

501 CLASS SSS

Currently, Kitamura Kijitori took a place of high importance in Lu Shu's heart. The last time when two words meant so much to him was the "Another Bottle" written on the cap when Lu Xiaoyu was craving lemon iced tea a long time ago...

Those were the golden days. That time Lu Shu got lucky and won seven bottles for free in one shot. Thus, Lu Xiaoyu forced down seven bottles of lemon iced tea...

As a result, she could not bear the mention of "lemon iced tea" now.

Without a new source of distress points, Lu Shu could only resort to singing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star for cultivation training. At present, the power gained through eight hours of singing was equivalent to that of 24 celestial fruits.

In other words, he could earn 3,000 distress points per hour, which was a far cry from earning distress points actively himself, for he was really talented in that area...

During the day, Lu Shu locked himself up in the room and buried himself in the new information sent by the Heavenly Network. Lu Shu learned from his failure to act as Kirihara Yousuke and decided to put some serious effort into his next mission. He aimed for something bigger!

Thus, not only did he need to familiarize himself with the person's background, he also had to mimic his way of walking, the stock of the store and even the relevant procedures of storage and re-distribution.

At the very least, it certainly would not make sense if he, as the store manager, had no knowledge about his work. When the Collection of Gods came to transfer goods, he could not possibly reply, "Please help yourselves. Take and store whatever you want."

That was pure nonsense!

Only then did Lu Shu finally understand that being a spy was not an easy job. People like Taniguchi Bunndai had to spend decades on secret missions, constantly worrying about their personal safety. Not everybody could withstand prolonged mental stress like that.

Lu Shu decided to return to his own self more slowly this time. People would progress over time, after all... And no one else but him could cause the failure of his mission, if he did not want to!

At noon, Chiba prepared lunch for Lu Shu. The atmosphere was rather awkward, as Chiba struggled to interact with him so closely and Lu Shu still found it difficult to explain the situation to her. Nevertheless, he thought it was essential to keep Chiba informed to a certain extent.

Should he reveal everything?

Lu Shu mulled over the thought. His confession to Yaeko had been the only choice then. Besides, it would not harm either of them to let her know the truth. But it was a different case for Chiba. What if she decided to give him away after she learned that he was not the real Kirihara Yousuke?

And Lu Shu's part in it was to flip the military trucks in which the captives were being transported in, or at least burst their tires...

"Kiriharakun, what Class of Practitioner are you?" Chiba asked curiously.

Lu Shu froze. Should he tell the truth? Forget it, a joke would do. Then, he replied, "Well, I'm a Class SSS."

This time it was Chiba's turn to be stunned. She asked, "Class SSS?! Does it even exist?"

"Of course. Here I am." Lu Shu smiled.

"What does Class SSS represent..." Chiba knew that it was not a serious answer, but her curiosity would not allow her to back down. As a rookie Practitioner who had not yet learned the foundations of cultivation, Chiba was filled with curiosity.

Lu Shu pondered about the question. Right, he always saw Class S, SS and SSS in novels, but what did they actually mean?

After a brief pause, he said, "I guess it means Six Six Six."

"From Chiba Mahiro's distress, +666..."

But at this moment Chiba seemed stunned. She said, "Kiriharakun, I once came across a post saying Chinese people liked to use 666 to express their admiration for another person... So you..."

Lu Shu's brain throbbed. How could he expose himself this way? Was it due to Nie Ting's curse?

Before he could think of a reasonable excuse, Chiba smiled and asked, "So you like China a lot, don't you, Kiriharakun?"

"Yes! Absolutely!" Lu Shu let out a sigh of relief.

But things were not that simple. When Chiba was eating, tears suddenly rolled down from her cheeks. She said in a crying voice, "Kiriharakun, no matter how hard I try to convince myself, I know, from the day you returned after your sick leave, that you may no longer be the Kiriharakun I knew last time..."

Lu Shu went silent. There were no idiots in the world. Even if he could fool everyone else, how could he deceive Chiba Mahiro, the girl who had paid so much attention to Yousuke all along?

"The Kiriharakun I knew..." Chiba was almost whispering now, "He did not even dare to step on an ant. After someone pushed him, he would no longer have the courage to attend PE lessons... It is impossible for him to have become so different, even with a drastic change in his temperament. Hence, you are not Kiriharakun, right? I'm not blaming you, though. I simply want to know the truth."

Lu Shu sighed heavily and said, "You are right. I am not Kirihara Yousuke. Yousuke committed suicide half a month ago."

Just when he finished the sentence, tears welled up from Chiba's eyes uncontrollably. But immediately, her tears evaporated on her chin by the high heat emitting from her skin.

To Lu Shu's astonishment, she had experienced an awakening yet again!

"You..." Bewilderment was written all over Lu Shu's face.

Chiba raised her head with a smile, tears still rolling out of her eyes. She spoke softly,

"Maybe he has finally found peace."

Lu Shu had no reply. During the whole time of Chiba's honest confession, she produced no distress points towards him, nor any signs of hostility.

He understood her feelings. This girl had been by Yousuke's side for more than two years, but she had never put her emotions into words. And now, those words could never be delivered to the right person.

It was like a letter, with only the names but no address. As a result, it could never reach its destination, nor be returned.

Slowly but surely, it undulated in the long river of time, either forgotten, or buried, serving as a source of eternal pain.

At this moment, Lu Shu heard the sound of windows opening on the second floor. It was from the room in which Yaeko was resting.

Shocked, he ran up at once, only to see an empty bed and the window wide open. Yaeko was nowhere to be found.

On the bedside table was a note that read "Thank you, Lu Shu-kun. See you again."

Signed off by Sakurai Yaeko.

502 THE DIVERGENCE-TYPE POWER AWAKENING

But he was not that worried, because he believed that Yaeko's decision had been based on sufficient certainty and consideration of the situation. As for where she was heading to, it was none of his concern.

We all will meet many passers-by in the long journey called life, and eventually we have to get used to goodbyes.

Lu Shu turned and smiled at Chiba, who was standing by the door. He said, "Since Yaeko has recovered, it's time for me to leave as well."

"Kiriharakun, could you please hug me?" Chiba pleaded softly, "As Kirihara Yousuke, hug me, just once."

Before Lu Shu could react, Chiba threw herself into Lu Shu's arms and left at once. She said, "Please take care. Thank you."

Lu Shu was well aware that the feelings infused into the hug were not directed at him, but the face he was wearing. And it was an unfulfilled wish of the girl's.

Despite her serious injuries, Yaeko had the confidence to avoid the small fries downstairs. Besides, she was not a person who would place herself at the mercy of others. Yaeko knew she would have even slain Kitamura Hirono if not for Kijitori's sudden appearance.

Moreover, one could tell from her weapon, the dagger, that she specialized in the actual Collection of Gods assassination skills instead of conventional swordplay. She was an assassin.

In fact, if it had been Hirono, not Lu Shu, when Yaeko launched the attack in front of his house, Hirono might have already been dead then. However, Lu Shu was much stronger than her.

Yaeko took a bold move to return to her apartment in secret, which was probably

unexpected even to the Collection of Gods.

Two Collection of Gods members were smoking in front of her door. But in a split second, they collapsed into a pool of blood, their hearts punctured by a dagger. Yaeko was as quick as a specter.

She peeled off the seal on her door and walked inside. Her house was a mess, most likely due to a house search. But she did not care. She had not returned for daily necessities, but for something she could not afford to let go.

From the ceiling chamber she retrieved 100,000 yen, her first income so far.

After her teacher's death, all remaining funds of the Conservatives were naturally passed to her. But she could not receive that money with peace in mind.

Yaeko carefully hid the notes in her pocket and was about to leave. All the important items were kept at her teacher's place.

Certainly, though, she would not let go of the resources of the Conservatives due to emotional reasons. To her, nothing that was of value should be wasted.

That night, she would head to Osaka on a train and leave the country from there. She wanted to take a look at the outside world, though her destination was uncertain yet.

She had considered the option of staying with Lu Shu, but a problem kept bothering her, she had approached him as a spy.

Farewell, Lu Shu-kun.

...

In the meantime, Lu Shu was sitting in the guard house of a warehouse. It was located in a remote place in the Nishinokyo countryside and its only visitors were the logistics personnel transporting materials for the Collection of Gods research department.

The original Yamada Akira should be ready to leave the country by now. Following the instructions given, Lu Shu hid in a male restroom nearby and waited for Yamada's arrival for an official takeover.

From Yamada's expressions Lu Shu could see his unconcealed joy. Perhaps he was eager to go home, unlike Bunndai.

After six years, the day had finally come when he could return to his home. He had committed no mistakes during his assignment, which translated to even more well-deserved resources awaiting him in the organization.

Yamada went into the restroom, and Lu Shu walked out. No one noticed that the role of "Yamada Akira" was now being played by another person.

Lu Shu's aim this time was the same. To cause trouble under his current identity. After all, while acting alone, he could give the Collection of Gods some headaches when they sent people over for goods.

He suddenly felt that his new mission seemed easier than the previous one. Credits to the Heavenly Network, of course.

At this moment, he heard a knock on the window. Lu Shu looked up to see a short man with a large, round face smiling at him from across the window. Lu Shu froze...

Who the heck is this?

"Yamada! Haha, I'm here to keep you company! Why? Do you not remember me? We just met half a month ago!" The man laughed.

Lu Shu asked curiously, "Of course I do. But what are you doing here? You said to keep me company?"

He picked up some information from his words. They were acquaintances, but not very familiar. They had only met once half a month ago.

"Correct!" Smiling, he pulled open the door and said, "I got cleared too and they sent me here to take care of the warehouse with you."

Lu Shu felt the world around him collapse. According to the plan, wasn't he supposed to be acting alone? What was this man here for?!

And he did not even know his bloody name!

Pretending to be friendly, Lu Shu patted his shoulders as a form of greeting. He wanted to know his name from the background entries of distress points. However, at the moment, numerous points were being generated by the Collection of Gods and Lu Shu could not be certain which one was his! It seemed that too much distress could bring along inconveniences too!

More importantly... Man, who are you? Are you working for Nie Ting to find joy for me? It was hard for me not to think along those lines considering the time you came!

"Yamada, do you think we can be employed again?" the round faced man asked, "I've

only attended a funeral with Matsuura Haraichiro and now, guess what, I'm here! The internal clearing recently has affected so many!"

Lu Shu shrugged his shoulders with reservation. He replied, "But we've got no choice except for waiting for it to pass. Speaking of which, why did they send you here? I'm good doing it alone."

"Haha, you are such a shoulder-shrugging like always." The big, round face grinned.

Shrugging shoulders was Akira's habit, although Lu Shu did not notice it during his conversation with him in the restroom. It seemed to be an enforced habit just to convenience the new assumer of his role.

Just like main characters' certain traits in mangas, such as the six lines on Naruto's cheeks and the strand of standing hair on Conan's head. It served to reinforce the audiences' impression on the characters, because their facial features might be slightly off sometimes due to inherent difficulties in replication in drawings.

Thus, a specific, representative action of shrugging shoulders might help him with the transition into this new identity.

"You didn't answer my question. What are you here for? What happened?" Lu Shu asked casually.

But the man did not seem to be dismayed at being suspected. He said, "Lucky you. You came here early. Meanwhile for me, I came thanks to someone else's help. It's said that next to this warehouse there is an underground base, which has been in construction for over a year and is about to be put in use soon. Since the warehouse is so close to it, we must be working at an important place. Besides, as a Class D, I

believe they will call me back again if I behave properly. In any case, the Collection of Gods is experiencing a shortage of manpower after the death of three Class C's."

Lu Shu remained quiet, which had given the man a wrong signal. He assured Lu Shu and said, "But do rest assured. I heard that you've just ascended to Class D, and that's no big deal at all. Your time will come sooner or later so long as you train hard here."

"Oh, congratulations, then," Lu Shu replied politely yet slightly awkwardly.

And to the man, the awkwardness had once again been misinterpreted as Lu Shu's low self-esteem in front of his own wonderful achievements...

As a result, he spent the entire day talking to him and Lu Shu responded with countless shoulder shrugs. But at the end of the day, he still had yet to figure out the round face's name!

At night, they stayed in the same room. Lu Shu was hoping for some background information on the man, but the Heavenly Network did not send any...

At around 2am, the man went to the restroom. Lu Shu was delighted at the opportunity, since not many Collection of God's people were still awake to fill his screen with distress points. Thus, it would be relatively easy to find his name now.

Lu Shu got up and went to the restroom too. Then, the round face turned to Lu Shu and gave him an ugly grin. He asked, "Yo, Yamada, what a coincidence!"

Grin your foot! You would have been dead right now if not for the sake of my new identity...

They stood together in the restroom. After a while, the man had finally started peeing.

Instantly Lu Shu used his water-type powers to split the man's stream of urine into two. Lu Shu was conscious not to cause too many splits because that would seem too strange...

This time, he would certainly succeed in knowing his name! So long as he had no contact with the man's body, he had no way to know his water-type powers.

But to Lu Shu's surprise, there were no distress points produced at all, not even a small amount like 100! That's weird. Could he control his generation of distress points?

That must be a joke if it were true! No one, especially a small fry like him, could resist his collection of distress points!

Upon second thoughts, he gave up. This time, though, he was shocked to see the stream automatically split into three the second he stopped using his powers!

That caught Lu Shu off guard!

Sensing Lu Shu's startled stare, the man smirked sheepishly. "Err, recently I played too hard with those high school girls who had just entered the Collection of Gods."

Now, Lu Shu had the urge to beat him to death...

Bloody hell! You must have been sent by Nie Ting to make me distressed!

503 AN INDESTRUCTIBLE IDENTITY

Middle-aged men were really the natural enemy of water splitting powers. Lu Shu could not help but look at the round face with deep emotions.

Lu Shu thought that his move would certainly allow him to reveal his real name. But he had absolutely never thought that perhaps splitting his stream of urine into two would make him so happy. It was usually split into three streams. Why, his kidneys today are in good condition!

Interesting. Since the man would not accept such a simple tactic, Lu Shu had no choice but to change his plans.

At least he did not have to think so much for now. Once Lu Shu got serious, there was no way his image and identity would be given away!

His previous tactic was simply too mild. Lu Shu felt that he had not completely made use of his full potential.

Didn't all movie characters who had alter egos all say. "If his appearance is mysterious, it is not because he has not appeared before. It is because all those who have seen his true appearance have all died..."

This image was of such a show-off. But, Lu Shu felt that he now had this same image.

From now on, he would get rid of whoever saw through him.

The round face pulled up his pants and walked back. As he walked, he chuckled in glee. "Yamada, I heard that you are good at fighting. Even a mid-tier Class D could not defeat you. Come with me next time. Once I advance to a key Class C member, you can have a share of the sophomore girls in the organisation. They are very cooperative."

Lu Shu laughed lightheartedly. "I'll count on you for that."

On the outside he was laughing, but on the inside he was scolding the round face. Since when did peak Class D's arrogantly take in underlings wherever they went?

"Don't assume that just because my urine is split into two streams that my kidney is bad. My body is very good. I can go for several rounds in one night without any difficulties," the round face said, trying his best to salvage his image and his dignity as a man.

Lu Shu laughed. What was he bragging about? He still had the guts to brag after what had happened earlier?

The round face suddenly asked. "Is there any grease in your warehouse? What if the reserve significantly drops? Would they find out? Don't hide the truth from me. Now the two of us are in charge of guarding this warehouse. You can't hide the truth from me."

"There's no grease here. They will always do a detailed comparison when they transport things in and out of here. It's not like you don't know how serious they are with this," Lu Shu said. "Even if there was grease, would they entrust it to us, the marginalised?"

The round face gave it some thought and said. "How unlucky."

One day passed in a flash. In the long run, this would certainly cause problems. Under normal circumstances Lu Shu would usually sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star to himself. But with the round face around, he could not do so.

When they woke up the next morning, the round face wore his pants and went to the toilet without wearing his jacket. Lu Shu suddenly laughed out loud. "Already? You can't hold it in, right?"

The round face was dumbfounded and once again laid down with a crash. There was no way a man could say no!

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +69!"

The rivalry between men was very odd. The two of them simply lay there. Even as they knew it was time to eat lunch, neither of them even spoke about getting up... they even gave up guarding the warehouse...

Kawayoshi's face started to turn purple and he looked at Lu Shu. He was providing Lu Shu with more and more distress points. On the other hand, Lu Shu was not in the least pressured. As he was still young, he was strong enough to hold in his bladder. He was eagerly looking forward to Kawayoshi giving him more distress points...

To be honest, this method of earning distress points made Lu Shu feel that he had found a new way to defeat his opponent by surprise.

He had an accurate grasp of human nature. Kawayoshi had more pride and dignity in this aspect, and Lu Shu was tackling the problem at its core.

It was at this moment that someone suddenly shouted from outside the warehouse.

"Where did the people guarding the warehouse go? Is there no one?"

Kawayoshi quickly sat up and shouted. "Yes, there is, I'm coming!"

There was finally a way out for him. This time, it was not that he could not hold his bladder, but because he had work to do. However, Kawayoshi still rushed to the toilet first. The moment he relieved himself, he felt that the world was so beautiful...

Lu Shu put on his clothes and opened the doors to the warehouse. A truck had stopped in front of the warehouse. A man with a peaked cap looked at him and said. "Yamada! Aren't you usually quite fast? What happened to..."

He had not finished speaking when he suddenly felt a chill down his spine. He looked around him but there was nothing to be found.

On the other hand, the smiling Lu Shu was wondering whether the man had figured out his identity, and whether he had to get rid of the man as a result...

"Ahem," the man said. "This is the new batch of resources. After signing, do register it in the computer. Don't store these materials deep in the warehouse, lest the base next door come and take them away in two days."

Lu Shu happily signed. Two people emerged from the truck to transport 13 boxes into the warehouse. The boxes were made of aluminum and were sealed tightly.

Kawayoshi finally put on his pants and came over. He actually recognised the deliveryman and said. "Uchida! Long time no see."

The man in the peaked cap looked pleasantly surprised to see Kawayoshi. "Lord Nagaya! Why are you here too?"

"Someone took a photo of me and Matsuura Haraichiro from the Conservatives attending a funeral together. Honestly, I don't even know who this Matsuura

Haraichiro is," Kawayoshi blabbered on.

Uchida laughed. "You don't need to worry. Looking at your strength, you can immediately advance to Class C. You will definitely be reemployed then."

"Ha ha, of course," Kawayoshi laughed. He was not worried about his future at all. When Lu Shu talked to him the previous afternoon, Lu Shu had sensed that there was someone above Kawayoshi. His allocation to the warehouse was more of a rehabilitation period just for show. He was quite different from the Yamada, Lu Shu had replaced.

But Lu Shu had never thought that this Kawayoshi was actually a favoured member of the Collection of Gods!

In reality, every department head in the Collection of Gods were usually Class C key members. Under normal circumstances, once you had advanced to Class C, your treatment would be worlds apart from that of before.

Thus, in this case, it would not only result in Class C's being favoured, but also those who had the potential to advance to Class C, many would try winning them over in advance.

The Collection of Gods was now lacking in heritage. This was not only a result of Nie Ting's massacre earlier, but also because they had suffered heavy losses in the Koh Chang remains. Many key positions were still vacant.

Everyone was in an intense competition with one another. The one who first advances to Class C would have the chance to obtain a crucial department. This time, Kawayoshi's leader Takashima Tairatsu had assigned him here to conceal his abilities.

This was in order for him to quickly advance to Class C and take on a new job with an important role.

The Collection of Gods itself was very united, but there were politics everywhere. Takashima Tairatsu and Kitamura Kijitori had the same views on the surface, but on the inside they both had the intention of seizing power for themselves.

Whoever had more people on their side had greater influence in the Collection of Gods.

504 LU SHU, THE BOY WITH THE LEAST OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS IN HISTORY

The Collection of Gods' current plight was very awkward. In the early days, they had a complete inheritance and many ancient resources, allowing them to rise rapidly. As a result, they grew complacent and made many enemies.

In the past, they often fought the Heavenly Network head-on overseas. However, they had never expected that the Heavenly Network would suddenly produce two Class A's. This was simply too frightening...

If one were to single out the Collection of Gods, they would be very powerful. But the whole world knew that if a large organisation did not have a single Class A, the real stage would belong to only the four organisations with Class A's: the Golden Foundation, the Heavenly Network, the Department of Faith Theory, and the Phoenix Society.

Strength determined one's position. It had been this way since the beginning of time.

Lu Shu waited for the truck to leave before suddenly asking. "Why has the base beside us suddenly started operations?"

Kawayoshi said impatiently. "Isn't it because some strong attackers from the Heavenly Network killed so many people recently? They have to shift to a safer place to conduct some of their affairs."

Kawayoshi then lowered his voice. "For Lord Takashima to advance to Class A!"

"Oh, it would be great if Lord Takashima were able to advance to Class A," Lu Shu nodded. It seemed like he agreed with Kawayoshi, but he did not think so in reality.

The Heavenly Network had already planted spies in the Collection of Gods and would definitely know this before Lu Shu did. Perhaps the Collection of Gods was also clear that they could not conceal an experiment of such a massive scale, hence they had to move here lest the Heavenly Network came and destroyed their results.

Kawayoshi suddenly laughed out loud. "Earlier you were with Nogiwa Takenobu, weren't you? But now that Nogiwa is dead, following me is your best choice. Come join me."

Kawayoshi headed towards the dorm as he finished speaking. "You guard the outside. I'll be training."

It was as if Kawayoshi had become the boss of the warehouse, leaving Lu Shu with the manual work while he focused on training.

Behind Kawayoshi, Lu Shu was happy without any complaint. If what Kawayoshi said was true, that they could expect a day where Kawayoshi was reemployed, then the chance of Lu Shu doing things by himself was up to Kawayoshi as well...

The distress points that the Collection of Gods provided him had dropped significantly today. Lu Shu had already earned 400,000 points of the 3.2 million points needed to illuminate the seventh star. Needless to say, the character "chai" had been of great help to Lu Shu...

The girl bowed to Lu Shu and said, "Senpai, Nagaya senpai let me come here to find him."

Lu Shu was speechless. Couldn't he have a break after purposely being assigned as a warehouse security guard?! That's why your urine splits into three streams! You can't blame anyone else if you suddenly die!

Within 20 minutes, she came out of the dorm neatly dressed. She bowed to Lu Shu before leaving.

Kawayoshi came out of the dorm, looking very pleased with himself. "How was that? They come immediately when I call them!"

Lu Shu replied. "Yes, Lord Nagaya is amazing!"

"Ha ha. In the next two days I will be examining a new batch of talented students. Perhaps we will run into some good ones," Kawayoshi laughed. "You're in luck, coming into contact with me now."

Lu Shu rolled his eyes, but he could not do anything. Concealing his identity also had its drawbacks. Lu Shu really wanted to return to his original identity and beat him to death.

"Lord Nagaya, when you are reemployed, can you bring me along with you? I really

have no relations with the Conservatives," said Lu Shu.

Kawayoshi laughed. "Did you really need to ask? No worries. With your strength, putting you as a warehouse manager is a waste of talent." Kawayoshi laughed and was suddenly curious, "Hm? Yamada, I haven't seen you shrug your shoulders today..."

As he finished speaking, Kawayoshi felt a chill down his spine. He did not know why either...

Lu Shu shrugged his shoulders and said, "Ha ha, I don't shrug my shoulders all the time either."

Kawayoshi laughed. "True. What do you usually eat?"

As Kawayoshi spoke, he carefully observed Lu Shu. Lu Shu laughed. "Walk 500 metres from here. There is a snack bar on the left. I usually eat there."

Kawayoshi laughed and asked, "Hey, you were once Nogiwa Hakushun's driver and assistant, right? What kind of person was he?"

"He," Lu Shu shrugged his shoulders, "was too sarcastic. Of course I only say this because he's not around anymore. Not like I'm afraid he'll hear me though. Did you know that his wife had an affair? Nogiwa Hakushun had a fondness for locking his wife in a cage. He was so cruel."

Kawayoshi suddenly burst into laughter. "Are you serious? What an odd person!"

In actual fact this was a secret. Kawayoshi happened to know this, as he had once been assigned to investigate Kitamura Kijitori and Nogiwa Takenobu under

Takashima Tairatsu.

Kawayoshi had been suspicious of Lu Shu's identity and wanted to probe further. He did not expect Lu Shu to expose such a secret and immediately dropped his suspicion.

In fact, the Heavenly Network's intelligence was very solid. No wonder Nie Ting often knew the trends of overseas Practitioners in advance.

The resources that the Heavenly Network had provided Lu Shu with included many details that "Yamada Akira" should know, such as his daily habits, the surroundings of the warehouse, as well as some secrets of his former colleagues.

Of course, not all intelligence agents were like this. Besides, the Lu Shu was here to replace Yamada Akira, thus the information this time was more thorough.

Nagaya proudly declared, "At first I was in the same department as Nogiwa Hakushun. He was always stronger than me. Afterwards I made use of my strengths as a Class D to become the acting Head of a Department. Do you know what this means?"

Lu Shu was momentarily shocked. He said, "Does that mean Nogiwa Hakushun got promoted?" Wasn't this what he meant? In the beginning Nogiwa Hakushun was the Head of Department. If Nogiwa did not get promoted, how could you become the Head of Department?

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +666!"

According to the script, Lu Shu should have praised him for having the recognition of the bosses, as he was able to become the acting Head of Department as a Class D.

Was he fine with not following the flow of events? What was wrong with him?

Kawayoshi had never seen someone with as little observational skills as Lu Shu...

He kept silent for a long time before finally explaining. "It was supposed to be me who received rapid promotion, that's why Nogiwa Hakushun was allocated to a higher position!"

To be honest, it was Lu Shu's first time seeing someone so shameless. This Kawayoshi really thought too highly of himself.

505 FOUR TRUCKS OF GOODS!

That night, Kawayoshi refused to drink a single glass of water before going to sleep, just in case Lu Shu would propose another round of urine-holding competition with him...

Their afternoon conversation had left Kawayoshi feeling uncomfortable for a long time. Speaking of which, he had never heard that this Yamada Akira was this annoying! Secretly he messaged his friend to inquire about Yamada.

After two hours, his friend had finally replied after asking those who used to be familiar with Yamada. Indeed, Yamada's honesty had offended many, but it had also earned him Nogiwa Hakushun's favor and recognition.

In fact, it was common that leaders preferred honest subordinates, for they would not have to worry about betrayals and unnecessary dramas.

And one had to admit that Nie Ting had made the right choice of posing Yamada's role to Lu Shu.

Frankness tended to be associated with irritating behaviors. Kawayoshi dropped his suspicion upon seeing the message.

He believed that sooner or later he would be reemployed officially as a Head of Department, without the word "acting".

By then, much trouble would have been saved with an honest person following him. That feeling could probably resonate with many leaders. And Kawayoshi thought that people who were too perfect were dangerous.

Fortunately, Lu Shu was unaware of that. Otherwise, he would do his best to prove the difference between being irritating purposely and unintentionally due to straightforwardness.

Then, many days had passed in peace, and both Kawayoshi and Lu Shu were waiting for the reemployment of the former...

Everyday Kawayoshi would call different girls to the warehouse and spend a range of time with them.

One day, it was done in as short as a few minutes. Out of curiosity, Lu Shu asked him why he was so fast.

That embarrassed Kawayoshi. From that day onwards, he would insist the girls talk to him for two hours before they were allowed to leave... When they ran out of topics, it felt so damned awkward!

After two hours, Kawayoshi checked his watch and finally walked out with a look of smug satisfaction. Lu Shu looked up into the sky, wondering how many days

Kawayoshi could keep the long, awkward conversations going...

"Aren't you tired? Doing that everyday?" Lu Shu asked curiously, "After all you are no longer..."

But Kawayoshi interrupted him. "I'm still young. Just over 30. They say I look like a student."

Lu Shu studied him carefully, and suddenly found his excuse familiar because he had heard it in China too.

Nonetheless, the reality was not that simple.

Lu Shu pondered for two seconds before pointing out the truth. "You look like a student not because you are young, but that you look like a country bumpkin!"

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +777..."

Ouch! Kawayoshi decided not to continue with the conversation.

At this moment, they heard a loud roar of car engines, particularly jarring in the quiet, empty countryside. There were few residents in the region, except for a few factories.

Judging from the number of cars, they must have come for the warehouse, Lu Shu thought. But he was uncertain of who they were.

A rare look of seriousness appeared on Kawayoshi's face. He even smoothed his clothes upon hearing the noise.

In less than five minutes, a car and four trucks stopped in front of the warehouse. As a young man alighted from the car, he shot Kawayoshi a brief glimpse, which immediately made the latter scuttle forward in an obsequious manner. Kawayoshi greeted him. "What brought you here, Kuriyama-san?"

"To transport four trucks of goods directly into the warehouse. I sent 20 men for you to order around. Teacher wants complete security of these goods. Understood? They won't be stored for long, and will be carried away upon the official opening of the base next week." As he spoke, he did not even look at Kawayoshi again. Then, he took out a cigarette, and Kawayoshi immediately lit it for him.

Lu Shu's face lit up. That was Takashima Tairatsu's apprentice. Lu Shu could tell he was perhaps at the peak of Class C.

But Kawayoshi proved to be not as impressive as he boasted. He was just a lucky man who had happened to follow the right person. During their conversation, twenty men got off from the seven trucks. They locked the doors again before reporting to Kuriyama.

Upon seeing Lu Shu, Kuriyama asked, "Who is he?"

"He is Yamada Akira, mistaken to be a pro-Conservative just like me. He used to be Nogiwa Hakushun's driver and assistant, but now he follows me. It's alright," Kawayoshi replied with a grin. Then, he whispered to Kuriyama's ear rapidly, "A mere Class D beginner. No worries. I can kill him anytime if he causes any problems."

Meanwhile, Lu Shu was awaiting further instructions beside them with an innocent look.

The young man paid no more attention to Lu Shu, because a small fry like him was not worthy of his attention. Then, Kuriyama turned to Kawayoshi and said, "No errors with the goods are tolerable. Take care of yourself at night. Rest assured that Teacher did not abandon you and you will be assigned the Head of Department for Security and Defense at the new base later on."

"Thank you Kuriyama-san! Please extend my gratitude to Lord Takashima too!" Kawayoshi was ecstatic. Unlike the security manager of some random hotels, that position had real power!

At this moment, someone shouted in Japanese from one of the four trucks, "Damn you, Takashima! You are even willing to sacrifice your own people! We used to be your supporters!"

Lu Shu was dumbstruck. He did not expect the so-called goods to be Practitioners from the Collection of Gods! What's going on? Furthermore, judging from his words, he was likely to be a Jingoist!

Kuriyama's face darkened. "Drive the trucks into the warehouse, Hurry up. Nagaya, this is not your first time doing this. You know the consequences if anything happens."

506 THE COLLECTION OF GODS' HIERARCHY

Standing still at the side of the warehouse, Lu Shu watched in silence as Kawayoshi flattered the high-position man named Kuriyama. A feeling of disgust swelled up from his throat as the car drove off.

He had witnessed how the Collection of Gods spy sacrificed many lives in the Beimang remains so as to forcefully pull up his individual strength. Back then, he was

simply startled by their morbid obsession with the creation of powerful fighters.

And now, they were planning to use the same strategy and had captured so many past comrades-in-arms for the sacrifice.

Bunndai had once mentioned that the Collection of Gods superiors were hoping to accelerate the generation of a Class A through even more radical methods, in order to establish for themselves a more stable footing on the international platform. But it was not the right time yet.

Could she mean that the sacrifice might not proceed as intended due to the uniqueness of Class A?

Lu Shu was uncertain. He could only rely on his speculations.

Many people were scared of ghosts. Yet, at that instant, Lu Shu felt that people's desires were even more frightening.

After Kawayoshi casually ordered the drivers to park the four trucks in the spacious factory room, he told Lu Shu, "Sometimes things are not to be spoken. We, the errand runners, are not required to know too many things. We just do whatever we are told by the superiors."

"Sure." Lu Shu gave a nod of acknowledgment. He had no sympathy for the "goods" inside the trucks, because none of the Jingoists were free from guilt.

However, that could not stop him from deepening his hatred towards the Collection of Gods, for their unethical acts.

This time, all of the security team members allocated to Kawayoshi were Class E's, who showed complete respect towards the Class D Yamada.

Lu Shu pulled open the truck door and glanced inside. There were around ten people in each truck, lying around on the floor. They were unable to move despite the absence of any chains or shackles.

At this moment, a man retrieved a white suitcase and revealed forty syringes arranged orderly inside. Another person explained to him, "One syringe per 24 hours. This can maintain their powers and only cause whole-body paralysis."

As the liquids were injected into their carotid arteries, the goods soon went quiet, only able to move their eyeballs.

Thus, it seemed that they were capable of yelling only due to the fading effects of the drugs...

In the meantime, those men inflicted violence on the "goods", who were of much higher level than themselves. Where could they find such opportunities any other day?

Lu Shu was aghast at the evil side of humanity.

Although enraged, those goods could not even lift their fingers. Well aware of their eventual demise, the security personnel were unafraid of retaliation at all.

Lu Shu was shocked. You've even figured out the cycle of their drug resistance! How many people have fallen victim so far?!

Now, he had utterly no favorable disposition towards Nagaya Kawayoshi, Kuriyama,

and even the 20 security members. All of them were murderers.

Kawayoshi and Lu Shu, as Class D's, could do anything as they pleased, while the Class E security personnel did not dare to act even the slightest inappropriately in front of them. All of them sat around the trucks obediently to keep things in check.

This provided a glimpse into the strict hierarchy system in the Collection of Gods. In the Heavenly Network, Class E's and D's could interact with one another without any barriers.

But in the Collection of Gods, Class E's were obliged to use honorific speech when talking to Class D's.

Lu Shu asked Kawayoshi, "How are they going to eat dinner?"

Kawayoshi dismissed him with a wave. "You don't need to worry about them. Class E's are our workers. Why? Are you saying we should be their cooks?"

"But that's not right," Lu Shu replied, "We can't starve them like that."

Kawayoshi smiled and put a cigarette between his lips, signaling Lu Shu to light it for him. But Lu Shu did not respond. In the end, he had to do it himself. "You don't have to be so restricted with me. You will understand that we and they are from different classes. They won't even complain if you slap them. Believe me?"

Lu Shu's eyes suddenly beamed with joy. "Really?"

An ominous feeling emerged from Kawayoshi's heart. Then, in his startled stare, Lu Shu came up to a security personnel and gave him a hard slap. The poor man almost

fainted on the spot...

He turned two rounds due to the momentum. When he could finally stand still, his brains were still spinning in pain...

"From Seko Hironari's distress, +999..."

Another slap!

Before they could recover from the shock, Lu Shu's slap had landed on another person's face...

"From Motegi Toshimitsu's distress, +999..."

Being weaker, he collapsed to the floor and was unable to stand up again...

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +666!"

It was only meant to be a bloody joke and he had certainly not expected Lu Shu to take it seriously. Thus, before Lu Shu slapped the third person, Kawayoshi stopped him quickly. "Wait. Wait! You are being too harsh. Stop slapping them!"

Lu Shu froze. "Didn't you tell me to slap them?"

He was not done. He could have easily gained close to 20,000 distress points like this...

Kawayoshi felt like slapping himself now. What was he thinking when he cracked the joke with such a straightforward person who could not even appreciate jokes!

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +666!"

And now Lu Shu noticed that besides the two who had been slapped, the other security personnel were contributing distress points too, although to a lesser extent.

That was because they were worried for their own personal safety now. Although it was not like they had never been slapped by high-position people before, this man was too damn harsh...

They were uncertain about both the current situation and this person called "Yamada Akira"!

Meanwhile, Lu Shu realized that Kawayoshi was telling the truth. Those people did not dare to defend themselves.

At this moment, Kawayoshi received a call. "Yes, Lord Kuriyama... Okay. Right away!"

After he ended the call, Kawayoshi yelled, "The opening of the new base has been pushed forward. Buck up, everyone! The goods are to be transferred to the base NOW!"

507 DISGUISED REJECTION

Everyone in the warehouse was at the door, neatly lined up to receive their guest. After 20 minutes, Kuriyama himself arrived. Along with him was a fleet of over 20 delivery trucks.

Lu Shu counted 27 large delivery trucks. 19 of them were most likely already filled to the brim with goods.

Countless crack troops were guarding the 19 vans. They were all either beginner Class D's or advanced Class E's. Each Class D led a small team of five to patrol the vans. Their eyes were like hawks, looking around hesitantly.

But Lu Shu could not detect any waves of powers coming from inside the vans, and hence could not confirm the contents of the 19 delivery vans. Could it be that the van itself was made of a material that could suppress the waves of powers?

Lu Shu gave it some thought. If this kind of delivery needed so many people on guard, then the goods were probably worth a lot. Perhaps these were the precious resources the Collection of Gods wanted to transport to their new base.

He suddenly became hesitant. Should he get rid of everyone and take the goods for himself...

There were certainly many people around him, but they could not defeat him either.

To destroy or not to destroy, that was the question.

Lu Shu now had two concerns. Firstly, if the goods in these vans were like those sent in the afternoon, he did not know what to do. He was also not interested in the Collection of Gods and had no intention of saving them. Even if the Collection of Gods had captured people, the people were not worth the effort. Lu Shu was also not Buddha, who delivered all living creatures from torment.

He was also worried that if he got rid of this identity too quickly, it would not do justice to the amount of preparation the Heavenly Network had done.

Besides, he would accompany these goods to the new base. According to Kawayoshi, this warehouse would soon be abandoned. In the future, the new base would receive and store goods by themselves.

Till then, the goods would not run away, and his image would not be destroyed. As long as he knew where the goods were, he could simply use his mystic water to break the wall, take the goods and leave whenever he wanted.

Kawayoshi moved closer to Kuriyama and helped him light his cigarette. "Lord Kuriyama, is Yamada Akira coming along with us? I'd like to take him under my wing. He is quite honest and frank. You can be rest assured with him."

Kuriyama looked at him. "Yes, I got someone to do a background check on Yamada this afternoon. There's no problem. But instead of following you, I'd like to employ him. My assistant was killed by a wave at the battle with Oda Tokuma. If you want to use people, use them now. Pulling him onshore when he is in low spirits is sure to make him feel touched."

Kawayoshi was dumbfounded. He did not think that Kuriyama too would want to take Yamada for himself.

Which leader did not want such a subordinate? Kuriyama now had to make use of his men. Seeing that Takashima Tairatsu would soon have the opportunity to advance to Class A, the likes of Takashima would have to rise up as well. It would be extremely awkward if he did not have anyone under him then.

Now that Yamada had been cast out as a neglected character, Kuriyama's eye turned towards the left-over Conservatives as well. He did not have any major flaws. His practical aptitude was also above average. With someone like him drawing people in,

others would certainly agree to convert and join him in the future.

Kuriyama was banking on this very idea. He wanted to provide Yamada with timely help. He believed that Yamada, a neglected Class D character, would definitely be beyond grateful to him.

"What?" Kuriyama looked at Kawayoshi calmly. "Do you not agree?"

"Yes, I agree," Kawayoshi said and lowered his head. He did not dare to compete over Yamada with Kuriyama. Kuriyama was Takashima Tairatsu's most competent underling. He held power within the Collection of Gods.

"That's good. Call him over. I want to speak to him." Kuriyama laughed as he patted Kawayoshi's shoulder. He was very satisfied with Kawayoshi's attitude.

Kawayoshi approached Lu Shu with a complex expression. "Ahem, Brother Yamada. I'll be in your care from now on. Lord Kuriyama wants to speak to you."

Lu Shu was momentarily shocked. Why was the round face suddenly so polite?

In reality, Kawayoshi himself clearly understood that Yamada was a cut above the rest. He could not be offended if Yamada became Kuriyama's trusted subordinate.

Lu Shu followed Kawayoshi and approached Kuriyama. Kuriyama looked up at Lu Shu... with a superior look on his face...

"From Kuriyama Kumo's distress, +99!"

Lu Shu's height was indeed very impressive. But this did not affect his image, as the

original Yamada Akira was also very tall.

Kuriyama did not directly try to win him over. He calmly said, "What talents do you have?"

Lu Shu wondered why he had suddenly asked him this question. He could not answer him with his current talents either. He could only blindly spout nonsense. "My talent... I can do mental sums very quickly. Is this considered a talent?"

Kuriyama suddenly felt that he could not carry on with the conversation. He asked for Lu Shu's talents as an opportunity for him to show off his talents, before Kuriyama tried to win him over. What was he doing, saying that his talent was doing mental sums quickly?!

Kuriyama pondered for a long time before asking, "Mental sums? What is 1921 multiplied by 1921?"

"131," Lu Shu replied without any thought.

Kuriyama and Kawayoshi were dumbfounded.

"From Kuriyama Kumo's distress, +666!"

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +666!"

Your mathematics teacher must be rolling in his grave right now!

How could 1921 multiplied by 1921 be 131?!

Kuriyama took a deep breath. "... your answer is wrong."

"My answer is indeed wrong." Lu Shu nodded his head. "But I calculated very quickly."

"From Kuriyama Kumo's distress, +666!"

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +666!"

Kuriyama thought about it carefully. Lu Shu certainly did not hesitate in his answer. You could say he was relatively fast...

But if the answer was incorrect, there was no point being so fast!

Kuriyama lowered his face into his hands. "Nagaya, hurry up and get him to supervise the truck loading..."

Kawayoshi understood that Kuriyama had given up on his plan of winning Yamada over...

Kawayoshi brought him back to the road and grumbled. "Even if you don't want to work with Kuriyama, there is no need for you to reject him so directly! Your future is done for."

In Kawayoshi's and Kuriyama's eyes, Lu Shu was playing the fool as a disguised rejection. This was actually the result that Lu Shu had wanted. He knew that working for Kuriyama was not a role he could deal with easily. He did not have the ability to conceal like the original Yamada Akira. Who knows how much time he had spent before getting closer to Nogiwa Hakushun, and at the same time not having his

identity exposed. But how about Lu Shu?

If he forced himself to put a square peg into a round hole and got involved with Kuriyama, sooner or later problems would occur. He only needed this identity to conceal his affairs. There was not much significance for him to be by Kuriyama's side.

508 CONSPIRACY AND DECOY

A group of people nervously prepared to transport the goods. The Collection of Gods was very particular about their affairs. They first sent someone to check the stock register and calculate its size. They only started transporting the goods after they had decided on the best arrangement.

This way, they could ensure the efficient usage of the space within the delivery truck.

Lu Shu observed from the side. Kawayoshi was still shaken from the incident that had just happened. On the contrary, he was now feeling somewhat sorry for Lu Shu. "Do you know how many people have dreamed of being Kuriyama's assistant?"

"Oh?" Lu Shu looked at Kawayoshi.

"Lord Takashima may not immediately advance to Class A. Only then will he have a monopoly within the Collection of Gods. Perhaps Lord Kuriyama can be on equal footing as Lord Kitamura, precisely because he is Lord Takashima's last underling!" Kawayoshi anxiously said, "If you followed him, even if you went with the flow for some time, you can still pick your position as Head of Department. Then, you will have in your hands resources, status and a high level of skills, furthermore many women in the organisation will throw themselves in your arms."

Lu Shu kept quiet. Since he had decided that he would distance himself from Kuriyama, then there was nothing else for him to explain. The more he talked, the more mistakes he would make.

On the other hand, Nagaya did not stop talking. "I know that in the past, Nogiwa Hakushun and Lord Kuriyama had many conflicts, so now you are not willing to seek refuge with Lord Kuriyama. But now Nogiwa Hakushun is dead!"

On the inside, Lu Shu was laughing. As long as you're happy...

It took three hours before the goods in the warehouse were fully arranged. After that, everyone boarded the delivery van and moved over to the new base.

The base, which had been in the suburbs for a long time, was like a steel fortress that was completely shut. There was already a high wall outside the base, which covered a large area of land.

The time now was 11pm. The entire wall was brightly lit, with no spot left dark. In the sentry post above stood military personnel armed with knives. They patrolled the area in an orderly manner.

Lu Shu was curious. "Are we really using this base immediately because of that Heavenly King from China? Isn't he an earth element metahuman? Wouldn't it be a piece of cake for him to enter?"

"They were very particular about the underground layout. The entire underground fortress is three metres thick. Although you can't see from the outside, but it is impossible for that Heavenly King to sneak in from underground."

But this fortress was not specially built to guard against him either. He had not been here for that long, there was no way that they could build such a massive fortress in that short period of time.

In reality, each major organisation was working on their own similar project. It was said that the ground under the Luo Shen Cultivation College had a very tight steel reinforcement structure.

After everyone had realised that earth element metahumans had sneaked into an advantageous position, they prepared this for all such metahumans in this world.

Although the cost was very high, there was nothing they could do about it. No one wanted to give others an opportunity to exploit their own resources.

The security of this fortress was very strict. Even Kuriyama himself had to alight from the van to have his pass and fingerprints checked. Lu Shu believed that the security would become even stricter as they advanced to deeper areas.

As the fleet entered, the doors of the fortress suddenly opened wide. The fleet drove all the way into the fortress. As Lu Shu sat in the passenger seat, he saw how impressive the inside of the fortress was. It was like an air base in a science fiction movie. Many people wearing their work wear were busy conducting trial runs on equipment, or allocating the transport of goods and materials.

To his surprise, Lu Shu saw many non-Practitioners.

They were probably ordinary folk working for the Practitioners in the base. Lu Shu knew that many organisations employed ordinary people to do basic services. But at the Collection of Gods mansion, even the gates were guarded by Practitioners. Lu Shu had thought that there were no ordinary people inside the Collection of Gods.

But after some thought, he realised that ordinary people would still do jobs related to

science and technology, or cleaning and hygiene. These jobs did not require any combat power, and could also show the importance of hierarchy.

Lu Shu could see that the rulers of the Collection of Gods were safeguarding this very hierarchy. Whoever wanted to enjoy good treatment had to work hard and climb up the social level, surrounded by the true experts.

They approached a large door. A hundred non-practitioners wearing their work clothes hurried to open the door and helped to transport the goods in.

Kawayoshi and Lu Shu stood at the side. Kawayoshi lit his cigarette. "Kuriyamakun has handed over to me. From now on, you will follow me. In a while come with me to the underground base. Although you do not have enough strength now, but do step up your training. This place was specially selected for its abundant magical energy, which is good for training."

"Okay." It looks like Lu Shu was really infiltrating into the Collection of Gods with this one. But as for whether his strength was sufficient, it would have to wait until he beat up the likes of Kawayoshi and Kuriyama. They probably had no idea what they were facing...

It was at that moment when one of the delivery vans suddenly opened its doors. To his surprise, Lu Shu saw Takashima Tairatsu calmly walking out!

He had been hiding inside for a long time, but till now no one had realised. Kuriyama respectfully greeted him. "Teacher!" Takashima seemed to have some remorse. "It looks like our opponent has not received the news. Not making a move despite such a large decoy and such a good opportunity, what a pity."

It turned out Takashima had wanted to use these 29 vans of training resources to lure out that "earth element metahuman Heavenly King"!

What a close call! Fortunately, Lu Shu had not made a move. So Nie Ting was not the only one who liked to hide and trick people!

That being said, Nie Ting had used one-third of the Class A aptitude geniuses as bait. He was more liberal in his spending as compared to Takashima.

The good in the vans had all been transported out. Lu Shu saw that each box was neatly packed with magical stones. Just how many thousand stones were there?!

Knowing that the Heavenly Network only produced less than 200,000 magical stones per year, Lu Shu did not believe that the Collection of Gods produced more here than in his country. The Collection of Gods was also quite liberal in their spending. They just did not think that Lu Shu had entered along with them, and the plan that he had decided on was to first settle his affairs, as long as he knew where the resources were, he could come and take them any time...

Takashima glanced at Lu Shu, Kawayoshi and all those who had participated in the transport. "You all are very good."

He left after he finished speaking. Kawayoshi excitedly said, "Not even this amount of resources could lure that Heavenly King. This means that they did not even get the information! This proves that we are definitely not spies. In the future, they will do it again with us."

509 LU SHU, THE MAN OF JUSTICE

In fact, in the goods transfer exercise this time, Kuriyama had indeed included many potential key personnel on purpose. Assured about their competence, it was meant to

be a test of their loyalty.

Only after a few rounds of tests like this could the truly useful members emerge. After all, people's trustworthiness was always questionable.

The delivery truck in which Takashima was hiding in was not loaded with goods. Inside, there was only a device that automatically collected and recorded every trace of wireless signals in the region. Thus, no signal transmission could be done without his permission.

Kuriyama checked the record and did not notice anything unusual.

Therefore, Lu Shu had unwittingly earned Takashima's and his men's trust...

Maybe even Nie Ting had not seen that coming. Yamada might have been in trouble then if he himself were here, because he would have definitely tried to send out the message regarding the large-scale goods transportation.

Fortunately, Lu Shu did not need to convey the information to anyone. Did Nie Ting not ask him to think on his feet?

What a blessing in disguise...

Lu Shu found it weird, though, that things were not really going as expected... Shouldn't he be causing a nuisance now? What was he doing in the inner circle of the Collection of Gods?

Could he be assigned to counter the Heavenly Network? That would be so very interesting...

However, that was impossible. Spies were a long-term commitment and the Collection of Gods would definitely not give him the role without his pledge of allegiance.

But Lu Shu could not help but start wondering, what kind of face would Heavenly King Nie Ting don if it truly happened?

A few years ago, an American girl was traveling in Beijing. Back then, the lottery had not been banned yet. Thus, the girl went to try her luck and, surprisingly, she got the best prize.

The reward for the first prize was 50,000 yuan, second was 8,000, and third was 500.

As for the best, it was a ten-day tour to the US...

Following Kawayoshi and the rest, Lu Shu went into an elevator. Having Kuriyama's iris checked, the platform started to descend. Kuriyama glanced at everybody and instructed, "Report to the Department of Internal Affairs to record your irises. That will be your free entry pass."

Lu Shu finally let out a sigh of relief. That way, he would have the freedom of going around the place on his own.

However, it was not quite true. The underground base actually consisted of numerous floors, many of which were not accessible by normal workers like himself.

At the moment, Lu Shu was silently reciting the series of number he saw on the door of the factory room just now. There were a whole row of similar rooms, so he must

not remember the wrong number.

Lu Shu pondered, those Collection of Gods members would surely kneel down in gratitude if he could produce a box of stinky tofu right now. But he gave up the thought soon since there was no possible explanation to justify the source of the tofu...

Kuriyama reminded, "There are many female Practitioners inside the base. But, behave yourselves. I don't want anything to happen. Is that clear?"

"Yes, Sir."

"Yes, Sir."

That implied anything, including some fun, was acceptable so long as the consequence was within one's control.

Lu Shu's face remained expressionless, though deep down he felt sorry for the females in the Collection of Gods. It was truly unlucky for them that they had to survive in an environment that knew nothing about respect.

Finally the elevator shuddered to a stop. First time visitors including Lu Shu and Kawayoshi were immediately led by people from the Department of Internal Affairs to settle relevant procedures. They registered their fingerprints and irises for an access pass and collected their daily necessities and dormitory access cards.

This time, Lu Shu and Kawayoshi were again allocated to the same room. There were better rooms, of course, but they were not eligible. The hierarchy was apparent.

The double-sharing dorm was as small as around 20 square meters. It was only equipped with beds, simple furniture and a tiny television on the wall. There was not even a computer.

Lu Shu glanced at his phone and realized there was no signal. It seemed that only people of certain positions could contact the outside world from within the base.

"Every month, we can take turns to take four days off to return to Nishinokyo. Our duty is underground security. Three shifts. We work the day shifts. My monthly salary is five magical stones, and yours is three," Kawayoshi said smugly, "But don't worry. When you advance to Class C, you will have much better treatment too. And as for me, I'm afraid that's not too far away."

Lu Shu gave a nod of acknowledgment. He was a tad disappointed, for he had expected to be assigned surface work so that he could guard his magical stones well...

Lu Shu's heart itched at Kawayoshi's high pay. That fellow was freaking taking Lu Shu's stones...

"At first, Lord Kuriyama wanted to put you on the surface for warehouse security duty, but it will lower your price by mingling with those commoners all day. So, I've helped you to request for underground work with me," Kawayoshi jabbered, looking eager for Lu Shu's appreciation, "No worries. I will settle it with Lord Kuriyama soon. You don't have to report to the surface yet."

Lu Shu almost shrieked. Who the hell asked you to help me? Don't think too highly of yourself!

Thus, he said non-negotiably, "As subordinates, it is our duty to comply with our

superiors' orders. We must never act on our own wills. You don't have to persuade me, because I have made up my mind. I want to work on the surface!"

Kawayoshi was speechless.

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +666!"

Since when was he such a man of justice? Underground work came with benefits, because it was always easier to get recognition and promotion when working right beside the leaders. They could easily give them some benefits.

Why was this man so irritatingly righteous?! Which modern man would be willing to give away the benefits at hand?

What future would he have if he joined those commoners on the ground?

Kawayoshi made full use of his convincing skills. "The women up there, no matter how pretty, are still commoners. And you know it too, the marriage between Practitioners and commoners is not allowed. Besides, you won't have the time for cultivation training if you are too caught up with the basic duties on the surface."

510 THE LOYAL KAWAYOSHI

Right now, Lu Shu's only wish was to stand by his magical stones and protect them from harm...

Kawayoshi drew a deep breath. In fact, his true motive was to use Lu Shu as his work assistant so that he could be more focused on his training towards Class C.

But now his plan was toast. Kawayoshi mumbled scornfully, "Good luck staying up there then..."

Lu Shu chided him with a shrug, "Shallow people like you will never understand me. All you care about is fame and fortune."

Kawayoshi tried hard to fight back his urge to refute. How dare you talk to me this way!

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +666!"

At the moment, Lu Shu could not wait to return to the surface. But he must not behave suspiciously in any case.

Just when they exited from the Department of Internal Affairs, Kawayoshi almost jumped in excitement. In the futuristic corridor, Kawayoshi waved hi at a tall woman, his eyes glimmering. "Haha, Miss Miyazaki. Fancy meeting you here. What a coincidence, don't you agree?"

Lu Shu studied the beauty. She was wearing a normal combat training suit and her face was pretty. But she ignored Kawayoshi totally, which made him rather embarrassed.

"Who's that?" Lu Shu asked curiously.

"Lord Takashima's underling," Kawayoshi replied, "A Class C. She will surely like me when I advance to Class C and I will make Miss Miyazaki my wife!"

Lu Shu was amused. I didn't know you were so loyal to her since you keep messing around with other girls all day! He tried to comfort Kawayoshi. "Although she seems uninterested in you..."

Kawayoshi froze and prompted him to continue. "Eh? Then?"

It felt like someone was willing to give him advice in times of need, even if the advice might not be helpful.

Lu Shu smiled. "She must have spoken ill of you behind your back."

"From Nagaya Kawayoshi's distress, +888..."

Kawayoshi's face darkened at once. "Yamada, I admire your unique way of comforting..."

The next day, Lu Shu changed into his Collection of Gods uniform and took the elevator up happily. Meanwhile, in Kuriyama's office, Kuriyama laid down the document in his hand on the giant wooden table and gazed up at Kawayoshi. "You said that he proposed to go to the surface himself?"

"Yes. Sorry for troubling you to help him. Not only was he not grateful, he also scolded me for being obsessed with fame and fortune," Kawayoshi replied jeeringly.

"So unperceptive." Kuriyama sneered. "Then let him waste his time with those commoners. This is his second chance and I will not give a third."

"You are right, Lord Kuriyama," Kawayoshi said respectfully, "In fact, given his low capabilities, he would not be of much help to you. We may let him perish by himself. I was wondering, his monthly stipend of magical stones..."

Kuriyama shot him a glance. "You may keep it. You don't need to give to him."

...

On his way up, Lu Shu had been paying attention to the locations of surveillance cameras with his peripheral vision. The security of the entire underground base was strictly managed, with cameras installed at almost every crossing, let alone in the elevators.

Once he reached the surface, he went to report to the Department of Safety and Security first. To his consternation, what he was in charge of was not a specific region. Instead, he was assigned the surface security job of the whole base with 120 Class E Collection of Gods Practitioners working for him...

Even Kawayoshi was not aware of that. Actually the first door in the outside wall of the base had one of the highest security standards, guarded by three Class C's and some others. Underground, there were ten Class C's, while Kawayoshi was the only Class D among the "Heads of Department".

Thus, Lu Shu's duty was to manage the commoners, not defense against external enemies!

It was Lu Shu's first job as an officer, and surprisingly he was a Collection of Gods officer...

Undeniably, casting his identity aside, the Collection of Gods had been a really good friend to him, for providing both distress points and a job...

When Lu Shu started his tenure, he was pleased with the compliance of the 120 Class E's. Having his office directly opposite to the warehouse, Lu Shu enjoyed the peace of

guarding his magical stones. But how could he find the chance of taking the stones away?!

At this moment, a Class E carefully knocked on his glass door. Surprised, Lu Shu called him in.

The Class E walked in with an ingratiating smile on his face. "Lord Yamada, I am a diligent worker and a competent Practitioner. The previous Acting Head of Department can prove it. It has always been my dream to become the captain, but the Acting Head has left. He said he would speak to you about this before he left..."

Lu Shu shot him a brief glimpse. "He didn't tell me anything. If he has promised you anything, go find him, not me."

Lu Shu could not be bothered. He came for the magical stones, not some promotion issues.

"From Tomosaka Toshi's distress, +555..."

Then, Tomosaka clenched his teeth and passed a box to Lu Shu. "I think you must be tired due to the heavy workload on your shoulders. As your subordinate, I am concerned about your health and here is something for you."

Lu Shu was surprised. He peeked inside the box to see stacks of 10,000 yen notes. In total that should be close to one million yuan.

Was bribery so commonplace in the Collection of Gods? But the source of the money was uncertain and it could be from the exploitation of those commoners outside. Or maybe, they had appropriated public funds for personal use. In any case, there were

records of deficiency on the stock.

"Well." Lu Shu kicked the box under his table. "I see. Go back to work."

Tomosaka was overjoyed. Accepting his money meant that his request had been approved!

But Lu Shu was not the least concerned. After two days of anxious waiting, Tomosaka whispered to Lu Shu on the third day morning when the latter just arrived on the surface, "Lord Yamada, my money is not easy money..."

Lu Shu raised his brows. "But mine is."

With that, he left, leaving Tomosaka petrified on the spot.

"From Tomosaka Toshi's distress, +999!"