- At the same time, a total of 150,000 Dousing Pills were brought from the palace.
- A few minutes later, after more than 100 thousand soldiers from the South Cloud Army took the Dousing Pills, they gathered outside the Royal City gate and stood in battle array to meet the enemies.
- At the same time, Darryl and the Empress and Quincy and the rest of the officials stood on top of the gate tower with solemn expressions.
- Of course, the Ghost Valley Sage was also there. Darryl had arranged for him to stand at an inconspicuous place.
- Darryl had thought about their battle strategy. He would like the Ghost Valley Sage to appear at the most critical period to shock Yang Jian and Zhang Jue. Therefore, he would like the Ghost Valley Sage to stay away from the enemies' eyes.
- The Ghost Valley Sage's calm demeanor was a stark contrast as compared to everyone else's nervousness.
- Darryl looked into the distance and took a deep breath.
- The few hundred thousand North Moana soldiers formed a neat phalanx and slowly approached the city. The soldiers held their long sabers that glinted under the sun, and its cold light made people cringed.
- Yang Jian was in the frontline; he was in golden armor as he gripped his Tri-point Double-edged saber in his hand. He had a smile on his face.
- Zhang Jue, Ambrose, Eira and many other generals trailed behind him closely.
- Yang Jian was about a hundred meters away from the city gate; he raised his hand and waved. The few hundred thousand North Moana soldiers immediately stopped in their tracks.
- Yang Jian looked at the Empress before his eyes fell on Darryl.
- "Young Man, you have lost so many battles before this; why aren't you giving up yet?" Yang Jian sneered as he looked at Darryl derisively. "My Military Adviser, Zhang Jue, is a powerful man.

You'd have no chance of winning against him. You should give up."

Yang Jian's handsome face was full of confidence when he said that.

Since Zhang Jue joined the North Moana, their army had won repeatedly. They were invincible. Darryl's army had been defeated in the previous battles, and they had fled in embarrassment. They could not even turn the tide.

"Really?" Darryl chuckled before he said, "What if I don't want to give up?"

Yang Jian's face sank as he coldly said, "You're too full of yourself."

Then, Yang Jian waved his hand.

Ambrose immediately strode out and shouted a command at the soldiers behind him. "Bring them here."

Pitter-patter...

More than a thousand people had been broken into groups, and the North Moana soldiers escorted them to the frontline. Those groups included the old, the weak, women and even children. They all looked dejected and desperate.

The Empress, Quincy and the civil and military officials were furious when they saw how their enemies treated those people.

Yang Jian wanted to use those people as a human shield; it was a disgusting move.

Darryl's eyes were blood-red; he clenched his fists and trembled as anger consumed his heart.

Darryl was frustrated. He could not put any of his strategies in place because he was worried about those people's safety. That was why he experienced repeated defeat. Darryl was annoyed and furious to see Yang Jian repeated the same trick.

A day ago, Darryl had ordered the soldiers to warn those people who lived in the outskirts of the Royal City that the North Moana Army was about to attack, and they could seek shelter away from the battle.

However, the civilians were not willing to abandon their homes. It was a pity to see them fall into such a state.

"Ambrose!"

Darryl reacted and shouted at Ambrose. "It's inhumane to threaten the people's lives to attack the city. Yang Jian has given up on his humanity to occupy the nine continents. You're only contributing to the atrocity if you help him in battle. It's not too late for you to get out of it now.

"Ambrose, I know that you hate me. I have wronged you and your mother. I have never taken care of you since you were a child. I've also never taught you anything, but I believe that my son is not a bad person. I know that you're kind.

"Leave the North Moana Army and come with me. Let's go to the New World Continent and pick up your mother, okay?"

Darryl looked at Ambrose earnestly when he said that; anticipation glistened in his eyes.

Darryl did not really feel anything when he first saw Ambrose working for Yang Jian. However, when he saw Ambrose lead the soldiers to threaten the innocent civilians, Darryl realized that he could not let his son continue that way.

Ambrose was still young, so Darryl could not let him hang around the vicious Yang Jian.

Eira, who was with the North Moana Army, bit her lips and whispered to Ambrose, "Brother...
Listen to Dad; let's not work for Yang Jian anymore."

Eira was a kind-hearted young woman; she had wanted to leave the North Moana Army when she saw how Yang Jian threatened the civilians' lives. She could not keep quiet anymore after Darryl had spoken to Ambrose.

"Sister, please be quiet," Ambrose said as he shook his head.

Darryl felt anxious when Ambrose did not respond to him. He called out again, "Ambrose-"

However, Ambrose interrupted Darryl before the older man could say anything else.

"Shut up!" Ambrose did not understand Darryl's pain at all. He roared, "Whatever I do has nothing to do with you, so don't try to tell me what to do. You might have given me life, but that doesn't mean you are a qualified father. Spare me your life principles."

Ugh!

Darryl looked bitter, and he did not know what else to say.

He always thought that Ambrose's resentment toward him was only temporary. He did not expect Ambrose to hate him that much.

Quincy, who stood next to Darryl, could not take it anymore. She stepped forward and shouted at Ambrose, "Hey, Kid! Your father is teaching you life principles. How can you talk to him like that? You're so harsh with your words! He's your father. How can you do this?"

Quincy would have never stood up for Darryl if it had happened much earlier.

However, after she saw Darryl's elixir refinery skill, she had changed her opinion toward him. She could not hold it in anymore after she saw how Darryl's son talked back at him so unpleasantly.

What?

Ambrose was stunned. He looked at Quincy from a distance and then sneered, "You are the South Cloud World's eldest princess. Even though you have a noble status, why are you interrupting me

when I talk to him?"

Ambrose's tone became colder as he continued to say, "You might be a princess, but to me, you are only a vixen by Darryl's side. You are not qualified to talk to me, let alone to teach me how to live."

"You-"

Quincy's expression changed; she trembled in anger.

Darryl thought it was funny to see Quincy like that; he did not continue to persuade Ambrose.

Then, Darryl looked at Yang Jian and said, "Yang Jian, you are a well-known figure in all nine continents, yet you resorted to using the civilians as a wall of defense. You probably don't feel anything, but I'm so ashamed of you."

Darryl sneered and said, "Let these people go if you're a man. We won't use any formations; let's just fight. How about that?"

Darryl appeared calm on the surface, but he was quite nervous.

If he had spoken to Yang Jian that way previously, he was simply seeking death.

However, the Ghost Valley Sage told Darryl to lead Yang Jian's army to the wilderness in the northern part of the Royal City; they should wait for the volcano to erupt. Hence, Darryl wanted to provoke Yang Jian to lead him there.

The entire North Moana Army was silent as Darryl spoke!

The generals behind Yang Jian looked at each other; they were inexplicably shocked by Darryl's words.

After a moment of silence, all the generals burst into laughter!

"What nonsense is he spouting? Does he want to fight against His Majesty?" They continued to laugh.

"Yes, how could he do that? He has been defeated over and over again."

"This kid has been defeated so many times before this. Has something gone wrong with his brain after all his failure?"

The North Moana Army continued to ridicule Darryl; no one cared about what he had just said.

He was only a young man who had spoken out of turn as he tried to confront Yang Jian. What a joke! How could the South Cloud Army possibly beat the North Moana Army without any formations?

Everyone laughed.

Yang Jian also laughed when he looked at Darryl contemptuously. "Young Man, what are you talking about? Are you going to fight me?"

Mockery laced Yang Jian's tone.

Even though Darryl was quite powerful, he was nothing in Yang Jian's eyes. Yang Jian was sure that he could take Darryl out within three moves.

"Yes!" Darryl nodded earnestly; he pointed to the wilderness to the north of the Royal City. "Let's go there and fight to avoid hurting any innocent people. Yang Jian, do you dare to take up this challenge?"

Darryl's heart almost leapt out of his throat when he uttered the last sentence.

Yang Jian was an atrocious man. He had never played by the rules, and he might insist on attacking the city gate if he disagreed with Darryl.

Mmm?

Yang Jian took a deep breath as he looked at Darryl quizzically. He did not immediately respond; he only muttered in his heart.

'This man has always been cautious and never doing anything he's unsure of. What's going on? Does he feel overly confident because he has the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower?'

Even if there were elites in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower, Yang Jian's North Moana Army

was still not afraid of the South Cloud Army!

"Your Majesty."

However, Zhang Jue stepped forward with a complex expression and said, "Darryl is a treacherous man. If he wants to fight in the wilderness, he must have something up his sleeves. Therefore, your Majesty should not be deceived by him."

Zhang Jue stole a glance at Darryl solemnly.

Even though Zhang Jue had defeated Darryl in previous battles, none of them was an easy win.

If Zhang Jue did not use those poor civilians as a wall of defense, no one could predict the victor.

Zhang Jue admired Darryl, and he saw him as a strong opponent. However, he knew that something was not right when Darryl wanted to fight with Yang Jian.

"Military Adviser, I think you're worried unnecessarily."

Yang Jian did not take Zhang Jue's reminder seriously. Instead, he brushed it off with a smile. "This young man is at the end of his life. It is impossible to turn the tide. Even if he had plotted something, it would not do any harm to us."

Yang Jian firmly believed that Darryl's trump card was the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower.

Zhang Jue said nervously, "Your Majesty—"

However, he could only say two words before Yang Jian interrupted him.

"Military Adviser, please say no more. I have already decided to fight with Darryl," Yang Jian said decisively; his eyes flashing with confidence. "This young man is the South Cloud World's last hope. If I can kill him in front of everyone else, I can destroy the South Cloud Royals' psychological defense completely."

Yang Jian kept his eyes on Darryl as his deep voice echoed throughout the entire Royal City.

"Young Man, I shall fulfill your wish since you want to die with dignity."

Then, Yang Jian waved his hand at Ambrose, a signal for him to let the civilians go.

Ambrose did not hesitate. He immediately told the soldiers to release those civilians.

Darryl sighed in relief when he saw that Yang Jian had kept his promise.

After they released the civilians, Yang Jian ordered the army to head to the wilderness to the north of the Royal Cty.

Darryl also did the same—he told the South Cloud Army to get to the wilderness quickly.

The few hundred thousand soldiers from the South Cloud Army and North Moana Army faced off in the wilderness. The war flags flapped in the wind, and it was the same with the long sabers. Intense killing intent filled the space between the heavens and earth.

The Empress' smooth, jade-like hands clasped tightly as she observed the battle from the top of the city gate. Her delicate face looked worried and tense.

The battle would conclude the South Cloud World's destiny—they had to succeed.

Quincy stood next to Darryl. She had her eyes locked onto Darryl as she prayed.

'Please succeed.'

Meanwhile, on the battlefield in the wilderness.

Yang Jian's figure was suspended in the air; he held a Tri-point Double-edged saber as domineering arrogance filled him.

The next second, Yang Jian focused his eyes on Darryl and sneered, "Young Man, how do you want to die?"

It was apparent that Darryl did not have any chance of winning, no matter if it was a battle between the two armies or a duel. The only difference was that Darryl could have chosen a different way to die.

Darryl smiled after he heard Yang Jian's words. "Yang Jian, you are too confident. Why are you so sure that I will die today? What if I don't?"

"You talk too much!"

Yang Jian snorted coldly. He did not want to say anything else, so he waved his arms. "Listen up! Destroy the South Cloud Army and leave no one behind."

"Kill!"

The few hundred thousand North Moana soldiers made a sky-shattering howl as they charged toward the South Cloud Army.

Darryl did not panic at all. Instead, he shouted, "Listen up! Don't panic. Just do as you were told; try to contain them and don't exert yourself."

That was right; Darryl had issued an order when he summoned the army earlier. He told them not to go all out in the battle. All they had to do was to wait for the volcano to erupt.

The South Cloud Army obeyed Darryl's order. They did not attack the enemy. Instead, they cooperated and tried their best to keep the North Moana Army under control.

"Hey, Young Man!"

Yang Jian looked at Darryl and mocked him coldly, "Stop this meaningless resistance. It's useless. I will win today, and South Cloud Royal City will be mine. You don't have any chance. Just give up!"

Buzz!

Yang Jian waved his Tri-point Double-edged saber, and it made a sound. Then, a stream of golden light launched an appalling attack at Darryl.

F*ck!

Darryl's heart shook when he felt the terrifying attacking power of the stream of golden light. Before he could think about it, he quickly urged his internal energy and summoned his Heavenly Halberd. He placed the Heavenly Halbern horizontally in front of himself to evade the attack!

Darryl had displayed all of his internal energy; he knew Yang Jian's strength well, and he did not dare to let down his guard.

Bang!

The stream of golden light slammed against the Heavenly Halberd—Darryl let out a muffled grunt. His body was thrown about 100 meters away before it fell to the ground heavily.

Thud!

His face was pale the moment he landed, and he spouted a mouthful of blood. His heart trembled as he glared at Yang Jian.

F*ck!

It was as one would expect from Grandmaster Erlang—Yang Jian's strength was atrocious. Darryl could not ward off the attack even after he mustered all of his internal energy.

Fortunately, he was protected by pure energy. Otherwise, he might have died from the brutal attack.

"Darryl!"

"Prince Consort..."

The Empress, Quincy and the civil and military officials screamed when they realized that Darryl was injured. They were worried about him.

Yang Jian's strength was too terrifying. Even if Darryl could handle the battle temporarily, could he last until the volcano erupted?

"Dad!"

Eira, who stood on the other side, also trembled. She watched Darryl closely. She was both worried and nervous about the situation.

Eira wanted to stop the war, but she was powerless to do that.

"Young Man!"

Yang Jian stared at Darryl with absolute confidence. He spoke proudly, "I told you that I'd conquer the South Cloud Royal City today. You can't stop it with your strength alone. Don't you have the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower? Summon all the elites from the tower. I'm looking forward to a killing spree today!"

Yang Jian walked toward Darryl slowly as he tightened his grip on the Tri-point Double-edged saber.

His powerful breath of aura filled the whole world.

Gulp!

- Darryl swallowed his saliva discreetly as he stared at Yang Jian. He was amused.
- 'Yang Jian actually thinks that my trump card is the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower... This is interesting.'
- Darryl wiped the blood from the corners of his lips and lifted himself into the air again. He sneered at Yang Jian, "As expected from Grandmaster Erlang, you are powerful and admirable. Since you have spoken, then I'll do as you wish."
- Darryl raised his hand and waved—a golden light flashed on his palm, and a golden pagoda immediately appeared!
- It was the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower!
- Then, upon Darryl's command, the elites from the first four floors of Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower whistled out, one after another!
- "Bradley, Pang Tong, Yuan Tiangang, King Rufous Bear and all of you—listen up! Defeat Yang Jian now—quickly!" Darryl shouted; he sounded extremely desperate.
- Even though there were so many powerful people in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower, it did not help when they had to fight against Yang Jian's few hundred thousand troops.
- Furthermore, when Darryl fought against Yang Jian, he sensed that Yang Jian's strength was much stronger than previously.
- Yang Jian had opened the Underground Treasure Chamber before he sent his troops to conquer the other continents. It was a site where Emperor Hou Yi kept his treasures, and it had wealth from all over the world. Some time ago, Chang Er had guided Darryl into the Underground Treasure Chamber to get the Imaginative Image Pill to heal Lily's face.
- After Yang Jian opened the Underground Treasure Chamber, he took many elixirs from there; that was how his strength improved by leaps and bounds.

"Yang Jian, just give up!" The two sides were furious during the face-off, and Bradley roared. He mustered his internal energy and charged toward Yang Jian.

Buzz...

At the same time, Yuan Tiangang, King Rufous Bear and others followed closely behind. In only a moment, dozens of powerful figures surrounded Yang Jian; they were as fast as lightning!

"Well, well, well..."

Yang Jian sneered as he glared at Bradley and the powerful people around him; his handsome face wore a menacing look. "Darryl is too naive if he thought that he could use all of you to turn the tide. Not only will I break through the South Cloud Royal City today, but I'll also have the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower!"

Buzz!

A terrifying breath of aura exploded from Yang Jian. The surrounding air seemed to have gone stagnant.

The horrifying breath of aura suppressed everyone there.

However, Yang Jian was not as confident as he was previously. After all, the elites from the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower were not ordinary people. Fortunately, his strength improved tremendously after he took some elixir pills from the Underground Treasure Chamber. Therefore, he was not flustered at all.

What?

Bradley and the others frowned; they looked solemn when they felt Yang Jian's powerful breath of aura. However, they were not too panicked either.

Bradley stepped forward with his hand clasped around his double maces. He stared at Yang Jian and growled, "Even if you could reach the sky, I'll still kill you if you're evil!"

Then, Bradley dashed toward Yang Jian.

At the same time, Yuan Tiangang, King Rufous Bear and the others also discharged their internal

energy and fought alongside Bradley against Yang Jian.

The Empress and the others on the city gate nearby were extremely shocked when they had happened.

It was an unprecedented battle, one that had not happened in thousands of years.

Yang Jian, Bradley, Yuan Tiangang, Pang Tong, King Rufous Bear and the rest levitated mid-air. Every single one of those people was a famous figure at some point in time; they were known for their ability. Therefore, everyone on the battlefield had an eye-opening experience as they watched those figures fight.

F*ck...

On the other hand, Darryl, who sat cross-legged on the ground, tried to regain his internal energy discreetly. He was also extremely shocked at the sight of the battle.

Darryl knew that Yang Jian could handle those elites who besieged him. Bradley and Yang Jian had dueled about a month ago—both of them had incomparable strength.

It was terrifying to see that Yang Jian's strength had improved so much in only one month.

Half an hour passed in the blink of an eye. Nevertheless, Bradley and the other elites still could not subdue Yang Jian.

Yang Jian laughed.

He sneered at Darryl as he continued to fight against Bradley's group. "Young Man, I told you that you would not be able to turn the tide even if you used the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower. I'll conquer the South Cloud World today. It is God's will." He laughed again.

Darryl did not respond to him; he glanced at everyone around him.

He noticed that the South Cloud Army could not keep up with their defenses anymore; many of them were in pools of blood. Darryl was anxious.

F*ck!

'We had fought so fiercely aboveground, did we manage to affect the magma's movement? There is still no sign of a volcano eruption...'

'No way. I can't wait any longer. The only way now is to make a massive movement and get the volcano to erupt quickly!'

Darryl thought about it and took a deep breath. Then, he yelled at Yang Jian, "Yang Jian, if you think that Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower is my trump card, then you're sorely mistaken.

"My real trump card is this."

Buzz!

Suddenly, the air condensed around Darryl as a terrifying force permeated from his body!

"Immortal Energy Palm!"

Darryl chanted coldly. The next moment, things began to change between the heavens and earth.

Loud thunder echoed from the sky; then, there was a loud bang!

Darryl folded his hands together and closed his eyes. Then, his body shot upward to the clouds like a huge cannonball! He had disappeared from everyone's sight in the blink of an eye!

"What is he doing?"

"Has he been forced to perform his final trick?"

"Where is he? Where did he go?"

Many people, especially those from the North Moana Army, muttered in confusion. At the same time, they looked up toward the sky to catch a glimpse of Darryl. However, Darryl's figure had penetrated the clouds and disappeared.

The North Moana Army was nervous while they anticipated what would happen next.

They could sense the condensing of a terrifying force in the clouds above them!

What?

Yang Jian also looked up at the sky. He frowned; there was a complicated look on his face.

'This move— This seems to be a stunt from the famous general—Zhao Yun. It is the Immortal Energy Palm.'

Yang Jian was a phenomenal person—he was the well-known Grandmaster Erlang. He knew of

- many elites, including the famous general, Zhao Yun.
- Yang Jian was surprised.
- It looked like Darryl was a capable man. Not only did he know Emperor Hou Yi's Thousand Wood Mystery Formation, but he also knew Zhao Yun's feats. He was a rare talent, indeed.
- It was a pity that such talent was not in his camp. So, Yang Jian would have to get rid of Darryl as soon as possible to avoid any troubles in the future.
- Yang Jian made up his mind. He looked around him and yelled, "Listen up! Spread out far and wide, quickly!"
- Yang Jian recognized the trick that Darryl had pulled was from Zhao Yun's book; he was well aware of its power.

Pitter-patter...

- The North Moana Army acted immediately; they quickly retreated to the side.
- Likewise, the South Cloud Army also went off into the distance without any hesitation.

Buzz!

- As soon as both sides of the armies moved apart, Darryl appeared in mid-air. He descended from the sky with his right arm stretched outward!
- He was going extremely fast—almost like the speed of a meteor. A long crack appeared in the air wherever he passed. The crowd was extremely shocked as they watched from a distance!

Boom!

The shadow of Darryl's palm grew more prominent, and finally, dust particles floated everywhere the moment his palm struck the ground.

Darryl's palm had made a one-thousand-meter-wide palm print as if a huge invisible mountain had struck the ground from the sky.

Hiss!

The North Moana Army and South Cloud Army felt chills down their spines when they saw what had happened. Their heads buzzed as they drew in breaths of cold air to calm their nerves.

Everyone was surprised at how much power the palm attack had.

It was too powerful!

However, the North Moana Army reacted—they burst into fits of laughter.

"This palm attack is really powerful, but what a pity that no one was killed!" Laughter ensued again.

"His Majesty knew the destructive power of this palm attack and told us to spread out. What a waste of energy for that man to do all that!"

"That's right! Who cares about its power if it does not hit anyone?"

The North Moana Army continued to mock Darryl, but he pretended not to hear them. His figure slowly descended from the sky as his eyes landed on the huge palm print.

Yang Jian chuckled.

He sneered as he looked at Darryl in the eyes contemptuously.

'So what if he knows Zhao Yun's stunts? It's a pity that he ended up with empty hands because of me.'

Then, Yang Jian stopped with the nonsense and commanded, "Listen up! Kill everyone with the South Cloud Army. Kill all of them!"

Yang Jian thought Darryl had used all of his tricks; there was no need to waste any more time.

"Kill!"

The North Moana Army picked up its strength and made a sky-shattering roar as they dashed toward the South Cloud Army like an aggressive tide in the ocean.

The panicked South Cloud Army looked at each other.

However, Darryl was not nervous at all—he even smiled. It did not matter if he did not hit anyone with the palm attack as long as it triggered the volcano eruption! Darryl could see that cracks had started to appear on the ground where the huge palm print was; hot flashes of light shone through the cracks.

What?

Yang Jian noticed that something was wrong; he frowned.

"No!" Zhang Jue, who stood at the back, was terribly shocked. He was about to shout out a warning, but it was too late. The volcano was about to erupt!

Boom...

Just as the North Moana Army reached the giant palm print, they heard a violent roar from under their feet. Then, the ground shook violently.

Huge cracks had appeared in front of them as hot magma spurted from the cracks. It looked like dazzling pillars of fire from a distance.

Darryl knew what was about to happen, so he quickly recalled Yuan Tiangang, Bradley and the other elites back into the Seven Treasures Exquisite Tower before the magma erupted.

The South Cloud Army, who had taken the Dousing Pills in advance, also quickly retreated. Even if splashes of magma touched them, they would not be harmed because the Dousing Pills would keep them protected.

The North Moana Army, on the other hand, was not so lucky.

"What-"

The North Moana Army was caught off guard by the magma's sudden eruption. Many soldiers howled in pain as the magma splashed on them before they turned into ashes. Their battle formation immediately collapsed. The soldier's shrieks and groans continued to echo; the air was quickly filled with the smell of blood and burning ashes.

Buzz!

Zhang Jue was shocked; he immediately mustered his internal energy and drew a protective film. He managed to protect the people around him, including Eira and Ambrose.

Yang Jian was still in mid-air as he looked at the collapsed North Moana Army formation below him; his face turned pale and ugly.

Yang Jian was not afraid of the magma at all, but he was furious when he saw his invincible North Moana Army had been burned to ashes by the magma.

"Withdraw! Quickly withdraw from this land!" Yang Jian roared angrily.

He still needed his army to conquer the other continents with him. They could not be destroyed yet.

Wow!

The North Moana Army fled hurriedly in a frenzy.

Even though they were quick to respond to Yang Jian's command, more than half of them were already buried in the magma.

Those who escaped were also severely burned; they could no longer fight. Thus, Yang Jian had suffered a significant loss.

As for the South Cloud Army, they had taken the Dousing Pills and coupled with Darryl's perfect command, they had managed to leave the dangerous area with very few casualties. Only a few hundred soldiers had suffered from minor burns.

Wow!

The Empress, Quincy, as well as the civil and military officials, were extremely excited.

'Great, the plan is successful!'

Darryl threw his head back and laughed. He mocked Yang Jian proudly. "Yang Jian, I told you that I wouldn't die today and you won't be able to conquer the Royal City. What do you think? Are you convinced now?"

Yang Jian's eyes were extremely red. He glared at Darryl and roared, "Young Man, I am not worthy of my name if I don't kill you today!"

Yang Jian was in a rage when he saw his men had suffered severe injuries!

"Your Majesty! Kill him!"

Zhang Jue shouted from behind. "If you don't take him out, he will cause more problems for you in the future."

It was scary that Darryl knew that there was magma under the ground, and he had cleverly used the advantage of the terrain to defeat the North Moana Army. Such an opponent was too terrifying. Zhang Jue claimed to be familiar with astronomy and geography, but he failed to notice the magma under the ground.

"No, don't kill my father..." Eira whispered as he trembled anxiously.

Buzz.

Yang Jian did not hesitate—a terrifying aura burst from his body. He glanced at Darryl as he held onto his Tri-point Double-edged saber tightly.

Yang Jian did not care to find out how Darryl knew that there was magma under the ground. He had only one purpose—he had to kill Darryl.

Yang Jian was even more determined after he listened to Zhang Jue. Yang Jian realized that it would be impossible for him to unite and rule over the nine continents as long as Darryl was alive.

Darryl must die even if Yang Jian failed to conquer the South Cloud Royal City.

F*ck!

Darryl was shocked when he felt Yang Jian's strong killing intent. He turned and ran.

He knew that Yang Jian was determined to kill him. He would be dead if he did not run.

Whoosh!

Darryl dashed back to the city gate and shouted, "Ghost Valley Sage, it's time for you to show up."

Darryl sweated profusely when he shouted that; he was relieved to have the Ghost Valley Sage with him.

Fortunately, Darryl had the foresight to beg the Ghost Valley Sage to stay. Otherwise, it would be hard for him to escape Yang Jian's wrath even if he had protection from the elites like Bradley and Yuan Tiangang.

Soon, the Ghost Valley Sage walked out slowly before he stood beside Darryl.

Yang Jian, Zhang Jue, and everyone in the North Moana Army had their eyes focused on Ghost Valley Sage.

'What?'

Yang Jian's body shook after he saw the Ghost Valley Sage. He immediately stopped in mid-air as he stared wide-eyed at the Ghost Valley Sage.

'That's the phenomenal Ghost Valley Sage?'

Yang Jian felt that his brain buzzed as he went into a state of stupor.

As a peerless fighter who had lived for thousands of years, how could Yang Jian not know of the Ghost Valley Sage? The man had influenced the world for thousands of years!

Hiss!

Zhang Jue froze in his spot and drew in a sharp breath of cold air.

He could not believe his eyes.

'Is that the Ghost Valley Sage?'

When Zhang Jue established the Yellow Turban Rebellion and brought havoc to the world, he had always sailed through it easily because he read the Ghost Valley Sage's art of war. Even though the Ghost Valley Sage did not take Zhang Jue as his disciple, he revered the sage more than his own master.

So, Zhang Jue was taken aback when he saw the Ghost Valley Sage appear so suddenly in front of

him.

Soon, Yang Jian and Zhang Jue snapped back to their senses. They looked at Darryl with conflicts in their eyes.

'This is impossible...'

'Darryl is so young. How could he possibly know Ghost Valley Sage, an ancient phenomenal person well-known all over the nine continents?'

The old man who stood next to Darryl had a strong aura, especially his unique temperament. They could not be wrong—the old man was the Ghost Valley Sage, indeed.

Yang Jian and Zhang Jue saw that the Ghost Valley Sage stood next to Darryl. Even though the Ghost Valley Sage looked indifferent, it was clear that he approved of Darryl. The two obviously had a close relationship.

"Yang Jian!"

Finally, the Ghost Valley Sage looked at Yang Jian and said, "It is atrocious for one to start a war for no reason and to threaten the civilians into attacking the city. Even if you are powerful, no one will respect you for that. Ultimately, you will not be able to unify the nine continents."

Then, the Ghost Valley Sage's gaze fell on Zhang Jue. He said, "And you, although you are very talented in the art of war, you're way too extreme and brutal. If you don't return to the right path in time, you won't end well. I'm done with giving advice; you should withdraw your troops."

The Ghost Valley Sage looked calm and unperturbed after he finished the last sentence.

With his temperament, he would not have said anything to Yang Jian.

However, since he had promised to help Darryl, he had to do it well.

- "Thank you, Ghost Valley Sage, for your advice," Yang Jian responded embarrassingly.
- Yang Jian was haughty and arrogant. He only feared a handful of people in the world, and the Ghost Valley Sage was one of them.
- Zhang Jue trembled. He bowed to the Ghost Valley Sage and said respectfully, "I will always remember your teachings."
- Zhang Jue no longer displayed the cold arrogance he had previously. Instead, he was extremely courteous. Who dared to be so presumptuous in front of the Ghost Valley Sage? Besides, it was an honor to be taught by Ghost Valley Sage. Everyone else in the world could only dream about it.
- After that, Yang Jian turned around and shouted, "Listen up! Withdraw from the South Cloud World."
- Then, Yang Jian looked at Darryl begrudgingly.
- Yang Jian was unwilling to withdraw his troops when South Cloud World was almost within his reach.
- However, he had no choice. The god-like Ghost Valley Sage had aided Darryl; Yang Jian would be humiliated if he chose to continue with the battle.

"Hold on!"

Darryl yelled as he got down the city gate tower and stopped in front of the North Moana Army.

The agitated North Moana soldiers looked at Darryl with resentment.

- 'His Majesty has agreed to withdraw the troops. What more does Darryl want?'
- Yang Jian frowned as he looked at Darryl coldly with displeasure.
- The Empress and the civil and military officials were stunned. They held their breath as they wondered what Darryl wanted with the man.

'Is Darryl trying to catch hold of Yang Jian because he has the Ghost Valley Sage's support?'

Even though Yang Jian was fearful of the Ghost Valley Sage, he was still a peerless elite who had been famous for thousands of years. It might not end well for Darryl if he were to push Yang Jian into a corner.

"Young Man!"

Finally, Yang Jian reacted; he looked at Darryl coldly. "What do you want?"

Yang Jian tried his best to restrain the anger in him. 'F*ck! I'm withdrawing the troops and my plan to attack the city because of my respect for the Ghost Valley Sage. Is Darryl trying to stop me from leaving?'

If Darryl made an unreasonable request, Yang Jian decided to kill him even though the Ghost Valley Sage would still be there.

After all, he was the Grandmaster Erlang; he would not allow anyone to trample over him.

Darryl remained calm even when he felt Yang Jian's anger.

Then, he pointed at Ambrose and Eira and said, "Your soldiers can leave, but the two of them will have to stay here."

Whoa!

After Darryl said that, both the North Moana Army and people from the Empress' side were surprised. They were stunned.

It turned out that Darryl had stopped the North Moana Army from leaving because he wanted to keep his son and daughter.

Yang Jian was also stunned, and then he chuckled. He looked at Darryl and said, "It's totally up to your son and daughter if they would like to stay with you. This is your family affair. What has it got to do with me?"

Yang Jian remarked scornfully.

At the same time, there was a glint of mockery in his eyes.

Darryl took a deep breath and looked at his son. "Ambrose, the battle is over. Don't be stubborn; stay here with Eira, please?"

Before the war had ended, Darryl had channeled all his energy to deal with the North Moana Army; he had no time to worry about his two children. After they had defeated their opponent and the situation was stabilized, he would not let his son and daughter leave with Yang Jian.

"Darryl!"

Ambrose glared at Darryl coldly. "You don't have to waste your time talking to me. I won't stay, not today. Also, wherever I go in the future has nothing to do with you, got it?"

Ambrose said in an unwavering tone.

Uh...

Darryl was embarrassed, and at the same time, he was anxious.

'Why is this kid so defiant?'

"Brother-"

Eira went over and took Ambrose's arm in her hand as she said softly, "Let's stay with Dad. He has apologized to you more than once. Even if he had done something wrong before this, let bygones be bygones. Can't you forgive him?"

Ambrose looked sullen. His eyes flickered irritably, but he did not reply to her.

Eira bit her lips and continued to persuade Ambrose. "We have been fighting with him all this time; can't you see that he cares for the wellbeing of the world. He is not from the South Cloud World, yet he is here to help them to stop the war. Aren't you happy to have a father like him?"

"Cares for the wellbeing of the world?"

Ambrose felt as if someone had rubbed salt on his wound that he had buried deep in his heart. He was agitated; he sneered, "Yes, he is ambitious and broad-minded. He has to take care of so many people in the world, but what about my mother? What is my mother to him? She gave up her

beautiful youth and waited for him for years. What did she get in return? His ignorance for more than ten years!

"He protected these strangers, but he could not even be bothered to protect his own woman!

"Even though I grew up in the palace and my father protected me, I was not called a prince. Instead, everyone called me a b*astard growing up! Once, they even framed my mother and paraded her on the street. It rained heavily that day, and they tied my hands and dragged me behind the carriage. I felt so cold and so scared; I thought my mother and I were dying.

"Darryl, when my mother and I needed you the most, you were not with us. Now I have the ability to protect her, yet you are here to tell me that you are my father? Pfft!

"Tell me, are you worthy to be called my father? Are you worthy of the title?"

Ambrose got more irritable as he spoke. His body trembled, and his eyes were bloodshot. He was practically yelling the last sentence.

'Are you worthy?'

Those words hit Darryl's heart fiercely like an invisible sledgehammer.

Darryl's eyes immediately reddened when he heard Ambrose. He was in distress.

"I'm sorry, Ambrose!" Darryl's tears streamed down his cheeks; he could not take his eyes off Ambrose. Then, he said bitterly, "I'm sorry. You and your mother have suffered all these years..."

Darryl finally understood why his son hated himself so much.

It turned out that even though Ambrose grew up in the palace with enough clothes and food, he had suffered a great deal of mental damage.

Darryl felt guilty and heartbroken.

There was a moment of silence inside and outside the entire Royal City.

Eira looked at Ambrose with a blank expression; she was at a loss for words. She thought Ambrose was pitiful.

'It turns out that my brother had suffered so much when he was a child...'

When Eira and Aurora left the Emei Sect and started to wander the world, they had no place to stay permanently. However, Aurora was powerful. Eira had never been bullied by other people when she was under Aurora's protection.

When she realized his irritation, Eira finally understood that her brother and she had grown up in very different environments. He had developed a hatred for their father because of the mishaps that he had gone through. The deep-rooted issues were not something they could resolve in a short period.

"Sister!"

Ambrose calmed down a little and turned around to look at Eira; he said thoughtfully, "If you want to stay, you can stay. I will leave with the North Moana Army."

Ambrose did not even look at Darryl when he said that.

His old memories and emotions had been awakened; he did not even want to see Darryl, let alone stay with him.

Eira bit her lips and took Ambrose's hand. "Brother, please don't be sad. I'll go with you."

Eira walked past the army slowly. When she was in front of Darryl, she whispered, "Dad, I can't stay with you for now. Brother is still emotionally unstable, so I'm afraid that he will hurt himself. Don't worry. I will try to persuade him."

Mmm!

Darryl forced a smile and nodded; he felt bitter.

His daughter was so well-behaved and sensible. He would not worry too much about Ambrose if Eira could stay by his side.

Eira did not say anything else before she returned to Ambrose.

"Listen up!"

Yang Jian, who watched the family drama like a joke, raised his hand and roared, "Evacuate!"

Yang Jian glanced at Darryl and sneered at him. "Young Man, I admit that you are a talented man, and you are also fortunate. However, your life is a mess."

Yang Jian had almost gotten the South Cloud World in his hand, but Darryl had destroyed his plan. Yang Jian was also furious because Darryl had the Ghost Valley Sage; that was why Yang Jian dared not act rashly. He was aggrieved that he was forced to retreat.

Yang Jian ridiculed Darryl to vent his anger when he noticed his love-hate relationship with his son.

He laughed heartily after he threw the last line. Then, he led his army away slowly.

Darryl kept his gaze on Ambrose as his son left with the North Moana Army. As Ambrose's back disappeared into the distance, Darryl felt extremely bitter and inconsolable. He felt as if he wanted to cry.

'So what if we won this war? Ambrose still refuses to forgive me and treats me like an enemy...'

'After all this, I'm still a loser.'

Finally, the North Moana Army completely disappeared into the distant mountains and forests. Then, they were no longer in sight.

Yeah!

Everyone in the entire Royal City, as well as the South Cloud Army, cheered. Some even cried with joy.

"Great! Finally, the North Moana Army has retreated."

"We won! We won!"

"Woo, we don't have to be slaves..."

The loud cheers continued to come from the people; Darryl was the only one who felt differently.

The faces around him were filled with excitement and smiles. However, Darryl's mood became even more melancholic. His heart was as cold as the constant wind that blew from the north.

'Ambrose hates me so much. How can I win his heart?'

"Alright."

Just as Darryl felt sad, the Ghost Valley Sage walked forward and said, "Things have settled here; I'll be leaving soon."

Before Darryl could respond to that, the energy in the Ghost Valley Sage stirred. In a flash, he was a few hundred meters outside the city. He had moved at an incredible speed. It was a rare sight in the world.

Hiss!

Darryl gasped at the unusual event.

'Oh, my goodness. He's a few hundred meters away in the blink of an eye. What kind of skill is that?'

The Ghost Valley Sage was worthy of his title as a phenomenal person—he had magical skills.

Everyone there also looked at the Ghost Valley Sage in amazement. They were shocked and speechless.

His skills were beyond terrifying.

They could never imagine that.

Before everyone could react, the Ghost Valley Sage had disappeared, as if he had never been around before that.

Darryl reacted; he bowed in the direction where the Ghost Valley Sage disappeared. At the same time, he shouted, "Thank you for your help. It is my pleasure to see you off."

Darryl said that from the bottom of his heart.

Darryl had been desperate; he even made preparations to evacuate the Royal City and gave up on the South Cloud World and the Empress and Quincy. The Ghost Valley Sage's appearance had restored the situation.

Who would not be convinced by his ability to turn the tide?

Suddenly, the civil and military officials and the South Cloud Army saluted in unison. "It is our pleasure to send the Ghost Valley Sage off." Their voice shook the sky and reverberated throughout the entire area.

Night fell after a few hours.

The South Cloud World Royal City was brightly lit, and people had gathered everywhere to celebrate the victory.

It was the most glorious day for the South Cloud World in a few hundred years; they had defeated Yang Jian and forced the North Moana Army to retreat.

There was a lively celebration in the Firmament Hall in the palace.

The Firmament Hall was where the Empress handled political affairs and met foreign envoys. It was exquisitely and elegantly designed with a majestic look. However, it was also a very solemn place. The Empress had set up a banquet to reward Darryl and the generals to celebrate their victory.

The Firmament Hall had been filled with banquet seats. The civil and military officials sat in full uniform as they saluted to the Empress, who was on the dragon throne. The atmosphere was cheerful and joyful.

Quincy, who always looked cold, was beaming.

Their victorious battle that day was a beautiful win. Everyone was happy.

Darryl put on an elegant white robe and sat on the seat that had been reserved for him. He sat there quietly as he looked out of place; he was quite different from the lively celebrations around

him.

Darryl was still thinking about Ambrose.

The civil and military officials knew that Darryl had something on his mind. Even though they wanted to toast him with a glass of wine, they dared not interrupt Darryl when they realized that he was upset.

"Darryl!"

The Empress raised her wine glass slowly and smiled at Darryl. "You've helped us to repel the North Moana Army. Come, let me toast to you."

The Empress knew Darryl was troubled by his son's affairs, so she wanted him to have a few drinks to get him drunk and relieve his sorrow.

"Thank you, Your Majesty!" Darryl smiled as he raised his glass and drank the wine in one fell swoop.

Since the Empress had started it, the civil and military officials made their way to toast to Darryl one after another. They were respectful to Darryl.

They had looked down upon Darryl when he had lost his throne in Westrington. However, they were greatly impressed by Darryl's ability when he had led the South Cloud Army in defending their land against Yang Jian's invasion in the past few days. They were astounded by Darryl's performance. He had driven the North Moana Army away and convinced the civil and military officials with his great ability.

Darryl did not refuse their toast. He emptied his glass every time they filled it. After a while, he got a little drunk, and that had helped to put his troubles aside temporarily.

"Your Majesty!"

Stanley stood up. He was a little tipsy when he said to the Empress, "Your Majesty, the Prince Consort is very capable. He helped us to defeat the North Moana Army today. We admire such peerless talent! He is a perfect match with Her Highness. May I suggest setting their wedding date today at this banquet? Let's make it a double celebration!"

Stanley, a First-grade Official, was also a prominent figure in the South Cloud World's literary circle.

Stanley had lost miserably to Darryl when they competed in a poem competition many years ago. He was overwhelmed with emotions before he passed out on the spot. Later, he recalled Darryl's poems carefully, and he was convinced that Darryl had deserved the win. Then, he had seen Darryl's talent in leadership; he admired the man's prowess in the military affair.

The ministers around Stanley agreed.

"Yes, yes! The Princess and the Prince Consort is a match made in heaven. They should get married soon."

"Yes. What a great blessing to the South Cloud World to have such a talented Prince Consort!"

"I agree..."

Everyone respected and complemented Darryl.

Even though Darryl was a Prince Consort, it was still a fictitious title if he had not married Quincy officially. Therefore, Yang Jian dared not attack the South Cloud World for the time being because of Darryl's presence. However, if Darryl and Quincy had no relationship, then Yang Jian might not hesitate to attack the South Cloud World again.

Darryl sat leisurely. He smiled without saying a word.

He was a smart man. How could he possibly not know the intention of those civil and military officials? Their proposal for the marriage was secondary; their primary purpose was to use him to scare North Moana.

However, Darryl could not be bothered.

After all, they had been engaged for a long time. It was a matter of time before they got married.

Quincy shuddered as she blushed.

Quincy felt uncomfortable; the officials usually treated her with respect, but they had discussed her marriage to Darryl to flatter the man. She thought that was embarrassing and annoying.

"That's great!"

The Empress nodded in agreement. "Indeed, I should set a date for my sister's wedding."

The Empress looked at Darryl with a smile. "Darryl, which day do you think is good for the wedding?"

The Empress would have never taken the initiative to discuss the matter before that day. She would have set the date without asking for Darryl's opinion. After all, she was the Empress.

However, Darryl's impressive performance that day had truly amazed her. That was why she discussed the wedding affair with Darryl.

"Err..."

Darryl scratched his head lazily. Finally, he smiled and said, "Any day is okay with me."

Darryl thought that the wedding was a happy event, so it would definitely be a good day on any day. He smiled and glanced at Quincy, who sat opposite him.

He chuckled.

'Quincy always thought of herself as a dignified princess. She looked down on me, but now she is marrying me to be my wife?'

Mmm!

The Empress nodded at Darryl's reply. She gave an order to the eunuch next to her. "Go and check the almanac; see if there is any lucky day within these few days."

The eunuch nodded and went off quickly.

"Sister!"

Quincy stood up and said, "I don't want to get married right now."

She tilted her head and gave Darryl a fierce look when she said that.

She was upset because Darryl was indifferent about the wedding—the marriage was related to her

happiness. She could not accept his behavior.

Quincy had changed her opinion of Darryl after she observed his performance for the past few days, but she had not accepted him entirely.

Quincy had to stop the Empress as she was about to set a date for her wedding.

"You don't want to get married now?"

The Empress frowned as she looked at Quincy with a smile. "Then, when do you think will be a good day?"

The Empress seemed calm and peaceful, but she was anxious to hear Quincy's objection.

'What should I do with her? She had lived in the same room as Darryl in Lilydale City, but she refuses to get married now? If she continues to drag this matter, what would people think of the South Cloud World Royals?'

All eyes in the hall were on Quincy. Everyone was waiting for her answer.

"I-"

Quincy bit her lips. Her delicate face flushed, but she did not say another word.

She was in a mess. She did not know when she should get married.

A few seconds later, Quincy took a deep breath as she looked at the Empress seriously. She said, "Sister, I think we are not in a hurry to get married now. Even though Darryl is a good man, he is still too far from what I look for in a life partner—"

Whoa!

The civil and military officials were in an uproar. Then, they began to persuade Quincy.

"Your Highness, Prince Consort is such a great talent. You probably can't find another man like him in all nine continents."

"Yes, even the Ghost Valley Sage agreed to help him. Who else in the world had the same honor?"

"Your Highness, aren't you asking for too much of a person?"

Quincy shuddered; she stomped her feet angrily when all the ministers tried to talk her into the wedding.

Those ministers usually treated Quincy with respect. They dared not refute anything she said, but that day, they were on Darryl's side.

Quincy's pretty face flushed; she could not say anything else because she was in a rage. She still looked very charming even though she was embarrassed and angry.

"Shut up!"

Finally, Quincy could not take it anymore. She looked around coldly and snorted in disgust.