

# Story of Zhae (Jae)

## Chapter 03

The aftermath

I still can't shake the feeling, I never thought my first true fight would be so invigorating! So many fights I have had with the master, yet no matter how badly he beat me, I never had the feeling of true dread. Yet this time. I feel like I could explode into a cloud of pure joy.....Then the smell hits me, dear god. It's worse than... I actually can't think of anything that has ever come close.... and the sight the mess ....

We've been walking today, my minds been a bit out of it. During rests I used some of the Zuanshi Tounao exercises, but still I feel like in a daze. I hadn't even quite realized the Horse rider had left, maybe I did and it didn't just sink. All I can think about is the fight. What went right what went wrong(needless to say what the Master would do to me to drill out those errors). To try and focus I also make a point of finding some rocks for some Shilong practice. I just feel like going though the motions. I had barely realized when we suddenly arrived at a village in the evening. Things in the village were busy, I just wandered trying to sort my thoughts. Before I knew it, it was already evening again and I just slept. The things taken from the fight were gone, I guess they found a place in the village. We then continued along, I wonder when we'll collect the horse rider again? Apparently she wasn't in the village.

Later....

Why can't I snap out of this! This would never have fazed the master! Why can't I think of anything else! I just go along with the others. I have my mind on the one I let cut Chi Xiaojie, that should have been so easy to take care of and I wasn't dead yet! I truly miss the master's advice at this time...

Then it happened

Nearly lost the Xiaojie again! My mind entirely absent and she went and fell in the water! I got her out as quickly as possible, but of all the idiocy! WHY CAN'T I GET MY MIND STRAIGHT!

The cave

I find a shoe in the water, such an odd thing to find. They found it interesting and we changed our route(I think, where were we going?). They found a cave or something, I'm standing around waiting, moments like these the fight comes to me most vividly, every block, every strike, the 2 cuts, the potion, the failure, the rush and their retreat. Seeing the two headed giant on the floor, taking its head, that awful scent, the mess all around, the feeling of victory being overtaken by this stupid fog.

## Chapter 04

When they mention adversaries in the cave, part of me lights up, but we end up just searching about after one left to find the horse rider. I understand the need for all this, I just wish my mind wasn't so dull, another fault the master grew frustrated with and just focused on teaching me to focus my thoughts sharply if they could not be taught to bend like .... I don't know something that is particularly bendy, metaphors and simile's are a love of the master, not mine.....

They found a very important clue apparently, we are now heading back to the big city. I do not speak much, I am still trying to sort my mind. I thought maybe just time would do it and while I find it lessens, it goes far to slow!

There and back again

Now here is something to behold, the old man, impressed with what we found (I still find it such a small thing) has gone and recruited some real heroes! How magnificent they all look (well some more than others)! How full of pride they stand! I feel like part of me is waking up! This is what I am striving for! This is how it should be! Others do the uneventful legwork and then the heroes get called! I am so joyous I almost want to have a go at them right here! See how far I have come! Yet I realize there will be plenty for that when they say we are coming along to show the way and help! I can barely wait for it!

Yet then I arrive at a new twist, they desire to send Chi Xiaojie to watch for escaping enemies! I am torn! While she'll be much safer watching from a distance, I will be nowhere near to keep an eye on her! The archer will go along so part of my troubles are put at ease, but still! I also do not want to miss this fight! This glorious fight! To see what these heroes can do, to see how far I can compare!

The horse rider had been talking for a while and then she said it. I still don't know why it set me off. I was torn on this, I had only just got free from the daze and then she insults me and I react like an infant with the mind of a raging minotaur....I should leave the similes to the Master. I nearly forget what we are about to do as I toss my armor on the floor ready to fight her! Then she makes a suggestion and while I do not show my full consideration of it. I will fight later. I will need to get it out of my system. Now however. We have a cave full of enemies, heroes to match with and the need to do it quickly to make sure as few as possible can assault the Xiaojie.

I tell her to stay alive and get ready to rush in. It is the first time I realize how fast the horse rider is. Always astride it, you never see it, but she runs maybe as fast as her horse, such speed she moves with! Yet for all her speed, her method(while very effective in rendering little left of her foes) it is far too slow a method of fighting so many and I overtake her. In this fight I recapture that feeling from the fight and I now realize what I missed was the thrill of it! To triumph over such odds, with such perfection. I barely care for the few cuts and bruises, yet when I ran out of opponents the realization just how much did come over me, but it was not enough to drop me! Nay it was negligible damage to what I saw then. The sheer numbers the heroes dropped. It was. I have no words. Magnificent. Frustrating! I have so much to do! So far to go! Yet this very fact excites me as well! Is this what I can be capable of! I shall carve a story worthy of what the Master has taught me. I shall need to get back to my practice harder than ever before. I have yet much to do. Setting right the slight will come when we have both recovered. I could not be satisfied otherwise. I must ponder how to further my speed.

Yet first, I believe its time I had a good nights sleep. Its been awhile since my mind has been so clear of where I am going. It is another glorious day and many more are to come!