biggest difference between him and a true Grotto-Heaven realm expert was that he had no grotto-heaven.

Without a grotto-heaven, it meant that he couldn't use it to accelerate time, nor could he use it to store things.

These inconveniences were usually nothing, but in the current situation, if he had a grotto-heaven, he could completely let Zhou Shu study the otherworldly divine iron in it. He only needed to spend some of his spiritual essence to control the laws of time.

But now, he could only watch. There was nothing else he could do.

There were gains and losses. Since he wanted there to be no grotto-heavens in the world, this was a necessary sacrifice.

Just as Ji Lutian was feeling worried, Zhou Shu suddenly raised his head, and a glint flashed across his eyes.

"You've studied it thoroughly?" Ji Lutian was delighted.

"Yes." Zhou Shu nodded. "Mr. Ji, do you have any requirements for the type of connate divine weapon?"

"No." Ji Lutian shook his head.

"That's good," Zhou Shu said. He circulated the spiritual essence in his body, and two fire dragons rose from his hands and swallowed the piece of otherworldly divine iron.

At the same time, the various forging materials he had casually taken out and scattered all over flew into the fire dragons' stomachs as if they were alive.

Although Ji Lutian only knew a little about forging, his attainments in forging were actually not low.

Looking at Zhou Shu's actions, he began to deduce.

According to the characteristics of the various forging materials, a virtual forging furnace appeared in Ji Lutian's mind. In his consciousness, he tried to match these forging materials and see what kind of weapon he could forge.

This place was located thousands of kilometers under the Endless Sea. There were no living beings around at all. It was quiet.

In such an environment, no one would disturb them.

After a few more days, Zhou Shu's body suddenly lit up.

Ji Lutian was shocked. The forging furnace in his mind exploded. His deduction had failed!

But he couldn't care less about his own deductions now. He looked at Zhou Shu, his eyes filled with shock.

He had seen this scene before, but he hadn't realized it before. Now, he had indeed discovered that Zhou Shu, enveloped in the light, seemed to have suddenly sped up by hundreds of times!

Ji Lutian was not an ordinary person. He could tell at a glance that this wasn't a change in speed but a change in time!

Zhou Shu had actually partially changed the flow of time in the Great World!

How was this possible?!

Even peak Grotto-Heaven realm experts couldn't do this.

Ji Lutian finally realized why the demonic beasts that Zhou Shu had killed had died like that on the battlefield.

At the time, the battle was intense, so he didn't think about it carefully. Now that he thought about it, his back was instantly covered in cold sweat!

The laws of time had always been the most difficult laws to grasp in the world. Even existences at the peak of the Grotto-Heaven realm could only accelerate time in grotto-heavens.

How did Zhou Shu do this?

Ji Lutian recalled Zhou Shu's move to kill demonic beasts.

This move contained the laws of time. If it were Ji Lutian, would he be able to withstand it?

The result made him a little depressed. It seemed that if it was really the laws of time, not many people in the world could withstand a single move from him.

With this move, the flow of time sped up hundreds of times. Who could withstand it?

"Could this really be his era?" Ji Lutian thought of what Zhou Shu had said before. This was his era. Whatever he wanted to do had to be done according to his rules.

Previously, he had thought that Zhou Shu was just being young and ignorant. Now, it seemed that perhaps he wasn't bragging.

This era really seemed to belong to him.

Although he was still a little inexperienced now, his aura was gradually revealing its sharpness. In the future, he might really be invincible.

But was being invincible in the world really enough?

As Ji Lutian thought this, he saw the divine weapon in Zhou Shu's hand gradually take shape.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye. It was so fast that Ji Lutian couldn't believe it.

Boom!

Ji Lutian seemed to hear the sound of lightning taking shape in the sky above the Endless Sea.

At this moment, Zhou Shu had already stood up and raised the connate divine weapon in his hand.

“Go accept the baptism of your birth!” Zhou Shu raised his voice. The connate divine weapon was already soaring into the sky. For a moment, the seawater retreated, giving way to a path.

#### Chapter 856 The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod (1)

Ji Lutian was dumbfounded. A connate divine weapon actually made the seawater of the Endless Sea automatically separate to reveal a path leading to the sky?

Even though he had some expectations for Zhou Shu, he didn’t expect him to achieve far more than he had expected.

What was this called?

He had only wanted a ladle of water, but Zhou Shu had given him an ocean.

Who could be the owner of such a connate divine weapon?

Ji Lutian had a headache.

Originally, he already had a plan for this connate divine weapon. Now, the power of this connate divine weapon far exceeded his imagination, so he had to change his plan.

Ji Lutian rubbed his glabella and looked at the connate divine weapon soaring into the sky and welcoming the lightning. “King Zhou, is there anything special about this connate divine weapon?”

“There’s nothing particularly special about it. It can be big or small, and it’s heavy enough. It’s definitely first-rate when used to smash people.” Zhou Shu also looked up at the sky.

“Oh, right. I’ve given it a name. It’s called the Heavenly River Settling Divine Iron!”

“Heavenly River Settling Divine Iron?” Ji Lutian frowned. “What do you mean? What kind of river is the Heavenly River?”

“It’s not important. The name is a little complicated and not easy to remember,” Zhou Shu said casually. “You can also call it the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod! I don’t care who you give it to, but you can’t change this name!”

“The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod?” Ji Lutian looked at the connate divine weapon that was still flying up and down like an iron rod in the lightning. “Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod, this is a good name. Why would I change it?”

As he spoke, he and Zhou Shu had already left the underwater volcano and returned to the surface of the Endless Sea.

The separated seawater had already closed again, creating monstrous waves.

Fortunately, they were now in the depths of the Endless Sea. Otherwise, these huge waves would have brought disaster to the humans along the shores of the Endless Sea.

"This Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod doesn't just have the two characteristics you mentioned, right?" Ji Lutian looked at the huge waves under his feet.

"There's another use that's not worth mentioning," Zhou Shu said indifferently. "Sea pacifying, the Sea-Pacifying Godly Pillar is also its name.

"The Sea-Pacifying Godly Pillar?" Ji Lutian pondered. He felt that the name of the Sea-Pacifying Godly Pillar sounded better than the previous two names.

But from the looks of it, Zhou Shu seemed to prefer the name Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod.

But this wasn't important.

Boom!

In the sky, the lightning and thunder gradually stopped. The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod scattered the thunderclouds in the sky and emitted a golden light.

A moment later, the golden light retracted, and the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod flew in front of Zhou Shu, looking like a proud child waiting for praise.

"Impressive!" Ji Lutian couldn't help praising. Although he was the one who had provided the otherworldly divine iron, Zhou Shu's ability to forge this divine weapon was still beyond his expectations.

"Small!" Zhou Shu said.

The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod began to shrink. As Zhou Shu shouted a few more times, it had already shrunk to the size of a needle.

"Big!" Zhou Shu shouted a few more times, and the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod became hundreds of meters long.

Ji Lutian nodded slightly. The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod was indeed worthy of its name.

"I have to say, Mr. Ji, I'm a little reluctant to give you this Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod." Zhou Shu played with the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod and said regretfully, "If I used a rod, I would definitely have shamelessly kept this Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod!

"What a pity. Okay, I'll give it to you!"

He threw the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod that had already become the size of a person to Ji Lutian.

Ji Lutian reached out and caught it. He felt his hand sink, as if he had caught a mountain.

It was indeed heavy.

It was imaginable that if ordinary martial artists dared to take a strike from it head-on, even if they didn't die, they would be severely injured.

"Don't worry." Ji Lutian waved the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod, "I will definitely find a suitable master for it. I won't let it down."

"It doesn't matter." Zhou Shu waved his hand. "It's already yours. You can give it to whomever you want."

He continued, "Let's move on to the next one. We don't have much time."

"The next place is in one of the grotto-heavens. King Zhou, you'll have to change your appearance," Ji Lutian said. "Coincidentally, we can find a master for this Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod there."

Zhou Shu's body flashed with white light, and his appearance changed.

Ji Lutian nodded. The longer he knew Zhou Shu, the more he realized how impressive he was. The laws of time and this transformation divine ability were things he had never seen before.

One had to know that he wasn't an ordinary person. In terms of knowledge, no one in the entire human race dared to say that they could surpass him.

"Let's go." Zhou Shu was fearless. He didn't believe that anyone would recognize him after he became like this.

If someone could recognize him, he would really have to check if the other party was also a transmigrator.

He had changed his appearance to the famous Zhou Xingxing...

Zhou Shu had only truly entered the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven among the other grotto-heavens, and it was more than once...

It had to be said that he really wanted to go to the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven again. He had to teach that bastard Tang Qianluo a lesson.

## Chapter 857 The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod (2)

This time, the grotto-heaven that Ji Lutian brought him to was naturally not the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven.

The place they arrived at was the Sima Grotto-Heaven, where Zheng Chengan was.

It was also where Great Xia was moving to.

Ji Lutian and Zhou Shu silently entered the Sima Grotto-Heaven without alerting Zheng Chengan or anyone else.

Now that the entrance of the Sima Grotto-Heaven was wide open, countless humans were constantly migrating in. With their abilities, they could naturally blend in with the crowd.

The two of them walked in the Sima Grotto-Heaven. As they walked, Ji Lutian gave Zhou Shu an introduction to the Sima Grotto-Heaven.

"The Sima Grotto-Heaven was one of the top thirty-six Grotto-Heavens back then. Its territory is so large that it's not smaller than Great Qin's," Ji Lutian said. "There are mountains and rivers here, and it can easily accommodate billions of humans. The human race has nothing to worry about."

"Mr. Ji, I'm a little curious. Since the Sima Grotto-Heaven is still here, the master of the Sima Grotto-Heaven should still be alive, right? Why hasn't he appeared?"

"He is indeed still alive, but he can't just show up whenever he wants. Even the masters of grotto-heavens don't have longevity that lasts as long as heaven and earth. Therefore, unless necessary, they will enter seclusion and sleep to slow down the passage of their lives," Ji Lutian said casually.

"Are you going to ask me how Wang Xuanyi does it?" Ji Lutian smiled. "Wang Xuanyi is different. You'll find out in the future."

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes unhappily. You've already said it halfway, but you're still keeping me in suspense. I won't ask.

"That's the land the Sima Grotto-Heaven has assigned to Great Xia." Ji Lutian pointed at a river valley. "Although it's only as big as the two states of the Ten Nations in the past, it won't be a problem to survive."

Zhou Shu nodded. They were already living under someone else's roof. How high could their expectations be?

This was already not bad.

"Mr. Ji, let's get down to business." Zhou Shu didn't go over to greet the people of Great Xia. Instead, he looked at Ji Lutian.

"You're right. Business is more important." Ji Lutian nodded. He activated his movement technique and sped forward.

A moment later, the two of them arrived at a beautiful place.

Zhou Shu subconsciously sized up his surroundings.

He had thought that he would see what he had seen at the bottom of the Endless Sea, but there were no volcanoes here, nor were there any signs of forging.

"There's no need to look. Let's find a master for the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod first. We need a helper where we're going next," Ji Lutian said with a smile.

He took a few steps forward and stomped slightly, causing the ground to tremble.

"Brother Zheng, come out and meet guests," Ji Lutian said.

Zhou Shu: "..."

The ground shook. Suddenly, a person appeared in front of them as if he had grown out of the ground.

"Ji Lutian? You're a guest? Even if you're a guest, you're an evil guest." The person who emerged from the ground was a man with a white beard and hair. He was handsome and had a youthful appearance.

"Brother Zheng, what are you saying? I haven't offended you, right?" The smile on Ji Lutian's face didn't change. "If you don't welcome me now, you'll regret it later."

"I'll regret it? If I regret it, I'll be your grandson." The man looked sage-like, but his words were the complete opposite of his image. He rolled his eyes.

Zhou Shu was speechless. If the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod fell into the hands of this grandson... although it did have something to do with surnamed Sun<sup>1</sup>.

Although he didn't know who this man was, this was the Sima Grotto-Heaven, and his surname was Zheng. More likely than not, he was Zheng Chengan's elder.

Moreover, Ji Lutian had previously said that he was forging divine weapons to compensate the Grotto-heaven realm experts of the human race for cutting down their cultivation.

The man in front of him was definitely at the Grotto-Heaven realm. The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod wouldn't be wasted in his hands.

While Ji Lutian and the man surnamed Zheng were bickering, these thoughts had already flashed through Zhou Shu's mind.

"I'm not going to waste my breath with you. I'm here to give you a divine weapon," Ji Lutian said. "If you don't like it, I'll give it to someone else."

The man surnamed Zheng's expression froze slightly. He looked at Ji Lutian. "You haven't given up?"

"Why should I give up?" Ji Lutian asked. "Even if there's only a glimmer of hope, I will try my best."

"If others dared to persuade me to kill myself, I would have slapped them to death long ago. But you, Ji Lutian, I'm willing to give you some face and listen to your nonsense, but it doesn't mean that I agree with you," the man surnamed Zheng said solemnly.

"I know, but we have an agreement, don't we?" Ji Lutian said. "Besides, you can't kill me."

"You said back then that if I could take out a connate divine weapon that could make up for your strength, you would be willing to cooperate with me."

Ji Lutian stared straight at the man surnamed Zheng. The light in his eyes made Zhou Shu's hair stand on end.

Those who didn't know better would think that Ji Lutian had some special fetish.

The man surnamed Zheng stared at Ji Lutian. After a while, he suddenly laughed out loud. "Ji Lutian, do you think I, Zheng Jingyun, am inexperienced?"

"Feel free to take out your connate divine weapon. I want to see what weapon can convince me!"

"I hope you don't deliberately say that my connate divine weapon is bad," Ji Lutian said.

"Am I that kind of person? If it's good, I'll say it's good. If it's bad, I'll say it's bad!" Zheng Jingyun said disdainfully.

"In this regard, I can trust you." Ji Lutian smiled. With a flip of his wrist, the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod appeared in his hand.

"Big!" Ji Lutian shouted, and the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod expanded, instantly becoming three meters long and as thick as an arm.

Ji Lutian waved his arm, and the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod smashed heavily on the ground.

A crack a meter wide appeared on the solid ground and stretched for a hundred meters.

This was just a casual wave of Ji Lutian's hand. He didn't use much spiritual essence at all!

Ji Lutian raised his hand, and the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod flew toward Zheng Jingyun.

Zheng Jingyun raised his hand and grabbed the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod. His arm sank slightly, and a strange expression flashed across his face.

What a heavy rod!

"This is the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod. It can be big or small. It can change according to your wishes," Ji Lutian said. "This Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod is also known as the Sea-Pacifying Godly Pillar. It can even calm the endless storm over the Endless Sea."

Veins popped out on Zhou Shu's forehead as he mentioned calming the Endless Sea. He had never said this before.

Although the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod was also called the Sea-Pacifying Godly Pillar and indeed had the effect of calming the sea, although he didn't dare to say that it was impossible to stabilize the endless storm above the Endless Sea, the person who could do it had to be strong enough.

Ji Lutian was bragging!

But this had nothing to do with Zhou Shu, so he naturally wouldn't expose him.

Buzz—

Zheng Jingyun wasn't a fool, so he naturally wouldn't believe him so easily. He circulated the spiritual essence in his body and injected it into the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod to sense its power.

"Did you personally forge this Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod?" Zheng Jingyun asked solemnly.

"No." Ji Lutian shook his head. "This Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod was forged from otherworldly divine iron. I placed the otherworldly divine iron in the fire of the earth's core and smelted it for ten thousand years. I also risked my face to invite the most talented forger in the world and spent countless heavenly treasures to forge it."

Ji Lutian said in a deep voice, "Brother Zheng, as long as you sever your Grotto-Heaven realm cultivation, this Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod will be yours."

Zheng Jingyun's pupils constricted slightly. "This Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod is indeed a good connate divine weapon, but in terms of strength, can it be stronger than the Heavenly Hub of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain?"

Ji Lutian said, "The Heavenly Hub is already broken. In this world, the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod is the divine weapon with the strongest offensive power."

Zheng Jingyun shook his head. "Not necessarily. It's not even a grotto-heaven divine weapon."

Ji Lutian said seriously, "It's indeed not a grotto-heaven divine weapon, but its main material has been immersed in the Endless Sea for tens of thousands of years. On the Endless Sea, whoever holds the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod is invincible!"

#### Chapter 858 One Strike Will Destroy You (1)

"Say, Mr. Ji, aren't you bragging a little too much?" Zhou Shu transmitted his voice while walking beside Ji Lutian.

At this moment, they had already left the Sima Grotto-Heaven and were above the Endless Sea.

Zheng Jingyun was testing the power of the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod in the sky above the Endless Sea.

Under his activation, the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod swept up giant water dragons and churned the seawater of the Endless Sea. There was indeed immense destructive power.

The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod naturally had the ability to control seawater.

But it was only because Zheng Jingyun was strong enough to create such an effect.

Otherwise, even if ordinary martial artists obtained the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod, they might not be able to use it.

"Don't worry. There won't be any problems," Ji Lutian said confidently. "You don't know Zheng Jingyun's identity, which is why you have such doubts.

"It's hard to say for others, but if Zheng Jingyun has the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod, even if he's only at the peak of the Earth Immortal realm, he can still defeat Grotto-Heaven realm experts.

"He did this back then. With only cultivation at the Earth Immortal realm, he was the only one who could kill a Grotto-Heaven realm expert. No, now there's you.

"With Zheng Jingyun's talent, coupled with the power of the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod and my incense technique, if he still can't be invincible on the Endless Sea, wouldn't the three of us be incompetent?"

Zhou Shu: "..."

Although Ji Lutian's words were a little extreme, after Zhou Shu thought about it, it did make sense.

Zheng Jingyun was a rare Martial Dao genius who could even fight experts across realms.

Zhou Shu had personally forged the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod.

If Ji Lutian taught him the incense mystic technique, wouldn't it be the combined strength of the three of them?

It was really not that Ji Lutian was bragging, but the three of them combined would likely make any enemy frown.

Even Zhou Shu felt that if Zheng Jingyun couldn't be invincible on the Endless Sea, it would be a waste of their reputation.

Boom!

A total of eighty-one water dragons descended from the sky and pierced the surface of the Endless Sea, creating huge thousand-foot-tall waves.

Zheng Jingyun stood in midair without dodging, allowing the water from the huge waves to fall on his body.

He turned around and looked at Ji Lutian. He was silent for a moment before saying, "Ji Lutian, is your method reliable?"

"Of course. Aren't I an obvious example?" Ji Lutian said. "You are the young master of the Sima Grotto-Heaven and the number two expert of the Sima Grotto-Heaven. Everyone in the Sima Grotto-Heaven respects you like a god. If you cultivate the incense mystic technique, you will only be stronger than me."

Ji Lutian spoke eloquently and analyzed the pros and cons for Zheng Jingyun.

"Since the thirty-six grotto-heavens, no one has been able to seize a complete section of the world from Heaven. No matter how hard you cultivate, it's impossible for you to surpass the masters of the thirty-six grotto-heavens. On the other hand, my Dao of Incense is endless. You will only keep getting stronger."

For the first time, Zhou Shu realized that Ji Lutian's eloquence was indeed worthy of an old monster who had lived for countless years.

If he were Zheng Jingyun, he would be tempted.

If the path of using grotto-heavens had already come to an end, wasn't changing to another path the right choice?

Ji Lutian's words also made Zhou Shu realize that the masters of the 36 grotto-heavens back then seemed to be different from the current peak Grotto-Heaven realm experts.

"Alright, I'll believe you once more!" Zheng Jingyun gritted his teeth. "If you dare to lie to me again, I'll bring you along with me even if I die!"

From Zheng Jingyun's expression, it was obvious that he had suffered at Ji Lutian's hands before.

Ji Lutian might look like a decent person, but he was full of schemes. One might be schemed against at any time.

The incense mystic technique seemed to be a shortcut, but Zhou Shu knew that there was more to it than meets the eye.

Competing for incense was exactly the same as fighting for cultivation resources.

How could it be so easy to become stronger without incense?

But how could incense be so easy to obtain?

Even without this, after everyone severed their Grotto-Heaven realm cultivation, it was still uncertain if Heaven would really let humans off.

Zheng Jingyun looked refined, but he was indeed a ruthless person. Before he finished speaking, before Zhou Shu could persuade him, his body had already exploded with crackling sounds.

Then Zhou Shu saw a ball of light emerge from his body. The light was a little illusory, and it vaguely looked like a small world.

Crack!

Zheng Jingyun raised the Golden-Hooped Rod and smashed the ball of light.

With a loud bang, the ball of light exploded, and countless rays of light flew in all directions and vanished into the world.

Zhou Shu didn't know if it was an illusion, but he vaguely felt that the world seemed to have changed, and the sky had become brighter.

Zhou Shu had some vague insights and fell into a daze.

Ji Lutian flew up to Zheng Jingyun and whispered something.

The weakening of Zheng Jingyun's aura suddenly stopped.

He wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth, and a look of determination appeared on his face.

He sat cross-legged in the air, and invisible forces seemed to be flying from the Sima Grotto-Heaven and landing on his body.

His aura gradually stabilized.

At the same time, the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod gradually fused into his body.

Chapter 859 One Strike Will Destroy You (2)

Crack!

As if some shackles had been unlocked, Zheng Jingyun's body suddenly lit up with a dazzling light, and then the sound of the Great Dao sounded.

Boom!

Zheng Jingyun stood up and extended his hand. The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod appeared.

He roared and struck out with the rod.

As he swung the rod, a huge, faintly discernible shadow seemed to appear behind him.

Boom!

The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod struck the surface of the Endless Sea, and monstrous waves rose, which was not inferior to earlier.

In just a few breaths, Zheng Jingyun's cultivation fell, and then he regained his strength. He even seemed to be stronger than before.

"Your mystic technique is useful." Zheng Jingyun looked at Ji Lutian solemnly. "But its flaws are not minor!"

Zheng Jingyun was also a Martial Dao genius. He could naturally think of anything that Zhou Shu could.

"Are there no flaws with the Grotto-Heaven realm?" Ji Lutian said indifferently. There was no perfect Martial Dao in this world.

If not for the fact that there was something wrong with the Grotto-Heaven realm, why would he find another way?

Zheng Jingyun's attempt jolted Zhou Shu out of his comprehension.

Zhou Shu, who came to his senses, happened to see the power of his strike. Is this the Dao of Incense? It's not without its merits.

Not to mention anything else, the effect of the Dao of Incense on increasing strength was not something that the Martial Dao could compare to.

Zheng Jingyun had shattered his grotto-heaven, and his cultivation had fallen to the Earth Immortal realm. But in just a few breaths, his strength had returned to its peak. How could this be achieved with other methods?

Although there were indeed some flaws in the Dao of Incense, it was difficult to achieve everything in life. Sometimes, people still had to strike a balance.

"Brother Zheng, since you've tested it yourself, you should be able to tell that I'm not just talking nonsense." Ji Lutian cupped his hands at Zheng Jingyun. "My method can indeed make Heaven stop. For the sake of the human race, I need you to help me!"

Zheng Jingyun didn't agree with Ji Lutian directly. Instead, he suddenly looked at Zhou Shu. "Is he also a helper you found?"

Previously, he had ignored Zhou Shu. Now that he suddenly asked about Zhou Shu, Ji Lutian was a little surprised.

"Yes," Ji Lutian said. "His identity is a little special. I—"

"No need to explain," Zheng Jingyun interrupted. "Ji Lutian, although I used your incense mystic technique and shattered my grotto-heaven as you wished, it doesn't mean that I agree with your point of view.

"Even if all the grotto-heavens are returned to the world, how can you be sure that Heaven will stop? Have you ever seen Heaven?"

Zheng Jingyun said in a low voice, "Damn Heaven, he wants to kill us, but we still have to kneel and beg for mercy? I can't do it! Even if I die, I, Zheng Jingyun, have to die with dignity. I did this today because I reached the peak of the Grotto-Heaven realm and couldn't get any stronger.

“Since your incense mystic technique can make me stronger, there was no harm in giving it a try.”

A sly look flashed across Zheng Jingyun’s eyes. Ji Lutian was plotting against him. How could he not be plotting against Ji Lutian?

Zheng Jingyun pointed at the sky. “When I’m stronger, I’ll—”

“Turn him to ashes,” Zhou Shu suddenly said.

Zheng Jingyun was stunned. He nodded and said, “Yes, turn him into ashes with one strike of my rod!”

Pada!

Zhou Shu clapped. “Good spirit. Mr. Ji, this is how human heroes should think. Weakness won’t save the human race. If others want to destroy the human race, then just fight back.

“So what if it’s Heaven? Can Heaven decide our lives and deaths at will?

“You’ve found a path, but you’ve personally blocked it. I think Brother Zheng’s approach is the right way to do it.”

“What method? Use the incense technique to become stronger and then fight Heaven?” Ji Lutian shook his head with a bitter smile. “You’re too young. You don’t know how powerful Heaven is.”

Ji Lutian said stubbornly, “Do you think I haven’t tried? It’s useless. We can’t win. If the human race wants to carry on living, my method is the only feasible one.”

“Mr. Ji, since neither of us can convince the other, and Mr. Zheng doesn’t seem to want to stand on your side, why don’t we make a bet?” Zhou Shu suddenly said.

“Bet? Have you forgotten our business?” Ji Lutian frowned slightly. He and Zhou Shu still had to finish forging the divine weapons so that the human race would no longer have any Grotto-Heaven realm experts before the beast tide in the Demon Realm came again.

“That is business,” Zhou Shu continued. “Mr. Ji, your idea is to make the human race without Grotto-Heaven realm experts. I have the same idea as Mr. Zheng. We humans must fight. We have to fight against Heaven. We have to make him not dare to treat us humans like livestock again.

“I think these two ideas can coexist.”

Ji Lutian and Zheng Jingyun frowned at the same time.

“What nonsense are you spouting? I want to fight. He wants peace. How can these two coexist?” Zheng Jingyun said unhappily.

“Of course we have to fight, but we can fight in another way,” Zhou Shu said calmly.

“Fighting is just fighting. What other way is there?” Zheng Jingyun said disdainfully.

Zhou Shu smiled and asked, “Mr. Ji, you’re knowledgeable. You should know that the Reincarnation Mirror has the effect of reviving people from the dead, right?”

Ji Lutian nodded with a thoughtful expression. "The Reincarnation Mirror doesn't really revive people. It just repairs the soul. Only by placing a wisp of your soul in the Reincarnation Mirror before death can you revive. It's not really dying."

"It's the same," Zhou Shu said. "If a wisp of the souls of everyone in the human race is sent into the Reincarnation Mirror, won't all humans be able to live?"

Ji Lutian shook his head. "How is that possible? Not to mention how many souls the Reincarnation Mirror can hold, do you know how much it takes to revive a person's soul?"

"Even all the resources of the human race now are not enough for all humans to revive once."

"What if it's just Grotto-Heaven realm experts?" Zhou Shu continued asking.

"There's no need for Grotto-Heaven realm experts to do that. The chances of them dying in battle are not high to begin with, so there's no need to do anything unnecessary," Ji Lutian said.

"But it's still possible, right?" Zhou Shu asked. "Don't you want the human race to have no Grotto-Heaven realm experts? Then, won't getting them to do it once give you what you want?"

"What do you mean? You want the human Grotto-Heaven realm experts to take the initiative to die?" Zheng Jingyun glared at him. "Who are you? What ulterior motives do you have? Do you want to harm us humans?"

In his anger, he wanted to attack.

Ji Lutian grabbed him and looked at Zhou Shu. "Continue."

He didn't understand what Zhou Shu was trying to say. Wasn't Zhou Shu a supporter of war? Why was he helping him think of a way to make Grotto-Heaven realm experts cut down their cultivation?

"If Grotto-Heaven realm experts die, they can revive with the help of the Reincarnation Mirror. And after their cultivation falls by one realm, they can quickly recover their strength with the help of the incense mystic technique."

Zhou Shu continued calmly, "But if they put their lives on the line, it won't be a problem for them to kill some Demon Kings."

"I've never heard of the Demon Kings of the Demon Realm being revived. In that case, if that happens, won't your idea come true?"

"Are you trying to make use of Grotto-Heaven realm experts?" Zheng Jingyun said disdainfully. "Do you think Grotto-Heaven realm experts are fools? They'll fight to the death just because you ask them to? What a joke!"

Ji Lutian pondered. "I don't know what you mean either. I don't have the ability to make Grotto-Heaven realm experts die once. I don't think there's a need either. You don't understand how terrifying Heaven is. If we kill a Demon King, he can create another one. There's really no point in getting Grotto-Heaven realm experts to fight to the death with Demon Kings."

Zhou Shu asked. "Then, what if we humans have more Grotto-Heaven realm experts?"

## Chapter 860 The Heavenly Court, The Second Connate Divine Weapon (1)

“Ji Lutian, where did you find this helper? Is there something wrong with him? What is he talking about?” Zheng Jingyun pursed his lips. “If there are more human Grotto-Heaven realm experts, it’s possible for us to defeat the demonic beasts. That goes without saying. Is there a need for him to say that?”

Ji Lutian shook his head slightly. “Brother Zheng, please be patient. We may not have figured out what he’s trying to say.”

Ji Lutian looked at Zhou Shu, his eyes full of curiosity.

“Let’s put it this way. I think the forces in the world today can be divided into three camps.” Zhou Shu went straight to the point.

“You’re not going to say humans, demonic beasts, and Heaven, are you?” Zheng Jingyun said disdainfully.

Zhou Shu looked askance at him and said coldly, “Mr. Ji, does your friend have a low IQ?”

Zheng Jingyun was stunned for a moment before becoming furious. Although he had never heard of the term IQ, from Zhou Shu’s expression, he could understand what Zhou Shu meant.

“Do you want to fight?” He glared at Zhou Shu.

“Do you want a beating?” Zhou Shu said casually.

“Brother Zheng, you’re no match for him.” Ji Lutian held Zheng Jingyun and shook his head.

“Ji Lutian, what nonsense are you saying?” Zheng Jingyun was furious. “Who said that I’d be invincible on the Endless Sea with the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod? Were you talking nonsense?”

Zhou Shu and Ji Lutian rolled their eyes at the same time. Zheng Jingyun’s temper was really the opposite of his appearance.

“It’s true what I said. But I meant when you maximized the power of the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod,” Ji Lutian said helplessly. “You’ve just mastered the incense mystic technique and fused with the Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod. Your strength has yet to reach its peak.”

“So what? Do you think I’m afraid of him?!” Zheng Jingyun shouted.

“It’s not a matter of fear,” Ji Lutian said. “Don’t argue with him. Continue.”

When Zheng Jingyun’s irritable temper acted up, it was impossible to talk sense with him, so he could only turn to Zhou Shu.

Zhou Shu sneered. Although he wasn’t afraid of Zheng Jingyun, he didn’t want to argue with him. If they really fought, he could just use the Heavenly Emperor Jade Book again.

“Demonic beasts are slaves of Heaven. How can they be considered two forces?” Zhou Shu said.

“Heaven and demonic beasts are one side, humans are another side, and you two are another side.”

He pointed at Ji Lutian and Zheng Jingyun.

"Us?" Ji Lutian frowned.

"Or rather, those who cultivate your Dao of Incense are considered the third side," Zhou Shu said.

"You want to separate those who cultivate the incense mystic technique from the human race?" Ji Lutian frowned.

"I'm not separating them." Zhou Shu shook his head. "I'm thinking that we can divert the attention of Heaven.

"When a greater threat than the human race appears, do you think he will still care about the human race?"

"I understand. You want Brother Zheng and me to be bait?" Ji Lutian said.

"Of course, it's not enough with just the two of you. But what if there are more people who cultivate the Dao of Incense? When your forces are enough to threaten Heaven, how do you think Heaven will treat you?" Zhou Shu said.

"I've helped you think of a name. You can call yourselves the Heavenly Court in the future!"

"The Heavenly Court?" Ji Lutian and Zheng Jingyun were stunned.

"That's right. The Heavenly Court, the matters in the sky are yours, and the matters in the world belong to the human race," Zhou Shu said.

Ji Lutian and Zheng Jingyun were stunned.

"What about demonic beasts?"

"Since there are three forces, there naturally has to be the Three Realms. There are already the owners of the sky and the ground, so they can only go underground," Zhou Shu said casually.

"The Three Realms, the sky, the ground, and underground..." Ji Lutian frowned in thought. Of course, he knew that Zhou Shu was only using descriptive terms, not actually referring to above the clouds and below the soil.

But his words inspired Ji Lutian.

"What a joke. Who do you think you are? Do we have to do whatever you say?" Zheng Jingyun sneered.

"Do you think Heaven doesn't exist? Where are you putting Heaven?"

"Heaven?" Zhou Shu said calmly. "How can there be Heaven still? The Heavenly Court will replace Heaven!"

"After talking for so long, you've only thought of the outcome. If you can win against Heaven, you can do anything you want. If you can't win against Heaven, everything you've said is useless," Zheng Jingyun said disdainfully. "Tell me. No matter if you're the human race or the Heavenly Court, how can you defeat those heavenly slaves? How can you defeat Heaven?"

"Aren't the Dao of Incense and divine weapons our two great weapons? If Grotto-Heaven realm experts are not afraid of even death, what is there to fear from demonic beasts?" Zhou Shu said.

“I’ve said so much because I want you to give those Grotto-Heaven realm experts an attraction.

“As long as they switch to the Dao of Incense, when the Heavenly Court is established in the future, they will be the founding heroes of the dynasty. They can be invested as gods, enjoy the consecration of human commoners, and be in charge of matters in the heavens. With such an attraction, do you have to worry about them not working hard?

“Of course. This is just an idea of mine. You can think about what to do yourself.”

Zhou Shu shrugged. “We humans will still fight demonic beasts the same way.”

Ji Lutian nodded, his thoughtful expression lingering.

Zheng Jingyun pursed his lips but didn’t mock him anymore.