

Black Iron 1471

Chapter 1471: A Multitude of Guests

Starting from the second day when the mourning hall was well arranged, the old mansion in Golden Light City had started to be boisterous. The head and the elders of Huaiyuan Palace in Yanghe Prefecture came to offer their condolences first, followed by the heads of branches of Huaiyuan Palace. After that, all the representatives of major clans and sects from Gaozhou Province, Mozhou Province, Tongzhou Province, Qiongzhou Province, Yanzhou Province, Huizhou Province and Chaozhou Province within Northeast Military Region poured into Golden Light City. Then, major clans and business partners which cooperated with Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory and Jinwu Business Group across the country arrived one after another.

Additionally, none of them were small figures. Actually, all of them were clan heads, grand elders or regimental commanders. As they all knew that Zhang Tie was in the old mansion of the Zhang family. If they assigned small figures here, they might not even have a chance to meet Zhang Tie, which would be in vain.

Golden Light City had never been so boisterous since it was founded. Now, it was even more boisterous than that when major clans scrambled for the provincial governor of Youzhou Province years ago. The sky above Golden Light City was covered with airboats. The airports outside the city had almost been filled with airboats as those airships in the airports had been transferred to other places by the mayor.

Thankfully, the Zhang family had long predicted that many people would come here to offer their condolences to the old man's death. Therefore, two walls in the old man had been demolished in the very evening for the sake of the space of the mourning hall.

Besides Zhang Taixuan who left Golden Light City for Youzhou City after offering the condolence due to public affairs, Elder Muyuan, Elder Muyu and Elder Muen just stayed there and greeted moguls from all walks of life. With the help of the three elders, the old mansion didn't meet any trouble.

Zhang Tie was the grand elder of Huaiyuan Palace. Therefore, the death of his grandpa was a major event for Huaiyuan Palace and it was reasonable for the clan elders of Huaiyuan Palace to stay here for greeting guests.

The best hotels and inns in Golden Light City had long been rented by the Zhang family for the sake of their guests.

Due to the large population, officers and soldiers were maintaining the two streets outside the old mansion.

Zhang Tie put on a mourning dress and started to greet those guests in the old mansion on the second day. After offering their condolences to Zhang Haitian, those clan heads and elders of major clans and sects would be guided to Zhang Tie for a short chat. After that, they would be arranged to take a rest somewhere.

There was an old Hua saying—the poor would be ignored in the boisterous market while the rich would have relatives in deep mountains. That was how things went. Zhang Tie could accept this fact;

instead of being cynic and self-assured. Zhang Tie knew his role in the old mansion and the purpose of many guests. Therefore, he just listened to the arrangement of family members tenderly. At this moment, the arrival of these guests represented their sincerity and was the glory of the old man. Therefore, Zhang Tie treated them politely. As for those who wanted to have a short chat with him, Zhang Tie didn't put on airs at all; instead, he just talked with them casually and kindly so that they could return satisfactorily.

Disasters and pain would make people mature. After the old man passed away, the future of the Zhang family would be determined by Zhang Tie. Zhang Tie found that he became much more mature overnight.

As more and more guests arrived, the monetary gifts frightened Zhang Tie's uncles and aunts.

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The first night fell soon. After 12 am, according to the rules, nobody would come to the mourning hall any more although the old mansion was brightly lit with an open gate. Those who hadn't offered condolences could only come here after sunrise. The mourning hall would last for 7 days. After then, they would hold funeral rites such as amnesty, offering sacrifice in each 7 days and burial ceremony. The entire process would last 49 days.

Of course, it was the custom persisted by major clans in Taixia Country. As for small families, the funeral ceremony would only last 3 days or 7 days.

"...Fraternity Palace of Mo Clan in Mozhou Province 17 million gold coins; Qian Clan with the provincial governor of Tongzhou Province 3 million gold coins; Morality Palace of Gu Clan in Gaozhou Province 3 million gold coins; RockEmbracing Palace of Wang Clan in Qiongzhou Province 3 million gold coins; Liu Clan with the provincial governor of Huizhou Province 3 million gold coins; SkyDistant Palace of Xiong Clan in Chaozhou Province 2 million gold coins; SageMiss Palace of Hong Clan in Chaozhou Province 6 million gold coins; Zhu Clan with the provincial governor of Yanzhou Province 4 million gold coins, WoodsPiling Palace of Sun Clan in Yanzhou Province 2 million gold coins and..."

Zhang Tie who had received guests for the whole day was listening to Zhang Su's father reading a list of gifts in a chair in a room beside the mourning hall.

The thin page of gifts sounded as heavy as Mount Tai for Zhang Tie's eldest uncle as he kept quivering his hands and his voice.

Hundreds of clans' names and gifts were recorded on the long list. The total of the monetary gifts was astronomical. It took Zhang Su's father a few minutes to finish reading them.

However, this list of gifts only contained those clans whose gifts worth over 1 million gold coins. Those below 1 million were not even recorded.

The monetary gift of Fraternity Palace of Mo Clan alone was already several times greater than the total asset of the former Galaxy Shipyard of the old mansion. No wonder Zhang Tie's eldest uncle became intense.

Besides, Zhang Tie's other uncles were also in the room in mourning clothing, including Zhang Tie's father. They were all listening to the report. The figures on the list of monetary gifts made them dazzled

and thirsty. Even Zhang Tie's dad was not interested in money, he was also shocked by such an astronomical figure.

Zhang Yang was also listening to it aside right on a chair beside Zhang Tie. When he drank tea, he glanced over his uncles every now and then.

"A younger cousin said that the old man passed away brightly and received so many monetary gifts; the money should be shared by all of us as the old man's heritage. Each one could at least get millions of gold coins. All the posterities of the Zhang family would be millionaires and don't worry about money for ten generations. We could all lead steady lives. I wonder whether the other uncles are also thinking this way?" Zhang Yang put down the teacup as he opened his mouth the moment Zhang Lin finished his words.

Zhang Yang said with a smile; however, it sounded a bit cold.

Zhang Tie threw a glance at his elder brother. Of course, he didn't doubt Zhang Yang's intention, but he couldn't imagine that some disciples on the side of the old man had already lost their mind by the money on the list of monetary gifts only after the old man passed away for one day.

In the following days, there would be more monetary gifts. No wonder someone would think about having this money.

Was it the heritage of the old man? Of course, it was apparently; however, everyone knew what it was as long as he or she was not an idiot. These monetary gifts were more like the sincerity that these major clans and sects expressed to Zhang Tie than their respect to the old man. Without Zhang Tie, even Zhang Taixuan's death would not be so attractive, not to mention Zhang Haitian.

Under the gaze of Zhang Yang, some uncles remained calm while others looked a bit embarrassed...

Chapter 1472: Disposal

"Erm...erm...the monetary gifts in the funeral ceremony of the old man belong to the public money at home. After the funeral ceremony, we could deal with it slowly; we could deal with it slowly. We could make a considerate negotiation about its distribution..." An uncle evaded from Zhang Yang's eye light as he whitewashed with a flash of his eyes.

The speaker was Zhang Fan who was delivered by the second wife of Zhang Haitian. This uncle behaved well at home and assumed as a senior executive in Jinwu Shipyard. However, Zhang Tie had not imagined that this senior had already been obsessed with money only in one day.

It was normal. Very few people could remain sober-minded in front of such an astronomical wealth. One could become blind to 10,000 gold coins, 100,000 gold coins or 500,000 gold coins. What about millions of gold coins? Only a few people could remain innocent in front of such a high figure.

The moment Zhang Fan opened his mouth, the atmosphere in the room had become a bit strange. Zhang Tie and Zhang Yang remained silent as they just drank tea. However, Zhang Tie's dad looked gloomy at once. At home, Zhang Tie's dad was always uncompetitive; neither did he argue with his family members. However, it didn't mean that he was an idiot. After realizing that his brothers were

going to rip off Zhang Tie and Zhang Yang in such a shameless way, Zhang Tie's dad couldn't bear his fury anymore.

"What do you mean by dealing with it slowly? The brat might make a farce, but 9th younger brother, are you also that innocent?" Before Zhang Ping opened his mouth, Zhang Sheng, Zhang Tie's eldest uncle, had blamed Zhang Fan with a furious look, "How could the old man and Zhang family gain so many monetary gifts from clans with provincial governors outside Youzhou Province? Isn't it because of Zhang Tie? These monetary gifts were made by Zhang Tie at the bank of the Weishui River at the risk of his life. Although they were sent to the old mansion, we owed Zhang Tie. How could we share them?" Zhang Tie's eldest uncle made the starkest condemnation, causing Zhang Tie's 9th uncle to be silent; however, he still muttered out of unwillingness, "I didn't mention to share them. No matter what, they sent the gifts for the old man's funeral ceremony. Aren't we going to negotiate it..."

"Negotiate what?" Zhang Sheng was driven furious.

"4th elder brother, you don't need to be that angry..."

Zhang Tie's eldest uncle still wanted to say something; however, Zhang Tie slightly raised his hands to stop him. After that, Zhang Tie watched Zhang Lin as he asked calmly, "What did my eldest grandma say?"

"She said it's at your discretion!" Zhang Lin answered calmly.

After hearing Zhang Lin's words, Zhang Fan's face turned slightly stiff. Another one who wanted to say something instantly closed his mouth after finding the atmosphere in the room was strange.

Although Zhang Tie was also drooling about such an astronomical figure, he was still sober-minded. He knew that how Zhang Tie and Zhang Yang thought about the people on the side of the old mansion counted most. Without Zhang Tie's consent, nobody could take away the money. Even if he could, he wouldn't enjoy it. As was persisted by Hua people, great virtues carried things. If a person lacked virtue, even if he made a fortune suddenly, he wouldn't enjoy it. Similarly, when a sampan was suddenly loaded with some fully-laden containers, it would sink facing a bit wind or wave. Most of those Zhang juniors might be in trouble in a few years after getting millions of gold coins.

After getting the opinion of the old lady, Zhang Tie nodded inside, 'Thankfully, there's someone sober-minded in the old mansion.'

"How about this? The old mansion keeps the part of gifts from the major clans in Youzhou Province. After reducing the expenditure of this funeral ceremony, my uncles could make a decision on how to distribute the rest of them. I will not interfere with it!" Zhang Tie had a sip as he put the teacup onto the table lightly, adding, "As for the rest from other provinces, just use them to create a clan fund. My elder brother Zhang Yang would be responsible for the expenditure of this clan fund. Additionally, we should put away this list of gifts. As we Hua people pay attention to "courtesy demands reciprocity", we should pay back at proper moments. As for the monetary gifts that we pay, we could take them from this clan fund. We should not be too mean; otherwise, we would be regarded as being impolite. We have to pay more than their figure. The gap would be fixed by Zhang Yang and me..."

Zhang Tie's opinion was very convincing. Even Zhang Tie's dad and eldest uncle nodded slowly. That was how a major clan should behave. If being too greedy about money, it would be shameless.

Zhang Fan looked stiff. However, he couldn't refute Zhang Tie at this moment given Zhang Tie's words, not to mention Zhang Tie's identity and authority. No matter what, they couldn't share the monetary gifts now and say no when they should pay back. If Zhang family couldn't pay back, it would lose its face completely. That would be preposterous if they took the money now and had Zhang Tie and Zhang Yang pay back later.

After saying these words, Zhang Tie looked straight to Zhang Sheng with a smile as he said, "I heard that two elder cousins in the home of elder uncle had become adults and enjoyed good fame in Jinwu Shipyard these years. After a couple of days, elder uncle could negotiate with my two elder cousins about whether they would like to manage this clan fund together with my elder brother Zhang Yang as his assistants. You could invest in some businesses using the clan fund..."

Needless to say, the clan fund would be at least tens even dozens of times greater than the asset of Jinwu Shipyard. They would have a bright future after joining the management of the clan fund.

Those people in the room were all watching Zhang Tie's eldest uncle Zhang Sheng with admiring looks. Zhang Sheng blushed as he took in a deep breath and said in a low tone while suppressing his excitement, "I'm afraid that my two sons are not familiar with the management of clan fund..."

"It's fine. My two elder cousins have good foundations and management experience. They could learn about it slowly. Both my elder brother and I would be reassured about that. In the future, many things about the clan fund would be monitored by people..."

"Fine!" Zhang Tie's eldest uncle nodded as he fixed this thing. Even idiots would not refuse it.

"In addition, the Liaozhou Province in the north of Yanzhou Province has vast land and is abundant in mines and other resources, although being cold as half of a year there is winter. I was told that Jinwu Shipyard is preparing for prospecting over there and investing in mines in Liaozhou Province. We need helpers there. 9th uncle, you could go there!" Zhang Tie had another sip as he looked at Zhang Yang instead of looking at Zhang Fan whose face had been completely pale, saying, "Elder brother, you could recommend some disciples of Zhang family to do some exercises in Liaozhou Province!"

Zhang Yang nodded. The disciples of the Zhang family are too indolent and depraved. Previously, they even dared screw Zhang Tie with a trick. When the old man was alive, Zhang Tie and Zhang Yang didn't care about that. After the old man passed away, those idiots couldn't wait to jump out again. No wonder Zhang Tie would throw these idiots to Liaozhou Province to calm them down.

Watching Zhang Tie's calm and easy look, Zhang Yang found that Zhang Tie had already changed in one day. He didn't behave that casually; instead, he started to consider many things.

"I...I..." Zhang Fan stammered with a pale face.

"What? Are you unsatisfied with my arrangement? You don't want to go there?" Zhang Tie fixated onto Zhang Fan. In a split second, Zhang Fan had felt overwhelming stress which almost shattered him. Not until then did Zhang Fan remember that this man with a young look was not only an unrivaled knight but the grand elder of Huaiyuan Palace...

Chapter 1473: Responsibilities

Taixia Country had national laws; each clan across the country had its own rules, which were definitely more authoritative than national laws. A person could be executed to death penalty according to national laws or clan rules. As the grand elder of a clan mastered the clan rules, Zhang Tie's words were absolutely more authoritative than an imperial decree in the old mansion or Huaiyuan Palace as a whole. Nobody dared violate his decisions...

Zhang Tie could call him 9th uncle out of respect. If Zhang Tie wanted him to die, only with a flash of eye light, many people in Huaiyuan Palace would swarm up to stomp him to death.

"No...I dare not!" Zhang Fan's heart pound due to fear. In only a couple of seconds, Zhang Fan's forehead had oozed sweat as he didn't even have the courage to refuse Zhang Tie's order.

"Let's call it tomorrow. You don't need to care about the funeral ceremony of the old man anymore. After leaving some words to your family members, you shall leave for Liaozhou Province tomorrow!"

Zhang Tie's words made Zhang Fan's face appear paler as he slightly quivered all over. However, Zhang Tie didn't look at Zhang Fan anymore; instead, he told Zhang Yang, "The disciples who need an exercise should also leave for Liaozhou Province tomorrow. Elder brother, you tell Zhang Su who they are. If they resist, let Zhang Su assign guards to send them there. If anyone of them dares run back stealthily, break their legs and throw them back, having them stew in their own juice!"

Zhang Tie's words caused everybody's heart race. It was equal to banishment soon after daybreak.

"From today on, Zhang family should have starkest rules for the wellbeing of the family!" Zhang Tie told everyone else. Finally, he threw a glance at Zhang Fan meaningfully as he added, "Uncles could relate my words to the disciples at home—Hopefully, every one of Zhang family could bear rules in mind. Before they do something or say something, remember to ask themselves whether it's legit or not. A nation has its laws; a family has its rules. To follow rules is to follow your heart and fairness. It's the bottom line of one's virtue. Anyone who breaks the rules would accept the punishment. In Zhang family, only selfless ones could get real respect. Those vicious ones had better stay in bitter and cold places such as Liaozhou Province. If you have gimmicks and the competitive mind, why not compete with outsiders? Our home is not the place where they play their tricks!"

"Erm...how long will they stay in Liaozhou Province?" Zhang Tie's eldest uncle asked hesitantly.

"If some of them could gain a good reputation in Liaozhou Province by competing with outsiders, it indicates that they have become sober-minded and could be useful to the clan; they then could go back home and be granted with high positions. If not, they'd better not come back until death in case of bringing trouble to their families..." Zhang Tie said calmly.

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, Zhang Fan almost slid off the chair.

"If uncles have nothing more to discuss, please go back for a rest. We have jobs to do tomorrow. Eldest uncle, don't forget to have someone take over the job of 9th uncle. If we have not enough staff at home, tell Elder Muyuan to send some more here!" Zhang Tie said as he picked up the tea cup.

After exchanging a glance with each other, Zhang Tie's uncles stood up before leaving there one after another. Zhang Fan even felt difficult to stand up at this moment. The other uncles of Zhang Tie just threw a glance at him; some were sympathetic; some were distant. However, no one spoke for him.

Zhang Fan looked at an uncle delivered by the second wife of the old man for help; however, that one didn't even dare look at him. When Zhang Fan spoke just now, that one wanted to root for him; however, he didn't have a chance to speak. At this moment, knowing Zhang Fan's consequence, he felt sweaty all over his back.

When Zhang Fan left there, he fell down at the gate. After climbing up, he disappeared in Zhang Tie's vision in a trance.

Zhang Tie's dad and Zhang Yang stayed in the end with Zhang Tie.

Zhang Ping was also infuriated just now. However, he felt a bit sorry when he saw Zhang Fan leaving there. Therefore, after everyone else had left, he whispered to Zhang Tie, "Guoguo...is it...too...too excessive..."

"Dad, do you know how these people screwed Zhang Tie in the birthday of the old madam in Huaiyuan Prefecture?" Zhang Yang opened his mouth before Zhang Tie in a disdainful way, "Zhang Tie just kicked the ball back at that time. However, these guys forgot everything else at the sight of such an astronomical amount of money. Before the old man's corpse turns cold, they have thought about gaining profits at the cost of Zhang Tie with a shameless reason. They treated Zhang Tie and I as idiots. Such people are blinded by money, shortsighted and extremely silly. They would be black sheeps at home and would incur troubles sooner or later. I feel Zhang Tie's deed is not excessive at all. If it were me, I would have whipped them today. Zhang Tie is right. We have to follow starkest rules at home since today!"

"Erm, no matter what, Zhang Fan...is your 9th uncle. Those people are your cousins!" Zhang Tie's dad said with a sigh of relief.

"Therefore, I didn't have people chop off their head for the sake of the old man; instead, I left a chance to them!" Zhang Tie watched his dad as he added, "The goodwill, tolerance and trust of my elder brother and I about this family is not weeds in the wild. We're not to be spoiled and disappointed by them. Otherwise, they have to pay for that and prepare to face the other side of us..."

"Alright. I won't talk about it any more. You're clearer than me about these things. You two brothers should go to bed early. I will go accompany your mom..." Zhang Tie's dad said helplessly as he shook his head and left there, leaving Zhang Tie and Zhang Yang alone in the room.

Zhang Yang threw a glance at Zhang Tie, saying, "I feel you've changed a lot after the death of the old man."

"Before the old man passed away, he handed the entire family to me. I have to live up to his trust!" Zhang Tie forced a bitter smile at his elder brother as he added, "Additionally..." Zhang Tie became hesitant as he stopped...

Zhang Tie's hesitation aroused Zhang Yang's curiosity as the latter watched him with explorative eye light.

Zhang Tie shook his head silently with a bitter smile...

The existence above sage-level demon knights was the biggest crisis facing Zhang Tie. As Zhang Tie had lost his battle strength, he felt intense more or less as he longed for gaining a greater ability to respond

to it before the real crisis arrived. To make it, he had to make a great reform about his clan so that his clan could grow stronger even if he incurred swear and condemnation.

However, Zhang Tie didn't feel necessary to tell his elder brother about it, as his elder brother was not even a knight. Otherwise, his elder brother would only feel more fretful.

Men's shoulders were used to carry burdens, even a mountain. Zhang Yang could carry burdens for the family, even Huaiyuan Palace as a whole. However, if one was not able to tread a heavenly demon knight under foot, he could only feel fretful about such a stress.

In front of Zhang Yang, Zhang Tie had already called Zhang Su in by remote-sensing finger ring. He then repeated his decision to Zhang Su before having him assign some guards to take away those cousins who wanted to share the monetary gifts.

Zhang Su propped up Zhang Tie's decision very much. When Zhang Tie spoke, Zhang Su's eye light had turned downright cold with shrewd and aggressive light. After Zhang Tie finished his words, Zhang Su clarified the names of those cousins to Zhang Yang. Then, he cupped his hands towards Zhang Tie and left there.

Only after a short while, the two courtyards in the old mansion where Zhang disciples lived had been filled with cries. However, only after a few seconds, the cries had disappeared. The old mansion recovered its tranquility. At this moment, a team of powerhouses of Fire-Dragon Corps towed some people out of the old mansion from the rear door and left Golden Light City by airship in the evening.

Chapter 1474: Top Glory after Death

The atmosphere in the old mansion refreshed after last night...

What happened in the old mansion last night shocked Zhang disciples very much. On one hand, some disciples were promoted to manage the clan fund of hundreds of millions of gold coins, causing the others very jealous. On the other hand, Zhang Fan Zhang Tie's 9th uncle and his three cousins were "banished" to Liaozhou Province before the funeral ceremony of the old man came to an end. They might not come back in dozens of years. The sharp difference between the two treatments immediately awakened all the Zhang disciples and relatives and reminded them that Zhang Clan had been different than before.

Additionally, "follow the starkest rules" had been born in mind by all the Zhang disciples overnight.

Someone had already exemplified the consequence of violating clan rules.

After knowing the reason that Zhang Fan and the others were banished to Liaozhou Province, many Zhang disciples felt shameless about them as they clapped their hands and spoke highly of Zhang Tie's punishment. Very few of them felt sympathetic about them. Even idiots understood why the old mansion could receive so many monetary gifts. Before the old man's funeral ceremony came to an end, someone had already wanted to instigate the others to share the money. Being so unscrupulous and shameless, these people must have been blinded by profit.

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“Zhang Fan’s wife and the mothers of Zhang Zhukang, Zhang Zhufang and Zhang Lide were crying as they wanted to see you last night. However, my father had people take them away from the old mansion and monitor them. They’re not allowed to come back until the old man’s funeral ceremony comes to an end. Zhang Zhukang and Zhang Zhufang are sons of the 4th uncle of the 2nd wife of the old man; Zhang Lide is the son of the 5th aunt of the 3rd wife of the old man. 5th aunt married a man surnamed Zhang in Huaiyuan Palace in Goldensea City; therefore, she’s close to the side of the old mansion...” Zhang Su told Zhang Tie when they had porridge and pickles in the early morning. Zhang Tie nodded slightly.

Compared to Zhang Tie, Zhang Su drank porridge like drinking water. After finishing drinking it, he put down the chopsticks and started to talk about domestic affairs to Zhang Tie.

These two days, the family members ate simply due to the death of the old man according to the rule adopted by major clans in Taixia Country. Zhang family were not forbidden to eat meat in 49 days. It was called “filial food”. There were two explanations for “filial food”. First, after a senior passed away, it would be impolite for juniors to eat meat in near days. Second, “filial food” meant no kill. During the 49 days after the death of the senior, the juniors would save many fowls, poultry, fish and shrimps so that the late senior could ascend to heaven as soon as possible.

“Zhang Fan, Zhang Zhukang, Zhang Zhufang and Zhang Lide have been on the way. They’re not allowed to get off the airship until they arrive at Liaozhou Province. As for those who cried for them, they’ve been warned—if they continued to cry, they would also be banished to Liaozhou Province so as to reunite with their family members. Therefore, they all calm down. The 2nd wife and the 3rd wife of the old man remained silent. It would be ridiculous if the domestic rules could be amended casually because of someone’s cries. Fortunately, we got a chance to correct this evil wind at home this time.

After drinking it, Zhang Tie put down his bowl and chopsticks as he cleaned his mouth by a piece of napkin, saying, “I made a rule for family members as an evil person. Elder cousin, you should be responsible for the side of this old mansion from now on. In the future, nobody would dare not follow your orders. Previously, it was a bit lenient at home and a lot of jokes have been made. Later on, you should deal with them right away if anyone dare violates domestic rules...”

“I see!” Zhang Su took in a deep breath as he nodded.

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Like yesterday, the moment the day broke, the first guest had arrived. It was the head and two elders of Sun Clan of Guide Prefecture, Youzhou Province. As Sun Clan had no airboat, after getting obituary, Sun representatives spent one day to arrive at GoldenLight City by airship. In order to express their sincerity, they had been waiting outside the old mansion in the early morning. The moment the sun rose, they had offered their condolence to the late old man.

Sun Clan 1 million gold coins.

After Sun representatives finished their condolence, Zhang Tie met them and had a short chat with them. After that, Sun Clan people left there satisfactorily.

After Sun Clan came people from all walks of life. Therefore, the drum outside the gate of the old mansion kept sounding.

When it was close to noon, the drum sounded once again while a distant and euphonious voice drifted into the backyard of the old mansion.

It sounded more like a roar.

“Yan Feiqing the head of Fantasy Women Palace, CloudyDream Mountain, Wuzhou Province and Guo Hongyi, the head of Guo Clan, ThreeSpring Prefecture, Youzhou Province are coming...”

After hearing this voice, all the people in the old mansion were shocked, including Zhang Tie who was in the mourning hall. After being stunned for a second, Zhang Tie paced up towards the ante-court.

Soon, Zhang Tie saw Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi.

In white longuette and simple make-up, the two people looked like brilliant twins; instead of master and apprentice. The moment they entered the old mansion, they had won the attention of many people, including Zhang servants, relatives and guests.

Yan Feiqing looked calm while Guo Hongyi looked a bit embarrassed. Watching Zhang Tie coming over here, Yan Feiqing revealed a smile. After throwing a glance at Zhang Tie, Guo Hongyi lowered her head as her ear roots and neck turned faintly rosy.

Watching the two people, Zhang Tie finally let out a sigh of relief. Although he wondered how they communicated with each other this period, he realized that the two people would really call each other sisters in front of him later on.

“Feiqing, Hongyi.” Zhang Tie opened his mouth.

“Hmm!” Yan Feiqing answered.

“Go light some incenses for my grandpa!” Zhang Tie said as he led them towards the mourning hall.

After Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi entered the mourning hall, Zhang juniors and the wives of the old man instantly fixated onto them. Yan Feiqing remained calm as usual while Guo Hongyi’s face turned redder.

“Wait a moment!” Zhang Tie told Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi. After that, he told a butler in the mourning hall, “Go fetch two linen belts...”

After hearing Zhang Tie’s order, that butler was shocked for a second. Closely after that, he understood Zhang Tie’s meaning as he rushed into the rear court at the fastest speed and brought Zhang Tie two white linen belts in a split second.

Under the gaze of everyone else, Zhang Tie gave a linen belt to Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi respectively, “Fasten it...”

To wear a linen belt in this case meant that they were the late old man’s granddaughters-in-law. All the women with linen belts were the wives of Zhang Tie’s cousins.

The two linen belts were more persuasive than any swears.

Yan Feiqing took the linen belt and fastened it. Guo Hongyi also imitated Yan Feiqing as she took Zhang Tie’s linen belt and fastened it.

After they fastened the linen belts to their own waists, Zhang family members in the mourning hall instantly looked at them with different eye light. Zhang Tie also let out a sigh of relief outright. After something became a fact, it would not haunt people anymore.

From then on, Guo Hongyi had become Zhang Tie's woman officially. As for whether the fact that he married Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi would incur him some dissolute gossips and the reproaches of some traditionalists or not, it was out of Zhang Tie's concern.

Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi then knelt down, kowtowed and served incenses in the mourning hall according to the rules of granddaughters-in-law...

After their sacrifice, Zhang Tie introduced Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi to the wives of the old man. After that, he led the two women to the rear court to meet his parents, mainly Guo Hongyi.

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In the following days, more and more guests with increasingly higher social status arrived to offer their condolences to Zhang Haitian, including representatives of Gold and Power Law and Lord Guangnan's Mansion, elders of Heavenly Fortune Sect, Cheng Honglie the commander of Northeast Military Region. Even Lord Xuanwu, Lord Jingtian, Lord Dingxi and Lord Yian had assigned representatives here with great monetary gifts.

Watching so many dignitaries converging Golden Light City for the sake of the death of the old man, even the servants in the old man had been downright spirited these days, not to mention Zhang Tie's uncles and cousins.

On the 5th day, the crown prince assigned representatives to offer his condolence with a great monetary gift. Additionally, His Majesty granted the late old man with the title of posthumous count.

According to the rule in the black iron age, only those who killed demons could be granted with the title of nobility. However, imperial dignitaries in Taixia Country were entitled to grant late people with posthumous titles, which couldn't be inherited and were exclusive to the late ones.

Because of Zhang Tie, Zhang Tie's dad was granted with the title "lord" while Zhang Tie's grandpa was granted with the title of posthumous count. Therefore, everyone across Taixia Country knew how much the crown prince valued Zhang Tie.

Chapter 1475: The Arrival of Senior Sister Apprentices

In the blink of an eye, 6 days had almost passed. After the 7th day, the mourning hall would be demolished. After that, the funeral ceremony would gradually come to an end except for 6 rituals in 42 days, 7 days for each time.

In order to fulfill the last wish of the old man, Zhang Tie named Alexander and the other hybrids Hua names respectively these days. Actually, Zhang Tie had long planned to do that. Previously, Zhang Tie wanted to name them again after a few years. Now that it was the old man's will, it was nothing serious for him to do it a bit earlier.

After negotiating with his dad, Zhang Tie had fixed their Hua names.

Like Zhang Chengan and Zhang Chengba, the middle name of his hybrids would also be Cheng. Additionally, as they came from Ice and Snow Wilderness, it was easier for him to name them.

Alexander meant guardian; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chengwei(卫).

Andre meant brave; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chengyong(勇).

Matvey meant God's gift; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chengli(礼).

Anatoli meant guardian too; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chengbao(保).

Victor meant victory; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chengsheng(胜).

Igor meant the beloved son of the God of Wealth; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chengfu(富).

Orego meant the sacred; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chengdao(道).

Nigolas meant great triumph; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chengwei(伟).

Lev meant lion; therefore, his Hua name was Zhang Chenghou. Previously, Zhang Tie suggested Lev Zhang Chengshi; however, Zhang Tie's dad vetoed it as he said it was not good for a name to carry a fierce beast. As lions could roar loudly, Zhang Tie wanted to name him Zhang Chenghou(吼); however, it didn't sound good; therefore, he replaced “吼” with “侯”.

Honestly, Zhang Tie didn't master too much Hua culture, nor did he read too many ancient Hua books; therefore, he didn't excel at naming his sons. However, all the hybrids felt pretty happy about their Hua names.

On the 7th day, although there were still guests, all the major clans across the country had already assigned their representatives here. After staying in Golden Light City for a day, all of them had left. Even Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi who had left Golden Light City for Three Spring Prefecture on the next day. Those who came here to offer their condolences were almost local people in Yanghe Prefecture, Youzhou Province. Zhang Tie didn't need to greet them himself as they could be received by his uncles in the old mansion.

Previously, Zhang Tie thought that he didn't need to see anyone anymore; however, a butler brought him a piece of news which caused him to run out of the rear courtyard to greet the guests.

It was Ma Aiyun, Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi. They were all Zhang Tie's senior sister apprentices and bosom friends in Hidden Dragon Palace. It had been 16 years since he set apart from them in Heavens Cold City, Waii Subcontinent, excluding the 6 decades when he stayed in the tower of time.

Therefore, when a butler told Zhang Tie about the arrival of Ma Aiyun, Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi, Zhang Tie became stunned for a second. Closely after that, he went to greet them himself.

Zhang Tie saw the three senior sister apprentices in the parlor beside the mourning hall.

Zhang Tie's look almost remained unchanged during the past 16 years. However, the three girls had already turned into charming beauties.

No sooner did Zhang Tie open the curtain and enter the parlor than the three pairs of beautiful eyes fixated onto his face.

There were pure friendship and ambiguous love between them; especially Zhang Tie and Ma Aiyun, who had one night stand in Heavens Cold City. Therefore, Zhang Tie couldn't subdue his excitement at the sight of the three people.

Zhang Tie and the three women looked at each other for a minute. Even though Zhang Tie had a lot of words to say, he didn't know how to express.

"16 years no see. Three senior sister apprentices are still so beautiful and brilliant..." Zhang Tie broke the silence.

"We dare not be the senior sister apprentices of the grand elder of Huaiyuan Palace!" Gu Caidie revealed a faint smile as she said with bright eyes and white teeth in an extremely alluring manner, "If other elders heard it, we three would be punished severely. Just call our names. Very few people in Taixia Country dare say that they're your senior sister apprentices now!"

"Alright. I will call your names. Caidie, Ziyi and Aiyun sound better!" Zhang Tie said with a generous smile.

"Are you afraid of your wives' jealousy? Although we've not seen you these years, we've heard a lot of dissolute affairs about you!" Yuan Ziyi said as she threw a casual glance at Ma Aiyun.

"I'm not afraid of that. I could subdue them..." Zhang Tie said as he patted his chest like how he always did when he joked with his senior sister apprentices in Hiding Dragon Island. After hearing his words, the three women couldn't help but giggle. The estrangement caused by 16 years' departure appeared to be solved in a split second.

Later on, Zhang Tie told them to take a seat and have people serve tea for them. After that, he started to chat with them and learned about their recent situations.

Since the three women returned to Taixia Country from Waii Subcontinent, they had been staying in Huaiyuan City, Yingzhou Province, another basement of Huaiyuan Palace in Taixia Country. However, as this basement was not near Youzhou Province, the three people didn't have a chance to visit Youzhou Province these years.

Huaiyuan Palace also built a place similar to Hidden Dragon Island in an island nearby Huaiyuan City so as to train clan elites who were transferred to Taixia Country from Waii Subcontinent. As the three people were talented in cultivation and had perseverance, they promoted to LV 9 at the same time 3 years ago. Since then, they could recover their freedom to a certain extent and leave the clan base in Huaiyuan City.

This time, the three people received the tasks of Long Wind Business Group at the same time and came to Youzhou Province. By the way, they offered a condolence to the late old man in Golden Light City and met Zhang Tie...

Chapter 1476: End of the Funeral Ceremony

Ma Aiyun, Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi promoted to LV 9 within 16 years. It was neither a high speed or low speed for women. No matter what, women were always weaker than men in cultivation. Of course, they could never match Zhang Tie.

The three people had not imagined that Zhang Tie could reach such a high position within 16 years. They and Zhang Tie sighed with feelings when they talked about their own experience.

The three women's life trajectories remained unchanged in the past 16 years. However, Zhang Tie had long reached his heyday as he had become a well-known powerful knight and the 1st person in Huaiyuan Palace from the imperious teenager in Hidden Dragon Island with brilliant achievements.

Ma Aiyun spoke less. After 16 years, this vixenish senior sister apprentice became much more graceful, restrained and womanly. Recalling the one night stand in Heavenly Cold City, the moment Zhang Tie's and Ma Aiyun's eye light touched each other, they had got a special feeling.

"We three would stay one more day in Golden Light City. We will leave here the day after tomorrow. We're living in Wild Lake Building outside Golden Light City..." Ma Aiyun told Zhang Tie leisurely as her beautiful eyes sparkled.

After Ma Aiyun finished her words, the three women exchanged a glance with each other before fixating onto Zhang Tie.

Zhang Tie understood women well. According to Ma Aiyun's words, the three women actually wanted to have another meeting with him. Because this old mansion was not the right place to chat, they were all restrained; additionally, women were always shameful to put it simply. Furthermore, there was a large difference between them and Zhang Tie in position. In case of offense, they could only put it indirectly. Perhaps, the three senior sister apprentices had met some trouble and needed his help; therefore, they wanted to find another chance to tell him about it.

"After today, I would be free tomorrow and return to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory the day after tomorrow. Not until 42 days later would I come back to Golden Light City. Let me bid a farewell to you three in the Wild Lake Building next evening!" Zhang Tie said with a smile.

"It's a deal!"

"Hmm, it's a deal!"

After making an appointment on time and place, the three senior sister apprentices had a short chat with Zhang Tie before leaving the old mansion.

After seeing off the three senior sister apprentices, Zhang Tie didn't need to meet guests anymore today.

In the afternoon, fewer people come to offer their condolences. After 3 pm, almost nobody arrived. After the sunset, the mourning hall was demolished. The old man's corpse was then moved into the coffin. In the same evening, the Zhang family buried him.

It was a funeral custom of major clans in Taixia Country to bury the dead in the evening. As the sun set, the old man's spirit and soul wouldn't be harmed. However, due to poor visibility in the evening, the old man's spirit and soul might not find the way back without light. Therefore, more preparations and

investment were required, which couldn't be afforded by small families. Gradually, it became a custom for major clans to bury the dead in the evening.

When the old man was going to be buried, Zhang family lit lamps for dozens of miles all the way from the old mansion to Phoenix Mountain, 2 special evocation lamps on two sides of the road in every 7 meters. The lamps didn't go out overnight as they were guarded by soldiers of Huaiyuan Palace and Zhang people. Some streets in Golden Light City were directly closed as outsiders were not allowed in at all.

Some Masters were spraying water and leading the way ahead of them while reading mantras in weird tone. Some great-grandsons on the side of the old mansion were holding evocation banners, money trees and some funeral utensils at the end of the team. Zhang people kept spraying gold foils and joss paper. Guided by the evocation lamps, they accompanied the late old man all the way to the Phoenix Mountain.

Women didn't go back until they reached the city gate while men accompanied the old man all the way to the mountain. After burying the coffin, they covered the coffin with a thin layer of soil on the same level with the ground—the completion of initial burial.

After the initial burial, most of Zhang men returned overnight, leaving some filial sons and grandsons to “guard mausoleum” for the old man.

As the old man had just come here like how people moved to their new home, he had not completely settled down in the first evening. Therefore, he needed some guards in case of being bullied by those wandering souls and wild ghosts in the evening.

Masculine males were required to stay to guard the mausoleum. Of course, Zhang Tie, Zhang Yang, Zhang Su stayed.

A shed was put up above the mausoleum of the old man. Zhang Tie, Zhang Yang, Zhang Su and some cousins stayed in the shed to guard the old man for one night.

After daybreak, some more people would come from the old mansion to replace them so that they could return to Golden Light City.

As of now, the old man's funeral ceremony had almost come to an end besides mausoleum defense and sacrifice per 7 days. 42 days later, all the Zhang people should gather together again, build a tomb and a stele for the old man. After the final steps were accomplished, the funeral ceremony would completely come to an end.

When Zhang Tie returned to the old mansion, Elder Muyuan, Elder Muyu and Elder Muen came here to bid farewell to him. After staying in Golden Light City for 7 days to do favor to Zhang family and Huaiyuan Palace, the three elders had to leave there due to important affairs. After extending his thanks to the three elders solemnly, Zhang Tie saw them off till they boarded on an airboat. He had people take the three elders to their destinies by his imperial airboat.

Elder Muyu and Elder Muen left for Youzhou City; Elder Muyuan would go to Tiger Embracing City. As clan elders, none of them were free.

After last night and this morning, the mourning hall had already been demolished. Everything had gradually recovered, except for the two walls in the old mansion, which had been demolished, witnessed the glory and brilliance of the old man's funeral ceremony. No clans across Northeast Military Region could hold such a grand funeral ceremony.

Watching the old mansion which suddenly became tranquil, many Zhang people were not even used to it. Some servants in the old mansion were still missing the grand scene and were talking about the big figures that they saw in the old mansion...

Chapter 1477: A Fatal Trap

"Erm...shall I leave some guards for you?"

"No need. I will just stay in Golden Light City and bid farewell to some senior sister apprentices tonight and go back to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory tomorrow!"

"Take care of yourself!"

"Don't worry about me. Who would dare find me trouble? These days, our parents are a bit tired. So are you, elder brother. After returning to Jinwu City, our parents should have a good rest or travel outside!"

"Hmm, I will make the arrangement!"

At dusk, after ending the trivial things on the old mansion, Zhang Yang returned to Jinwu City with his parents.

After staying in Golden Light City for 7 days, Zhang Tie and Zhang Yang were fine; however, their parents had felt a bit fatigued due to their age. Plus the wallop of the death of the old man, their parents looked gloomy. Therefore, they should have a good rest at home.

Zhang Tie saw them off until they boarded on the airboat. Before they boarded on the airboat, Zhang Tie talked with Zhang Yang.

Zhang Yang knew Zhang Tie well. Previously, Zhang Yang was a bit worried about Zhang Tie's safety. However, after being told that Zhang Tie was bidding a farewell to his senior sister apprentices in Golden Light City, he relaxed his vigilance and only said a few words to Zhang Tie.

Yan Feiqing and Guo Hongyi had left Golden Light City for Three Spring Prefecture a few days ago. An uncle of Bai Suxian stayed in Golden Light City for 2 days on behalf of Lord Guangnan's Mansion politely and considerately, who left here this morning. Zhang Tie had Bai Suxian bid a farewell to him. After that, Bai Suxian directly returned to Iron-Dragon Sect. Mountain Lifting Hermit, Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi offered condolence two days ago and had escorted the members of Iron Heart Palace back to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory yesterday. Therefore, Zhang Tie became free.

When the airboat took off, the sun had almost set in the west. In the afterglow, Zhang Tie saw his elder brother's airboat flying towards Jinwu City. After that, he left the airport outside the city and had the driver leave for the Wild Lake Building.

The airport was in the north of Golden Light City while the Wild Lake Building was in the south. It would take him almost 1 hour from the airport to the Wild Lake Building by car after circling around half of the Golden Light City.

When he arrived there, night had fallen. Watching it gradually turn darker from inside the car, Zhang Tie slowly became relaxed as he forgot about all the sophisticated thoughts haunting his mind these days.

In the south of Golden Light City, there were so many green mountains, making it pretty marvelous. Many major clans in Golden Light City had luxurious manors and villas with courtyards near mountains and rivers outside the city in the south. Wild Lake Building was rows of wooden complex, the highest one among which were 3-storeyed. It was a hotel right on the lakeside at the foot of a mountain. The entire complex was girdled by pines, dense reeds and wetland. What a landscape of mountains and rivers!

Many waterfowls were living in the reeds and wetland. The lake was connected to a big river within Youzhou Province in the distance. The big river linked all the prefectures in Youzhou Province in the west and directly entered the ocean in the east. From time and then, Zhang Tie could see looming ferries in the far, making it pretty artistic.

After getting off the car, Zhang Tie looked around as he nodded inside.

Ma Aiyun, Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi were delicate women previously in Hidden Dragon Island. After so many years, they must have not changed their taste given the hotel they chose. Zhang Tie felt it was a proper place for a party.

The Wild Lake Building was not large and was very tranquil. Besides the three women, some other guests were living here. Although it was already night, only half of more than 10 attics and cabins were bright. The moment Zhang Tie entered the gate of the complex, a male waiter had greeted him, "Welcome sir, are you going for supper or accommodation here?"

"I'm here for three girls!"

"Oh!" That waiter suddenly realized whom did Zhang Tie refer to as he threw an ambiguous and admiring glance at Zhang Tie before replying, "The three guests are living in Cloudmissing Building over there. You could see it by going there from here. Do you need any more help?"

"No, thanks!" Zhang Tie frankly walked towards the residence of the three women alone.

All the buildings here were connected by wooden bridges and corridors which were built on water. Reeds and rosy fluorescent lamps were on both sides of the wooden bridges and corridors, making it pretty tranquil.

Zhang Tie soon came to the door of the No. 9 cabin. Before he knocked at the door, the door had been opened as Ma Aiyun, Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi were watching him with a smile behind the door.

Although the three senior sister apprentices had changed their costumes today, they wore rigorously and seriously, exposing nothing sexual. Zhang Tie let out a sigh of relief inside. To be honest, Zhang Tie was afraid of seeing them standing in front of him in thin silk dress. If they did that, Zhang Tie would feel embarrassed, disappointed and sad instead of enjoying it.

"Where are you looking at?" Yuan Ziyi threw a glance at Zhang Tie as she said, "Are you not satisfied with our dress? I remember that someone said Aiyun had a good figure, was plump and sunken in the right places and womanly. Do you want her to show her good figure..."

After hearing Yuan Ziyi's words, Ma Aiyun threw a glance at Zhang Tie as her face blushed at once.

Zhang Tie burst into laughter as he said, "Zi Yi, Caidie, you're not worse than her either. If you want me to enjoy it one day, I wouldn't refuse it..."

"Peh, you've got so many wives. Haven't you been satisfied with it? We've heard so many dissolute affairs about you in Yingzhou Province these years..."

Zhang Tie let out a sigh as he replied, "It couldn't be so exaggerating. Actually, I'm always innocent!"

"Who believes that?"

The three people then welcomed Zhang Tie in. After making jokes, they all felt much relaxed.

"We didn't know when you would come tonight; therefore, we've not had people serve the dishes and drinks in case they turn cold..." Gu Caidie explained as she pulled the rope of a bell outside the door so as to remind the waiter to serve dishes and drinks.

After glancing at the building, Zhang Tie asked, "Do you live upstairs?"

"Yup, do you want a visit?"

"Females only! I remember that there was always such a board outside the doors of your female dorms when in Hidden Dragon Island. I dare not intrude it. It was told that all the senior fellow apprentices who dared intrude female dorms had been beaten heavily!"

"But you're already a knight, no need to be that timid!"

"The more experienced one was, the timider he would be!"

The three women were delighted once again as they directly led Zhang Tie to a room neighboring water on the first floor.

There were a soft bed and a long table in the room. Through the window, they could rightly see the ripples on the lake. The window was covered by a bamboo curtain. In the room, they could hear surging water beneath the room. It was suitable for a drink.

After taking a seat, they continued to talk about their recent situations. Only after a short while, the bell had rung as Gu Caidie stood up, saying, "Here're dishes and drinks. I will open the door..."

The waiter served some trays of delicate and fresh dishes and a jug of spirit. After saying "Enjoy it", he had left.

Ma Aiyun stood up and made four glasses of spirit. After that, she took her own glass. After watching Zhang Tie for a second, she said, "When you promoted to a knight, we three didn't attend your rotating chakra ceremony. Congratulations!"

Gu Caidie, Yuan Ziyi both took their glasses after hearing Ma Aiyun's words. After that, the three women exchanged a glance with each other as they bottomed up their own spirit.

Of course, Zhang Tie would not decline. He took his glass as he raised his head and bottomed it up...

After putting down his glass, Zhang Tie found Ma Aiyun was watching him with tears.

"Aiyun, what's wrong with you..."

Closely after that, Zhang Tie felt the spirit exploding in his body like an alchemist's bomb in a split second...

Chapter 1478: Soul Leave

The poison in the spirit was even more effective than that of leakless fruits. Without any omen, it instantly took effect as powerful as an alchemist's bomb. Zhang Tie almost believed that he was already dead as he felt that his body had been shattered completely. However, closely after that, Zhang Tie realized that it was not his body being shattered but the contact between his awareness and his body.

In a split second, Zhang Tie felt that his soul was removed out of his body due to the "explosion". He became purely his awareness.

The toxicity of the poison blocked his mind sea and qi sea as well as cut off the contact between his awareness and body, his qi sea and mind sea completely.

Zhang Tie was instantly "split up" by the poison. Besides being still sober-minded, he couldn't control any of his cells at all.

The toxicity of the poison in the spirit was unimaginably overbearing and weird. Additionally, this poison appeared to be specially targeted at knights. Zhang Tie faintly remembered that he had heard about the name of this poison in the Mountain of Brightness.

It was Soul Leave—the number one poison in the world.

With cracking sounds, Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi instantly passed out as they bent over the table, pushing all the bowls and trays onto the ground as they were also poisoned.

Watching Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi bending over the table in a split second, Zhang Tie became disappointed completely.

This was a trap targeted at him. All the details had been considered only for this moment.

Since Ma Aiyun, Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi offered condolence in the old mansion, the trap had been triggered. The time that they offered condolence was arranged on purpose so that they could appoint to meet Zhang Tie here in case of any suspicion.

If they came to Golden Light City a few days earlier, Zhang Tie would not have time to meet them here. Because so many powerhouses including Bai Suxian, Mountain Lifting Hermit and elders of Huaiyuan Palace were on his side a few days ago, when the trap-maker could find a chance to poison him at all.

Today was most suitable. The old man's funeral ceremony had almost come to an end while all the guests had returned, leaving Zhang Tie alone. Therefore, the trap-maker suddenly caught the opportunity to poison him.

Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi didn't know what happened at all as they both looked nothing strange. In this case, two attendants who knew nothing about the conspiracy worked as the best cover, reducing Zhang Tie's alert to the minimum.

The trivial detail that they had the waiter to serve dishes and drinks after Zhang Tie arrived reduced Zhang Tie's vigilance again.

The trap-maker had also understood Zhang Tie well as he dared poison Zhang Tie in the first glass of spirit. He knew that Zhang Tie would not refuse the first glass of spirit toasted by his three senior sister apprentices.

The culprit was so considerate and vicious that even Zhang Tie felt chilly about his deed.

'Senior sister apprentice Ma doesn't have such an ability; neither does she have such a motive. She must be threatened under one's control.'

Zhang Tie couldn't move anymore. He just watched Ma Aiyun whose face had been covered with tears as he asked using his eyes, "Why?"

Ma Aiyun walked towards him as she tightly hugged Zhang Tie by arms. Her tears dropped onto Zhang Tie's body as she answered with sobs in a lower tone, "Sorry...sorry...it's for our kid...I have to do that...If not...they would kill our kid...They've promised me...as long as they get your secret skill and cultivation method of divine dominator, they would let go of you and our kid... From then on, we could live together..."

'Our kid?'

Although Zhang Tie couldn't speak or move, his heart still pounded immediately as he thought, 'Ma Aiyun got pregnant in the evening in Heavens Cold City?'

After recalling what happened that night seriously, Zhang Tie suddenly became shocked. 'That night, I drank a lot and felt a bit sleepy. Senior sister apprentice Ma slid into my tent in the midnight. I had a one night stand with her. I couldn't remember whether I had made her pregnant or not.'

The moment he heard the "as long as they get your secret skill and cultivation method of divine dominator, they would let go of you and our kid...", he had known that they were cheating her. However, Zhang Tie couldn't tell Ma Aiyun about that at this moment.

After saying some words to him in a low tone, Ma Aiyun decisively wiped off her tears. She then walked to the window and opened the bamboo curtain, hanging a red lantern on the window.

In less than 1 minute, the wooden floor suddenly revealed a hole while three people in black clothes drilled out of there from the water. One of them was gloomy in his 50's. After checking Zhang Tie and found that Zhang Tie couldn't move anymore, he let out a sigh of relief.

In a few seconds, this man had searched over Zhang Tie's whole body and collected all of his belongings including remote-sensing finger rings and put all of them into a bag. After that, he threw a glance at Gu

Caidie and Yuan Ziyi. As a cold light flashed across his eyes, he shot out two battle qi from his finger and broke the heart meridians of the two women. In a split second, they spurt out blood from their mouths. After quivering a bit, they became still.

Zhang Tie's two senior sister apprentices died in front of Zhang Tie.

Zhang Tie watched them while tears rolling down...

"Ah, you promised me to not kill them..." Ma Aiyun charged at him; however, that man moved too fast. Additionally, his battle strength was many times greater than that of Ma Aiyun.

The moment Ma Aiyun moved, another person on her side had struck her hindneck by a palm. Ma Aiyun instantly passed out as she fell down.

Zhang Tie gazed at these strangers with tears in eyes. That one who killed Gu Caidie and Yuan Ziyi appeared to be shocked by Zhang Tie's decisive eye light; however, he remained silent. With a cold expression, he instantly got some snake-shaped black metal needles from the air before stabbing them into Zhang Tie's qi sea, chest and back...

Zhang Tie quivered all over a bit with great pain. Closely after that, he saw endless dark. Before passing out completely, he heard the icy words, "Take him away..."

After that, Zhang Tie felt being covered by something as he was carried and slid into the water...

Hearing the surging billows time and then, Zhang Tie was in endless dark and pain...

Chapter 1479: Launching the Strike

It took Zhang Tie's parents 1 hour from Golden Light City to Jinwu City. When they arrived at home, Zhang Tie had not arrived at Wild Lake Building yet.

Due to the old man's funeral ceremony these days, Zhang Tie's parents both felt a bit tired. Therefore, after returning to home and finishing supper, they had gone to bed.

However, only after 2 hours' sleep, Zhang Tie's mom had woken up without any certain reason.

"Ah, what's wrong..." Zhang Tie's dad also woke up after turning over as he turned on the light at the head of the bed. Under the lamplight, Zhang Tie's mom looked a bit pale with fine sweat drops over her forehead.

"Are you alright?" Zhang Ping asked.

"I just feel a bit flurried and sleepless!" Zhang Tie's mom said as she shook her head.

"Is it because you didn't rest well these days and met too many people in Golden Light City?"

These days, like Zhang Tie, his parents almost had a short chat with every female guest as old as them before they left. Therefore, Zhang Tie's mom didn't feel relaxed either.

"Is Guoguo safe?" Zhang Tie's mom suddenly asked Zhang Ping as she revealed a faint, gloomy look through her eye corners, saying, "As soon as I had fallen asleep, I recalled Guoguo. It felt like as same as that when Zhang Tie's eldest brother died in Blackhot City as a soldier..."

Zhang Tie had the eldest brother who sacrificed in Blackhot City very long ago. The family didn't feel like mentioning about it any longer.

"Cut it out, Guoguo is safe!" Zhang Tie's dad sat up at once. Although he comforted Zhang Tie's mom, he also suddenly became worried about Zhang Tie's safety as he suggested, "How about having Zhang Yang to contact him? They have remote-sensing finger rings..."

"Hmm..."

"I will have someone fetch Zhang Yang here..." Zhang Tie's dad then put on his clothes and prepared to exit the bedroom. Right then, the skyline in the distance suddenly became fiery. They knew somewhere in the downtown had caught a big fire without opening the curtain. Jinwu City was not large; therefore, half of the city was shocked by such a big fire.

Zhang Tie's dad went over to the window. After opening the curtain, he saw the glow that shone in the sky.

"Ah, what's happening?" Zhang Tie's mom also went over there in pajamas. At the sight of the heavy fire through the window, Zhang Tie's mom had been stunned as she stammered, "Is...is that...the valley where we produce all-purpose medicament..."

Previously, Zhang Tie's dad was the mayor of Jinwu City. Therefore, he almost immediately realized what was happening at the sight of the heavy fire as his heart raced.

Many guards and servants of Zhang mansion had been shocked by the big fire and gotten up. Many bedrooms became bright again.

In the place where servants lived in the Zhang mansion, Zhang Gui was standing in a tree shade and watching the big fire in the distance with a flash of shrewd light in eyes.

As a person who always took actions in dark, Zhang Gui's hands had touched too much blood while his heart was full of darkness. However, that dark heart also granted him an extremely sensitive feeling about dark.

Watching the big fire shooting into the sky from the valley—the all-purpose medicament base, Zhang Gui appeared sniffing something darker.

In only 2 minutes, the fire had grown increasingly bigger while the sky was growing redder. As a result, the dark red reflected from the skyline gradually lit up the tree shade where Zhang Gui was in. As the flame grew brighter, Zhang Gui slowly moved backward with the tree shade. Finally, he disappeared in the dark of the garden.

...

A few minutes later, Zhang Tie's parents had already put on their clothes as they saw Zhang Yang in the lobby who looked solemn.

"Did the all-purpose medicament base in the valley catch fire?" Zhang Tie's mom asked in a bit intense way.

“Yes!” Zhang Yang nodded. Closely after that, he revealed a smile as he comforted his parents, “Dad and mom, don’t worry. Even if the entire valley was burned up, it would just be a bit loss of money. Nothing serious!”

“Has anyone got hurt?”

“I’ve already told the Jinwu Guards to put out the fire. We don’t know about the loss yet. I’m going there with Mr. Zhu. We will deal with it timely if there is any. Dad and mom, just stay at home. I have Mr. Liu protect you at home. Don’t worry! You should take a rest. I will be back soon after I deal with it!” Zhang Tie’s elder brother tried his best to make his parents reassured like Zhang Tie no matter how serious the event was.

Jinwu Business Group employed a black iron knight surnamed Liu previously. In late years, as the scale of Jinwu Business Group gradually expanded, Zhang Tie’s elder brother became more and more wealthy and powerful; therefore, he employed another knight surnamed Zhu. That was to say, Zhang family had two employed knights now. Zhang Yang held that his family could be safe unless demon attacked or someone dared be hostile against Zhang family in the public.

“Watch out!” Zhang Tie’s dad reminded Zhang Yang.

“I see, don’t worry, dad!”

“Oh, send a message to Zhang Tie. Your mom misses him again!” Zhang Tie’s dad told Zhang Yang after being hesitant for a second.

“Hmm!”

After having a short chat with his parents, Zhang Yang had strode away from the Zhang mansion with Mr. Zhu, followed by a team of guards.

“All the guards at home be alert especially tonight! 2 people in each post!”

“Close the city gates! Nobody is allowed to leave the city without my written decree!”

“Curfew execution in the streets near the fire. Anyone who dares rob in chaos shall be killed!”

Zhang Yang sensed something special tonight too. However, the moment he left the gate of Zhang mansion, he had issued some orders decisively, causing the entire Jinwu City noisy.

After that, Zhang Yang got on his car as he contacted Zhang Tie by remote-sensing finger ring...

After sending the signal, he received no reply.

Chapter 1480: The Night of Blood and Flame

Zhang Yang contacted Zhang Tie three times; however, he received no response. Therefore, Zhang Yang felt a bit gloomy.

However, Zhang Yang didn’t think that Zhang Tie would encounter any danger at this moment. Firstly, most of the people didn’t know Zhang Tie’s current situation. In Zhang Tie’s words, only sage-level

demon knights dared find him trouble. Secondly, Zhang Tie was in Golden Light City in the territory of Huaiyuan Palace. Thirdly, Zhang Yang had failed to contact Zhang Tie many times before due to various reasons. In many cases, Zhang Tie contacted him. Therefore, Zhang Yang didn't imagine the worst scenario.

Zhang Yang even doubted that Zhang Tie had some love sparkles with his senior sister apprentices after having a drink. As Zhang Tie was "busy", he didn't respond to Zhang Yang timely.

As Zhang Tie's elder brother, Zhang Yang understood Zhang Tie better than anyone else. Zhang Yang knew that Zhang Tie was amorous and soft-hearted. Additionally, Zhang Tie was extremely attractive to women at this moment. Furthermore, as a man, Zhang Yang knew men's shortcomings. In this case, if Zhang Tie lost his mind, he would really sleep with his senior sister apprentices. In Zhang Yang's eyes, given Zhang Tie's status, it was nothing serious for him to do that.

Out of the concern for Zhang Tie's health, Zhang Yang contacted an executive of Jinwu Business Group in Golden Light City, having him assign someone to Wild Lake Building to check Zhang Tie's situation.

Whereas, Zhang Yang didn't know that Wild Lake Building had caught a big fire too when the valley in Jinwu City was burning.

At this moment, the pines and the reeds around Wild Lake Building as well as those buildings in Wild Lake Building were all burning, scaring waterfowls away from the water nearby. However, it was quiet across Wild Lake Building as nobody was alive.

The big fire wiped out all the malicious traces.

...

After Zhang Yang arrived at the valley 20 minutes later, a shadow had climbed over Zhang mansion's high wall. The moment it rolled into the courtyard, a voice had sounded, "Who's that?"

Closely after that were collisions between sabers and swords, muffled voices and miserable shrieks. Zhang mansion was in a big chaos.

Such a night was destined to be chaotic. How could Zhang Tie's parents sleep well? When they were waiting for news in the parlor, unexpectedly, they heard collisions between sabers and swords.

"Lord and Madam, please go to the basement for the sake of your safety. A group of assassins intruded into our mansion. We would never let them in with the help of Mr. Liu!"

When Zhang Tie's parents felt a bit flurried, the head of guards in Zhang mansion had entered the parlor with a team of armored guards who were holding weapons and shields. They formed two circles around the mansion of Zhang Tie's parents.

After taking a deep breath, Zhang Ping asked the head of guards, "How about Zhang Yang's mansion?"

"Don't worry, Lord, I've already transferred young master's wives and children into the basement. Only after a short while, these assassins would be solved!" The head of guards answered in low voice.

"Lord and Madam, please wait. As there're too many assassins, at the order of the young master, I will protect you to hide from them outside the mansion..."

The moment Zhang Tie's parents were going into the basement, they had heard a voice from outside the mansion. At the same time, Mr. Liu approached them with a glassy-eyed look from the garden.

At the sight of Mr. Liu, Zhang Tie's parents were both shocked as they didn't know whose words to follow, Mr. Liu or the head of guards.

At the sight of Mr. Liu, the head of guards frowned at once. It was not reasonable for Mr. Liu to appear here at this moment; he should be killing assassins outside. "Is that the order of the young master? But we've not received that order!"

"The young master contacted me just now using remote-sensing finger ring. Give way to me. I will take away Lord and Madam!" Mr. Liu said in the courtyard as he watched the wall of guards outside the mansion of Zhang Tie's parents.

"Mr. Liu, please wait for a second. I will contact the young master to confirm it. No matter what, we should have a plan B for any emergency. We've been told by the young master. In this case, as long as Lord and Madam hide in the back room, even knights couldn't break the backroom in a short period, not to mention those assassins outside!" The head of guards said as he took out his portable remote-sensing device to contact Zhang Yang.

However, before he took out his remote-sensing device, Mr. Liu had launched a strike.

With a loud sound "boom...", those guards around this mansion had been covered by Mr. Liu's battle qi as their limbs flew in all directions in a split second, making it pretty bloody outside the mansion.

It was absolutely a holocaust for a black iron knight to launch a strike towards these fighters below LV 15 in such a close distance all of a sudden. As a result, dozens of guards outside the mansion were all killed by Mr. Liu before they realized what happened.

"You..." The head of guards was so infuriated that his eyes seemed about to pop out. Nevertheless, before he made any response, Mr. Liu had already come to his front like a ghost. With only one palm, the guard's chest had become sunken completely. Closely after that, he exploded into bloody mist in the parlor...

When some blood sprayed onto the faces of Zhang Tie's parents, they both quivered a bit.

Mr. Liu then walked towards them in the bloody mist as his calm face had already turned as grim as that of a ghost, "In case of trouble, please follow me..."

Zhang Tie's mom looked completely pale. However, she decisively shook her head facing that knight-level Mr. Liu. She just held Zhang Ping's hand tightly as she threw a glance at Zhang Ping and shook her head, saying, "We will just stay here!"

"If so, please forgive me..." Mr. Liu's voice turned cold at once. The moment he wanted to move one step forward, he suddenly quivered all over. After lowering his head, he saw a part of the pitch-dark tip of the sword that came out of his chest in an unimaginable manner. When he looked back, he saw the old slave servant Zhang Gui was gazing at him icily...

'Zhang Gui? No way! Where did he come from? Why such a sword strike is so sharp and terrifying? It's a sword gesture of assassination that only knights in dark could learn. Additionally, the attacker should be an earth knight...'

'Zhang Gui is an earth knight!'

"You..." Mr. Liu wanted to say something.

However, Zhang Gui rocked his sword blade, turning Mr. Liu who made a killing spree just now into bloody mist in a split second.

Zhang Gui killed Mr. Liu like how the latter killed those guards in Zhang mansion. What a quick karma!

Zhang Tie's dad and mom were both shocked by such a fast change as they didn't know what to say.

"Lord and Madam, it's young master Zhang Tie who told this old slave to hide my real identity to protect Zhang family secretly..." Zhang Gui bowed towards Zhang Tie's parents before explaining respectfully.

"It's...Guoguo!" Zhang Tie's dad widely opened his eyes at once.

"Yes, it's young master's order!"

Right then, some powerhouses among those assassins in black clothes had reached 100 m away from this mansion and were rushing over here while brandishing their weapons.

"Lord and Madam, please wait for a short moment..." Zhang Gui told Zhang Tie's parents. Closely after that, he disappeared from the room. In the next second, Zhang Gui reappeared in the sky above this mansion where he could overlook the entire Zhang mansion. Closely after that, Zhang Gui launched a strike. In the blink of an eye, he had launched hundreds of sword strikes. Like a peacock in its pride, the earth knight's sharp sword qi immediately spread over Zhang mansion. They even reached 1,000 m away. As a result, all the assassins were swatted and killed like flies in a split second.

After killing these assassins, Zhang Gui released a bloody battle qi tornado into the sky, which could be seen within 600 miles in the evening.

An earth knight was fighting in Jinwu City, where Zhang Tie's elder brother and parents were living...

Zhang Gui's battle qi tornado shocked the entire Youzhou Province, even Xuanyuan Hill at once...