

The Growth 536

Chapter 536 - 6: Taiping Taoist Soldiers

A month ago, in the sunken lands of the Five Fingers within the Celestial Human Realm.

Although it was not yet June, the weather was as hot as midsummer.

Unlike the thousands of ravines before Li Hao left, the sunken lands of the Five Fingers now presented a scene full of vitality.

Fields were divided by mud and shrubs, with thick smoke from burning branches and withered grass covering the sky.

Ordinary people living here were clearing land, trying to reclaim a piece of land for themselves using this primitive method.

In the rolling black smoke, raggedly dressed commoners wore linen vests, working hard yet joyfully in the fields.

Because this land is sheltered by the Taiping Tao.

An inland area where the forces of cultivators absolutely dare not penetrate.

From afar, one could see the farmers holding plows, occasionally helped by domesticated beasts pulling the plows.

With a wider perspective, one could also see soldiers patrolling tirelessly, armed with firearms and wearing armor.

These are warriors trained by Bai Shasheng in the name of the Taiping Tao.

Every one of them is carefully selected and brave, warriors daring to charge at cultivators as mere mortals.

Although the number of these armed soldiers across the sunken lands of the Five Fingers is not large,

when they truly gather, even the top sects of the Celestial Human Realm dare not underestimate their power.

Because anyone who underestimated the existence of armed soldiers has been intimidated by their blood and fire.

In the past decade of war, countless cultivators have fallen at their hands, becoming one of their achievements in intimidating the Celestial Human Realm.

Currently, any sect in this world that can still be named has essentially battled with these armed soldiers.

Due to their formidable performance, these armed soldiers have been given the title of Taiping Taoist Soldiers.

Jun Yao is one of these Taiping Taoist Soldiers.

He was among the first batch of commoners inspired by Bai Shasheng's speeches, choosing to voluntarily follow and achieve great feats.

Even the name "Jun Yao" was personally given by Bai Shasheng—meaning a person who stands tall and firm.

In fact, Jun Yao indeed lives up to this name.

As one of Bai Shasheng's earliest followers, Jun Yao witnessed the birth and rise of the Taiping Taoist Soldiers.

He witnessed how those once lofty "immortals" were defeated and how they pleaded for mercy.

In Jun Yao's heart, those immortals who had long been perched on the Immortal Mountains and Archipelagos have long lost any aura.

Besides living a bit longer than him, they are ordinary people who can be injured, die, and beg for mercy.

"Captain, there's a shortage of manpower over at Shuangliu Village, and we're asked to head over."

The voice of a Taiping Taoist Soldier scout came from afar, riding a beast similar to a warhorse.

During non-war times, the Taiping Taoist Soldiers' communication methods lack strict regulations, as long as they can accurately convey the superior's orders.

"Is it for clearing land?"

Leading several of his soldiers, Jun Yao waved and asked the scout.

As Taiping Taoist Soldiers come from commoners, they naturally do not act superior like other cultivators.

Especially during the busy farming seasons like now, actively helping the commoners under their governance with land clearing and harvesting has almost become routine.

In Bai Shasheng's words, if one cannot always remember their roots as commoners, then how are Taiping Taoist Soldiers different from the cultivators they despise?

In fact, Taiping Taoist Soldiers not only help commoners with cultivation and harvesting.

They also have a specialized logistics unit for farming, smelting, and trade.

Although the logistics unit of the Taiping Taoist Soldiers does not personally go to the battlefield, their contributions to the entire commoner community are almost no less than those of the regular frontline troops.

In this era of rampant beasts and lurking dangers, these logistics units braved life risks, connecting various commoner villages and trading with them for materials.

The germination of civilization is sprouting in this desolate world, forming a special regime based on the military.

The Taiping Taoist Soldiers are the backbone of this regime, and the commoner villages that depend on it are the flesh and blood of this regime.

This newly born regime may have many flaws, but without a doubt, its original intention and mobilization capabilities are the strongest in the world.

—To bring peace to the world!

—To let commoners hold high the banner of civilization!

This is the slogan and ideal Bai Shasheng instilled in all Taiping Taoist Soldiers after refining his experiences with commoners.

.....

"Wait! Stop!"

When Jun Yao and his soldiers arrived at Shuangliu Village, he suddenly raised his hand to stop them from entering.

"Something's wrong, don't rush in!"

Receiving Jun Yao's orders, the previously relaxed soldiers immediately became alert, gripping their firearms tightly.

"Is it those cultivators again?"

A soldier near Jun Yao asked quietly.

He was a new recruit to the Taiping Taoist Soldiers, so he was obviously less experienced than the veterans.

Even after specialized war training, this new recruit couldn't deduce what was happening in the village from the current situation.

"Unlikely, the cultivators who come here to seize resources are mostly loose cultivators."

"They might possess unimaginable abilities, but they absolutely can't be so... thorough."

After thinking for a long time, Jun Yao finally used the word "thorough" to describe the situation in Shuangliu Village.

"No blood scent, no signs of resistance, not even traces of birds or beasts were seen..."

The scout who was responsible for the previous notification expressed his judgment at this time, unable to hide the surprise on his face.

"What's going on?"

"What kind of cultivator would target such a small village with this ability?"

Upon hearing the scout's judgment, Jun Yao almost immediately commanded again.

"Full armament, set formation!"

Before he finished speaking, Jun Yao's soldiers immediately adopted the standard "three-three system" interlocking formation.

Every three men form a combat group, with each group forming a forward or rear triangle charge formation, allowing the entire team to disperse yet cover each other front and back.

Whenever a soldier encounters an ambush, at least two others will react and provide firepower in the direction of the ambush.

Therefore, unless they encounter cultivators with large-scale killing skills, other types of cultivators would find it very difficult to annihilate a squad of Taiping Taoist Soldiers in one strike.