

### 431 EACH WITH HIS OWN AXE TO GRIND

Lu Shu immediately closed his Sun mirror as he saw Coral's tears rolling down due to the prick. Though guilty for his action, Lu Shu really did not expect her to look at him straight through the intense light.

But the thing was, actually she could not even see him in backlight, so why did she still stare... Lu Shu reckoned that Coral was only trying to show off her beauty.

Li Yixiao paused a second before asking, "Brother Lu Shu, can you lend me this magical weapon of yours?"

"Here you are." Lu Shu stuffed the mirror into his hands with only slight hesitation.

Just when darkness returned to the palace and members of big organizations were starting to look back, a cheerful voice echoed in the chamber. "Big head, look here!"

Ka! It was again as bright as daylight!

"Li Yixiao! We are at daggers drawn!"

"Can the Golden Foundation please do something?!"

At this moment, the descending of the building had finally come to a stop. Flying through the air, Li Xianyi snatched the mirror from Li Yixiao's hand and returned it to Lu Shu. Then, he turned to Li Yixiao, anger hissing in his voice. "Don't be so dramatic!"

Obediently Li Yixiao kept silent. He could defy anyone else but this old man...

But didn't Lu Shu start it first? Why don't you scold him?!

Meanwhile, many had taken out their lighting devices. Without the disturbing Sun mirror, they were finally able to take a careful look around. But nothing seemed to have changed except for the fact that there were underground.

"Look!" a voice suddenly shouted. In the illumination of his torchlight, the main gate of the palace looked pitch black. It was not sealed by earth and rocks!

The entrance had turned into the exit!

Fearful of the unknown darkness, none of the individual Practitioners dared to move. Then, the Phoenix Society went forward first with their people. Since they had already decided to take the lead in the search of the relic, no more hesitation was necessary in the light of new clues!

After that, the atmosphere had soothed a little, and people's desire for the relic was rekindled. With individual Practitioners crowded at the door, it was a bit hard for those big organizations to jostle there now.

Yet, as though in tacit agreement, all of them started to chase the low-level Practitioners out!

They wanted to use them as their cannon fodder!

Certainly they wouldn't do so in Li Xianyi's presence. But the latter was already gone!

Honestly speaking, to those big organizations, low-level Practitioners' lives were totally expendable. So why not use them as the canaries in the coal mine?

However, no one noticed Nogiwa Takenobu's receding figure amidst the commotion.

Lu Shu yelled, "Look there! A shadowy monster! Beat him!"

Most of the experts were still unclear about the situation, but who would give it too much thinking in such a creepy environment? Subconsciously, individual Practitioners recoiled whereas pros attacked.

Instantly, ten fiery phoenixes shot out from Howard's hands, hurling themselves towards the shadow!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

Lu Shu had always been cautious of him for his sinister eyes earlier, just in case he would secretly attack Li Yixiao and himself.

Thus, only Lu Shu had noticed his retreat.

Besides, he did not achieve the so-called invisibility, but only distortion of light via a certain strength. Thus, he could be easily exposed with another ray of light!

Nogiwa had no alternatives but to reveal himself, hopping backwards. "Stop! It's me!"

But clearly Howard's phoenixes showed no sign of disappearance. Instead, they continued swooping on Nogiwa!

Howard smiled gently. "My apologies. My fiery phoenixes refuse to return once they are out."

Nogiwa Takenobu's eyes darkened. He did not say a word, as he was aware it was an intended attack!

Now, with the relic right in front of their eyes, no one would be pleased with more competitors. Thus, he would soon be dead if he had been injured just now!

This was the actual cultivation world. Every expert was a great white shark in the depths of the seas, and they would swallow the weak at the scent of blood!

Clenching his teeth, Nogiwa Takenobu threw out more than ten shurikens, each aiming precisely at a fiery phoenix. Instantly, gigantic heat waves swept across the chamber as phoenixes perished into darkness as their gorgeous and frightening demise. Then, due to the explosion, shurikens deviated from their original paths towards the stone walls aside, punctuating two individual Practitioners at once!

At this instant, to everyone's surprise, two slender fingers took hold of the two shurikens!

Nogiwa Takenobu raised his eyes to see the Heavenly Network expert in his cap and mask was actually studying his black shurikens. He didn't even notice when his shurikens ended up in that person's hands! Then, the man immediately ran off!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +666!"

Nogiwa Takenobu took a total of two seconds to realize that this fellow had specially come for his shurikens! What kind of person was that?! So poor?!

His shurikens were not ordinary items either. Except for the lost ones, Nogiwa

Takenobu called back all the remaining ones.

As for Lu Shu, the shurikens kept struggling in Nogiwa's summon, but neither could escape Lu Shu's control. Then, they were cast into his Seal of Lands to be consumed by the divine water.

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

All of a sudden, new and old hatred of him welled up in Nogiwa's heart. At the moment, his eyes were as malicious as those of the most venomous snake.

"Wanna die?!" Nogiwa Takenobu's eyes narrowed. Then, he sprang to the air, stepping on individual Practitioners' shoulders as he ran towards Lu Shu like a specter. His figure was fading again.

His feet sent immense force down the bones of those Practitioners, fracturing their spine at once!

### **432 AMBUSH NOGIWA TAKENOBU**

In fact, Nogiwa had fallen into the long-planned trap. Lu Shu was the bait and Li Yixiao would ambush him.

Actually they could have waited for a while longer, as there were too many experts gathered here.

But the long-standing enmity between the Heavenly Network and the Collection of Gods made it impossible for Li Yixiao to hold back.

Besides, Li Yixiao had never waited for anybody!

His fist and tiger sign, the product of Li Yixiao's over twenty years of painstaking practice, were fully paired in flawless brilliance. Before the dumbfounded individual Practitioners could evade the blow, the tiger had forcefully collided with a transparent figure.

All of a sudden, a purple shadow of a knife emerged from nowhere. In that critical instant, Nogiwa Takenobu struck towards Li Yixiao's fist without hesitation, his purple katana was as swift as a poisonous snake on attack. Even Nogiwa's irises seemed to have turned violet.

The katana had an extraordinary history. It was passed down from ancient times, not a manufactured magical weapon!

Right before the collision, Li Yixiao's brawny body and his tiger merged into one, and a black dragon spear appeared in his hands from thin air. Instantly, the spear banged onto the magic katana.

A miniature snake sprang from the katana blade towards Li Yixiao, but was immediately caught by the black dragon with its mouth coming out of his spear.

Just when everybody thought the snake was dead, to their surprise, the serpent twisted its body and bit the dragon by its neck!

In the air, the snake and the dragon were in a tangle. At once, the individual Practitioners stepped backward to give them more space. It was only until then that they had a real look at the true experts, whose weapon spirits were already too powerful to be offended!

At this moment, Lu Shu suddenly returned, his body surrounded in a ball of radiating

divine water...

Many could not associate him with the person who ran away with Nogiwa Takenobu's shurikens just a moment ago, but he was still recognized by one. "Pikachu! So you are that Pikachu!"

That was an individual Practitioner who dug earth for Lu Shu earlier...

Pikachu your foot! Lu Shu was displeased. "Have you seen a Pikachu with such long legs? I'm Pikabin, bi\*ch!"

His reply was in Chinese, which amused the Chinese Practitioners present while confusing the rest. Wasn't it supposed to be serious remains exploration in which casualties could happen anytime? How come it suddenly became so funny?!

A pro had recognized the glowing water. Puzzled, he said, "It looks like..."

"It's Earl's treasure! Surprisingly it's with him!" another person affirmed.

The news of his death had been blocked out by the Heavenly Network, but even the Network itself could not rule out the possibility of the existence of internal spies. Thus, the information was later posted on the Darkness Kingdom.

Together with it was the confirmation of Anthony's death. Back then, Lu Shu had earned a wealth of money and distress points on the Darkness Kingdom using Anthony's account. At first, people thought Anthony was dead broke, but they found out afterwards that he was killed in the salt lake remains!

However, Anthony's posts were released after the end of that remains!

Meaning, it was a scam under Anthony's name, but no one knew who was behind it.

After that, tracing the clues, Darkness Kingdom sent people into China in search of any information regarding the internet cafe in question. Yet, they soon discovered that the surveillance cameras were spoilt and neither could they check on the video recording...

Although cameras on the streets were working fine, the person managed to avoid the monitoring completely. Moreover, there were occasional black screens, which were suspected to be caused by blockages over the cameras.

They had tried to work the cafe manager as well. That night, a person clocked in at midnight, but the manager was pretty sure that few would visit the shabby internet cafe at 3 to 4am, as it was nearing the end of the owl-timing package and many overnight players would have entered much earlier.

There was something wrong with the ID card used for registration purposes as well. It was a valid card, but its owner had gone missing since as early as two years ago.

Thus, even the Darkness Kingdom had yet to confirm the identity of the hacker. If it was the Heavenly Network, they would have simply logged into the Darkness Kingdom in their own base. Why the trouble of coming down to a random low-class internet cafe?!

At the moment, they were suddenly reminded of the sheer number of Class B experts that had perished in Chinese Practitioners' hands!

There were not many Class B pros in the entire world after all!



"But Earl's treasure was pretty modest in size, if I remember correctly. Why is it so big now?!" an expert mused. Now, they had retreated to the spectators' seats. In their opinion, the outcome of the fight was almost certain. Two Class B pros from the Heavenly Network joined forces to combat a CoG member, what else do you expect?

But they were wrong about one thing. Lu Shu was not a Class B!

"I heard that Earl's sacred artifact can only feed on magical weapons. Do you think this person has received a huge sum of investment from the Heavenly Network? But the question is, how many magical weapons does that take?" the expert's heart pained at the thought. As expected, the Heavenly Network was wealthy and mighty!

In fact, the fast growth of the divine water had nothing to do with the Heavenly Network, but all thanks to Lu Shu's persistent effort in inconveniencing other people and the wide variety of food he chose...

He had even fed it gargoyles, so what else had he not? He would not even enter the palace if the divine water was willing to eat black rocks.

He would have been able to produce a river in this piece of water-scarce land in ten days' time...

As the saying goes, it is better to have a smart technique than many lame ones. As compared to the exploration of the unknown, it was a wiser choice to leverage on the advantage of the divine water and unleash its marvelous potential to the fullest.

By then, Lu Shu would be able to corrode an entire city when others were still playing with ordinary tsunamis...

Of course, though, he might not have so many magical weapons to develop till that stage...

Lu Shu rushed back aggressively. "I'm coming to help you!"

Nogiwa Takenobu did not see that coming. Already struggling to fight off Li Yixiao, he would certainly not favor the idea of any additional pressure.

Li Yixiao's eyes lit up as well. "Hurry up!" He might not be able to take down Nogiwa himself.

Instantly, Nogiwa Takenobu freed up a hand, casting all of his shurikens at Lu Shu!

While Nogiwa Takenobu was worried about his possible imminent defeat, Li Yixiao was positively rejoiced at the arrival of his helper.

But, in the next second, Lu Shu ran away again after securing all the shurikens with his divine water...

He did not want to let go of Nogiwa Takenobu's remaining shurikens!

Nogiwa Takenobu, "???"

Li Yixiao, "???"

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

"From Li Yixiao's distress, +666!"

### 433 RUN, MATE!

Everyone had expected the two Heavenly Network people to encircle Nogiwa Takenobu and end his life on the spot. But it was totally beyond their imagination that Lu Shu seemed to have returned solely for the shurikens.

Wait a moment, shurikens WERE the true reason for his return!

Many Class B experts had guessed it that the divine water was the sacred item left by Earl due to the full exposure on its ability to consume magical weapons. In the past, Earl's lethality was precisely because of his resistance to short-range weapon attacks.

Although it might not work against magical attacks or weapon spirits such as that from the black dragon spear, the divine water was definitely the tomb for things like shurikens.

Dumbstruck, an expert asked in disbelief, "Did he strengthen his water via such lame moves?!"

"Highly likely! Those shurikens are surely destroyed. Poor Nogiwa Takenobu!"

"Eh, how many people has he tricked then?!"

"Must watch out for him next time..."

As for the Deities, the bunch had extremely mixing feelings upon witnessing the Heavenly Network expert's surprise moves. "Coral, is that the person you like?"

Coral gazed cheerfully at Lu Shu's receding figure beyond the main gate. "Yes, him!"

After a long silence, the Class B leader of the Deities commented calmly, "Coral, now

I understand why you say your affluence is an advantage. You know him well..."

At that very instant, Li Yixiao avoided Nogiwa Takenobu's blade and took advantage of his momentary daze. In a split second, Nogiwa was thrown hard into the stone wall, and large volumes of blood instantly swelled up in his mouth!

They were both temporarily distracted by Lu Shu, but Li Yixiao was less sensitive and very talented at such tricks. Thus, he knew it was his opportunity when all eyes were drawn to Lu Shu!

Then, in people's full witness, the blood that Nogiwa Takenobu vomited out was immediately absorbed by the black stones on the floor. Then, a red flash flickered along the symbols in the area.

The experts knitted their brows. "Something's wrong with this underground palace. It sucks human blood."

"Be careful!"

At the moment, Nogiwa Takenobu had no time to rest, as Li Yixiao had no intention to stop yet!

But he was really not suited for any more combat. Had he become even more weakened, he would soon be killed, be it by Li Yixiao or other Class B's.

It was not only due to the competition for the relic, but also his appealing magic katana. Magical weapons with embedded spirits were widely sought after, as they could provide an additional edge beside the power of the weapon itself!

It was a fight or flight situation!

Nie Ting had also mentioned it after his visit to the Collection of Gods. It was said that this method could result in a temporary upgrade of one's capabilities via the destruction of other CoG members' foundation. Similarly, the last-ditch technique by Class D's of the Heavenly Network would deprive the user of any chances of advancement.

Actually, Class C's like Hao Zhichao knew the technique too. But they would never apply it unless left with no other means of survival.

Nogiwa Takenobu was in excruciating agony as the fact set in that he would never ever ascend to Class A. However, with pros from various organizations approaching him in silence, he would never make it out alive if he did not do so now!

But he could not die in vain either. The technique would up his abilities to peak Class B in a short time, more than enough to overpower Li Yixiao.

At that instant, Nogiwa Takenobu calculated his chances at killing Li Yixiao.

In a rough estimate, he had more than enough time to slake his hatred!

All of a sudden, purple light radiated brightly from his katana, and the purple snake entangling with the black dragon suddenly surged in power, breaking free of the dragon's locking teeth, throwing itself towards Li Yixiao!

Meanwhile, Nogiwa Takenobu struck towards Li Yixiao like a specter. But just when he intended to slash Li Yixiao alive, the man actually ran away!

Freak! Such a lame move!

In fact, it was the wisest choice at the moment and everybody knew it. They were aware that Nogiwa Takenobu's sudden improvement in power was temporary. But what they did not expect was the person's decisiveness!

One ran away when he could not win, and the other did the same after robbing another person's stuff. What was wrong with the Heavenly Network nowadays?! What happened to your courage as publicized by your Heavenly King Nie Ting?!

In the meantime, outside the palace, Lu Shu frowned at the view in front of him. It was an empty space lined by stone walls perforated with dense holes, like tens of beehive coals.

Every hole was as tall as a person, as though each leading to a different place. If that was the case, they could be directed to hundreds of locations from there.

The old man was nowhere to be seen too. But Lu Shu felt that Li Xianyi was the least of his concern now...

As he quickly threw the ten plus shurikens to his divine water, Lu Shu examined the surroundings. Those tunnels extended to all directions, and one could easily get trapped inside, let alone locate the relic!

As a matter of fact, they had enough manpower in the Koh Chang remains this time. But their power would be significantly diluted if they were to disperse into hundreds of groups for further exploration.

Then, they would be easily taken advantage of by the local creatures in the remains.

At that moment, Lu Shu heard a loud tumult from inside the palace. But he did not think much about it, as Li Yixiao's capabilities could really live up to his title of a Heavenly King.

Besides, did he not just provide some help? After all, he had suffered so many shurikens for Li Yixiao!

Generally speaking, though unreliable, Li Yixiao's fighting abilities were rather trustworthy.

At this moment, however, he saw Li Yixiao dash out, his head lowered. Li Yixiao roared, "Run, mate!"

### **434 CAN YOU BE MORE UNRELIABLE?**

Lu Shu was bewildered. You simply could not be praised, could you?!

But the two lines of bloody tears on Nogiwa Takenobu's face instantly brought him back to the sinister scene at the Beimang remains pit. Was he really that desperate...

Li Yixiao's paunchy figure brushed past Lu Shu like a blast of wind. "Run! That old kid is risking his life!"

Before Lu Shu could react, Li Yixiao had disappeared into a random hole.

Lu Shu drew a startled breath. Could you be any more bloody unreliable?!

After Nogiwa Takenobu ran out of the palace, he was much delighted at the numerous hollows on the wall. They increased his chances of survival!

As long as he could hide himself and reinforce his Class B capabilities, the relic might still be within his reach.

In fact, Nogiwa Takenobu traded his future for a possibility of sustaining his life, and luckily no fatal injuries had occurred to him thus far. Seeing that Li Yixiao had already gone far, Nogiwa shifted his eyes to Lu Shu who was still corroding his shurikens...

Lu Shu froze at once. "Haha, what if I tell you I'm providing free maintenance services for your shurikens like waxing and polishing... Okay fine, I know you won't believe me. F\*ck you, Li Yixiao!"

He started cursing mercilessly at Li Yixiao upon seeing Nogiwa Takenobu's darkening face. Then, Lu Shu immediately turned tail and ran! He should run as far as possible when Nogiwa Takenobu was still unsure about his abilities! There was no time to care about anything else.

Nogiwa Takenobu's heart throbbed in pain. Those shurikens were his spoils during an internal conflict within the Collection of Gods. They were just awesome.

In addition to their unparalleled sharpness, each one of them could be remotely controlled. Though unable to be compared to the flying daggers of the Heavenly Network, he had so many of them!

In daily combats, long-ranged attacking techniques historically remained one of the CoG's greatest drawbacks. As a matter of fact, every legacy had certain weaknesses.

Thus, they had to compensate for their shortcomings with magical weapons, such as Nogiwa Takenobu's katana snake and his shurikens!



Usually he took extra care of his katana and shurikens. Yet, in the end, this Pikabin snatched all of them from him!

At the moment, Nogiwa's hatred towards Li Yixiao had been fully evaporated, and Lu Shu was the only person left in his sight...

Then, a revelation suddenly crossed his mind. This young man in front of him was not some newly promoted Class B from the Heavenly Network!

If he were, he would never be able to defeat two of them so long as he was not a Class A.

Why did he not realize it earlier! Else, he should have avoided Li Yixiao first and taken down this boy without hesitation when he returned earlier!

As a fake strength type, Lu Shu's speed was comparable to a beginner Class B, regardless of his other abilities.

But the thing was, Nogiwa Takenobu had upped himself to a peak Class B at the moment. He was way faster than Lu Shu!

Lu Shu was anxious. He might not be able to escape without his trump cards! But before he could come up with a strategy, suddenly a figure emerged from nowhere, his dagger stabbed towards Nogiwa Takenobu with an eerie blue glow.

Quick and decisive, as though purely intended to buy Lu Shu some time.

Nogiwa Takenobu immediately rolled aside to dodge the blade. Just when he focused

his mind to locate his attacker, the person had blended into the crowd.

But Lu Shu used the time to reach the wall. Before he entered the hollow, he turned to see the expert standing beside Coral.

The Deities' stand was clear too. They would only assist Lu Shu, but not to engage in fights with Nogiwa Takenobu just for him.

In any case, it was certainly not a wise decision to confront Nogiwa in his current status as both parties would probably end up weakened and being taken advantage of by other bystanders. However, things might be easier after Nogiwa Takenobu returned to his original level, because he might be even frailer than immediately after his use of the secret technique.

The Deities helped Lu Shu out of Coral's love for him, but that did not mean they would be willing to put themselves in danger.

Without any further delay, Lu Shu ducked into the darkness.

Nogiwa Takenobu sneered at the Deities. "The Collection of Gods will certainly repay your act."

After that, a small crystal bottle appeared on his palm. The liquid inside provided gentle illumination for lighting purposes.

In the next second, everybody stood still as Nogiwa Takenobu ran into the hollow in pursuit of Lu Shu. Only then did they start to examine the structure of those holes.

"With so many paths here, it must be very complicated inside. Who knows what may

happen if we pick the wrong way?!" someone exclaimed.

"Could it be a maze inside?!"

Practitioners from the various big organizations warned, "Individual Practitioners, it is a labyrinth. Don't act on your own. Else, no one can save you if you get lost inside!"

Their plan was to let the individual Practitioners scout for them. Yet, the latter were not stupid either. How could it be such a benign offer as it seemed?

Thus, many small groups had made up their mind. Despite the many dangers awaiting them, it was still better to risk their lives for themselves than for other organizations!

Now, it was not a matter of their willingness to continue their exploration. They would be forced to walk in front no matter what!

At this instant, suddenly some individual Practitioners took to their heels towards the hollows. Given the countless roads here, they would not be that unlucky as to bump into big organizations inside, would they?

Of course, there were those who were trapped in a dilemma. Their indecisiveness rendered it hard for them to bet on their lives.

To them, big organizations spelled for power and security.

Every person has his own choices to make, and consequently his fate awaited.

Meanwhile, Nogiwa Takenobu glided to and for in the dark hollows. Suddenly, his acute vision caught a glimpse of something on the wall! It was a line of tiny carvings.

Could it be a clue of the remains?! Hope lit up in his heart as he raised his crystal bottle to the wall for a closer look.

Nogiwa Takenobu leaned in to study the words closely. They were too small to be hardly legible. "I am your Lord, trapped here 1,000 years ago. Now, I need you to pay my bail of 100 dollars. I will guarantee your ascension to Class A after I get out! My account is..."

Nogiwa Takenobu's face darkened at once. Were fighters of the Heavenly Network so childish nowadays?!

### **435 LU SHU THE DISGUSTING-TYPE METAHUMAN**

Corpsedog did the carving work for Lu Shu, saving him the trouble and time of staying there physically. After the dagger was done, it flew back to Lu Shu who continued running on. Such convenience!

Therefore, as he fled with the divine water as his lighting tool, Lu Shu still carved stuff on the walls to distract Nogiwa Takenobu...

Meanwhile, Nogiwa continued his pursuit furiously. As he went deeper, the words on the walls became increasingly bigger and their occurrence was more frequent as well. "Chase more and I'm your daddy!"

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

Tryna take advantage of me at this timing, HUH?!

"Namo Avalokiteshvara\*. Copy the sentence ten times on the wall, or else calamity will befall you in three days!"

\*Namo Avalokiteshvara: a Buddhist prayer.

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

Nogiwa Takenobu found it both irritating and amusingly ridiculous. You are freaking cursing me through this?!

Since when did the Heavenly Network come up with another pain in the ass? Was Li Yixiao not enough? Speaking of which, this new man was even better than Li Yixiao at pissing people off!

The two were striving to catch up and overtake each other. But no matter what Lu Shu did, he was still way slower than Nogiwa Takenobu who had sacrificed his foundation in exchange for his current power.

Now, Lu Shu could only pray hard that fellow would return to his original form as soon as possible, or even weaker than that.

In that instance, Lu Shu would be more than happy to try and see whether he could defeat a weak Class B by himself!

Despite his victory over Anthony last time, his opponent was at most a peak-Class C with techniques more advanced than his level.

Besides, he still did not manage to kill him in the end.

Lu Shu was running in front with Nogiwa Takenobu's approaching footsteps being audible from time to time...

"Why is that old boy's power still not over?!" Lu Shu was speechless. It was all Li

Yixiao's fault! It was fine that you wanna have a fight, but why did you ignite his full strength? Moreover, why did you run after that?!

At that moment, the space in front of him opened into a straight path slanted downwards. Not long after Lu Shu ran into the tunnel, he turned to see Nogiwa Takenobu at the end of the way.

Now that they were in each other's vision, Lu Shu suddenly felt his stress building up!

It was the easiest to accelerate on a straight-line path. At that time, Nogiwa Takenobu could close the hundred-meter gap within merely a few minutes!

Nogiwa curled his lips into a cold sneer. He knew well that his power was going to flag in about ten minutes. Thus, he had to catch up with the other person before that.

Killing a Class C should not be that tough, should it?

In the next instant...

"F\*ck!" A golden ray shot straight towards Nogiwa Takenobu from Lu Shu's neck, almost making him blind! What kind of move was that?!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

Calculating the considerable length of the tunnel, Lu Shu tied his Sun mirror behind him. It was his super high beams!

Do you get it? Super!!

He was not distracted at all. The only thing needed was to constantly refill the mirror with his celestial powers. His running speed was not at all affected!

Holding it in his hand would certainly make it harder to maintain his balance in extreme running. But it was a different case now... Fully automatic!

Nogiwa Takenobu could not even see his way, let alone chase his prey!

Furthermore, there was nowhere to hide along this narrow tunnel. Must he run backwards then?! Nogiwa Takenobu was on the brink of frustration. What kind of person he had run into?!

Then, Nogiwa slowly came to a stop... He had to, because his vision had been compromised...

But at this moment, the light was suddenly gone! Nogiwa Takenobu saw a glint of hope, could it be the magical weapon was too mana-consuming that it could not be sustained any further? As far as he could recall, the person did not use it for a prolonged period of time either in the palace!

His speculation was well-founded. After all, that guy had no reason to stop at all. He could just run away with his high beams on the entire way!

Nogiwa caught up with a sneer. Since you are at your wits' end, do not blame me for not giving you a chance.

Yet, in the next instant, ka! Here came the Sun again!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

However, this time, the golden ray was shining at a different pattern. It was flickering rapidly like that in a nightclub! Let us have some music, please!

Flicker your foot!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

Nogiwa Takenobu stopped, so did Lu Shu. The distance between them again increased to around 500 meters, but that did not diminish the blinding radiance at all...

Lu Shu took the Sun mirror down from the back of his head and flashed it at Nogiwa Takenobu. Honestly speaking, he had secured an invincible position against non-sunglasses wearers like Nogiwa Takenobu in such a narrow tunnel...

In fact, even if he brought his shades, he would immediately become blind had Lu Shu turned off his mirror in the darkness...

How lonely it was to be a pro... Lu Shu thought to himself.

Actually, he was just waiting for Nogiwa's power to be weakened so that he could launch a counter attack. He could sense that it was about time!

At this moment, Lu Shu tied his Sun mirror to the front of his chest and took to his heels towards Nogiwa Takenobu. Flashes of the mirror illuminated every corner of the passage...

Nogiwa Takenobu was at a loss at once. He could roughly make the guess that Lu



Shu's sensory power was strong, since he came back for him at just the right moment.

Instantly the situation had changed. Now, Lu Shu was chasing Nogiwa Takenobu...

Truth be told, Nogiwa Takenobu had never been such a loser ever since the inception of the era of Spirit Qi! What the hell was going on? Despite no significant lethality of the person, his capability to disgust his opponents was unmatched!

Could it be a new type of Practitioners nurtured by the Heavenly Network? In addition to the traditional ones such as earth and fire, was he of the disgusting type?

### **436 THE LORD**

In fact, Nogiwa Takenobu was confused too. If his speculation about Lu Shu's Class C level was true, Nogiwa would still be able to kill him even in close proximity. After all, he had full confidence that his Class B capabilities would not be affected, at most a certain degree of feebleness.

But Lu Shu seemed to be 100% certain of his victory as he drew closer!

In the cultivation realm, the weak were totally defenseless against the strong. There were few exceptions as one's combat skills could not lie about his true strength.

But today, Nogiwa Takenobu had learned a lesson, tricks could outrun true power...

Lu Shu had noticed it too. In the past, the Sun mirror was almost a piece of crap except for its illumination function. Even the head-twisting gourd was more useful than it! At the very least, the gourd could be used to effortlessly kill people. Lu Shu had even given this special technique of him a name, called "Attendance Taking"!

Yet, now that the gourd was on a strike, it led the example of being an unreliable weapon!

Until then, Lu Shu realized that the mirror could be rather effective when it was put to proper use!

He could fix the mirror in front of his chest to blind his opponents' eyes, be it for close combats or far-ranged fights. In addition, the mirror was far better than normal high beams. Which high beams could make people's eyes prick?!

When he became famous, who would dare to fight with Lu Shu without putting his shades on? Forcing every single expert in the world to wear sunglasses was an extraordinary feat too, wasn't it...

At the moment, Lu Shu was running behind Nogiwa Takenobu in the tunnel. Though in this way Nogiwa's vision would not be affected by the light, he couldn't keep on running without looking back at all either...

Well, in fact, he HAD to be like that. His eyes would be temporarily blinded for a while so long as he turned...

Then, Nogiwa reached the end of the straight tunnel. The passage turned into a corner!

Everything would be over after he hid in the corner and dealt a fatal blow to that disgusting-type Metahuman! Only that fellow's death could erase his hatred now!

Anyway, that mirror could not violate the laws of physics to bend the path of light around corners. Thus, it would have no advantage there.

Hidden in the dogleg, Nogiwa Takenobu held his breath. His right hand gripped onto the handle of his katana, veins throbbing visibly on the back of his hands. His eyes

were narrowed, eying for the instant to slash his enemy apart! He would not even mind if the light shone at that second, as his attack would definitely be lethal!

At that instant, a spear poked in furtively, and tied on its tip was ... a Sun!

Kakakaka, the Sun mirror actually flashed ten times in the blink of an eye! Then it was immediately taken back!

Nogiwa Takenobu subconsciously hacked his katana forward, but only to hit the air! So was his purple snake!

"Freak!" it totally caught Nogiwa off guard. Now, in the absence of strong light, his vision was teeming with colorful dots, green, blue, red...

Why are there so many tricky moves?! Huh? What kind of fighter on Earth did the Heavenly Network groom?!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +1000!"

Nogiwa Takenobu immediately took to his heels, while his snake sprang to the air as defense against potential attack of flying daggers. But why had he not used his dagger yet? Forget it, the main priority now was to regain his vision somewhere safe!

Nogiwa's power had almost plunged to the nadir of Class B. Now, he had given up his plan of killing Lu Shu, as the latter was not an ordinary Class C anyway, but an extremely disgusting one!

Frailty was setting in. Now, he must stabilize his strength or else, he might die!

But how would Lu Shu let go of this precious opportunity. It was a moment of life and death!

In an instant, Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow swooshed out from his celestial map. In a split second, Corpsedog had blocked the purple snake's escape route and the two were trapped in a tangle! As Nogiwa's weapon spirit was supplied with his Class B mana, it was no easy task to defeat the snake either. Thus, Lu Shu had no alternatives but to send in his Concealed Arrow too.

The snake was as quick as thunderbolts. The daggers and the serpent were engaged in an intense fight, leaving behind a trail of broken stone pieces!

Clearly the snake was targeting Lu Shu, but it was held back by the daggers.

It was a smart move on Nogiwa's side. If Lu Shu exhibited any loopholes when fighting back his snake, he might still be able to reverse the situation.

With Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow dealing with the snake behind, Lu Shu glided through the tunnels swiftly with his divine water like a coming flood.

In fact, the divine water was large enough to fill up the entire space of a segment of the tunnel, even carrying Lu Shu midair!

The strong corrosiveness of the water smoothed the passage walls, but by no means slowing down the speed of traveling.

Usually, deceleration was necessary as one changed his direction when running. But it was different with the divine water with high permeability!

Seeing Lu Shu's increased speed as compared to earlier, Nogiwa Takenobu was shocked and puzzled. Who was he, really? Besides his rare possession of two flying daggers, could he be a water-type Metahuman in addition to his strength-type power?!

That could explain the decision of the Heavenly Network to release him into the overseas remains this time! There were high expectations on him! According to the information available, there was indeed a hidden water-type talent under Chen Baili's wings in southern Tibet!

Nogiwa Takenobu asked coldly as he ran, "Are you Zhao Mingke?"

"Never heard of the name. Like what I said, I am your Lord. Did you follow my words and transfer me the money..." Lu Shu shouted in Japanese.

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

### **437 LU SHU'S TRUMP CARDS**

Nogiwa Takenobu ran like a madman. Soon they reached the entrance of the hollows! Outside the palace!

In the meantime, crowds of individual Practitioners were still trying to negotiate with those big organizations in the faint hope that they could find a way out of being their canon fodder.

But that was none of the big organizations' business, They were only concerned about which way would most likely lead them to the relic!

Then, in everyone's alert state, Nogiwa Takenobu, who was strong enough to chase two Heavenly Network members around, ran out crazily from a hole...

"Is he being chased by a monster? A native creature?" a person shouted in alarm.

In their impression, Nogiwa Takenobu was a peak-Class B expert. So what else could be behind him?

Instantly everyone was seized by fear!

But in the next instant, they saw flashes from inside the tunnel. What kind of creature could glow by itself?!

Then, Lu Shu dashed out with divine water all over his body...

Those Practitioners facing him were blinded at once by the Sun mirror...

"It's him!"

"My eyes!"

Other Practitioners who were unaffected studied Lu Shu's new style. A bronze mirror tied to his chest, emitting flickering golden lights like signals in a nightclub... What was this urge to dance to that rhythm?!

What kind of attacking techniques was that? What a freak!

However, wasn't Nogiwa Takenobu the one chasing him just a while earlier? Why had it turned around?!

Gazing at Lu Shu's and Nogiwa Takenobu's receding figures, Howard drew a deep breath. "Who brought shades? Anyone?"

Howard put himself in Nogiwa's shoes. Indeed, he would be very much disgusted if he encountered Lu Shu in the tunnel as well...

Meanwhile, the Deities were also gathering outside the hollows discussing whether to force individual Practitioners to be their canaries.

But before they could reach a conclusion, they saw Lu Shu chasing Nogiwa Takenobu out.

The leader of the Deities, "..."

Coral, "..."

Surprise! Despite Coral's confidence that Lu Shu would be safe, the abrupt plot twist was still beyond her expectations!

The leader kept silent for a long moment. "I admire your taste, Coral. He is strong, but I find him... kinda special!"

He was referring to the Sun mirror in front of Lu Shu's chest...

Both Lu Shu and Nogiwa Takenobu were intently engaged in their game of pursuit.

The gap in between was closing fast. Nogiwa knew well that his time was running out.

No one could escape the sequel of that double-sword technique!

Just when he was about to be caught up, Nogiwa Takenobu suddenly turned, his eyes

shut tight, and swung his katana at Lu Shu with full strength.

Though knowing that the divine water could erode magical weapons, what other choice was he left with?

All that was needed was to behead his enemy before the divine water had enough time to destroy his katana completely!

And he was fast!

A gorgeous ray of purple flashed over Nogiwa Takenobu's head. It was about to split the divine water open and demolish Lu Shu directly!

Nogiwa could even feel the blinking light rays from behind his eyelids.

With all boats burnt, it was an instance of life and death.

In fact, Nogiwa Takenobu had yet another card up his sleeve, his tantos, to deal the final thrusts. The confined space provided the perfect conditions for the tantos, but he had to peel the divine water off Lu Shu first. The use of the ace in the hole permitted no errors!

Upon contact, the katana cleaved through the waves and thrust downwards. Just as a confident smile curled up from the corner of Nogiwa's lips, the huge volumes of divine water actually swelled up to cushion off the tremendous impact. Then, he caught hold of the blade with his bare hands!

Bare hands against naked blade!



Nogiwa Takenobu wanted to draw his katana back, but Lu Shu's obsession with magical weapons could never be underestimated. He simply would not let go!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

The movement of the divine water did not stop. It swelled up towards the katana immediately, and then swept towards Nogiwa Takenobu!

It was totally unexpected. With unstable power, he would not risk all his Spirit Qi in resistance of the highly corrosive divine water.

Without a choice, he had to forgo his katana!

What a deep-seated hatred! Nogiwa Takenobu had never expected himself to be forced into such a predicament. In fact, it was all thanks to the Heavenly Network! He would never have become so weak if the two had not tricked him into using his clandestine technique!

Otherwise, he would have no qualms with breaking through the divine water barrier with his Spirit Qi armor and put Lu Shu to death on the spot!

But it was too late now. Since neither flight nor fight could win him the battle now, he had to bet on his life!

Immediately Nogiwa extracted his tantos, concentrating the remaining Spirit Qi into a piece of translucent armor. His foundation deteriorated rapidly without the nourishment of mana. Thus, he would certainly face a downgrade of his power even if he could take down Lu Shu now!

The thought that he would never be able to climb back to Class C ever again was simply unbearable. Then, limitless hostility flooded his heart!

Now, the only thing left in his mind was to drive his tanto into Lu Shu's heart, and take away everything he had!

But in that instant, he could only stare as Lu Shu made a quick retreat with the divine water around his katana...

Freaking shameless! You wanna run once you got my stuff?! Are you Heavenly Network a bunch of monkeys?!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +999!"

In the meantime, the constant light from the Sun mirror radiated outwards through the divine water, mapping undulating waves onto the walls of the cavern.

Truth be told, Lu Shu was suffering from the flashes too...

As soon as the katana was encapsulated by the divine water, the snake immediately got rid of Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow in an attempt to return to its home. But soon it also fell into the control of the water just like the katana.

The purple snake thrashed back and forth just to return to the katana, which was being consumed by the water. Finally, the tiny serpent found its way back to rest in the katana!

Meanwhile, Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow immediately returned to Lu Shu after their target was lost. The daggers glared at Nogiwa Takenobu, who had fallen into

complete desperation. He risked all he had in exchange for a final blow, in vain.

### **438 CAPTURE WEAPON SPIRI**

When the two flying daggers came to Nogiwa Takenobu, he was still struggling to survive like a trapped beast.

Was he afraid of death? Of course he was.

But when that moment truly arrived, a sense of courage and uprightness welled up in his heart. Despite their notorious reputation for their unforgivably wicked and crazy nature, the Collection of Gods were unyieldingly serious towards items of significance.

As a matter of fact, CoG Practitioners were full of conflicting passions. Violence and beauty, arrogance and courtesy, stubbornness and unpredictability, loyal yet susceptible to betrayal, courageous yet timid, easy to tame yet too wild to rule.

All those were elucidated in detail in the book, *The Chrysanthemum And The Sword*. They were a contradictory race. Many people think favorably of Japan for its "beauty", such as sakura, tatami and Japanese black iron teapot, as though everything can be associated with elegance. But at the same time, their undisguised display of evil often draws distaste as well.

Every coin has two sides and one should not rush to any conclusions too hastily. However, the kind spirits in the Collection of Gods had been gradually worn off during factional conflicts.

It was not because good men were weaker, though, but their unwillingness to do harm to others. It was precisely their innocence and the simplistic belief in human's good nature that gave their lives away.

The deterioration of Nogiwa Takenobu's power was extremely fast. He would have been able to maintain his Class B status for a lifetime had he not exhausted all his Spirit Qi earlier. Yet, too many mistakes had been committed in this battle. The two incredibly shameless fighters from the Heavenly Network and their unorthodox fighting techniques had totally caught him off guard...

Nor had he expected a seemingly useless Class C boy had so many cards up his sleeve, and that he could put all of them to creative use. In the boy's hands, even a simple illumination mirror became a powerful weapon.

Nogiwa Takenobu struggled to support himself against the wall with his tanto in his grip. Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow slit open countless wounds over his entire body and his face was as pale as paper due to the severe loss of blood.

Corpsedog took away his happiness and Concealed Arrow deprived him of anger, and all that was left within him was an unprecedented peace of mind. He glanced over his devastated body, suddenly wondering how he had come to this step.

Nogiwa Takenobu murmured to himself, "Why?"

At the other end of the cavern, Lu Shu sneered. "Didn't I already tell you? Calamity will surely befall you within three days unless you copy Namo Avalokiteshvara ten times!"

Nogiwa Takenobu paused for a long moment but found it impossible to rebut!

"From Nogiwa Takenobu's distress, +1000!"

Lu Shu called his flying daggers back to his celestial map and then tossed Nogiwa Takenobu's tanto to the divine water to be consumed.

By then, the shape of the katana had completely disappeared, together with its intense purple color. All of a sudden, the purple snake emerged from the blade again, bouncing to and fro crazily in an attempt to escape.

However, how was it possible given that its main body was already dead?

Just when Lu Shu expected the little serpent to vanish like the wisp of black smoke in gargoyles, the purple scales on the body of the snake suddenly turned golden instead of being corroded!

What's going on?! Lu Shu was stunned. He was pretty sure that the divine water had no consciousness, but how could the little snake turn golden unharmed?

It took a total of one hour for every inch of the snake's body to fully transform into golden color.

Moreover, the snake had gradually given up its struggle during the process, and glazed over.

Then, through the connection between himself and the divine water, Lu Shu sensed the snake's thirst for blood. Upon second thoughts, he pricked his index finger with Concealed Arrow and squeezed a drop of blood into the divine water.

Immediately the golden snake came alive. It swam over and swallowed Lu Shu's blood at once.

Then, Lu Shu could feel the strengthening of bond between him and the divine water, and the establishment of a new connection with the snake.

In fact, the golden snake actually became the weapon spirit of the water!

Such an unexpected gain! Lu Shu had always been jealous of Li Yixiao for his ability to conjure up a powerful black dragon from his spear as an extra hand.

Judging from the fight earlier, Nogiwa Takenobu's purple snake actually held back both of his flying daggers. Undeniably, it was a strong weapon when combined with Class B powers.

And now, he, Lu Shu, had his own weapon spirit too!

In the meantime, Lu Shu controlled the snake to come out of the divine water. Knowing that the abilities of weapon spirits were aligned with those of their owners, Lu Shu was curious about the might it could unleash under him.

To his surprise, the golden snake refused to come out no matter what! No, it was stuck inside!

Lu Shu's face darkened at once. It had never been a smooth sail for his journey on magical weapons. Recently, the acquisition of divine water was a bliss, could there be something wrong with it too?!

With great difficulty he had managed to capture a weapon spirit, which ended up not even able to come out of his divine water just when Lu Shu was daydreaming about his bright future?!

None of his magical weapons were reliable, were they?!

Huh?!

Still sulking, Lu Shu threw the tanto into the divine water. At the moment, he had yet to fully understand its origin and function. Coupled with the fact that the water was one of his most precious assets in addition to Corpseudog and Concealed Arrow, he had to continue feeding it no matter what.

The gourd was totally useless at the moment. Ill-intentioned, Lu Shu scanned his gourd and flying sword in his Seal of Lands, wondering whether it would be a good idea to feed it to divine water too...

Forget it, Lu Shu shook his head. Apparently the sword would do his work one day. Besides, he had not figured out their origin. If it was really that piece of legendary treasure, wouldn't the flying sword stab him if he threw it to the divine water?!

Lu Shu thought with a guilty conscience...

Then, he was stunned by what he saw. The golden snake was drawn to the tanto, and immediately bit a piece off its blade.

Then, it took another bite at once, showing no sign of indigestion at all.

The rate of weapon consumption was way faster than before. Within a minute, the snake had eaten up the entire tanto!

Eh, the main function of divine water itself was to swallow other weapons. However, in actual combats, its efficiency was much compromised as it had to first drain the

Spirit Qi imbued in the weapons.

But now, his golden snake could finish up the job well, and fast...

### **439 LU SHU'S MARKINGS**

Inside the walls, it was complex and overlapping. Despite the chilly darkness, the initial section of the passage was relatively friendly as there were no side roads.

However, another kilometer down the road and the tunnel suddenly split into three branches. Strangely, there were no changes in the Spirit Qi concentration underground, except a slight difference on and below the surface.

Might as well close your eyes and bet on your luck then, Lu Shu thought. There was no obvious right or wrong answer now due to the lack of evidence and clues. With the confidence that he had always been lucky, Lu Shu went on, and, successfully, he got lost...

He drew a deep breath at a familiar fork in the road. What the heck...

How to decide which way he had tried and which he had not in a labyrinth? By markings?

Upon second thoughts, Lu Shu changed into a new set of clothes and removed his cap and mask. Then, he pocketed his Sun mirror, leaving a small volume of divine water for lighting purposes. This way, he would be less recognizable.

Lu Shu was certain that he was not the only person that lost his way in the maze. Thus, it was very likely for him to cross his way with those big organizations, who might be interested in testing his waters.

Although the individual Practitioners had no idea why Nogiwa Takenobu was scared



of Lu Shu, the experts knew well that Nogiwa had no other choice given that pitiful conditions of his.

No matter how strong Lu Shu might seem, Li Yixiao would not have to run if he were a Class B too. Two Class B's could definitely defeat Nogiwa Takenobu given enough time. This was the key point from which rational deductions of the entire story could then be made.

But many had already put their guard up against Lu Shu. It was a widely acknowledged fact that overseas remains were tantamount to cold-blooded battlefields where no sympathy existed. The Heavenly Network certainly had their reasons for dispatching so little manpower there.

Nowadays, no one would dare to underestimate Nie Ting. Was he an irrational risk-taker? Definitely not.

Hence, many of them were already starting to devise counter-strategies against Lu Shu's unique techniques...

Those few who happened to bring shades had also handed them over to their leaders...

Truth be told, quite a number brought sunglasses, as the remains were located on a tourist island.

So why not take sunglasses from the individual Practitioners? There were so many of them, thought the big organizations.

As a result, all of their shades were surrendered... How sad! Not only were they

forced to be their cannon fodder, they were robbed too!

Nonetheless, gradually, their grudges shifted from big organizations to Lu Shu, the starter of the trouble. As Lu Shu walked along the dimly lit tunnels, he suddenly received a large influx of distress points. It felt...

As he ventured further, he left markings on the walls with Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow, to prevent himself from walking the same path over and over again.

Of course, he had to do it in a creative manner. The long trekking was dull and boring, so why not make it more interesting for those people behind?

In the meantime, unaffiliated Practitioners were forced to split up and search for the relic. Half an hour later, those in the front suddenly shouted in surprise, "Look! There are words on the wall!"

Just imagine, you are walking through an empty, monotonous tunnel and suddenly, you notice a line of words on the wall. How would you feel?! Surprise, of course! Finally you've found some useful clues!

As the big organizations at the back sent their people over, a individual Practitioners crowded around a pro who was studying the words with a torchlight in his hand. It was a line of English carvings. "Our expedition discovered this place by chance. We were forced underground by gargoyles but lost our way in the tunnels. On the seventh day, our supplies ran out. We may all die here if we can't go out in time. However, the greatest danger here is not shortage of food and water. We have noticed that our men are disappearing without reason. I"

That made the individual Practitioners' flesh creep!

Why did the sentence end so abruptly? Did he disappear too?! When he was writing that?! All of them drew a startled breath.

It would not be that scary if you read it online. However, it was absolutely a horror story to see it on the wall there.

In their opinion, which expert would crack such a lame joke?!

They looked at one another in shock. Although they did not believe it completely, they were still seized by terror and a feeling of uncertainty...

The expert remained silent for a long moment. He was having a headache at what to do too.

A Class B expert slowly came over from the back of the team. "What happened?"

Then, he took a glimpse of the carvings, and replied calmly, "Go ahead to see whether there are more of this."

Admittedly, power brings along confidence. In this instance, the self-assured would still be able to remain cool-headed, instead of being buried in panic.

The expert immediately trotted forward at a quick step. Yet, he stopped within seconds!

"From Townsend House's distress, +666!"

Out of curiosity, other people moved closer for a good look. There was another line

on the wall that read. "I have three points to say about this place..."

They were confused, which three?!

Then they got it, weren't there three bloody points behind?!

Verified, it must be left behind by an expert as a means to relieve them from their boredom. However, how bloody bored were you?! What were you getting out of this?

A few steps forward and there appeared a doraemon scrawled on the wall. "I am doraemon. I will give you a time machine if you let your head duang duang duang on the ground with sincerity."

"From Townsend House's distress, +666!"

"From..."

It was in English too. But since Lu Shu had yet to learn the word "kowitz" and clearly had no idea how to express it, he completed the sentence in his awkward Chinglish.

Yet, does it even make sense that there was a doraemon in the remains?! Besides, what was with your duang duang duang? Don't write it if you don't know the word, can't you?! All of them were dumbstruck by the absurdness.

Instantly, numerous distress points were registered in the background, taking Lu Shu by surprise!

In the meantime, Lu Shu had reached another parting of the road. As the influx of distress points went on, he murmured to himself, "What should I write this time?!"

### **440 UNDERGROUND RIVER**

Lu Shu was right. He was not the only one who got lost in the underground tunnels. Further inside, the passage gradually widened.

But it seemed that they were nowhere near the end. At a new fork in the road, there was a marking beside the left branch. After some deliberation, Lu Shu carved an identical symbol on the right branch too...

Lu Shu had seen many markings along the way, but they were then rendered useless thanks to him...

Within a few hours, his prank had started to cause other people trouble. Those who happened to return to their starting point would realize, to their horror, both ways had been marked...

Had both routes been explored?!

"From..."

During the process of finding his bearings, Lu Shu had run into his own markings as well, regarding the three points about the remains.

Now, there was another sentence scrambled beside. "Say! What are the three points?!"

Haha, you will never get the relic with such low IQ...

Suddenly, a thought crossed Lu Shu's mind. Why not be worry-free and stay here to create his walls of arts, while the old man was on his way to the relic? The distress

points earned would already have made the trip worthwhile.

He had ignited the fourth star with the help of a celestial fruit, and was only three quarters away to the fifth.

At the moment, he was startled by a series of footsteps in the tunnel behind. It sounded like a huge crowd. Could it be some big organization with their enslaved individual Practitioners?

With no intention to interact with them, Lu Shu immediately left with his Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow.

However, indistinctly many footsteps were heard from in front as well. Was it a bloody reunion between two teams?!

In the next instant, the two organizations came into sight. An Australian team and the leader of the Pledge with dozens of individual Practitioner followers. The atmosphere was somewhat awkward, but the most awkward among them all, was Lu Shu... who was stuck in between...

The encounter was totally unexpected. Then, curious stares were soon drawn to the young man in the center. Who was he?!

Clad in a new set of clothes, Lu Shu looked no different from the other unaffiliated Practitioners. Earlier, there were a number of them who ducked into the tunnels before everyone else, and it would be hard to recognize him without knowing his true face.

Suddenly, someone spoke from the Australian group of individual Practitioners, "Why are you here alone? Come over here!"

Lu Shu turned to see Meng Jingchan. "Oh."

In the meantime, the leader of the Pledge directed his team back with slight hesitation. He inferred from the situation that the relic was not in the direction ahead.

Lu Shu joined the group of individual Practitioners. After a long moment of silence, Meng Jingchan whispered, "This system of tunnels is like a labyrinth. Any new discoveries?"

"Nope. I'm lost too..." Lu Shu replied honestly.

Suddenly a person in front shouted, "There are words on the wall again!"

Meng Jingchan smiled. "Did you notice those words? I wonder what kind of expert would be so fond of pranks! Carving so many words on the walls in the process of searching for the relic!"

Lu Shu paused for a few seconds. "He must be handsome, caring and full of childlike innocence."

Meng Jingchan, "..."

It must have been you! I knew it!

The crowd muddled their way along. Actually, leaders from both parties did not make any attempts at communication, as they were all aware that the top priority now was to find a way out, not the relic!

The relic might be located at the exit of the maze. But everything would be meaningless if they could not get out.

More importantly, torches were the main lighting device for the majority, yet there were limited batteries.

To make things worse, many of the torches were already running out of power, as the average battery life of a normal torchlight was not long after all.

They could not even find the right way with their lights on, then what about in the darkness?

Tension began to build up due to the approaching danger.

Small discussions were sparked off among individual Practitioners, brainstorming for any possible solutions. But Meng Jingchan noticed that Lu Shu was calm all along, as though totally unconcerned.

Many had witnessed the fighting scene between Lu Shu, Li Yixiao and Nogiwa Takenobu, as well as Lu Shu's golden glow.

Actually, Meng Jingchan was curious about his power too after he defeated a Class B practitioner. Meanwhile, she had also thought it through and concluded that the person that she had wanted to rope in was not on the same level as her.

Suddenly, someone shouted, "Water! I can hear flowing water!"

Others heard it too. Instantly everyone started to search for clues of water, which could possibly lead them to the exit!



The group in front marched forward at a faster rate, with some cheering!

"Exit! We are saved!"

"Hahahaha, we've found it!"

The crowd thronged towards the exit. Outside the tunnel was an unprecedentedly vast underground space with a black river running through it rapidly.

One person hurried to the riverbank, cupped a scoop of river water in his hands and observed it under the torchlight. The water was transparent. Thus, the black appearance of the river was probably due to lighting.

Suddenly, he felt a sting on his ankle. Looking down, he gasped in shock as countless black beetles crawled out of the river. Immediately a black spot started to grow from his ankle.

"Save me!" the individual Practitioner ran back at once, but was sliced into halves by an expert's highly concentrated air sword.

He demanded cold-bloodedly, "All of you, go and settle the bugs!"