

War God 561

Chapter 561: Isn't It Good to Live Well?

"You, you..." Professor Feng looked at Lin Mu in disbelief, his face flushing red with anger as he began to cough violently.

"Professor Feng!" The imposing woman behind Professor Feng steadied him and quickly took some medicine from her bag for him to take.

After taking the medication, Professor Feng's emotions finally stabilized.

"How could you do that?" the imposing woman demanded angrily. "Do you have any idea who Professor Feng is? If anything were to happen to him, not even a Divine Machine Camp Instructor like you could bear the responsibility!"

"Xiao Tian, see them out!" Lin Mu commanded, having no interest in dealing with them. He lay back down on the lounge.

"Instructor Lin, please don't blame me for speaking out of turn," Monkey said, crouching behind Lin Mu. "Professor Feng is the Deputy Instructor of our Divine Machine Camp, responsible for pharmaceutical development. To be frank, although none of us are a match for you, out in the field, we're all experts capable of taking on a hundred enemies. Why? It's all because of this man, Professor Feng."

Monkey's expression grew grave. "The higher-ups brought him in at great expense to oversee drug development. The reason our strength improved so quickly after joining the Divine Machine Camp is that we were injected with potions he developed, unlocking our human potential. Otherwise, I'd only be slightly stronger than Zhu Tao."

"You know him?" Lin Mu asked, referring to Zhu Tao.

Monkey paused, then gave a wry smile. "Instructor Lin, were you even listening to me? Of course I know Professor Feng, and our Divine Machine Camp..."

"Do you know Zhu Tao?"

Monkey finally understood. So that's what the instructor was asking about.

Slightly startled, he answered honestly, "Yes, I know him. We were in the same combat team, but he enlisted later than I did."

Lin Mu said flatly, "He once tried to kill me."

"What?" Monkey's face hardened with fury. "Instructor Lin, I, Monkey, am firmly on your side!"

"Good." Lin Mu offered a faint smile. "You have a promising future."

"Thank you for the compliment, Instructor Lin." Monkey chuckled. "So, about Captain Jiaolong..."

"He is no longer your captain. He is." Lin Mu pointed at Shi Potian. "Of course, if any of you object, you can challenge him. I'm sure he'd welcome it."

Challenge Shi Potian? You've got to be kidding! Don't let his dopey look fool you; his strength probably isn't far off from the captain's.

So, Monkey kept his mouth shut.

This, of course, was also why Jiaolong hadn't said a word in protest when Lin Mu publicly suggested making Shi Potian the new captain.

"Hey, I'm talking to you!" Seeing that Lin Mu was ignoring her, the imposing woman's cheeks puffed out. She stomped toward him in her boots, raising a hand to strike.

Suddenly, a deep thrumming sound echoed as the entire island seemed to fill with a suffocating Evil Qi, pressing down on the imposing woman.

This aura emanated from Shi Potian. The pressure alone was enough to make an entire army quail, let alone an ordinary woman. It wasn't just her; the faces of all the Divine Machine Camp members changed dramatically.

"Such terrifying Evil Qi!" Monkey gasped, horrified. "How many blood-soaked battles must one endure, how many people must one kill, to cultivate such a fearsome aura?"

The imposing woman fared even worse. She screamed, stumbling backward and collapsing onto the ground.

"You... you people..." Her eyes reddened instantly. She had never been so humiliated. "You're bullying me!"

She scrambled to her feet and ran off.

"Xiao Ying!" Professor Feng called after her before turning to give Lin Mu a cold glare. "Young man, you've gone too far!"

"Shut up!" Lin Mu snapped, turning his attention to Zhu Tao. "You just said you were unconvinced? That it's unfair?"

Although Zhu Tao was apprehensive, the presence of Zhang Ze and Professor Feng gave him the courage to stand his ground. "That's right, I object! You eliminated me without even an assessment. That's unfair!"

He spoke with resounding force, framing himself as the underdog being oppressed by Lin Mu's authority.

"Fine," Lin Mu said indifferently. "If you feel you've been treated unfairly, then I'll give you a chance. The Divine Machine Camp currently has ninety-eight members. You can pick any one of them for a one-on-one fight. If you win, I'll let you join.

"But if you lose," Lin Mu added, his expression cold, "don't blame me for being heartless."

"Fine!" Zhu Tao said through gritted teeth. "I agree!"

"Zhu Tao, don't be impulsive!" Zhang Ze said, his face etched with anxiety. "These people in the Divine Machine Camp are all monsters! How could you possibly win? Just forget it. We'll find another way."

"Instructor Zhang, thank you for your concern, but there's no need." Zhu Tao took a deep breath, his eyes filled with resolve. "I've waited too long for this day. By all rights, I must prove my strength! Besides, I refuse to believe that I, Zhu Tao, am weaker than anyone!"

His words were firm and resolute, stirring the hearts of those who heard them.

"Well said!" Professor Feng exclaimed in admiration. "Zhu Tao, you are the perfect candidate for the Divine Machine Camp. As its vice instructor, I promise you that no matter what, I will ensure you get in! You have my word."

Zhu Tao was overjoyed at Professor Feng's words. With the professor's support, how could he fail to get into the Divine Machine Camp?

Professor Feng patted Zhu Tao on the shoulder and whispered, "Zhu Tao, in a moment, go and challenge that Lin fellow."

"What?" Zhu Tao's expression faltered.

He'd witnessed Lin Mu's strength firsthand. The man was stronger than him by an unknown margin. And yet, Professor Feng was telling him to challenge Lin Mu? This...

"Rest assured," Professor Feng said, producing a blue pill, "I'm confident you'll win! This is the latest drug I've developed. It's even more potent than what the others in the Divine Machine Camp were given. It has fewer side effects and can unlock twenty percent of your body's potential."

"And don't underestimate that twenty percent. The injections the others received only enhanced their potential by fifteen percent."

As a lieutenant, Zhu Tao knew exactly what unlocking twenty percent of his potential meant. It promised a complete metamorphosis.

"Yes! Thank you, Professor Feng!" A look of wild joy lit up Zhu Tao's eyes. The professor was treating him far too well!

Professor Feng discreetly slipped the pill to Zhu Tao and glanced at Lin Mu, a cold smile forming in his mind. Kid, you dared to disrespect me earlier. I'll show you what happens when you cross me.

"You, Lin! I challenge you!"

As expected, with Professor Feng's assurance, Zhu Tao's first move was to challenge Lin Mu.

Everyone else was stunned. They all stared at Zhu Tao as if he were an idiot.

Challenging Instructor Lin? That's just asking to die!

Lin Mu himself was a little surprised. He shook his head and said, "You're no match for me. Pick someone else."

"Are you scared?" Zhu Tao stared at Lin Mu, his eyes bloodshot as if he wanted to eat him alive. "You're the one who said I could challenge anyone. Are you going to go back on your word?"

"Sigh." Lin Mu slowly rose to his feet. "Isn't it nice to be alive?" he said with a sigh. "Why are you so determined to die?"

"Very well. Since that's what you want, I'll grant your wish."

Chapter 562: The Miserable Zhu Tao!

"Instructor!" Monkey cried out anxiously, wanting to dissuade Lin Mu.

However, in the eyes of Zhu Tao and Professor Feng, this was just a sign of concern that Lin Mu would lose face if he were defeated. A surge of schadenfreude washed over them. It seems this Lin Mu is nothing but a bluffer after all.

Professor Feng was particularly confident. He had already heard about yesterday's events. Lifting a yacht while walking on the waves? One person fighting the entire Divine Machine Camp? What outrageous lies! He doesn't even bother to make them sound plausible.

He had been at the Divine Machine Camp for many years, focusing on researching high-end drugs to unlock human potential. Because of this, he knew better than anyone what a person was capable of. A yacht weighs more than a dozen tons, and he walked on water with it? Where's the point of leverage? From the perspective of human limits and science, that's impossible. Combining the two makes it even more improbable. As for one person defeating nearly a hundred members of the Divine Machine Camp, that's utter nonsense.

Every single member of the Divine Machine Camp had been injected with a potion he developed. If he were to claim he was second in knowing their individual strengths, no one would dare claim first. Each member, in terms of physical function, potential, explosive power, speed, strength, and reaction time, was formidable. They were the newest model of super-soldiers.

One man against nearly a hundred? A fairy tale! The previous potion injected into the Divine Machine Camp could only unlock fifteen percent of a person's potential. But the Celestial Star No. 2, which took him a long time to research, could stimulate twenty percent. Although it's only a five-percent difference, the boost to one's strength is a terrifying amount.

Therefore, Professor Feng had great confidence in Zhu Tao!

...

"Are you ready?"

Zhu Tao subconsciously wiped his mouth, swallowing the Blue Pill in a smooth motion. Instantly, he felt a wild power erupt from within him. This power was so immense it was frightening.

At first, Zhu Tao was apprehensive, feeling he couldn't control such overwhelming strength. To his surprise, however, after the power circulated through him once, it lay dormant in his limbs and organs, continuously transforming and enhancing them.

Zhu Tao had become even stronger!

"ROAR!"

Thick, green veins bulged on Zhu Tao's body, looking as if they were about to tear through his skin. His face flushed a deep crimson, as if gorged with blood. A powerful aura erupted from him, causing the onlookers' expressions to change.

"How did this guy get so strong?" Monkey was stunned and a little surprised.

"Could it be..." Jiaolong's expression changed. He exchanged a look with Monkey, and both saw a hint of shock and horror in each other's eyes.

The Gene Potion!

This was the drug developed by Professor Feng. It was the reason their Divine Machine Camp was different from ordinary people.

Just now, when did Professor Feng give Zhu Tao the Gene Potion? Could it be a new version that doesn't require injection? Monkey guessed boldly.

"Highly likely!" Jiaolong said.

Monkey voiced his concern, "Then what about the instructor? He..."

"Don't worry. We can't even begin to fathom the instructor's strength," Jiaolong said, his tone complex. "No one can defeat him."

...

"Lin, today you die!" Zhu Tao's eyes were blood-red, filled with intense killing intent.

My grandfather died a miserable death, my brother was murdered, and now, even my own chance to enter the Divine Machine Camp is gone—all because of this Lin Mu.

With the desire for revenge festering within him, Zhu Tao roared and charged toward Lin Mu.

BAM!

His foot stomped fiercely on the ground, blasting a small crater into it.

"Damn, he's fast!" Monkey cursed, his face a mask of disbelief.

He knew Zhu Tao well. In the past, Zhu Tao's strength couldn't compare to his. The gap between them had only widened after Monkey joined the Divine Machine Camp. But at this moment, he felt that his opponent's speed and strength seemed to surpass his own.

Jiaolong, standing nearby, also looked horrified. All the members of the Divine Machine Camp had gathered around. Seeing Zhu Tao burst forward with such incredible speed, many of their faces changed drastically.

Because their eyes couldn't keep up with him. He was fast. Too fast!

However, only one person was shaking his head: Shi Potian.

Because in his eyes, Zhu Tao's speed was far too slow. It was like watching a snail struggling to crawl forward. While others saw Zhu Tao's terrifying speed, Shi Potian saw a completely different world.

In my eyes, the world is filled with countless threads. The more ordinary a person is, the more threads are attached to their body. These threads control their speed, their direction, even their actions and words. The members of the Divine Machine Camp have fewer threads, but not by much. Their limbs, in particular, are bound by threads that have condensed into chains, tightly controlling their every move. I have chains on my body too, even thicker and scarlet in color. However, I can break free from these chains for a short time to move swiftly and fight. This was a gift from Elder Brother Mu. The Divine Demon Transverse Refinement allows one to battle the heavens, slay gods and demons, and even fight against the Heavenly Dao! But Elder Brother Mu's body is a complete blank. Countless chains try to approach him, but all of them fail. In my eyes, Elder Brother Mu is a terrifying existence who has already transcended the world's shackles. As for that Zhu Tao... his chains are emitting a black aura. Based on what I've come to understand recently, that's a sign he's close to death.

...

Just as the crowd lost sight of Zhu Tao's figure, they saw Lin Mu slowly raise his hand and pat gently to his right.

What is he doing?

This question popped into everyone's mind. The next moment, they understood.

SMACK!

With a light sound, a figure was sent flying, soaring more than a dozen meters before crashing into the jagged reefs.

CRACK!

The chilling sound of breaking bones and a piercing scream echoed simultaneously. When the crowd saw who it was, their faces contorted in horror.

It was Zhu Tao!

But now, who knew how many of his bones were broken? His body was a bloody, mangled mess. He was a tragic sight.

"How... How could this be? Why did this happen?" Professor Feng was ghastly pale. He stared at the twitching form of Zhu Tao, his expression incredibly grim.

Then, something even more terrifying happened.

Zhu Tao, lying on the ground, suddenly stood up. His expression was savage and pained, as if he were suffering from some unspeakable torture.

"Pain! So much pain!" Zhu Tao screamed, clawing viciously at his own skin as if trying to dig something out from inside his body.

In moments, there wasn't a single patch of intact skin left on him.

"An adverse reaction to the Gene Potion?!" Zhang Ze's face fell, and he rushed toward Zhu Tao.

"If you want to die, go ahead and try," an indifferent voice reached Zhang Ze's ears, stopping him in his tracks.

And sure enough, the very next moment, Zhu Tao let out a final, ghastly shriek. His entire body exploded, splattering blood and gore everywhere. Not a single intact piece of him remained.

Seeing Zhu Tao's gruesome end, Zhang Ze's lips trembled. After a moment of shock, he grabbed Professor Feng by the collar and roared, "Professor Feng, what in God's name did you give him?!"

"No... it can't be... How could this happen?"

Chapter 563: Just This Once, Never Again!

"How could this be?" Zhang Ze bellowed. "You're asking me? Who am I supposed to ask?"

"Was that a Gene Pill of your own creation that you just gave to Zhu Tao?" Anger flared in Zhang Ze's eyes, as if he wanted to eat the man alive.

Although Professor Feng held a high position in the Divine Machine Camp, he was, after all, just a researcher who had never experienced the battlefield. The earlier scene had terrified him. So, when Zhang Ze grabbed him by the collar, Professor Feng's face went pale with fright. Shaking his head, he stammered, "No, it wasn't me! I didn't do that!"

"You didn't?" Zhang Ze roared. "Then you tell me how the hell Zhu Tao died!"

Zhu Tao was a man he had brought to recommend for the Divine Machine Camp. Even if he couldn't get in, Zhu Tao was still a rare talent. He trained hard and had a solid foundation. He could have had a promising career even if he returned to his original unit. But now, he was dead.

How was he supposed to explain this to his superiors? If this wasn't handled properly, he would be punished as well. The military's regulations were extremely strict. He could end up facing a court-martial.

Professor Feng, of course, understood the gravity of the situation. If I don't find a scapegoat, my life is over. I still have so many experiments to complete, and so many research findings are on the verge of being announced. I don't want to lose everything. I certainly don't want to face a court-martial over this.

So, Professor Feng pointed at Lin Mu. "It was him! He's the one who killed Zhu Tao. What does that have to do with me?! Zhang Ze, why are you hounding me instead of arresting the murderer?"

Shifting the blame to Lin Mu was the perfect solution. After all, everyone had seen Lin Mu make a move. He couldn't possibly deny it.

"Bullshit!" Hearing Professor Feng's words, Monkey was so furious his nose was practically crooked. He pointed at the professor and cursed, "You were the one who gave Zhu Tao that thing, causing the gene drug backlash! Do you really think we're all idiots? Or do you think you can bully Instructor Lin just because he's new? Let me tell you, determining Zhu Tao's cause of death is simple. All it takes is a proper analysis."

Jiaolong also spoke up. "There's a regulation in the military that any newly developed gene-modifying drug must undergo a series of strict tests before use. The Blue Pill you gave Zhu Tao is different from the injections we normally receive. So, is this a new product you've cooked up?"

Ma Biao even scoffed, "You think I didn't see you give Zhu Tao something and make him take it? You wanted to get back at Instructor Lin, didn't you? You're delusional. If you want to frame our instructor, you should use a smarter method."

Hearing the words of the Divine Machine Camp members, Professor Feng was stunned. How... how are all these people speaking up for Lin Mu? Hasn't he only been here for a day? Why are they all siding with him? How many years have I been in the Divine Machine Camp? How much have I contributed? I've spent the better part of my life researching gene drugs, sacrificing countless nights of sleep. And now, the people of the Divine Machine Camp are turning against me? Why?

"You... you bunch of ingrates!" Professor Feng roared. "Who helped you get selected for the Divine Machine Camp? Who is responsible for you becoming Super Soldiers? And now you're siding with an outsider... You're a disgrace!"

"Professor Feng, you're wrong," Jiaolong said calmly. "All of us comrades in the Divine Machine Camp did respect you. At least, that was the case before today. But you've misunderstood one thing. Before we joined the Divine Machine Camp, we were soldiers!"

Jiaolong's expression was incredibly solemn, and indeed, every member of the Divine Machine Camp wore a look of utmost seriousness.

"For a soldier, honor is above all else! We would not hesitate to sacrifice our lives for our country. That is our mission!" Jiaolong declared, his words ringing with conviction. "But from the day I joined the army, my instructors never taught me how to lie or how to confuse right and wrong!"

"Well said!"

A sonorous and powerful voice cut through the air as a tall man in his fifties approached. Though his hair was graying, he was full of vigor and exuded a commanding aura. Clearly, this man held a significant position in the military.

"Sir, what brings you here?" Zhang Ze's expression changed. He hadn't expected the commander to come in person. However, when he saw the formidable-looking woman following the old man, he understood immediately.

"Sir!" Jiaolong and the entire Divine Machine Camp snapped into a line and saluted the old man. Zhang Ze did the same.

"Mm," the old man nodded slightly and said in a resonant voice, "A soldier's first duty is to obey orders, and their highest goal is to place the people's interests above all else. You, the Divine Machine Camp, have not disappointed me!"

The old man suddenly raised his right hand in a standard military salute. "I, Kong Lin, thank you all!"

Kong Lin, the highest-ranking officer of the Southeast Military Region, with the rank of Major General! He was a military heavyweight on the same level as Guan Chengye and Xiang Yunlong.

"Commander Kong, I..." Seeing Kong Lin, Professor Feng's expression changed, a flicker of fear in his eyes.

"Professor Feng, you too have worked hard," Kong Lin sighed. "But you shouldn't have... you shouldn't have betrayed the hopes of over a billion Huaxia people."

"Commander Kong, what... what do you mean by that?" Professor Feng felt a growing sense of dread.

"Alas." Kong Lin sighed again, turning to the formidable-looking woman behind him. "Give it to me."

The woman's expression faltered. "Grandfather..."

"This is the military. You will address me as 'Sir'!" Kong Lin's face darkened.

"Yes, Sir!" Although she felt wronged, Kong Ying still replied loudly before handing a file to Kong Lin and turning to leave.

Kong Lin shook his head and offered the file to Professor Feng. "Care to take a look?"

The moment he saw the file, Professor Feng's face drained of all color. Inside, it meticulously detailed how he had embezzled research funds for his personal use. It even uncovered how, years ago, he had used underhanded means to secure benefits for his own biotech company. Every detail was laid out, crystal clear. The amount of money he had misappropriated was astronomical and utterly shocking.

THUMP.

The file dropped to the ground. Professor Feng's eyes were ashen, devoid of life. He knew he was finished.

"Professor Feng, you have greatly disappointed me," Kong Lin sighed and waved his hand. "Take him away."

"Sir! Commander Kong, I was wrong, I know I was wrong!" Professor Feng shouted desperately. "Sir, for all the hard work I've poured into the Divine Machine Camp, please, let me go just this once! I'm a member of the Feng Family!"

"It is precisely because you are from the Feng Family that I came personally," Kong Lin snorted coldly. "Otherwise, I would have dismantled not just you, but your entire biotech company as well. After all the hard-earned money of the Huaxia people you've devoured, I'm going to make you spit it all back out, twice over! Take him away!"

Hearing Kong Lin's words, Professor Feng didn't dare utter another syllable. He knew that this time, no one could save him.

After dealing with Professor Feng, Kong Lin walked over to Lin Mu and said with a smile, "Instructor Lin, are you satisfied with this outcome?"

Everyone who heard Kong Lin's words gasped. Kong Lin... he actually came to back up Instructor Lin?

"Alright. This is the first and last time."

Lin Mu's reply sent a shiver down everyone's spines, making their scalps tingle.

'This is the first and last time'? What in the world...?

Chapter 564 Everyone Has It, Task: Sleep!

"Instructor Lin, what are your plans now?" Kong Lin didn't seem concerned about Lin Mu's tone, nor did he bother to ask about what had just happened. It seemed that for him, Lin Mu subjugating the Divine Machine Camp was never an issue to begin with.

"What do you mean 'what are my plans'?" Lin Mu leaned back in his chair, which was hardly the attitude a subordinate should show a superior. His words made Jiaolong and the others twitch at the corners of their mouths. "Aren't you just trying to get first place? I'll get it for you, and that'll be the end of it, right?"

Wow! What a big talker! 'I'll get it for you?' Do you think the military-wide competition's championship is like some cabbage you can just pick up? Something you can take whenever you want? You're looking down on the other six military regions, aren't you?

But Lin Mu was, after all, the instructor of the Divine Machine Camp. Since their instructor had spoken, it was best for them, his subordinates, to keep their mouths shut.

"Haha, good!" To everyone's shock, Kong Lin actually burst out laughing. "With your promise, I can rest easy."

"But let me warn you, words are binding in the military. Since you've promised, if you fail to secure first place, I'll hold you personally responsible!"

Kong Lin's objective was simple. How many years had it been since the Southeast Military Region won the championship? Three years? Five? He couldn't even remember anymore. The members of the Divine Machine Camp had been replaced several times over, but he, the Military Region Commander, was still here. It had been a very long time.

Lin Mu waved a hand impatiently. "All right, all right. Is there anything else? If not, you can go. I need to start training my men."

"Oh? Quite a temper you've got there." Kong Lin laughed. "As the Commander of the entire Military Region, am I not even allowed to watch you train?"

Lin Mu rolled his eyes. "Do you still want the championship or not?"

"Alright, I'm leaving, okay?" Kong Lin was somewhat speechless. You brat. If you don't win the championship, just you watch how I'll deal with you. The competition was less than three months away.

"Oh, one more thing," Kong Lin said. "Did you see that young woman earlier?"

"Commander," Lin Mu said wearily, "can't you just say everything at once? Also, let me be clear, I already have a wife. If you're thinking of playing matchmaker, you can forget it right now."

Kong Lin was so angry his nose was practically crooked. "I... What on earth are you thinking? Me? Play matchmaker for you? In your dreams!"

The men of the Divine Machine Camp didn't dare listen to this exchange and had already scattered far away.

"My granddaughter is a bit of a handful," Kong Lin said. "So I was planning to have her come to the Divine Machine Camp to train for a while."

"Absolutely not," Lin Mu refused instantly. "I have enough people here as it is. I won't agree to you stuffing more people in here."

"If you insist, then I'm done. I won't be the instructor anymore."

Hearing Lin Mu's words, Monkey and the others hiding in the distance felt a chill run down their spines.

"Is he threatening the Commander?"

"Isn't it obvious?"

"What if Instructor Lin really leaves? Is he abandoning us?"

"Shut it, Mad Dog! A dog's mouth will never produce ivory!"

Meanwhile, Kong Lin was a little embarrassed. "No room for discussion?"

"No room for discussion."

"Fine!" Kong Lin chuckled. "That's not up to you. That girl is even more stubborn than I am. The more you refuse to let her in, the more determined she'll be to get in."

"I'm off." Without waiting for Lin Mu to reply, Kong Lin turned and left, a satisfied look on his face.

"What's with the Commander today? Instructor Lin threatened and intimidated him, but he didn't even get angry?"

"How could a pig-brain like you understand what the Commander is thinking?"

"Oh yeah? You understand, then?"

"If I understood, I'd be the Commander by now!"

"Damn, then why are you acting so high and mighty?"

On the way back, Zhang Ze still felt uneasy. "Commander, can Instructor Lin really do it?"

Professor Feng was dead, which meant there would be no more Gene Potions. How was the Divine Machine Camp's overall training plan supposed to proceed? That Gene Potion could enhance all kinds of human functions; it was incredibly precious and definitely not something that could be developed easily. The Gene Potion each Divine Machine Camp member consumed wasn't just a matter of money. It represented an immense investment of manpower, material and financial resources, and even time. And right now, time was what they lacked the most.

The Divine Machine Camp was already at the bottom of the barrel among the major military regions. Now that Professor Feng was out of the picture, the Gene Potion definitely couldn't be synthesized or produced anymore. Wouldn't that completely derail the training schedule?

"What? You don't believe in Instructor Lin?" Kong Lin said.

"It's not a matter of belief, it's just..."

Zhang Ze was cut off. "Don't worry," Kong Lin said. "If he can't do it, then no one in this world can."

"Huh?" Zhang Ze's heart jolted. Why does the Commander have such immense confidence in Lin Mu? It seemed almost... blind.

Kong Lin closed his eyes, his voice dropping to a near whisper. "Because... he is Lin Wudi."

「Divine Machine Camp Training Base」

"Instructor, let's begin!" All the members of the Divine Machine Camp were lined up in neat rows before Lin Mu, their faces filled with excitement and anticipation.

"Begin what?" Lin Mu asked, looking puzzled.

Monkey spoke up. "Didn't you say you were going to start our training? We're ready!"

"Teacher Lin, you can count on us! So people don't think you're just a braggart, we'll train with everything we've got! We can endure any amount of suffering!"

As usual, Monkey couldn't resist running his mouth. "Teacher Lin can abuse me a thousand times, and I'll still treat Teacher Lin like my first love!"

"Get lost!"

Lin Mu lashed out with a kick, sending the smart-mouthed bastard flying. Seeing Monkey stuck headfirst in the river sand, everyone's shoulders shook as they struggled to hold back their laughter.

Lin Mu stood with his hands behind his back, looking at the rows of faces before him. "I know you have many doubts and many questions for me. You want to know how we can possibly take first place in the competition in less than three months."

Their dark, weathered faces showed a mixture of boundless doubt, expectation, and even resentment. They were indeed doubtful, wondering what secret weapon Instructor Lin possessed that could make them champions. They were also hopeful that Instructor Lin would bring them a surprise and create a miracle. The resentment came from the fact that they hadn't won the championship in years. In fact, they were always at the bottom of every major competition.

Lin Mu said, "The truth is, I don't have one."

The members of the Divine Machine Camp nearly collapsed in unison.

"Because my training regimen will be harsh, even cruel," Lin Mu said, his tone serious. "A single mistake could even cost you your life."

"Now, tell me, do you still want me to train you?"

"If you don't, you can speak up now. If the majority of you feel I can't lead you to the championship, I'll leave immediately."

"I also promise I'll find you another qualified instructor. But as for whether you'll win the championship then, I can't make any guarantees."

The entire Divine Machine Camp was silent.

Harsh? Cruel? We might even lose our lives? It was a terrifying prospect. But... they were soldiers!

"We are not afraid!"

"Teacher Lin, we're not afraid of hardship or exhaustion, and we're not afraid of death! But I can't stand being cooped up and stifled in the Divine Machine Camp anymore!"

"Me too! I, Ma Biao, was the best soldier in my old unit! I won so many competition titles I got tired of collecting them. But since joining the Divine Machine Camp, I haven't even sniffed a championship!"

"Teacher Lin, bring it on! No matter how cruel the training, I'll take it!"

Jiaolong added fiercely, "I just don't want to live so disgracefully for the rest of my life!"

"That's right!"

The faces of the others burned with an even more intense indignation and anger. What they didn't realize was that they now possessed a quality they'd been missing before. A warrior's spirit! If a soldier lacks that spirit, can they even be called a soldier?

And so, Lin Mu was very pleased.

"Since you're all in, I'll announce the training plan."

As everyone watched with eager anticipation, Lin Mu's chest swelled. He took a deep breath and boomed, "All units, listen up! Objective: Dormitories! Mission: Sleep!"

Chapter 565: Player: Tycoon War God!

"Sleeping?"

Upon hearing Zhang Ze's report, Kong Lin was taken aback.

"Yes." Zhang Ze's face was flushed with anger. "For three whole days, the Divine Machine Camp has just been sleeping! And if anyone dares to train on their own, Instructor Lin puts them in the 'little black room.' Chief, we can't let Instructor Lin continue this nonsense. There are less than three months until the big military competition. If this goes on, the Divine Machine Camp will be ruined!"

There was a clear hint of resentment in his tone. At first, he had thought Instructor Lin was a suitable choice for the Divine Machine Camp. But over the past few days, the so-called secret training was just letting the team members sleep. Who could accept that?

"Chief, if Instructor Lin were actually serious about training, I would still respect him deeply, even if we didn't win the championship, but..." Zhang Ze hesitated, then pressed on. "The way Instructor Lin is acting will ruin the reputation of our Dong'an Military Academy. It's not just a disgrace to the Southeast Military Region, but to you as well, Chief."

Kong Lin glanced at Zhang Ze. "You think there's a problem with Instructor Lin's training methods?"

"Chief, how can this even be considered training? It's just fooling around!" Zhang Ze was at a loss for words.

Can sleeping even be called a training method? It's more than just problematic; it's a completely erroneous decision.

"I don't see it that way."

BANG!

Just as Kong Lin was about to speak, the door was thrown open, and an enraged Kong Ying stormed in.

"Grandfather, I'm going to the Divine Machine Camp!" she declared, her expression furious. "Instructor Zhang is right! If we let that guy keep messing around, you'll be completely disgraced! I can't tolerate that!"

"Kong Ying, stop this nonsense!" Kong Lin's expression darkened. With Lin Mu as the instructor of the Divine Machine Camp, even he, the Military Region Commander, couldn't easily interfere.

"Don't worry, Grandfather," Kong Ying said, full of confidence. "This time, I'm not going alone. Just wait for my good news. I'll definitely bring the championship back for you!"

After her declaration, Kong Ying ran out of the room.

Kong Lin was left with a helpless expression. Though he looked to be in his fifties, he was actually nearing seventy. As people age, they tend to dote on the younger generation, and Kong Ying had been thoroughly spoiled by him. Fortunately, he knew that while she was impetuous, she wasn't reckless. The reason she was so eager to go to the Divine Machine Camp was simply that Lin Mu's words had reached her ears.

Kong Lin smiled faintly. It might be good for this girl to go take a look. It's about time she tempered that disposition of hers.

「...」

Kong Ying's status at the Divine Machine Camp had always been special. She wasn't officially a member, but she was allowed to train alongside them—though not the actual, intense training. Her main role was to constantly record the physical condition of every team member, organizing the data for Professor Feng. She was also a psychology student and had served as a psychological counselor for the military. Being a soldier is a high-risk profession, and its members often suffer from various psychological issues. This was where Kong Ying's skills came into play. On top of that, since she was the granddaughter of the

Military Region Commander, the camp's previous instructor had even given her the title of "Divine Machine Camp Consultant."

And one shouldn't underestimate this consultant role. At least in the eyes of the camp members, Kong Ying was practically a superior.

However, this honorary consultant had been in a foul mood for the past few days. The reason was that her teacher, Professor Feng, had been arrested because of Lin Mu. He'd been sent to prison, his life essentially over. Kong Ying knew Professor Feng had brought this upon himself, but there was another matter that she found truly unbearable: Lin Mu had actually refused her entry into the Divine Machine Camp.

And he even told me not to harbor delusional fantasies?

This was the last straw for Kong Ying. So, she charged directly into the Divine Machine Camp's base to find Lin Mu.

Of course, she didn't come alone.

"Xiao Ying, rest assured," a tall, slender young man behind her chuckled, a faint smile playing on his lips. "That Divine Machine Camp Instructor? I guarantee I'll make quick work of him."

His name was Shen Lian, from the Shen Family of the Southeast Five Provinces—one of the region's Three Great Clans. Since childhood, Shen Lian had studied under the Sect Leader of the Bagua Sect. After reaching adulthood, he entered the military and achieved outstanding results. Of course, he hadn't stayed in the military for long. This was because he was the next successor to the vast Shen Family and was needed to carry on its legacy.

At the same time, he was one of Kong Ying's suitors.

Kong Ying was tall with a stunning figure and a beautiful face. Moreover, the Kong Family was one of the Three Great Clans. A union between Shen Lian and Kong Ying was something the Shen Family would be overjoyed to see. So, when Kong Ying asked for his help, Shen Lian agreed without hesitation.

"Excellent!" Kong Ying clenched her fists. "Shen Lian, I'll remember this."

Hearing her words, Shen Lian smiled lightly, but a sinister glint flickered in his eyes. Having pursued Kong Ying for years, he knew her personality well. She seemed carefree and proud, looking down on everyone, but in reality, she was extremely sensitive. For her to mention someone while gritting her teeth meant that person had left a deep impression on her.

I've even heard a rumor that her grandfather tried to arrange a marriage, suggesting she marry that instructor from the Divine Machine Camp?

This filled Shen Lian with an inexplicable jealousy toward Instructor Lin.

Since heaven has given me this opportunity, I must seize it! The Shen Family is in turmoil right now. If I, the designated successor, don't show some results, those old fossils will change their minds.

"Xiao Ying, are you sure this is the Divine Machine Camp's base? Why can't I see anyone?"

The moment they set foot on the island, both Kong Ying and Shen Lian were stunned. The island was deserted.

"No way..." Kong Ying was puzzled. After a quick search of the training grounds turned up nothing, she immediately called Jiaolong's number, but the line immediately disconnected.

Kong Ying's eyes widened in shock. Jiaolong... he actually dared to hang up on me? That proves they aren't training. What Instructor Zhang said was true after all.

"We're going to find that guy right now!"

With that, a fuming Kong Ying ran towards the Divine Machine Camp instructor's office, Shen Lian following behind with a confused look on his face.

「...」

"Captain, you suck! How could you die to *that*?"

"Shut up!"

"Again, again!"

"Monkey, what are you doing? Hurry and ready up!"

"Where's Teacher Lin?"

"You guys are too noob. I can't carry this team."

A young man's voice came through the microphone, and a player named 'Tycoon War God' left the party.

"Damn it! Is Teacher Lin abandoning us?" Monkey looked crestfallen.

"Who are you to talk? You died the second you landed. How embarrassing!"

"Ma Biao, you have the nerve to lecture me? Didn't you get headshot, too?"

"Come on, one last game. If we can't get a chicken dinner this time, I'm done."

Meanwhile, in the head instructor's office, Lin Mu's hands flew across his phone screen as a faint smile touched his lips.

Congratulations to player 'Tycoon War God' for your WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER!

Just as he set his phone down, the office door was kicked open.

Chapter 566: Throw Them All Out!

BANG!

The office door was kicked open with a heavy crash.

Immediately, the Divine Machine Camp members in the dormitory downstairs heard the commotion and rushed up.

"Teacher Lin, what happened?"

When Jiaolong and the others saw Kong Ying's murderous expression, they instinctively shrank back. This is the military district commander's granddaughter, and it looks like she's here to cause trouble for Teacher Lin. We can't afford to provoke her. Of the Thirty-Six Stratagems, retreating is the best. In an instant, the group scrambled back down the stairs.

"Captain, what do you think Advisor Kong wants with Instructor Lin?"

"What else could it be? The usual."

"What's 'the usual'? Can't you be more specific?"

"You're a naive virgin. You wouldn't understand even if I told you."

Jiaolong, however, said sternly, "All of you, shut up!"

Monkey and the rest quickly fell silent. Although Jiaolong was no longer their captain, they still held him in high regard.

"I have a bad feeling about this," Jiaolong frowned. "Come on, let's find Captain Shi."

Captain Shi was Shi Potian.

「In the office.」

Lin Mu looked up to see a woman in her early twenties with short hair. She had a tall, slender, and stunning figure, and her military uniform added a touch of heroic spirit. Kong Ying's first impression was one of heroism and style. Of course, she would have been quite beautiful if she weren't scowling. Shen Lian stood behind her, watching Lin Mu with an intrigued expression.

"Lin, what the hell are you doing? Is this what you call training?!" Kong Ying demanded the moment she entered, her tone accusatory.

"Next time, knock before you enter!" Lin Mu frowned. "Also, I hear you're some kind of honorary advisor? Then you should know the rules. Outsiders aren't allowed in the Divine Machine Camp training base!"

"Don't try to pull rank on me," Kong Ying retorted angrily. "The Divine Machine Camp isn't like other special forces. I don't fall for that."

"Since the Divine Machine Camp is unlike other units, you should understand this even better." Lin Mu propped his legs up on his desk. "Here, I'm the one in charge. So," he stated indifferently, "from now on, you're no longer the honorary advisor. Take your man and get out."

Lin Mu's tone was suffused with an undeniable and domineering authority that brooked no refusal. Kong Ying was so furious her chest heaved violently, and Shen Lian raised a theatrical eyebrow.

"You're the new instructor for the Divine Machine Camp?" Shen Lian spoke, his voice dripping with contempt.

The Divine Machine Camp is really going downhill. The instructors keep changing, each one worse than the last. A young man about my own age can be an instructor here? How ridiculous!

"Seeing as you're Kong Lin's granddaughter, I'll give you one last chance." Lin Mu's smile vanished as he said coldly, "Get out!"

"You..." Kong Ying also had a fiery temper. As Kong Lin's granddaughter, she had been toughened by the military since childhood, making her unlike ordinary girls. Therefore, she didn't show the slightest fear, even when facing the Chief Instructor of the Divine Machine Camp. "Fine! Just fine! I'd like to see what you're really made of!"

Since childhood, when had Kong Ying ever been berated like this? And he told her to get out? Even Zhang Ze and Zhou Dalong were always polite to her. But this Lin Mu actually had the audacity to tell her to get out. If she didn't teach him a harsh lesson today, Kong Ying felt she would never be able to stomach this insult!

"Heh, not bad, not bad at all." Shen Lian suddenly laughed, but his smile was sinister. "To think the Chief Instructor of the Divine Machine Camp would stoop to bullying a defenseless woman. I, Shen Lian, have really seen it all now."

"It's none of your damn business. Now, get lost!" Lin Mu, however, didn't give Shen Lian the time of day. Did he really think I'm like the previous instructors, someone any Tom, Dick, or Harry could walk all over?

Just then, Jiaolong and the others arrived with a groggy Shi Potian in tow. Seeing the situation, they knew trouble was definitely brewing.

"Xiao Tian, throw him out for me," Lin Mu leaned back in his chair and said. "And remember, I said *throw*."

"Oh." Shi Potian had just been woken up and was still groggy, completely unaware of what was happening. But that didn't stop him from obeying Lin Mu's orders to the letter. So, he walked straight toward Shen Lian.

"Lin, what are you trying to do?!" Kong Ying's expression changed. Does he actually dare to use force?

"Xiao Ying, step aside." Shen Lian, however, just chuckled. "He really thinks he's something, acting all high and mighty just because he's an instructor. Today, I'll be the one to teach you some manners!"

Shen Lian had said things like this many times before, and of course, Jiaolong and the others had heard similar taunts directed at past instructors. Normally, they might not have cared. But this time, Shen Lian was insulting Instructor Lin. So, the men who were about to step in to mediate, Jiaolong included, all took a step back. Lin Mu was the person they respected most. If Shen Lian dared to insult him, he was making an enemy of the entire Divine Machine Camp.

"Hmm, my door was kicked in," Lin Mu suddenly remarked. "Make sure he pays for it."

"Oh." Shi Potian acknowledged again and then made his move.

Shen Lian sneered. He was a disciple of the Bagua Sect Leader, having practiced martial arts for many years. He had further honed his skills in the army, adding a lethal edge to his presence. This subordinate of Lin Mu's looks like a wet-behind-the-ears punk. How strong could he possibly be? I could take him down with one punch.

However, Shen Lian had just thrown a punch, his fist moving like lightning and with an unpredictable trajectory. He had practiced this Bagua Fist technique to perfection; if it landed, Shi Potian would be crippled, if not killed.

But in the next instant, Shen Lian felt his fist being caught by a hand pulsing with power, its grip as unyielding as an iron vise.

"AH!" Shen Lian cried out, his face instantly turning pale.

Kong Ying watched, completely dumbfounded. This Shi Potian... he's terrifying! Even Shen Lian is no match for him? But the most important thing is... he looks like just a teenager!

"Let go! Let me go!" Shen Lian could no longer bear the pain, his shouts now turning into pleas.

Shi Potian, however, paid him no mind. He simply kicked out.

CRACK!

Shen Lian's leg snapped. Elder Brother Mu said the door was broken and needed to be paid for. I guess this guy's leg will cover the damages!

"AARGH!" Shen Lian let out a bloodcurdling scream like a pig being slaughtered, his face twisting in agony.

Beside them, Kong Ying was scared out of her wits. "Stop! I said stop!"

Kong Ying started to rush forward, but Shi Potian glared. A dense Evil Qi instantly erupted from his body, blasting Kong Ying backward. She stared at Shi Potian in utter horror.

Meanwhile, Shi Potian grabbed Shen Lian by his one good leg and dragged him into the outer hallway. Hoisting Shen Lian up, Shi Potian roared, and with a burst of arm strength, hurled him through the air.

Elder Brother Mu said to throw him out. This should count, right?

Jiaolong and the others were stunned. He really threw him out? That's insane!

With a long, drawn-out scream, a figure slammed into the sea, kicking up a small splash before vanishing beneath the waves.

Shi Potian dusted off his hands, turned back towards the office, and pointed at Kong Ying on the floor. "Instructor, what about this woman?"

"Throw her out too."

Chapter 567: Clean the Toilet!

"You dare!"

Upon hearing Lin Mu actually order someone to throw her out, Kong Ying's expression changed instantly. She had just witnessed Shen Lian's fate with her own eyes. They had broken his legs and tossed him into the sea. That was a distance of a full 1,000 meters. How was that humanly possible? Yet, Shi Potian had done it.

Thus, for the first time, Kong Ying felt true fear.

"I wouldn't dare?" Lin Mu said coolly. "What makes you think I wouldn't? Just because you're Kong Lin's granddaughter?"

"I..." Kong Ying wanted to say yes, but then she remembered that Lin Mu wasn't even afraid of Kong Lin. Why would he be afraid of her?

Still, Shen Lian had been grievously injured, and this man had repeatedly humiliated her. Kong Ying could not swallow this insult.

"Kong Ying, what are you doing?" Seeing she was about to explode, Monkey grabbed her arm. "Take my advice and let it go."

"Let it go?" Kong Ying shook off Monkey's hand. "Do you think I'll just let this slide? Also, get your hand off me! We're not that close."

Monkey stepped back awkwardly, deciding not to get involved any further. Because she was the military district commander's granddaughter, not to mention a girl, he and the others were usually lenient with her. Even when Kong Ying was in the wrong, everyone would defer to her, which had fostered her willful personality.

But our Instructor Lin's skill at tormenting people is directly proportional to his strength, Monkey thought. He doesn't care if you're a girl; he'd have no qualms about being ruthless.

"Today, I'm going to personally test the authority of our new instructor!" Kong Ying declared aggressively. "You think you're so tough? Fine, let's fight. If you win, I'll be at your disposal. But if you lose..." She sneered. "You'll crawl back to wherever you came from!"

"Instructor Lin, Advisor Kong is being foolish! Please don't lower yourself to her level!" Jiaolong exclaimed, his face pale with fright.

Fight Instructor Lin? Isn't that a death wish? Over a hundred of us attacking together were no match for him. Who do you think you are, Kong Ying, to challenge him one-on-one? Didn't you see what happened to Zhu Tao?

"What do you mean, I'm being foolish?" Kong Ying glared. "And you want *him* not to lower himself to *my* level?" She was absolutely livid. "Do you all really think he can lord over the Divine Machine Camp just because he brought a powerful bodyguard? Or do you think that just because he beat Zhu Tao, I'm no match for him?"

"What a joke!" Kong Ying said hotly. "Zhu Tao only lost because he foolishly took an untested Gene Pill that backfired, allowing this guy to launch a sneak attack! If it were a fair fight, the winner wouldn't have been so clear!"

Kong Ying was very confident in her own abilities. Due to her family background, she had received the strictest training from a young age, learning from countless ancient martial arts masters. As a result, ordinary special forces soldiers were no match for her. And Lin Mu? To her, he just seemed like a troublemaking slacker who did nothing but play games.

But Jiaolong and the others were on the verge of tears.

My dear lady! You're not usually like this. Why is your spoiled attitude flaring up all of a sudden? You insist on fighting Instructor Lin? Can you even win? Don't you realize you already have one foot in King Yama's Palace? You probably won't even know how you died!

Thinking this, Jiaolong shot Monkey a desperate look.

Monkey simply rolled his eyes, pretending not to see. Me? Try to persuade her? Dream on! If she wants to die, so be it!

"Advisor Kong, do us a favor and let's just go, alright?" Ma Biao whispered awkwardly, trying to placate her.

"No one is talking me out of this today!" Kong Ying warned them with a glare. "Whoever tries is no friend of mine!"

Well, that settled it. Hearing her words, Jiaolong and the others knew Advisor Kong had made up her mind. Since she was courting death, they wouldn't stand in her way.

"Lin Mu, are you a man or not?" Kong Ying said, her eyes cold. "If you're going to fight, then fight! Stop whining like a woman!"

Lin Mu's eyebrow twitched, a sign of impending anger.

"Instructor Lin, Advisor Kong is... well, you know. Please... take it easy on her." Seeing the look in Lin Mu's eyes, Monkey jumped in fright. It's all over, he thought.

"Shut up! I, Kong Ying, have not fallen so low as to need someone to go easy on me!" Kong Ying stripped off her jacket, revealing a stunningly voluptuous figure. All the men's eyes widened, and they quickly looked away, though they couldn't resist sneaking glances.

Kong Ying had a straightforward personality, a fiery body, and was quite attractive. This was one of the main reasons everyone in the Divine Machine Camp looked up to her. She was completely oblivious to the impact her appearance was having on this pack of wolves—men who spent their days training and their nights bragging.

"Fight me?" Lin Mu scoffed. "You're not worthy."

WHOOSH!

With a wave of his hand, the ballpoint pen on the desk shot out with a whistle.

THUD!

A dull thud echoed from the office wall. Everyone stared in shock to see the pen embedded deep in the concrete, right up to its plastic casing. The entire wall was now spiderwebbed with dense cracks.

DRIP.

A single drop of blood trickled down Kong Ying's cheek, lending her pretty face a tragically beautiful look.

"Grandmaster... You're a Grandmaster?!" she whispered in disbelief.

A Martial Arts Grandmaster could wound someone with a mere leaf and kill with their True Qi. They could control objects with that same Qi, turning them into weapons as deadly as any blade! This new instructor was a Martial Arts Grandmaster!

A bitter expression crossed Kong Ying's face. Now she understood. She understood why Zhu Tao was no match for Lin Mu, even with a Gene Pill. She understood why the perpetually rebellious members of the Divine Machine Camp treated Lin Mu with such profound respect. She understood why even her grandfather had to indulge this new instructor, even humbling himself before him. She understood why everyone had told Lin Mu not to take her seriously.

It was all because he was simply too strong.

"If it weren't for Kong Lin, do you think I wouldn't kill you just because you're a woman?" Lin Mu's voice was frigid. "In my eyes, there is no difference between men and women. But you're lucky. I'm in a good mood today, so you get to keep your life. But if there is a next time, your head will roll."

Kong Ying froze, truly terrified by his words. She knew, without a doubt, that he was capable of carrying out his threat. Moreover, Lin Mu had utterly shattered her pride. Only now did she realize the true, vast chasm between their abilities.

"I'm sorry!" Kong Ying clenched her fists, her head bowed. "I take back everything I said. I apologize for my attitude." No wonder Grandfather is so respectful. He's in the presence of a Grandmaster. In comparison, what am I?

"But I, Kong Ying, know how to accept a loss. Since I lost, I am at your disposal!" Determination filled her eyes, along with a flicker of defiance. One day, I will defeat you, Lin Mu!

"Is that so..." Lin Mu glanced at the proud, peacock-like woman and called out, "Old Huang!"

"Yes, yes! Coming!" Old Huang instantly appeared at the door, flashing his signature smile and a mouthful of yellow teeth.

"She's all yours." Lin Mu pointed at Kong Ying. "From now on, she's responsible for all the dirty, exhausting chores. That includes the toilets." He then addressed the room. "And if I find any of you daring to help her, that person will be on laundry duty for everyone's underwear and socks!"

Old Huang shivered. "I guarantee the mission will be completed!"

Kong Ying's eyes went wide as she stared at Lin Mu in utter disbelief.

This guy... he's actually making me clean toilets?

Chapter 568: How about we make a bet?

"What? Cleaning toilets?"

When Kong Lin heard the news, he was stunned for a moment before bursting into laughter.

Zhang Ze looked at his commander with a wry expression. "Commander, should we give Instructor Lin a heads-up? After all, Advisor Kong is your..."

"No need." Kong Lin chuckled. "Since Kong Ying herself said a bet is a bet, she has to see it through. You don't need to worry about this."

"But..."

Kong Lin waved his hand, cutting Zhang Ze off. "No buts. I'm not worried about Kong Ying; Instructor Lin is measured in his actions. I'm just concerned about that one from the Shen Family..."

"You mean Shen Cheng?" Zhang Ze's expression changed.

"Correct." Kong Lin sighed. "After all, Shen Lian is Shen Cheng's younger brother. He's already heard that Shen Lian was injured and is on his way here now."

"Not only that, but people from the Bagua Sect have come as well."

Zhang Ze gasped. "What should we do? Neither Shen Cheng nor the Bagua Sect are to be trifled with. If they..."

"Commander, there isn't much time left before the competition. We can't afford any delays. Maybe... I should go talk to the Bagua Sect?"

Zhang Ze felt helpless. This Instructor Lin is truly domineering and ruthless. He broke Shen Lian's leg without a second thought and even sent the commander's own granddaughter to clean toilets. How vicious does someone have to be? Never mind the commander's granddaughter—is Shen Lian someone you can just mess with? He's the youngest disciple of the Bagua Sect Leader and the younger brother of the so-called Demon King Shen Cheng! But the big picture is more important. It's better to deal with this after the competition.

Kong Lin shook his head. "There's no need for that. We should have some faith in Instructor Lin."

"Commander, who exactly is Instructor Lin? Listening to you, why do you have so much confidence in him?" Zhang Ze was genuinely puzzled. He had never seen his commander, who was normally strict to the point of being harsh, be so... indulgent with a young man.

"His status is too high for me to say." Kong Lin chuckled and added, "You only need to remember one thing: with him here, the Southeast Military Region will be the champion of the competition!"

Besides, Kong Lin was thinking about something else. He had spoiled Kong Ying for years; it was good to have someone who could put her in her place.

* * *

"Ragged shoes, tattered hat, wearing a frayed cassock..."

Monkey hummed a tune as he sauntered into the restroom. Just as he was about to undo his pants to relieve himself, a hand suddenly grabbed him.

"Damn it, molester!"

A miserable cry escaped Monkey's lips, followed by a slap to his head.

"Shut up!"

A crisp voice rang out. Was that a girl?

Monkey sighed in relief, but then his face turned pale. A girl? Had he walked into the wrong restroom? That couldn't be right. The Divine Machine Camp didn't have a women's restroom.

Monkey stiffly turned around and saw a woman wearing a mask and holding a mop.

Even with the mask, Monkey immediately recognized the dark, gloomy face.

"Advisor Kong..." Monkey gulped.

Then he remembered. Advisor Kong was in charge of cleaning the toilets now, so running into her wasn't so strange. But Old Huang, you actually went through with this? Instructor Lin might have just been bluffing, but you really dared to make the Military Region Commander's granddaughter clean toilets?

"I ask, you answer!" Kong Ying grabbed Monkey by the collar, pinned him against the wall, and stared coldly into his eyes. "Who exactly is Instructor Lin?"

"Advisor Kong, can I pull my pants up first?" A smile uglier than a grimace spread across Monkey's face. His pants were still down by his ankles.

"Cut the crap and talk!" Kong Ying's glare was murderous.

Clenching his legs together, Monkey said with a pained expression, "Advisor Kong, please don't ask. If you ask, the answer is I don't know."

"It seems you have a death wish!" Kong Ying's eyes widened as she thrust the mop straight down.

"OW!" Monkey yelled. "Stop, it's coming out, it's coming out!"

"Disgusting!" Kong Ying gave Monkey a look of disdain. "Did Instructor Lin really defeat all of you by himself?"

"Absolutely true!" Monkey's face was twisted as if in extreme pain.

"Is your usual training really just sleeping?"

"One hundred percent true!" Beads of sweat dotted Monkey's forehead.

"Is Instructor Lin really a Martial Arts Grandmaster?"

"I don't know!"

Kong Ying was furious. "You're useless! You don't know anything!"

Tears streamed down Monkey's face. "My lady, please, just let me go! I'll help you clean the toilets from now on, alright? I really can't hold it in anymore!"

"Scram!"

The moment he was free, Monkey dashed into a stall.

He had just squatted down when the door was kicked open. Kong Ying stood there and said, "One last question. Did my grandpa really try to set me up with Instructor Lin?"

Monkey burst into tears.

"Hmph, I don't care if you're a Martial Arts Grandmaster or not. We'll see!" Kong Ying gave a cold smile, looking like a sly fox.

A voice filled with relief came from the stall. "Lady, let me give you a piece of advice. Don't go against Teacher Lin. Otherwise, next time it won't be something as simple as cleaning toilets."

"Just go take your crap!"

* * *

In the office.

"Teacher Lin, do you want to head out for a few days of fun?" Jiaolong looked at Lin Mu hesitantly, taking a long time to finally spit out the words.

Lin Mu laughed. "What? It's only been a few days and you guys can't stand it anymore?"

You try sleeping for this many days in a row! Who could possibly stand it?

Jiaolong shook his head. "Teacher Lin, that's not what I mean. It's just that... Shen Cheng is back, and I heard people from the Bagua Sect have also come."

Lin Mu kept fiddling with his phone, replying without looking up, "So what if they're here?"

"Teacher Lin, are you even listening to me?" Jiaolong was getting angry.

"Five-man party, need one more. You in?" Lin Mu looked up.

"Alrighty." Jiaolong reflexively pulled out his phone, on the verge of tears. The damn culture of the Divine Machine Camp had really been led astray.

That afternoon, all the members of the Divine Machine Camp were having a barbecue on the beach. Groups of three or five were huddled together for team games, while others were playing cards, with losers getting notes stuck to their faces as forfeit.

When Kong Ying came out after finishing her toilet-cleaning duties, this was the scene that greeted her.

In an instant, she exploded.

"Instructor Lin!" Kong Ying stormed over, still gripping the mop. "Is this your idea of training? Do you have any idea that you're going to ruin the Divine Machine Camp!"

Lin Mu, reclining on a deck chair, enjoying the sea breeze while eating his barbecue, said, "If you don't like it, you can leave. I didn't ask you to stay."

Kong Ying's chest heaved with rage. "How can you act like this? Jiaolong, is this what you all think, too? Don't you want the championship anymore? Or have you all decided to just follow him and give up on yourselves?"

Jiaolong and the others had helpless looks on their faces. It wasn't what they wanted either, but who dared to disobey Instructor Lin's orders?

Lin Mu tossed aside his skewer, wiped his hands on a napkin, and tilted his head. "Are you questioning my training methods?"

"This isn't a training method, it's crap!" Kong Ying raged. "Do you even know how to train anyone? If you don't, then get lost! Stop dragging down the Southeast Military Region!"

"Is that how you all feel?" Lin Mu asked, looking at Jiaolong and the others.

No one spoke, but their expressions said it all.

"Good," Lin Mu said with a smile. "In that case, how about we make a bet?"

Chapter 569: People from the Bagua Sect Arrive!

A bet?

Upon hearing those two words, everyone couldn't help but shudder. If Kong Ying lost, she had to clean the toilets for a month. If they lost, wouldn't their fate be even worse?

However, Kong Ying said, "Let's be clear first, what's the bet?"

Lin Mu replied, "Simple."

"Xiao Tian, did you bring him?"

Lin Mu couldn't be bothered to explain, nor did he intend to use force to make them obey. These people were the pillars of the nation, ready to shed their blood for the country. Lin Mu didn't have the heart to make things difficult for them. They deserved respect, so he chose a gentler approach.

Of course, if it were anyone else, Lin Mu would have slapped them already, not caring whether they listened or not.

Soon, Shi Potian arrived with a teenager following behind him.

Upon seeing this person, everyone from the Divine Machine Camp was stunned.

Leng Feng!

The son of a former Divine Machine Camp Instructor!

His father had mysteriously disappeared. After the Divine Machine Camp searched fruitlessly, the higher-ups assigned a new instructor. However, the members of the Divine Machine Camp only recognized Leng Feng's father and resented any replacement. Lin Mu, of course, was an exception.

What puzzled everyone was, why did Instructor Lin bring Leng Feng here?

"Leng Feng, are you willing to train with me?" Lin Mu looked at the somewhat timid boy and asked with a smile.

Leng Feng was already fifteen, but he was thin and small for his age, making him look two or three years younger than his peers. Moreover, his body was covered in scars, as if he had been in many fights.

Though Leng Feng was timid, his eyes were bright as he looked at Lin Mu and asked, "Are you even stronger than Brother Xiao Tian?"

"Of course," Lin Mu nodded with a smile.

"Then... can you help me find my dad? I haven't seen him in a long time."

Leng Feng's voice was timid and very quiet, but everyone present heard it clearly. Jiaolong, in particular, felt his eyes redden and his face fill with guilt.

Instructor Leng, I've let you down!

He felt he hadn't taken good care of Leng Feng.

"I can't," Lin Mu said earnestly. "But if you become strong enough, you can find him yourself."

"That said, are you still willing to train with me?"

Leng Feng's small face furrowed as if he was hesitating. But when he saw the smile on Lin Mu's face, for some reason, a glimmer of light appeared in his otherwise dim eyes.

"Mhm!"

Lin Mu nodded in satisfaction. "Good."

"I'll give you all half a month. For this half-month, you will train using your own methods." He then pointed at Leng Feng. "And he will train using mine."

"After half a month, I guarantee he will be able to defeat every single one of you."

Upon hearing this, the expressions of Jiaolong and the others changed, and they were on the verge of objecting. It wasn't that they didn't respect Lin Mu, but his words were simply too humiliating.

One had to remember, Leng Feng was only fifteen. Furthermore, because he had been frail since childhood, he had never undergone any professional training. Instructor Leng himself had once said he only wanted his son to be an ordinary person. Lin Mu was going against the late instructor's wishes.

"Instructor Lin, I object," Jiaolong declared. "Leng Feng is our former instructor's son. He only wanted Leng Feng to live an ordinary life. Besides, even with half a month, could he really do it?"

"But have any of you ever asked for his opinion?" Lin Mu retorted coldly. "Since he is the son of your Instructor Leng, do you know about his current situation? Do you know where he lives? Do you know what he goes through every day?"

This barrage of questions left Jiaolong and the others speechless.

They truly didn't know.

Guilt and embarrassment were evident on the faces of all the Divine Machine Camp members.

"Let me tell you," Lin Mu said calmly. "Every day, he has to fight with others over scraps. If he's late, the rotten vegetables people throw away will be gone, and he'll go hungry. He lives in a place you can't even begin to imagine, a place even beggars refuse to stay. Every day, he has to fight at least three people, and that's not including kids his own age."

"Just before Xiao Tian found him, he was being beaten by several men. If it weren't for Xiao Tian, he would be dead by now."

Lin Mu's tone turned colder. "So, what right do you have to make decisions for him?"

Everyone looked at Leng Feng. The boy was clenching his fists tightly, his eyes full of indignation. The look of determination between his brows was so similar to Instructor Leng's.

The members of the Divine Machine Camp fell silent.

"Everyone, you don't have to worry about me," Leng Feng said with a smile. "No matter how hard the training is, I will persevere. I'm not getting stronger for revenge; I just want to find my dad."

"Even if I can't find him, I'll become a qualified soldier just like he was. I'll defend the country and protect children like me from being bullied."

Leng Feng's eyes sparkled as if filled with endless hope.

Everyone was shaken, including Kong Ying.

"Instructor Lin, are you serious?" Kong Ying asked, frowning, still finding it hard to believe.

"Do I look like I'm joking?" Lin Mu returned.

"Instructor Lin, there are no jokes in the military!" Kong Ying reminded him again.

"Then let's just wait and see," Lin Mu said, making his decision final.

The members of the Divine Machine Camp left, but Leng Feng was told to stay.

"Instructor Lin, can I really do it?" As soon as the others were gone, Leng Feng lowered his head, his voice stuttering slightly.

He didn't know what the Divine Machine Camp was, but he knew that soldiers were the most powerful people in the world. Could a boy like him really do it? He was worried he couldn't. If he failed, he wouldn't be able to find his dad or become a qualified soldier.

"Don't worry. Just listen to me and you'll be fine," Lin Mu said, full of confidence. "Or were you just boasting earlier?"

"I wasn't!" Leng Feng clenched his fists, his small face flushing red. "I don't boast! I was being completely serious!"

Ever since he was young, Leng Feng's father had been his hero, his role model, his goal. He had always wanted to be a man like his father, just like countless other children.

"In that case, what are you worried about?" Lin Mu smiled.

"But I heard from Brother Xiao Tian that the people in the Divine Machine Camp are Super Soldiers whose genes have been altered. Do I need that too?" Leng Feng asked curiously.

"You?" Lin Mu said with a smile. "You don't need that at all."

"Then... when do we start training?"

Lin Mu patted Leng Feng's head. "No rush. Come on, I'll take you out for a good meal."

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"What on earth is Instructor Lin up to?" Monkey asked. "Can Leng Feng really do it?"

Jiaolong shook his head. "I don't know. If it really comes to it, then we'll..."

Just then, Mad Dog came running back, gasping for breath. "Instructor Lin took Leng Feng out to eat."

"What? To eat? No training?"

Everyone was stunned.

"Yes," Mad Dog said, wiping the sweat from his brow. "I overheard them. And Instructor Lin is also going to take Leng Feng to Suzhou for a few days of fun."

"This... this is utter nonsense!"

And just as Lin Mu was leaving the base with Leng Feng, people from the Bagua Sect arrived looking for them.

Chapter 570: Departing Flames Yin and Yang, Supreme Divine Pupils!

"People from the Bagua Sect are here? Tell them to come back in half a month."

「Suzhou.」

In a high-end restaurant, Lin Mu hung up the phone and looked at Leng Feng, who had barely touched his food. "Not to your taste?"

"No, not at all." Leng Feng quickly shook his head. "I've never eaten anything this delicious."

What truly made Leng Feng uneasy was the thought that this might be his last meal. After all, Lin Mu had just told him about the Divine Machine Camp, even mentioning the Gene Potion, something Leng Feng barely understood. It all made him even more anxious.

As soon as they left the restaurant, Leng Feng eagerly asked, "Instructor Lin, are we starting our training tonight?"

"Wait a bit longer."

Frowning, Leng Feng said, "It's been three days. What exactly are we waiting for?"

Lin Mu replied, "For you to make up your mind."

"Instructor Lin, I've already made up my mind!" Leng Feng stated resolutely. "I've wanted to be a soldier for a long time, so I'm not afraid of any hardship."

Lin Mu shook his head. "If you only wanted to become a soldier, I wouldn't be wasting so much time. Besides, I have a hundred ways to help you defeat those guys from the Divine Machine Camp." He smiled. "If you want, we can go back right now."

Although Leng Feng was only fifteen, he was at an age where one begins to think for themselves. "Instructor Lin, what's the difference?"

"There is a difference," Lin Mu answered. "A very big one." Pointing to the sky, he asked, "Do you believe in the existence of gods and immortals in this world? The ones up there."

Leng Feng looked up at the bright moon, his young face creasing even more. He was fifteen, an age of transition from rebellion to maturity, and the various fantasies of his childhood were beginning to blur. But now, when Lin Mu asked him if there were immortals in the world, Leng Feng was stunned.

In his childhood, he had heard many legends about them—myths like Pangu splitting the heavens, Nüwa creating mankind, Jingwei filling the sea, and Chang'e flying to the moon. He had even heard many similar stories from other countries.

But as he grew older, reality set in. His mother's death, his father's disappearance, his own anguished cries whenever he was bullied... Curled up in dark, damp, reeking sewers, Leng Feng would fantasize about a kind immortal appearing to take him away, or perhaps to teach him the art of turning stone into gold. He imagined creating endless food, or becoming so strong he could drive away the kids who tormented him. But each time, he was met with disappointment. Waking from hunger or cold, he could only whisper his parents' names, clinging to memories of the past as he stubbornly fought to survive. Therefore, he didn't believe in gods or immortals.

"You don't believe it either, do you?" Lin Mu turned back to look at Leng Feng with a smile. "Then have you heard of the Shennongjia Wild Man? The snake eggs beneath Luoyang? The Heavenly Lake Monster? The Yingkou Dragon Fall incident?"

Leng Feng knew about these things. And it was precisely because of stories like these that he believed his father wasn't dead, but simply gone somewhere else. An old acquaintance had once told him his father was like a great scientist who had gotten lost in the desert. Therefore, to find his father, he needed to become stronger. Much stronger.

In truth, these stories weren't complete fabrications. It's just that many of the truths behind them were deliberately concealed from the public. Take the theory of human evolution, a topic that now faces so many questions that people have begun to doubt it. Atlantis, the Egyptian pyramids, the Bermuda

Triangle, the Sanxingdui Ruins in Sichuan-Shu, the ancient myths from Huaxia's Classic of Mountains and Seas... are these mysterious, scientifically unexplainable events truly just legends?

The word 'mystery' itself implies the divine; how could a mere mortal possibly understand?

Since returning to Earth, Lin Mu had been cultivating while pondering these issues. He had a nagging feeling that when these mysteries were finally uncovered, the revelations would shock the entire world. And his current strength was still insufficient to face it all.

Leng Feng opened his mouth to answer, but he froze, his jaw dropping in shock. The stars in the sky had become increasingly brilliant and the moonlight even brighter.

Leng Feng's eyes went wide behind his glasses as he stared at Instructor Lin. In that single instant, countless points of starlight had gathered upon his instructor, making him appear as if he were draped in a robe woven from light itself.

"In the vastness of the universe, the human race is so trivial," Lin Mu's ethereal voice reached Leng Feng's ears. "To the cosmos, the Earth is but a single grain of sand on a vast shore, insignificant and unnoticeable.

"How many such shores exist in this world? And how are we to know which grain of sand on which shore we inhabit? Heaven and Earth are immense, and humans are as small as mustard seeds. How could they possibly comprehend everything?"

Lin Mu pointed into the void, and a dazzling divine light shot into Leng Feng's brow.

BOOM!

The scene before Leng Feng's eyes shattered and reformed. A rain of light fell like scattered heavenly blossoms. Buildings dissolved into thin lines. Cars blurred and vanished. The pedestrians on the streets morphed in a flash. It was like watching time itself fast forward, the years flying by in an instant.

At this moment, Leng Feng felt like a deity looking down from the heavens. Towering trees reached into the clouds around him. The mountain peaks undulated, and among them, mythical beasts lay dormant. The sea's waves churned, stirred by gigantic beasts fighting within their depths. In the distance, a Gigantic Dragon as tall as the heavens roared at the sky, and a rain of blood fell from above!

The heavens trembled and the earth shook! The entire world seemed on the brink of collapse.

Just then, a colossal ape came rushing forward, holding a massive mountain in its hands, which it hurled into the distance.

BOOM!

The impact was like a nuclear explosion, making heaven and earth tremble violently. Immediately after, the giant ape turned its head fiercely and looked at him. It roared, and a streak of golden light landed in its hand, transforming into a massive iron rod.

ROAR!

With a thunderous cry, the ape swung the iron rod directly down at Leng Feng. Before it could strike, the rod dissolved into a beam of golden light that shot into Leng Feng's eyes.

"Ah!" Leng Feng cried out, snapping back to reality with tears streaming down his face.

He was still standing in the same spot, with passersby chatting nearby about the dinner they had just eaten. Everything felt like a dream, but the stabbing pain in his eyes was undeniably real.

Leng Feng's face was pale, and his legs trembled violently. "I-Instructor Lin, what was that...?"

"What you just saw was real," Lin Mu said. "You can think of it as a parallel world. That might make it easier to understand. Come on, it's time to start our training."

It would be more direct to let Leng Feng slowly digest the experience rather than trying to explain it.

Lin Mu grabbed Leng Feng and chuckled. In the next instant, they had arrived at the Divine Machine Camp training base.

The moment Leng Feng's feet touched the ground, he collapsed into a heap, his face a mask of shock and horror.

Did we just... travel hundreds of miles from Suzhou in an instant?

"Sit cross-legged. Hold your breath and condense your spirit!"

However, Lin Mu didn't give him any more time to think, directly guiding him to begin cultivation. Leng Feng did as instructed, and after a few tries, he got the hang of it.

Watching Leng Feng with his eyes closed, channeling starlight into his body, Lin Mu smiled slightly.

The Departing Flames Yin and Yang, the Supreme Divine Pupils... they truly live up to their reputation.