

71 HEAVENLY KINGS

Jiang Shuyi calmly sat on the futon beside Lu Shu while everyone turned around and looked over to the source of the voice. That sentence just now felt like a thunder in this silent room, resonating loudly within all of them.

People with tier A aptitude could complete a cycle in just three hours while tier B's could do so in one day. Everyone had clearly understood now that this 'one day' referred to just that one night of practice.

It was possible to complete two cycles in a full day of 24 hours according to logic. However, after they had gone through a day's worth of daytime training, everyone understood the issue - that their training speed in school was far slower than what it was at home.

Some of them roughly knew what was happening while some of them were still completely clueless.

But what they couldn't figure out was, how did Jiang Shuyi complete two cycles of training in just one day. This had exceeded Liu Li's progress by one fold and if they were to continue counting forward, perhaps there would only be that tier A Cao Qingci who had completed even more cycles!

Lu Shu was elated as his deskie could surprisingly startle others even without making a commotion. No wonder he was so familiar with the theory of training in a blessed location, perhaps... he had found a great place to train at!

Xi Fei looked around at all the student's facial expression and calmly said, "The training speed which I mentioned earlier was if it were to be done under standard, normal conditions. However, there are other conditions such as if one's household

area was somewhere which was brimming with magical energy."

"Locations blessed with magical energy will not only allow your training progress to be multiplied but also affect the flora and faunas in the area. This is an undeniable fact and at every one of these places, it is certainly a 100% that the energy in the area would cause an extraordinary phenomenon to happen to the flora and faunas. Student Jiang Shuyi probably had found a suitable area to train in as his household area may have been a conducive environment and such a thing is quite common. And that's why I had told all of you before that your training progress is not dependent on only your own aptitude. If someone with tier F aptitude were to be fated for it, he could even progress drastically in one shot," Xi Fei explained as everyone fell silent. So... even the places where you train at weren't all the same!

"Other than that, there are also elixirs out there. Food which grows in that area can be utilized for many different reasons and they are mostly used as elixirs. Good performing students would in time receive some of these which are regularly proportioned by the country in order to aid your training journey. Of course, using these elixirs and magic stones do warrant some side-effects and as such, we won't be supplying them in large quantities in case of any mishaps to your training.

In the end, everything boiled down to them telling us to be obedient and they would then feed us with something good!

They all understood that elixirs are partially considered as drugs but what side-effects could using these magical stones possibly have?

Who knew what kind of quantities they would be distributing the goodies at. Since Lu Shu had tier F aptitude, he could possibly forget about getting his hands on them. The entire country had over 10 thousand students which were enrolled in the Daoyuan

class and it seemed like there was no way every single one of them would be able to receive something.

At this moment, Lu Shu suddenly remembered something which was mentioned on the forum - that many caverns all around the place were being sealed off. Perhaps, could they be mining up all these magic stones?

This diamond shape definitely did not seem like its original shape. Perhaps it was carved into such a prism since its shape allowed it to be measured more conveniently.

Liu Li was originally the most outspoken and he had the highest aptitude in the class. Thus, everyone gradually considered Liu Li to be the leader of their pack as they preferred to gather around him, rather than actually obeying his commands.

There was no way the other students would listen to his instructions since every one of them had their own independent personality and neither did they owe Liu Li any favors. So why should they even listen to him? There was no such logic.

At the very most, everyone would patronize him and agree with him that he's f*cking awesome. There was no way he would remember them when he'd become successful in the future and it was also impossible for them to feel as though as they should stick together with Liu Li.

But there was indeed quite a lot of people who gathered around him. It was rumored that the people around Liu Li had already exceeded those of Li Qi's which irritated Lu Shu quite a bit and he had almost wanted to make some friends of his own as well.

However, with Jiang Shuyi showing off his dominance in the training field, everyone was dazzled by his surprising performance. All of them wished that if only this guy

was an actual chick, how great that would be...

Liu Li stayed calm as he pondered about the issue. It's not as if he was poor and since he could improve his training conditions, why not go ahead with his plan?

Upon reaching home tonight, he would have to discuss this matter with his wealthy father urgently; as to how he could find such a blessed location and reap the benefits of this extraordinary flora and faunas.

It was at this point that many ordinary people realized something, that the rich were all trying to find these places where the vegetation had mutated!

It was only up till the self-study period that Jiang Shuyi felt rather embarrassed, "It's not that I meant to hide this from you but the truth is that it's inconvenient for me to train together with you. The house that my family bought only has energy barely enough for just myself."

However, Lu Shu did not really care about it, "Keke, what level of energy does that house of yours possess? What I meant was... compared to other places."

He had asked this question purely to understand the rough idea of this concept - how abundant can the magical energy in one place get.

Jiang Shuyi thought for a while before replying, "The highest level in the entire city."

Oh, Lu Shu clearly understood now. Firstly, he understood that Jiang Shuyi's family had someone who was an important figure and secondly, he had also understood that his family was certainly quite wealthy.

Lu Shu suddenly realized that being an important figure did not have to mean that the person was from a family with an old or secretive heritage. He could possibly be... someone within the Black Coats.

Lu Shu tried investigating, "What department is teacher Xi Fei and rest in? Could it perhaps be called the Relevant Department?"

Jiang Shuyi laughed, "What do you mean by Relevant Department, it's called the Heavenly Network."

With no expressions on his face, Lu Shu replied, "It sounds so crappy?"

"From Jiang Shuyi's distress, +29!"

Jiang Shuyi thought for a while before deciding to continue his explanation, "At the top of the heavenly network, there are the Heavenly Kings. There are so few Heavenly Kings and there aren't even double digits of them right now, and they are the bosses up there."

Heavenly Kings and the Heavenly Network, so that's what they were called!

So everything they had done against the metahumans in this country was all under instructions of the Heavenly Network?

So how high were the Heavenly Kings' classes that there weren't even 10 of them yet!

How frightening!

That was why Xi Fei had mentioned before that he had yet to see a magical tool with

his own eyes but he was sure that they did exist. So were all of these magical tools in the hands of these few Heavenly Kings?

Lu Shu was even more certain that someone in Jiang Shuyi's family was a part of the Heavenly network, or else, how could he be so clear about what was going on. Hey, if the selection of members were initially all made from the army, then every Luo Cheng citizen would know that there were many troops stationed within the country, especially the artillery corps.

Perhaps someone within Jiang Shuyi's family had enlisted in the army and through this channel, joined this prestigious organization. And in this society, it wasn't normal for someone to achieve great things all by himself.

72 NIE TING

No one knew why someone so good-looking from Daoyuan class would hang out with someone like Lu Shu.

Someone from the same school as Jiang Shuyi previously said that his family background was not normal. Combined with his lead in the road of training, he seemed like a bright and shining star.

On the other hand, Lu Shu had the reputation of being unapproachable and also happened to be trailing far behind in training... Even a normal person trailing behind did not have such an extreme reputation...

But the two of them getting along was just not right!

Jiang Shuyi was unlike Liu Li. Despite his accomplishments in training, he did not plan to make use of that to rope people onto his side. If anyone were to think that, they would have guessed that Lu Shu had been roped in...

But what was so good about Lu Shu, someone of tier F aptitude? So what if he had awakened as a strength type?

Jiang Shuyi whispered a whole bunch of stuff to Lu Shu, "The magical energy in the city can't be compared to in the wilderness. There are places in the mountains rich in magical energy and it has reached unimaginable levels. So I suggest that you visit the Laojun Mountain on the weekends."

"There are also magically rich places in Luo Cheng but many people are already fighting over them. Since you have never considered about this matter, it'd be better to target places in the wild. Even though it may not be as convenient, going there once a week would make up for your lack of aptitude... I'm not saying your aptitude is bad, but... everyone has their own flaws."

His lecture went on for half an hour and Lu Shu gained plenty of useful information. But he also learned that this Jiang Shuyi, the moment he started blabbering, he was actually a bigger chatterbox than Ye Lingling!

Never did he expect that!

Lu Shu observed that Jiang Shuyi was actually a really nice person but due to his easily misunderstood gender, it was starting to drive him crazy. Although he did not know why the other party was willing to share so much with himself, he was starting to reveal his innate personality.

Jiang Shuyi thought for a moment before adding on, "Do you know about the Golden Foundation website? You should be careful when posting anything there. The Golden Foundation is okay but the problem lies in all the eyes on this forum. So if you wish to

post anything, better spend a few hundred dollars to buy a second-hand phone and a new SIM card as every phone has its own registration number. So even if you used a new SIM card with your current phone, it would not work."

That spelled more trouble for Lu Shu. Even the phone had to be changed? If not for Jiang Shuyi's reminder, he would have committed that mistake.

In fact, not many people knew about this!

By the time classes ended, the entire cohort of Daoyuan class students already knew that Cao Qingci had completed 3 cycles of training overnight, giving herself a dominating lead.

And Jiang Shuyi had also completed 2 cycles. This duo had become Luo Cheng Daoyuan class' top figures.

Some had started to wonder where Jiang Shuyi stayed and that place must be brimming with magical energy!

Outside the school gate were cars that came to pick up the Daoyuan class students. There were originally no parking lots for cars outside Luo Cheng international school gates so all the cars parked along the main road, causing a congestion. Despite that, no one did anything about it.

This was due to the importance of the Daoyuan class and its wide, mysterious connections that made the local officials unsure of how to deal with it.

But even wide connections might not suppress all of the officials' authority. In logic, the rules and regulations of many years of history would not be affected so easily.

At night, Lu Shu reached his doorsteps when he suddenly noticed over 10 men in black coats had appeared in the alley behind him.

It was 10 pm at night, the air was moist and cooling as the black coats calmly approached, as though they could alter the air around them.

All these was like the feeling of oppression taking form and anyone who witnessed it would definitely be nervous.

The scene right before Lu Shu's eyes sent chills down his spine but he was not dumb, these black coats might not be here for him!

Lu Shu regained his composure and firmly turned his key and entered the house. If these black coats were here for Li Xianyi, then not learning the art of the sword from him would have been his smartest choice yet. But if Li Xianyi could tide through the night, then that might suggest that it was okay for him to finally start learning.

The main point was to find out the relationship between Li Xianyi and the black coats!

A man within the black coats said, "Neighbour, Daoyuan class student, Name- Lu Shu, tier F aptitude, yet to have any contact with the target."

Someone behind the black coats acknowledged with an 'oh'. This person wore a black cloak and had the vibe of a mysterious night overlord.

This black cloak seemed very out of fashion with the current trend and not many would really wear such a thing. And that shade of black was like the black of the

deepest, darkest abyss.

But such a person was especially cool-looking as he or she walked down the alley with a tall-standing posture without making any sound. But judging from the eyes, this person seemed quite young.

The gang of black coats arrived in front of Li Xianyi's doorsteps as Lu Shu peeped through a small space in the window curtain.

Only to see the person wearing a black cloak look back in his direction, as though the curtain was invisible. Lu Shu felt a gush of cold wind and knew that this person was definitely not someone to mess with.

At this moment, the other party's gaze went through the curtains and locked onto Lu Shu and he smiled, before turning back to face Li Xianyi's house and exclaimed, "Lowly disciple Nie Ting, comes forward to pay respect to Elder Li!"

Lu Shu watched on from behind the curtains. Since the other party was not looking for him and did not mind him watching, there wasn't a need for him to act cowardly.

Li Xianyi replied from inside the house, "The grand arrival of a heavenly king, pardon my insufficient welcome, please enter."

Lu Shu's pupils dilated, this person... was actually one of the legendary heavenly kings!

There were many members in the organization but there were only less than 10 heavenly kings. Jiang Shuyi mentioned earlier today that each and every heavenly king was an expert and none of them was lower than Class B. Having the ability to

draw the heavenly powers, these people did not appear during the magical era, but were long in existence.

As for the other details, Jiang Shuyi wasn't sure.

If not for Jiang Shuyi, Lu Shu would not even know what these heavenly kings were about.

Class B! Even the priest in the Golden Foundation's video was just a Class D and yet, a Class B expert had just appeared!

73 THE REAL OBJECTIVE

Nie Ting. Lu Shu would surely remember this name.

He continued to look outside as he noticed that the rest of the Black Coats standing at their original position while they waited for Nie Ting, the one in the black cloak, while he had disappeared into Li Xianyi's apartment.

What did this Heavenly King wish to achieve by coming to such a small place in Luo Cheng just to visit Li Xianyi? Judging from their conversation, it seemed like... Li Xianyi was someone who had equal standing as a Heavenly King!

But the real issue was - who exactly was Li Xianyi...

Lu Shu was completely clueless as to what was going on and he had to be extremely careful in the future. Just like today, what if the Heavenly Kings and the Heavenly Network actually came here to surround Li Xianyi, wouldn't he be the one at the losing end?

Right now, he could still take his own sweet time to see what exactly was happening

and judging from the Black Coat's attitude, it seemed like they did not have the habit of randomly hurting the innocent.

The heavenly king, Nie Ting, had entered the small apartment at this moment and deeply bowed in front of Li Xianyi, "Mr. Li, I trust you have been well since we last met. Judging from your complexion, the medicine from the ruins indeed have miraculous transformation effects."

Li Xianyi smiled and replied, "News does spread fast to you."

Both parties knew what they actually meant and Li Xianyi felt rather uneasy. While the other countries were still researching up on the metahumans' market value, those within the countries were already classified under the categories of Heavenly Kings and the Heavenly Network.

And of course, there were many other organizations out there in other countries but none of them were comparable to the Heavenly Network, who had gathered everyone with supernatural powers under them.

Even if there was someone out there who had done so already, it wasn't performed as perfectly as the Heavenly Network.

Both Li Xianyi and Nie Ting kept silent. Nie Ting's pale, glistening eyes seemed to have emitted a trace of smoke under the warm, dim light.

"Everyone has their own fate. So there's no need for regrets," replied Li Xianyi as he was still reluctant to talk more, at least not until he knows the reason why Nie Ting had come looking for him.

Nie Ting nodded, "With such open-minded people like Mr. Li around, only then would the world be burdened with less hardship. I think that both of us, you and the Heavenly Network, agree with this point as well. In such an era where magical energy is returning, will Mr. Li be willing to work together with us? Our last Heavenly King position is still vacant and we cannot wait any longer."

"I don't think our causes are aligned," Li Xianyi shook his head in denial. He poured a cup of tea for Nie Ting before saying, "The Golden Foundation had already stated in their rules when they had first started, that their few major directors are not to take up any roles in any country. This is to maintain fairness and longevity for their organization."

Power is something that can easily corrupt someone. Once you have attained something before, it is difficult for you to turn back.

The moment some people wielded both authority and power, it was as if they had the whole world in their hands.

They would feel as though they had reached the highest peak in the world, overlooking everyone else and was breathing in the entire world, even feeling as though as they could revive the dead.

To Li Xianyi, the golden foundation did not represent power nor did it represent fame and fortune. It was just like an ideal country.

Perhaps for his belief, he would even fight till his last breath in a world where magic had all been exhausted.

Nie Ting pondered for a moment and laughed, "The Nie Clan does admire whatever

the Golden Foundation holds dear to heart. But since both of our goals are for world peace, we could actually work together. There are many ruins in this country that have yet to be unlocked and we, the Heavenly Network, promise you that if we were to find any medicine, we would immediately deliver it to you."

Li Xianyi calmly smiled and replied, "Life is rather meaningless if one were to live for too long."

Nie Ting had come for the Golden Foundation's power as it had existed for far too long. Even the Heavenly Network was unable to ascertain how many roots were under this unwavering, monolithic tree.

Thankfully, this huge tree had always seemed to be harmless.

But who could confirm, that it would stay harmless forever?

Nie Ting did not want to continue further as he downed the cup of tea in one mouth before closing up his cloak and turning around. While he headed towards the exit, he said, "Take care Mr. Li. The Golden Foundation wishes to protect the world which is worthy of respect but we, the Nie Clan, wishes to protect the country. Hopefully, we won't be enemies the next time the Heavenly Network and the Golden Foundation meet."

Just as he reached the exit, Nie Ting turned around once again and silently commented, "Perhaps it is not my place to say, but within this country, the only director in the Golden Foundation is you, Mr. Li."

Li Xianyi finally understood what Nie Ting's true objective was.

Trying to rope him in was a guise. One of the many reasons was to stabilize the relationship between the Golden Foundation and the Heavenly Network, and Nie Ting was even willing to promise the medicine found in the ruins in order to achieve this goal.

However, their most important objective was to inform Li Xianyi that - the major directors of the Golden Foundation were not to step onto the frontline.

Indeed, everything was to maintain the stability between them. Just one class B professional was enough to wreak havoc if he were to enter a country and crippling an entire city wouldn't even be considered a feat.

But of course, the country being attacked would not just sit back and do nothing.

Nie Ting had done all this to declare his aggression. Even if there were on friendly terms and that they had respected the Golden Foundation's ideals, their duty was to protect the country. Metahumans who weren't under their jurisdiction were not welcomed at all.

Every professional in the world was now fighting to reach class A and the moment someone does that, only then would he be considered to have reached the top of the world.

However, how easy could it be?

Nie Ting looked back towards the tattered apartment as he exited the house, "Let's go, there's more important stuff to attend to. Back to Beijing!"

Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu were both crawling around beside the window, looking out a

small slit they had opened. They saw that Nie Ting had exited from the small apartment and had left immediately.

Just as he was a distance away, Nie Ting's voice resonated once again in the night, "Take care of yourself Mr. Li, the Nie Clan will remember our promise. If we were to find any medicine from the unlocked ruins, it will be delivered to you right away."

Lu Shu suddenly wondered that didn't this Heavenly King he had just seen seem as if he was on good terms with Li Xianyi?

"Lu Shu, who is he?" as Lu Xiaoyu quietly muttered.

"One of the bosses of the Black Coats. He's a class B expert," Lu Shu quietly replied.

"When can we reach class B?" Lu Xiaoyu asked curiously.

After thinking for a while, Lu Shu replied, "Not sure, but it probably wouldn't be that long."

"Lu Shu, how many stars have you light up now. I've darkened out 4 of them," Lu Xiaoyu joyfully said.

"You're too slow, I've already lighted up 7 of them," as he replied without a shred of embarrassment, "it seems like my aptitude is better than yours."

"From Lu Xiaoyu's distress, +65."

Lu Xiaoyu grew suspicious and turned around to look at Lu Shu, "Is that the truth?"

"Of course it's the truth!" as Lu Shu replied with such assurance.

74 I'M NOT A SHALLOW PERSON!

Lu Xiaoyu still did not completely believe Lu Shu as she felt that he was always spouting nonsense. How could his aptitude be better than hers?

But Lu Shu did not stop there and continued to boast, "The first and second star can both be lighted up with just one celestial fruit. I can have the effects of 4 fruits in just one night of training, can you do that?"

In actual fact, Lu Shu had only achieved this training speed after he had completed the first nebula but this was something Lu Xiaoyu did not know. The little girl looked down in silence as she calculated her own training speed - she could only achieve 2 fruit's worth of effects in one night!

She did not speak anymore as she felt like she was wrong.

"From Lu Xiaoyu's distress, +199!"

Upon seeing Lu Xiaoyu in that state, Lu Shu felt rather sorry for her and cleared his throat, "Keke, after completing your first nebula, you can also achieve the same training speed as me."

"Really?" as her eyes sparkled.

Whether or not her abilities could become stronger was secondary to her. If her progress speed was too slow, wouldn't the distance between her and Lu Shu increase?

People would always say that if the status of the involved parties was not on the same level, the distance between them would slowly increase until they disappear from one

another's world. Lu Xiaoyu was continuously thinking that she had ought to keep up with Lu Shu's training speed in order to close the distance between them a little.

This way, Lu Shu wouldn't suddenly disappear from her life one day.

Wherever Lu Shu went, she would go as well!

Lu Shu continued with his usual training procedures that night. At that moment of time, he had reached the point where he needed only two more celestial fruits in order to light up the first star in his second nebula.

Lu Shu was looking forward to finding out what changes could lighting up the stars in the second nebula bring.

The first nebula gave him strength comparable to an E class. So what could the second nebula offer?

The night had darkened and the time then was 1 am in the morning. Lu Shu opened up his eyes in his quiet room the moment he had lighted up the first star in the second nebula. He now understood in his heart, as to what powers this nebula had to offer.

Suddenly, Lu Shu had engulfed himself in a thin layer celestial light according to his intentions. The silver-white light fluidly encircled him until he could not clearly see his own face in the mirror.

The celestial light... could finally leave his body.

Even though they were very active and could move according to his wishes in the past, these celestial light could never leave his body.

As of now, they surrounded Lu Shu as if they were a protective layer of clothing.

Lu Shu had thought that if he were to meet Liang Che again with this layer of clothing, even if the latter were to go all-out and set him ablaze, perhaps he could come out unscathed.

This thought was indeed correct as the protection the light provided him were of crucial value. If a D class, elemental-type metahuman were to stand off against him, they could perhaps be at a disadvantage.

However, the power of this celestial light would only increase according to Lu Shu's own growth in power.

So, the second nebula provided protective powers.

Having brute strength could indeed protect him from physical attacks but it definitely could not shield him from those elemental-type attacks. If someone were to set you ablaze or electrocute you, could you block these attacks with just your body? No matter how tough your skin was, it couldn't possibly insulate electricity... and now, Lu Shu's life had even more insurance.

No, it wasn't just that, Lu Shu felt that his strength had increased as well too!

It can't possibly be that this celestial map would continuously increase his strength right?

At this point, according to Lu Shu's calculation, as he progressed further into his training, his strength would follow suit as well.

The celestial map was just like the mana as described in the legends. As the powers of the stars increased, the longer he could wield the Corpse of the Dog and the stronger the protection they provided him with.

It felt as though... both long-range and short-range combat abilities were all prepared within this map and it sounded really awesome.

There was saying that even if one's magical powers were to be amazing, he would still be at a disadvantage if someone were to launch a sneak attack on him if he did not have a solid physical strength.

If someone were to assume that Lu Shu was a weak, long-range fighter just because he was wielding his flying dagger in the future, it seems like that person would be at a huge loss... and who knew there were distress points to be earned from that?

As Lu Shu was watching the news while he ate his breakfast the next day, it was being broadcasted that the head chief of the first district was visiting another country. It was at this point that Lu Shu had seen Nie Ting standing silently beside the head chief!

In the news, Nie Ting looked very calm and he wasn't wearing his black coat but in an all-black western suit. Even though he looked ordinary as he stood by the side, it felt as though he commanded a lot of deterring force.

This could be a pre-recorded clip and was only broadcasted now and as such, did not mean that this Heavenly King was already out in another country.

He was indeed an important figure.

Lu Shu suddenly felt that he should learn some swordplay technique from Li Xianyi since he seemed to be on friendly terms with the Heavenly Kings. If they weren't there to surround him, everything should be fine.

Being just a high school student, Lu Shu did not understand much and could not make up what exactly was happening from the situation. Thus, he could only rely on his own judgment to carry out his plans.

And Lu Shu's judgment was that it should be fine if he were to learn swordplay techniques from Li Xianyi.

Those techniques had to be learned, but the problem was how he could even break the question to Li Xianyi. The ideal situation would be Li Xianyi being the first to extend this offer...

Lu Shu's calculation skills were pretty accurate and anyways, no one knew exactly everything about him, not Zhi Wei, not Li Xianyi, not his classmates nor even the Heavenly Network.

He could play dumb and wait for Li Xianyi to initiate the offer once again, perhaps they could even discuss the terms of his discipleship.

Wasn't the relationship between humans as such, that whoever extended their offer first was the weaker one. Anyways, Lu Shu felt that he should not go out of his way to become his disciple.

That night, Lu Shu still had around 7000 distress points and he used them to draw 50 portions of stinky tofu for tomorrow's sales.

He could not get more even if he wanted to since his box could not contain that many of them. If he were to purchase another pushcart because of this, it wouldn't be that worth it and Lu Shu was satisfied by selling just 50 portions a day.

After his meal, Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu were trying to push the washing duties over to each other. Normally they would split the workload where Lu Shu would do the dishes on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday while Lu Xiaoyu would do it on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Both of them hated to do the dishes and they even drew out a timetable for the family in order to delegate the dishwashing duties. Lu Shu pointed at the timetable, showing that it was her turn to do the dishes since it was Tuesday.

He strictly told Lu Xiaoyu, "Can you see this, it's Tuesday. There's your name written on it here!"

Lu Xiaoyu rebelled, saying that if she could skip her duties, she did not mind changing her name.

"???"

How is such a thing even possible?

Lu Shu took in a huge breath and walked back into the house. Holding a bag of potato chips, "Do the dishes and this will be yours!"

Lu Xiaoyu eyes were fixated on it, "Fine, I'll do it! I'm the most diligent one!"

"It's because of the potato chips that you're willing to do it right?" as Lu Shu teased her.

"That's not enough, I'm not such a shallow person," as Lu Xiaoyu denied the accusation.

"Fine, then we'll start over again. With no chips, will you do the dishes?"

"Nope."

"Then with the chips, will you do the dishes?"

"Yes!"

75 WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH HIS MIND?

Lu Shu carried his box out as he went off to sell his stinky tofu, leaving Lu Xiaoyu behind to do the dishes. Lu Xiaoyu was humming as she washed the dishes, periodically looking over to the bag of potato chips on top of the counter.

After she's done with the dishes, she could have the bag of potato chips all to herself while she was watching her dramas. Thinking of such a scene had left her filled with the happiness of having such freedom!

Upon leaving the house, Li Xianyi was yet again practicing his swordplay out in the neighboring courtyard. This time, Lu Shu did not just walk off but instead, stopped to watch.

"Hey gramps, this swordplay of yours seems to be quite awe-inspiring," as Lu Shu greeted him.

Li Xianyi was shocked. Did this kid have such a high aptitude that he could spot that his swordplay was of mysterious origins?

In actual fact, when Lu Shu was engulfed in the celestial light last night, he was still worried whether Li Xianyi would be able to sense it from him. However, from this, it seemed like he could not tell at all.

This thing was just like a natural, original part of life and it wasn't any different from the usual life force and strength of a person.

Li Xianyi paused and asked, "Do you wish to learn it?"

Even though his physical condition had been great lately, he still had this sense of urgency.

His foundation had already eroded and that was a fact which cannot be ignored. But instead of choosing to run away from it, Li Xianyi had decided to face the reality.

Since things had already developed till this stage, he had to make plans for the future.

Lu Shu gave him an awkward look and replied, "I do wish to learn from you but it seems like our timings do not match and it'll be difficult."

Li Xianyi smiled and said, "Tell me your problems, I can help you solve them."

In his mind, Lu Shu's greatest trouble would be his financial situation. Even as an orphan who had to grow up whilst supporting his younger sister, he had never given up once no matter how tiring, miserable and embarrassing he felt.

As long as Lu Shu would agree to his offer, he could then provide for them and therefore, solve all of their difficulties.

Was money even an issue for him? With a wave of his hands, it could be easily achieved.

Lu Shu's eyes sparkled, "Really? Can you really solve my problems?"

Li Xianyi grinned, "Yes!"

"I'm not quite sure about your academic aspects, Gramps. How is it?"

"There's nothing I do not know," as Li Xianyi proudly claimed.

"That's great!" as Lu Shu eyes gleamed, "So my issue is that I have to spend a lot of time supervising Lu Xiaoyu's revision and I'm unable to leave her side the entire night. If you could supervise her studies in the morning, that would be great!"

Supervise Lu Xiaoyu's studies?!

So that was your hardship?! It wasn't that you were financially inadequate? Compared to what he was thinking of... It wasn't exactly the same...

Having a Class B expert to babysit a child?

Li Xianyi, "? ? ?"

"From Li Xianyi's distress, +291!"

Were the Class Bs powerful? Of course they were!

Currently, no one in this whole world had ever heard of someone reaching A class

who could link the heavens and earth! But now, a Class B expert like Li Xianyi had to babysit a child!

Lu Shu had already thought about this question a long time ago and even though Lu Xiaoyu had powers now, she couldn't possibly do without education. The education Lu Shu was referring to wasn't the diplomas or degrees but rather, a basic knowledge of oneself as he did not wish for her to be lacking compared to the other children.

As of now, Lu Xiaoyu's household register was with the orphanage and he did not have enough money to get her out, even so, a certification was needed in order to get her out.

The best result right now was to have someone to help him look over Lu Xiaoyu in the daytime or else she would be slacking around at home alone, secretly watching her dramas!

Just as Lu Xiaoyu had finished doing the dishes, she was about to eat her potato chips and watch her drama. However, Lu Shu shouted from just outside the house, "Lu Xiaoyu, Lu Xiaoyu, come out, come out."

She placed her chips down and ran out, only to see Lu Shu and Li Xianyi standing outside.

Lu Shu joyfully said to Lu Xiaoyu, "When I'm not at home, all you do is to watch your drama series. Starting from now, you will go to Gramp's house in the day and he will supervise your revision."

Lu Xiaoyu, who was already prepared to watch her series, looked as though she had suddenly received a shock, "? ? ?"

"From Lu Xiaoyu's distress, +666!"

Li Xianyi stood by the side looking at Lu Shu as he planned out everything within a moment. This child... He had not even agreed to anything yet.

Lu Shu turned around and said to Li Xianyi, "Sorry to trouble you Gramps. Please guide her along with her homework in the day and I'll be able to focus on learning the swordplay techniques from you in the night!"

Haha. Li Xianyi felt uneasy at that moment.

You don't have to learn anything anymore, your plans have already succeeded.

Li Xianyi strongly felt that he had just played into Lu Shu's hands.

It wasn't that Lu Shu was smarter than him nor was he smarter than all the opponents he had faced before.

However, even with his previous opponents, everyone played within the rules. But as for Lu Shu, you wouldn't know what goes on in his head!

"Lu Xiaoyu, if you are being disobedient, I won't cook tomato eggs for you for half a year!" as Lu Shu threatened.

At that moment, Lu Xiaoyu's face sank down towards the ground.

Lu Shu had nothing to worry about since both auntie and gramps were long-time neighbors with them and although they had yet to interact much with gramps, auntie

did seem like a good person.

Li Xianyi saw that Lu Xiaoyu could not help but laugh upon seeing his facial expression. Damn it, did this little girl really thought that this was his own idea?

Lu Shu went off to sell his stinky tofus, leaving both of them behind as they stood across each other with the fence in between them. Auntie came out of the house with the intentions to sun-dry her clothes and as she witnessed the situation, she joyfully said, "Xiaoyu, come here, auntie has made some sweet potato for you."

Lu Xiaoyu, looking like a good-for-nothing, replied, "Is it red or white inside?"

Those that were white inside were much more watery and did not contain as much starch content as the red one. As such, it wasn't as sweet and its texture wasn't as good as those that were red inside even though it had a higher cellulose content.

But she did not care so much about these and all she knew was whether or not it was tasty. Lu Xiaoyu finally decided that the existence of sweet potatoes which were white inside defies humanity. Could food which was not delicious even be considered as food?!

"Red," as Auntie smiled. She had always been rather fond of Lu Xiaoyu.

When it was time for him to actually help out Lu Xiaoyu with her homework in the afternoon, Li Xianyi finally knew much effort was needed to help look after a child. In this little girl's mind, nothing really seemed to be normal at all!

Li Xianyi had even seriously reconsidered whether his choice to teach Lu Shu swordsmanship was a right one...

There was a table standing in the middle of the courtyard and it was entirely filled with Lu Xiaoyu's textbooks and all of them were hand-me-downs from Lu Shu. On the cover page of these books, someone had neatly written the two words 'Lu Shu' and the books were already filled with notes inside.

Zhi Wei had mentioned to auntie before that Lu Shu's results were rather outstanding ever since he was younger.

Currently, it seemed like this teenager had indeed put in substantial amount of effort and soul into it and one could find from these notes.

They were written neatly in straight lines, perhaps even too straight, as his sense of stubbornness showed itself.

Li Xianyi had unintentionally opened up a mathematics textbook and saw that on the bottom of the cover page, an odd sentence was written there, "In order to kill someone, one only needs a technique with the knife, but in the endless pursuit of knowledge, one has to start from the bottom of his heart, then will he achieve glory."

This sentence definitely wasn't something Lu Shu had come up with but was this the kind of mentality a teenager in the middle school age should have?

At that point in time, was he deeply troubled by his livelihood?

Li Xianyi nonchalantly flipped through the book due to boredom and wanted to figure the teenager's inner thoughts through the notes he had written down in there. Upon flipping to the end, he had surprisingly found three tiny words written down at the bottom of the last page.

'Carry on living.'

76 LIU LI IS MY LUCKY STAR!

Lu Shu did not know what was so special about his stinky tofu. It seemed as though one would get addicted to it once they had tasted it and all those who loved stinky tofu had become his loyal customers. Perhaps, even with these 50 portions of stinky tofu, it would probably all be sold out in 10 minutes.

Luo Cheng was a rather small city. If any family were to go out on a holiday together and post something on their social circle, they would discover that they had many mutual acquaintances just by looking at whoever was liking their post.

Luo Cheng's area was small and if anyone were to discover anything delicious and had publicly announced it to their social circle, a huge group of people would then come for it.

A famous store called "Lao Wan Baked Wheat Gluten" had food which tasted rather ordinary but was a little above average in terms of their standards. In the end, after the Luo Cheng citizen had tasted it, they had changed Lao Wan Baked Wheat Gluten into a store with a prestigious image.

The hype would gradually die down and when there were fewer people who were crazy over it, their business returned back to its normal state.

Luo Cheng citizens... can wake up as early as 5 am in the morning and drive 30km out to the MJ county in order to have a bowl of Tie Xie mutton soup...

Lu Shu felt that his stinky tofu could be in the same situation now as news of it had spread far and wide.

He had met about 5 people this morning who were waiting for him even before his store had opened and left right after they had gotten their portion of stinky tofu.

If his stinky tofu were really that attractive, Lu Shu would not need to worry about his basic needs in the future. The issue was that if his business were to be like the past 2 days with only an income of about a thousand points, perhaps he wouldn't even be able to have the capital to enter the lottery draw.

He was left with over 2000 points from yesterday and with today's income of about 1000, Lu Shu was left with a total of only 3200 points.

If not for his adorable classmates, Lu Shu would have to sharply reduce the portions of stinky tofus tomorrow!

Lu Shu was packing up his box and suddenly, someone approached him and asked, "Hey boss, are there any more stinky tofus."

"From Yang Chao's distress, +49!"

Lu Shu was stunned. This... was a resentment which was caused by not being able to get a portion of his stinky tofu? Perhaps if he were to answer them in person, only then would it stir up sufficient amount of resentment towards him?

He had noticed that there were many people who were contributing distress points to him in the low tens yesterday but he did not bother about them, thinking that it was caused by the stench of the stinky tofu. But looking at it now, it seemed like there could be another opportunity!

This person's name was Yang Chao and he had already left but Lu Shu was still

staying put. Since there was still an hour until his class started, there was no rush at all!

Lu Shu sat on the foldable chair as he looked after his carrier box, which was covered up.

In just a while, yet another person asked, "Boss, are there anymore stinky tofus?"

Lu Shu opened up his box only to show that it was completely empty as he merrily replied, "Nope, all sold out!"

The passerby initially thought that Lu Shu was about to retrieve a portion of stinky tofu out from the box when he had uncovered it. In the end, the box was completely empty when he had opened it!

If the stinky tofu were all sold out, what are you still doing here? The passerby was bewildered. Were you waiting here just to tease me?! I'll call the cops on you okay!

"From Zhang Guang's distress, +110!"

Lu Shu continue to sit there, refusing to move as he had suddenly found a new way to get rich!

There were not many who had come by to inquire about the stinky tofu and some of them weren't even his returning customers. Even so, all of them were contributing some distress points to him!

Those who had not tried his stinky tofus before contributed between 10 to 60 points while those returning customers contributed even more.

After half an hour, Lu Shu had finally stood up. From today's sale of stinky tofu, he had accumulated a total of 4000 distress points in the end and including yesterday's 2000 points, he had a total of 6000.

Not bad, not bad.

Uncle Li was curious and asked, "Shu, didn't you finish selling all of them long ago? Why are you still sitting here?"

Lu Shu happily carried his box and walked off, "I just wanted to be with you guys a little longer. I'll get going, Uncle Li!"

"This child," Uncle Li shook his head and smiled, continuing to sell his breakfast food.

Reaching school, the first thing Lu Shu did was to ask Jiang Shuyi, "Have you completed yet another 2 cycles?"

Jiang Shuyi nodded in agreement and he posed another question, "So how much more did your strength increase?"

"Its 432 pounds now and each cycle increased it by 108 pounds. Teacher Xi Fei had mentioned before that the increase in strength isn't the same for everyone and it depended on a person's talent but the difference will not be that large anyway," Jiang Shuyi explained.

That sounded about right, as Lu Shu nodded. If one were to finish a stage of his training regime and his strength was increasing at a fixed quantity no matter his

apptitude, it would be more like a game instead of a training regime.

Jiang Shuyi returned the question to him, "So how much did your strength increase?"

Lu Shu was stunned as he did not understand why Jiang Shuyi would ask such a question and he subconsciously avoided stating exact figures, "It's progressing quite decently. What's the matter?"

"Oh, I'd heard from my family that the strength-type metahumans would find it hard to reach a strength worthy of an E and F class when they had first awakened. They would only continue to grow later on and even those with higher aptitudes could only reach a strength of 1200kg initially. That was why I had wanted to see what kind of situation you were in," as Jiang Shuyi explained.

Oops, Lu Shu did not know that a metahuman's strength could continue to increase after he had first awakened. He had thought that it would always stay constant forever at the value it was the moment they had awakened.

The information he possessed was indeed too few and he understood that he had to hang out more often with Jiang Shuyi.

Since he had chosen to pretend to be a strength-type metahuman, he had to act the part as well.

"You should report your awakening to Xi Fei, something good will come your way," as Jiang Shuyi reminded him.

But when Lu Shu enquired about what good will happen to him, Jiang Shuyi kept quiet and did not continue the conversation.

Lu Shu earnestly thought about what Jiang Shuyi said. Since he did mention that there would be benefits, there were no doubts about it and the Heavenly Network did not really do anything to those who had awakened in the Daoyuan class. As such, there should not be any problems.

Moreover, he had already showcased his strength to all of his classmates and hiding it from Xi Fei might be a little pointless.

That night, Lu Shu reported his case of awakening to Xi Fei during class and he was rather surprised, "How did you awaken?"

Sitting on his futon, Lu Shu replied, "It was during the arm-wrestling match against Liu Li. Class representative Liu Li really is my lucky star!"

Xi Fei was stunned, "Awakening from just arm-wrestling?"

"Yeap, everyone was there at the scene," as Lu Shu nodded.

"From Liu Li's distress, +555!"

Who the hell is your lucky star, please stop spouting your nonsense! Liu Li's face became green from shame as that statement from Lu Shu was so uncomfortable to listen to.

Everyone now knew that a loser from Sophomore Class 3 had received some blessings from arm wrestling Liu Li and had suddenly awakened. Liu Li felt rather troubled just by thinking about it!

Xi Fei nodded his head to show that he understood the situation and even noted it down onto the notebook which he carried around everywhere.

77 YOGACARABHUMI SASTRA

Lu Shu was really curious and asked Jiang Shuyi, "What exactly are the benefits?"

Jiang Shuyi pondered for a while before replying, "Daoyuan Class is going to start distributing training materials."

Oh I see, it seems like Jiang Shuyi knew that the students who awoken may be provided additional resources, that's why he made me report immediately?

I can't be sure but I'd probably find out soon.

There were recess breaks in between Daoyuan classes. They taught about "the Kinship of the Three" during class, and after class, everyone could go to the washroom or ask the teachers questions.

Around this period, students who smoked were enjoying themselves. Usually, they had to be stealthy no matter in school or at home.

But they suddenly realized that Daoyuan class did not even care about this matter!

When they wanted to smoke in the day in the past, they had to hide in the washroom. Furthermore, they had to be wary of teachers who suddenly entered the washroom.

But it was different now, no one controlled whether you could smoke in the corridors, and some teachers even stood together to smoke with you!

Not all class form teachers were like Xi Fei with that unapproachable look of his and some were in fact, rather humorous.

This was one of the problems with these form teachers who were not professional teachers but just some relevant employees. They lacked the common sense of teaching management.

These form teachers were chosen from the Heavenly network and were all ex-soldiers with a strong sense of discipline and order but their objectiveness also came on strong- in maintaining stability, imparting knowledge and looking out for any irregularities.

Of course, correcting students' morals and mindset was also required.

But all these did not include anything about banning smoking.

No one could be sure if it was good or bad and the Heavenly Network had already done a lot and to force these ex-soldiers to suddenly turn into a proper educator was an impossible task.

The idea was something like... hoping for the main cause to be achieved without many mishaps and there was no need to care about anything else.

When Xi Fei asked everyone to report their training progress, Jiang Shuyi still sped ahead with completing 2 cycles within a day and as for Liu Li, he managed to achieve 2 cycles a day too!

Curious, Lu Shu asked Jiang Shuyi, "Could it be that magically rich places like your house are common in Luo Cheng and he had already found one? Or could it magical stones?"

Jiang Shuyi shook his head, "It can't be magic stones. The security of the magical stones is even stricter than that in South Africa over their blood diamonds. And the moment these stones were carved out, each and every one was marked with its ID number and any missing one would incur questions."

So that was the case. Seemed like the Heavenly Network was emphasizing on the control over training resources. This Heavenly Network, they did not only have people but resources as well.

"So Liu Li's training speed, he must have found a rich location," Lu Shu sighed. In this society, having money could make miracles. For example, finding such a good location within a night and even still had time to complete two cycles, how effective.

"Last night someone had bought a problematic but magically rich location at a high price. The magical energy was especially rich and was a level higher than the place I'm using. I had initially wanted to buy that place but my family discovered a problem and so gave it up," Jiang Shuyi thought and said. This was a hint that the place was bought by Liu Li's family.

At this point in time, the 17-year-old Jiang Shuyi had let his guard down against Lu Shu and revealed that someone in his family had reached a higher level of practice, even being able to tell good locations from bad.

"Problematic but magically rich location? What problems?" Lu Shu was confused, how could a magically rich location have problems?

"That plot of land had a strong Yin energy which is harmful to your organs. Although training could possibly make up for it, there would still be some consequences," Jiang Shuyi explained.

"Oh, so that's what it is. No wonder I've been feeling that Liu Li's liveliness was unlike yesterday's," Lu Shu nodded to represent agreement.

Jiang Shuyi also suggested for him to find a rich location. It need not be that special but some places in the wilderness had richer magical energy than normal places.

But there was no need for that as the energy that entered Lu Shu's body would be instantly rejected by the celestial map. As for training speed... he could eat those fruits!

Other had to wait for the Daoyuan class to distribute magic stones or some kind of elixirs but Lu Shu did not as he had his own shop.

Even though this system of his was a bit stingy, but being able to provide for himself without any reliance on others felt really good.

Not having to anticipate anything from others and being able to earn his own living was exactly what Lu Shu wanted. All he needed was his handphone and his brain!

At night, the kinship of the three was hurried over and towards the end of the class, Xi Fei reminded everyone that they could start reading up on the 'Yogacarabhumi Sastra' which would be taught starting tomorrow.

Lu Shu was doubtful. Why keep talking about Daoism, would they one day start on Buddhism as well?

While classes had ended, Lu Shu suddenly noticed the girl called Cao Qingci walking alone through the crowd. The crowd would quietly make a way for her and there was

no one within a 1m radius of her.

This kind of situation happening on a girl was quite unique, which was like if atop the mountain and amidst the cloud, but no birds were around.

Lu Shu overhead the crowd's chatters and understood that this girl was from a poor family and was nothing special besides her good looks which earned her a few love letters. But overall, there was nothing much about her that stood out.

But yet after the implementation of the Daoyuan class, her Tier A aptitude had made her the focus of the school.

It was rumored that she had completed 8 cycles and would probably be the first to complete 9 cycles to make one big cycle.

Lu Shu never stopped walking as he was formally going to start learning about swordplay from Li Xianyi. Heavenly Kings, Class Bs- these terms made him very excited about the day he could become such an entity.

Just how strong was Li Xianyi, only by properly learning from him could he find out.

He had also been receiving distress points from Li Xianyi throughout the day. Although each time wasn't much, it was quite frequent, probably happened 10+ times.

This confused Lu Shu as he had no clue what was happening and so was rushing home to find out.

As he reached the alley leading up to the row of houses, he saw Lu Xiaoyu and Li

Xianyi staring at each other. Lu Shu stood there blankly and noticed Li Xianyi's resentment towards him. Could the reason of that be Lu Xiaoyu...

78 WELL-VERSED IN THE THREE TEACHINGS!

Lu Shu curiously asked the auntie who was extremely joyful, "Auntie Liu, what's happening between them?"

Auntie Liu pulled him away, "Don't bother about them. They're in a conflict now."

"If you can't do it, it means you can't no matter what, so save your breath," as Lu Xiaoyu coldly said

"What a joke. This old man here knows everything in the world and I can even solve this math question of yours. The only thing is that I can't express it in your XY method. When I was learning how to do calculations in the private school, you weren't even born yet!" as Li Xianyi said with disdain.

"How old are you?" asked Lu Xiaoyu

"81!" as Li Xianyi proudly answered.

This news was rather surprising to Lu Shu. This gramps used to be so sickly previously but Lu Shu didn't expect him to have maintained himself that well. From just his looks, he looked 50 or 60 at most.

However, Lu Xiaoyu had calmly replied, "I'm 10 this year... If you were learning how to do calculations before I was born, it means that you were learning it at 71? So you've retained grades for 60 years?"

"Who taught you how to count?!" as Li Xianyi face darkened. He just couldn't speak sense to Lu Xiaoyu since she did not even bother about logical reasoning. There

weren't such things as middle school at that point in time. Perhaps there were schools in the big cities but at the small mountain village he lived in, they only had private schools. No matter how he had tried to explain it to her, Lu Xiaoyu would always choose to ignore this issue.

This brain of hers was out of this world!

"From Li Xianyi's distress, +99!"

Lu Shu stared blankly at this income record as he was burning with questions about the matter. Was it because Lu Xiaoyu's powers were given to her by him or was it because her powers were too similar to his celestial map? And thus, when Lu Xiaoyu was to cause resentment in someone, it would add on to his side as well?

With Lu Xiaoyu's personality, wasn't it as if he had specially invited a group of party members to help him?

But back to the point, what exactly was the connection between both of their powers that such a mysterious thing could happen.

Perhaps it wasn't a coincidence that Lu Xiaoyu's powers were given by the lottery system. If this system's host required absorbing distress points in order to rise in grades, granting Lu Xiaoyu power was similar to recruiting someone to help boost his training progress.

But why was his own resentment towards Lu Xiaoyu not converted into his own distress points income... ..it was a huge loss for him no matter how he looked at it!

Watching Li Xianyi and Lu Xiaoyu in a conflict was rather amusing since someone as

old as Li Xianyi could be dragged along by Lu Xiaoyu.

One might not always become craftier as he grew older. Having a heart of child seemed rather interesting as well.

The image he had of gramps previously was rather blurred as his interactions with them were limited. As such, Lu Shu was cautious when Li Xianyi offered to teach him swordsmanship since he did not know him that well.

But after having a few words with him, Lu Shu had a whole new image of him right now.

Li Xianyi saw that Lu Shu had arrived and bitterly said, "I've babysitted this child already, now it's your turn to learn some swordsmanship from me."

"Sure," as Lu Shu smiled, "But in the future, I would still have to trouble you to supervise Lu Xiaoyu's revision in the day."

"From Lu Xiaoyu's distress, +199!"

"From Li Xianyi's distress, +199!"

Lu Shu was elated. Since Lu Xiaoyu could not train in the day, she definitely had to utilize her time properly! By placing both of them together, wouldn't Li Xianyi act as a stable source of distress points for himself?

If Li Xianyi were to find out about Lu Shu's thoughts and plans, perhaps he would cut him down in one slash!

Li Xianyi took a look at Lu Xiaoyu and took in a deep breath. After considering for half a minute, he said in a slightly deep tone, "Fine!"

Li Xianyi went back into the house as if he had just suddenly remembered he needed to retrieve something, he turned around and asked Lu Xiaoyu, "Do you wish to learn some swordsmanship as well?"

Both of these children had aptitude of Class A and above. Even though they both irked him, Li Xianyi was actually quite fond of this little girl deep down.

His series of skills was not one which was passed down through the generations as it was difficult to learn. With it being handed down to only a few people, there was only him left in this era who wielded these skills.

With two A class aptitude geniuses in front of him now who had rather decent personalities, wouldn't it be great to take them under his wing?

Lu Xiaoyu glanced over at him and said, "No!"

Li Xianyi walked into the house with a black face.

"From Li Xianyi's distress, +287!"

Lu Shu almost couldn't stand it anymore upon seeing this income record. Alright, alright, all the best Xiaoyu. Other than his stinky tofus, this was his only other stable source of income!

Li Xianyi carried a few weird-looking objects out and all of them weren't exactly huge in size but they were black in color entirely, making it difficult to tell what it was

made of. Li Xianyi then said to Lu Shu, "From today onwards, you shall carry this load throughout your everyday life. It ranges from all kinds of weight with the lightest at 30 pounds and the heaviest at 300 pounds. You'll start with the lightest first."

Lu Shu was stunned. The first thing he had to do was to carry this thing around in his everyday life? Was this to train his own physique?

Be it his own celestial map or the training method taught by the Daoyuan class, both of them could better his own physique. So why did he have to carry these things around, wasn't this training method a bit too traditional.

He thought for a while before saying, "The training method taught in the Daoyuan class could directly increase my strength."

"A training method for an ability is different from one which train's your body directly. The Daoyuan class training method is too superficial and it cannot reach the foundation of the abilities," as Li Xianyi continued, "I won't teach you anything else in that aspect."

"Didn't you say that the Daoyuan class training method wasn't great, so why won't you teach me something else?" as Lu Shu did felt that the training method from the Daoyuan class was indeed inadequate. As for increasing his physical strength, the Yinyang Kinship of the Three could not compare up to his celestial map at all. Since he had not come into contact with any other training methods, he felt that the Daoyuan class' method wasn't great at all.

Li Xianyi shook his head, "About the Daoyuan class training method, all-rounded development has its own benefits. The man called Shi Xuejin was well versed in all the three teachings, and no one understood the training methods better than he did.

Although your training methods belonged to Daoism, it also takes an approach from the Buddhism point of view. This method aims to use the teachings of Daoism to master the 7 Chakras and complete cycles. In reality, this method does not really specialize in any aspect but.... speed of completion!"

Oh, Lu Shu understood what Li Xianyi meant, but... .. who was Shi Xuejin? So the purpose of Li Xianyi making him carry these loads was to make up for whatever was lacking in his training method for abilities through cross-training?

The loads which Li Xianyi took out ranged from light to heavy and these were the things he had used before in his own training. Hastily increasing the weights would not bring any sort of effects but instead, increased your chances of getting injured.

Just as Li Xianyi was about to explain to Lu Shu as to how he should gradually the loads, he witnessed Lu Shu taking the heaviest one from him with ease... ..

79 YOU CAN JUST MAINTAIN YOUR CURRENT ATTITUDE

This was an era where both metahumans and practitioners co-existed. As the old order was demolished, a new one would appear.

The recovery of magical energy was just the opening act of the upcoming fantasy world as everything in front of your eyes- life, existence, knowledge, work, business, and the government would all undergo bizarre changes.

Whether metahumans or practitioners were better was a hot topic on the Golden Foundation forum, not to mention that the forum had just been released for 2 days.

Many jumped into the discussion of worldviews changing and anticipated the future with mixed feelings.

Li Xianyi had thought that Lu Shu was just a normal Daoyuan class student who had just been introduced to the ways of practice, and just as he wanted to tell Lu Shu how the practice was a step by step process.

Lu Shu easily lifted up a 300kg weight in front of his eyes and that weight in Lu Shu's hands seemed like a toy... During Li Xianyi's era, his teacher only allowed him to start using the 300kg weight after how long of training? 5 years? Maybe even longer.

Under the calm night sky, Lu Shu smiled, revealing a set of white teeth, "This is a little light, is there something heavier? I've awakened as a strength type."

Times had changed but Li Xianyi was not surprised but delighted, "Do you know the difference between people who have awakened and those who have not?"

Lu Shu found the question weird, how did this topic even begin and so he asked curiously, "What's the difference?"

"The Golden Foundation website only mentioned how metahumans could level up but as for instances of awakening, they revealed nothing. Training could also replace awakening," Li Xianyi laughed, "If you're a Class F strength-type, then as your training leveled you up to Class E, your strength-type abilities will also rise!"

Lu Shu was speechless. Doesn't this mean that those who awakened and underwent the same training procedures would be more advantageous?

So that was why Jiang Shuyi told him to report his awakening as the organization was planning to learn more about awakened students. Because they would be stronger after training?

Lu Shu explained his theory but Li Xianyi disagreed, "There's nothing for sure in this world. Sometimes, ten can't even compete with one and no matter the number of variances, everything can be cut."

Lu Shu thought about it and it made sense, there had always been no logic behind this world and even with a thousand changes, if there existed someone who could cut through everything, then all of it would be pointless.

"So what exactly do you want to impart to me?" as Lu Shu calmly asked.

Li Xianyi casually lifted up a piece of scratch paper on the table and the world momentarily came to peace. Even the summer cicadas that were chirping noisily had stopped.

Li Xianyi held the piece of scrap paper between two fingers, and as if it was a legendary sword, Li Xianyi swung his hand towards the ground and the white scrap paper rippled downwards, creating a deep line in the floor!

Is this... sword energy?!

...

After Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu had returned home that night, they snuggled on the sofa and chatted. He was not worried that Li Xianyi could listen to them through the walls as if he was really that powerful, he would have known about Lu Shu's secret.

Even for himself, leveling up would also heighten his senses but the increase was limited. At most, it was like recovering from short-sightedness.

Lu Xiaoyu asked curiously, "Are you going to take him as your teacher?"

That night, Lu Shu had asked if there should be a teacher-disciple ceremony but Li Xianyi said there was no rush which was actually posed as a test to Lu Shu.

Wow, you're the one who wanted to teach my swordplay so why are you reserving now?

But Lu Shu wasn't in a rush either. What Li Xianyi was teaching now was still the basics. Even the legendary training methods had not been mentioned and the only thing he did was to get up a bit earlier and head to the backyard to practice swinging of his arm to build the foundation.

This method was really antique but Lu Shu wasn't one to be afraid of toughness and did whatever was told. The sword energy that Li Xianyi demonstrated earlier had really piqued Lu Shu's interest and if everything in this world could really be cut, what a mysterious world would it be.

The celestial map had already created the 'corpse of the dog' and if nothing goes wrong, he would be getting 6 more. His system was clearly suitable for learning the art of sword.

Furthermore, every time another star in the map was lighted up, he would gain enormous strength. Instead of learning magic, he would be better off learning about swords to increase his advantage. And the strength the celestial map gave him was comparable to strength type metahumans and he was definitely not weaker than anyone.

And if awakening really was advantageous in this road of training, then Lu Shu

wasn't losing out either.

Learning the art of the sword was Lu Shu's main goal right now and any requests from Li Xianyi, Lu Shu would always do his best.

This wasn't for anyone else but mainly for the money to be able to settle down if life.

He thought before replying Lu Xiaoyu, "That should be the case sooner or later."

Lu Xiaoyu replied, "Then I'll be more polite to him next time."

From Lu Xiaoyu's point of view, where or not to be polite would depend on that person's relationship to Lu Shu.....

"Erm," Lu Shu formed a sentence in his head, "Actually.... No need to be polite, you... can just maintain your current attitude."

If Lu Xiaoyu were to be polite to Li Xianyi, then wouldn't his plan of increasing his stable income of distress points be destroyed? That cannot happen!

At that moment, Lu Xiaoyu was confused. Was this the attitude a disciple should show to his teacher?

But whatever Lu Shu said, she would obey and anyways she did not really like that old gramps.

That night, Lu Shu exchanged for 50 servings of stinky tofus and the remaining 4000 distress points were exchanged for celestial fruits. He trained until 3 am before reporting to the backyard next door as told.

At that point in time, the 2nd star of the 2nd nebula was almost completed, only needing about 4 celestial fruits worth of power.

As compared to the first nebula, the increase from 1st to 2nd star was the same. So by counting backward, each subsequent stars would need 20, 40, 80, 160, 320 celestial fruits.

This was acceptable and Lu Shu had the utmost confidence in his abilities to earn distress points.

When he arrived at the backyard, Li Xianyi was already waiting as he threw Lu Shu a sword on the verge of rusting, "1000 swings, do your best and at the same time, try to feel the changes in your muscle. If a strong man did not have full control over his own body, then he would be a fake. Details, can, in fact, determine a match."

80 JUST SURVIVING IS HARD ENOUGH

Spring was still very cold but even so, as Lu Shu put in his best efforts into every swing, his clothes were entirely drenched in no time.

He took off his shirt and continued with his strokes shirtless. From the sides, Li Xianyi suddenly asked, "Hey kid, what kind of person do you think will become someone who is strong?"

While Lu Shu was feeling the changes in his muscles as he carried on with the swings, he answered, "Someone who is strong enough to ignore all the rules in the world should be someone who is strong."

Li Xianyi shook his head, "What you're referring to is the end-point and not the process. What I'm asking is, how do you become someone who is strong?"

Before Lu Shu could answer his question, Li Xianyi took the initiative to say, "In one slash, one should be able to demonstrate confidence as high as the sky and this kind of confidence should be ingrained in his heart and in his instinct. Such confidence comes with training."

So, this was the reasoning which Li Xianyi was trying to tell Lu Shu.

With such a swift training method available, why did he have to train his sword skills just like an ordinary person? Was it through the countless swings that would let Lu Shu understand his own strength, understand what could be cut and to understand life and death?

A fast training method seemed too good to be true but it did lack the necessary process. If one was unsure of how much his strength was exactly, he would definitely be lacking that self-confidence.

Li Xianyi suddenly asked again, "If one day you would possess a huge amount of strength, would you be willing to accept a greater responsibility?"

"A greater responsibility?" Lu Shu was shocked and immediately shook his head, "My responsibility is to carry on living and to take good care of Lu Xiaoyu. If there are other responsibilities given to me by others, I won't accept it."

Deep down, he was afraid that Li Xianyi would want him to do something in the future and decided to reject him now.

Lu Shu stopped his swings as he looked over at Li Xianyi while Li Xianyi calmly asked, "But by then, you would not only be able to take good care of your little sister

but also have the power to help others."

He was no longer a child and since he had lived a poor and bitter life, Lu Shu had already developed his own views on the world, on life and even on values; and all of these views would not simply change from just a few words.

That's right. He was an orphan since young and even his parents did not fulfill their duty. So how could he let someone else lecture him about their idealistic views; this was something he could not accept.

Lu Shu handed his sword over, meaning that if he did not comply with the requests and conditions, Li Xianyi could also stop teaching him swordsmanship altogether.

Thus, he had rather not learn this swordsmanship and continue to fumble about with that mysterious celestial map of his. Perhaps it could be more tiring and perhaps he would have a slow progress. But no matter what, he wasn't willing to accept some baffling responsibility.

This was his own principles. Since he could not satisfy those requests, he wouldn't desire those swordplay techniques as well.

Li Xianyi did not accept the sword back, only to reply gently, "You don't have to go to such extremes."

This stubborn youth had struggled throughout his life in order to survive and he would reject anyone even if they were to offer him help in goodwill. Li Xianyi respected his stubbornness but it turned out to be the biggest obstacle in his future plans for Lu Shu.

The Golden Foundation had a big heart and not everyone could inherit it. If Li Xianyi

could not find someone to inherit this sole director role of his before leaving this world, perhaps it would stay vacant forever.

Lu Shu shook his head, "I do not consider myself as unfortunate and neither do I have any issues with my psychology. The tough times I've been through can't be compared to a lot of others who had it worse. But, just trying to survive in this world is already taking all I have."

"So I'm sorry but I have no plans to possess such noble dreams."

It was also at this moment that Li Xianyi realized that this young man might never be of use to the Golden Foundation. This young man seemed to be stubbornly going against the world and no matter what situation he would be in, he would much rather live life his own way than a way someone else offered him.

Li Xianyi understood that Lu Shu would never join the Golden Foundation as his beliefs were too different.

He sighed, "From today onwards, I will not be your teacher nor take you as my disciple but I can still continue teaching you."

Under Lu Shu's doubtful eyes, Li Xianyi added another statement, "I will not hold back on my knowledge but I have a condition. Don't worry, I will not let you bear some weird responsibility but I just have a personal request."

This time, it wasn't for the Golden Foundation or his own ideals, it was for this stubborn Lu Shu.

Li Xianyi was also curious how far this youngster could go by himself.

Lu Shu considered for a whole 5 mins before finally replying, "Okay."

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After finishing the swings, Lu Shu returned home to cook for Lu Xiaoyu. As the both of them ate their meals, Lu Shu did not tell Lu Xiaoyu about the disagreement he had with Li Xianyi, but Li Xianyi's willingness to impart all his knowledge and skills still really surprised Lu Shu.

A personal request in exchange for a suitable swordplay, Lu Shu thought this was worthwhile.

The breakfast was a herbal egg for each of them with a bowl of rice, and also a pancake each.

The recipe for pancakes was simple. Flour and eggs with water added were beaten till mushy, before adding some green onions and pouring into a frying pan layered with oil to be flipped and fried.

Lu Xiaoyu had always liked the shredded cake which had many layers to it but Lu Shu never could master that. The stall auntie outside had bought her shredded cakes directly from the supermarket and so he never had anyone to learn from.

There were times Lu Xiaoyu really craved for them and he had to buy some frozen ones from the supermarket to be stored in the fridge.

As Lu Shu had just left to sell stinky tofu, the light bulbs in the living room starting flickering and making noises. This was the light bulb being used to its last moments.

Lu Xiaoyu stared at the light bulbs for a while before going next door for Li Xianyi, "The light bulb in my living room is faulty, can you help me change it?"

Li Xianyi was elated and immediately agreed as he grabbed a ladder and followed Lu Xiaoyu to change the light bulb.

He had a sudden thought- since Lu Shu could not join the Golden Foundation, maybe Lu Xiaoyu would be willing to? Although Lu Xiaoyu said she did not want to learn about swordsmanship, that was under a different circumstance and children forget their grudges very quickly. The fact that she came looking for me when there was trouble was already an improvement.

Perhaps after spending some time together, Lu Xiaoyu would be willing to learn the art of swords?

Li Xianyi turned off the switch to the lights and climbed the ladder, and while he was replacing the light bulbs, he casually asked, "Why didn't you ask Lu Shu to change the light bulbs?"

Lu Xiaoyu replied as she was clearing up the plates, "What if he gets electrocuted?"

Li Xianyi, "???"