

The story of Zhae

Chapter 10: Not so lonely

Gifts

I am struck speechless. I had already received two of the finest short blades I've ever seen and have gone about acquiring a proper method of carrying them, they deserve no less. Yet then... I am given the sword and the armor... words fail me... proper etiquette fails me and I just tip my head to the floor... bless her she still manages lower and no face is lost...

I am overwhelmed. This blades make.. fantastic yet something about it, I can nearly feel it. The way it sits in my hand, I have never felt a weapon like that. Then though... then I try the armor, picking it up my first thought is, this can not be metal, too light, but this touch... when the Hero sees it, there's a strange look in his eyes. I begin to realize just what I have been given. While given to me in a manner different from how I received them from Li Laoshi(of course who but my master would just toss a chain shirt at my head grumbling about my inability to avoid blows, I do miss his harsh reminders sometimes), it feels with same purpose, I have no excuses to fail them anymore, I have to be better than ever! For Chi Xiaojie and the others! My technique's will not falter any longer! I am ready with renewed purpose!

The caravan

Well it's but a single wagon, though the following is quite numerous. They are our latest mission, provided by the Lao Xiansheng, nothing quite remarkable about the group, though they do have one fierce looking guard, I wonder if Cuura Nushi could match his strength... those hidden reserves she has... I am then introduced to perfume, it is a sweet smell, though I do not feel it is for me... the young miss that shows them... ahh let's me smell them, can't have them shown really... she-is-quite-nice-but-I-should-be-going-now... don't know what quite came over, I have training to do, need to ensure the safety of the caravan.

Doesn't take long this time

I've finally come to value the length of time our trips take, my failures have shown me I am too... rushed. Yet now of course, there are immediate signs of trouble, I did not spot them though, but I noticed my companions discussing of distant birds. I have to get in the proper mindset! I must admit though, I still look forward to whatever comes.

A glow and forms in the dark

Chi Xiaojie wakes me up, indeed, it took no time at all this time. Cuura Nushi heads off with the big guard to investigate something, apparently the Hero spotted something, I don't see what they refer too... Then the shadow in the bushes is spotted, I race to apprehend him, but he is allowed halted by magic... almost a pity, I wouldn't have minded a race, need to get my speed up if I ever want to match hers. I approach our trapped foe slowly, no hostility has yet been shown so I calmly request his identity, he is not forthcoming, but still no hosti.. ahh! I turn too late, but I think it's off target, an arrow, but not from him, then where? I can't find him, there is a second one, gets me too, but now suddenly a group of lights appear! I charge him with my full might, but he is an able foe! He tosses his useless weapon and tries to use his cloak as a sleight, but the master showed me this one. Our assailant, while a competent

archer, was not ready for a duel ah! I quickly turn... Chi Xiaojie is still fine and our trapped friend is being handled, I hear further sounds of battle coming from where they went to investigate and I speed off....

What magic is this?

I feel all my senses being assaulted, I think again of the perfume, but these smells are very different, but equally potent, the colors are going all over, the master warned me of the danger of such things, multitudes of bright colors, and the variety of dooms they bring, unless your mind and body are strong and quick and resilient, I discover more moving shapes in the dark, at least the colors make them easier to spot, I find many a foe, yet everyone I cut two more can be found, accursed numbers, but they fall swiftly, ah lo, my allies approach, we shall all make short work of them! Nothing can stand against us! I suddenly feel a power gripping my mind, trying to make me slow witted and drowsy, but hah ha! I shall not falter today, I have done so to much, now taste the blade of a true master!

The come down

I feel exhausted, the colors have ceased.... no further adversaries can be seen.... my friends have a worried look in their eyes, I wonder... so tired... I will rest easy tonight.....