

Desolate 26

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 2: The Lake in the East Mountain Chapter 9: The Traceless Talisman

Prefecture Lord Ji Young spoke out, "Second brother, listen to me!"

"Big brother." Ji Lee closed his eyes, and then opened them and growled fiercely, "No need to say anything else. From today onwards, Ji Ning is the heir to the Prefecture Lord position of the Ji clan of the West Prefecture. I, Ji Lee, will definitely be prepared to come when he calls, and will be faithful and loyal as I go out and do battle on behalf of the Ji clan of the West Prefecture. I will not be the slightest bit rebellious. I thoroughly admire and submit to Ji Ning. But you...I simply do not admire and submit to you at all!"

Lee hurriedly turned and left.

"Father." Ji Jadewich, seated next to him, called out, hurriedly following after him.

Young watched quietly as Lee left, but he had a hint of a smile on his face. He knew very well that his second brother, Ji Lee, had a fierce temper. Lee was an extremely combative man. He would submit to those who were powerful, but he would never do so to one who was weak! Ever since they were young, in terms of power, he, Young, had been inferior to his second brother. Naturally, Lee had never submitted to him. But Lee had once said...if Ji Yichuan were to become Prefecture Lord, he wouldn't voice a single word of complaint.

Now that Ning had showed that he was even more of a monster than his father Yichuan, and had in such an awe-inspiring manner defeated seven opponents to seize the golden sword, Lee naturally admired and submitted to him in the same manner.

If he submitted, he submitted!

If he didn't submit, he didn't submit!

He, Ji Lee, had never admired or submitted to his big brother, Ji Young.

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Sunset.

The Snowfall Palace of the Ji clan of the West Prefecture had put on a feast. The settling of the identity of the next Prefecture Lord was an event of enormous importance to the Ji clan of the West Prefecture. After Young stepped down, Ning would assume his position and also become one of the overseers. As for Young, being both a Xiantian lifeform and the previous Prefecture Lord, he would also become an overseer.

The Ji clan of the West Prefecture had in total ten major overseers. Any affairs which had a major impact on the destiny of the Ji clan of the West Prefecture were all decided together by the ten overseers. Once Ning assumed his position, the weakest of the current ten overseers would have to step down! The structure of power would completely change. One could foresee how much power would be gained by the current, principal lineage.

“Wu Sa, Wu Sa Ya!”

In the center of the palace, more than thirty barefoot and half-naked fur-clad young women were dancing.

In the area behind the two rows on each side of the palace, there were musicians playing instruments such as drums, pipes, ocarinas, and other such instruments. The sound of the musical instruments were occasionally somber while occasionally lively, reverberating throughout the palace. Within this palace, the most powerful people within the Ji clan of the West Prefecture were currently clustered together, toasting each other and laughing loudly.

Ning, as the heir apparent to the Prefecture Lord position, had his own seat as well. In front of him, there was a table that was filled with all sorts of delicious food.

“Huahuahua...” A fur-clad young lady was standing to the side, holding a large urn of wine. Seeing that Ning’s bestdrunk cup was empty, she hurriedly filled it. The urn of wine weighed dozens of pounds, but the young fur-clad lady didn’t spill a single drop of wine as she poured.

“It truly has its own unique charm.” Watching, Ji Ning shook his head dizzily.

There was more than one person seated next to Ning.

Ji Yichuan was naturally seated on his knees in the middle of the table, with Yuchi Snow by his side, while a large, snow-white dog was on his other side. It was the Godbeast, ‘Whitewater Hound’.

The people qualified to have their own individual seats here in the Snowfall Palace were all people of extremely high status in the Ji clan of the West Prefecture. Even Ning’s mother, Snow, had to be brought in her capacity as the wife of Yichuan, as she herself wouldn’t have otherwise been qualified to have her own seat.

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All of the Xiantian lifeforms had brought either their family or the spirit-beasts they had tamed.

Soon, it was nightfall, and the musicians and dancers all depart, and even the female servants and attendants were dismissed as well. It was the time to talk about some major affairs. If they were talking about extremely important, secret matters, even spirit-beasts and family members would have to leave.

“Everyone.” Prefecture Lord Young laughed. “Today, the Ceremony of the Golden Sword was concluded. Ning, at the age of ten, defeated seven combatants by himself and seized the golden sword. Naturally, he has become the next heir to the position of Prefecture Lord. However, Ning is still young...it’s best to have him wait a while longer and gain more experience before taking the Prefecture Lord position. As I see it, let’s wait until he is twenty. What do you think, everyone?”

“Agreed.”

“Agreed.”

“Ning’s talent is no lower than Yichuan’s. He is very suitable for being selected as the next Prefecture Lord.” Another overseer nodded. Not even a single objection was raised, including from those on Ji Lee’s side.

Yichuan, seated off to the side, revealed a rare smile. "Prefecture Lord."

"Yichuan, what is it?" Young looked towards him.

"I wish to ask for an item for my son." Yichuan said.

Young was puzzled. "What item?"

"The Traceless Talisman!" Yichuan said solemnly. As soon as his words came out, the entire hall fell silent. Many of the Xiantian-level people stared at each other in surprise.

"The Traceless Talisman?" Young frowned as he looked at Ning, then asked, "Ning, you want the Traceless Talisman?"

Sitting there holding his wine-filled beaustskull goblet, Ning was startled. Glancing at his father, he nodded. "Right."

Yichuan said, "Ning is the next Prefecture Lord. He should be able to request this Traceless Talisman, right?"

"Right." Young nodded, and then took a deep breath. With a flip of his hand, a strange jade talisman, glittering with jade light, appeared in his palm. This jade talisman was covered with complicated diagrams and illegible words, and it emanated strange, faint waves of energy which caused the area around it to seemingly distort. With a toss, Young tossed the item directly to Yichuan. "Yichuan, this Traceless Talisman is one of the guardian treasures of our Ji clan of the West Prefecture. It must not be used carelessly."

Yichuan nodded. "I understand."

Late night. On the road back from Snowfall Palace, Ning and his parents, as well as the Whitewater Hound, were walking together.

"Father. Mother." Ning said, puzzled. "What is the Traceless Talisman. What do you want it for, Father?"

Snow laughed as she looked at her son. "This is the reason why your father said he would only permit you to leave if you participated in the Ceremony of the Golden Sword and seized the golden sword. Because only after seizing the golden sword and settling the question of your position as heir to the Prefecture Lord position would you be able to acquire one of the guardian treasures, the 'Traceless Talisman'."

Yichuan said with a cold face, "The Traceless Talisman is an extremely valuable talisman. Three hundred years ago, one of the ancestors of our Ji clan of the West Prefecture, thanks to good luck, managed to acquire it. Back then, he acquired three of them, but he used up two of them...and now only this last one is remaining, and it has become the guardian treasure of our prefecture."

"What use does it have?" Ning asked.

Yichuan laughed. "As long as you utilize the 'Traceless Talisman', you can instantly travel to any place within ten thousand kilometers."

“What?!” Ning was shocked. Instantly travel to any location within ten thousand kilometers?

“A talisman like this is something you can’t even purchase if you wanted to, and our ancestor was only able to acquire it through luck.” Yichuan sighed. “To our Ji clan, obtaining a treasure of this level...is our absolute good fortune. You are the next Prefecture Lord, and thus I used that to acquire this ‘Traceless Talisman’ without anyone being able to object.”

After speaking, with a flip of his hand, Yichuan withdrew a jade shortsword that was gleaming with a bloody light, handing it to Ning. “This jade sword was only completed after being immersed in my blood for a long time. No matter how distant you are, I will be able to sense the location of this jade sword. This time, when you go out adventuring, keep it within you at all times. Remember, as soon as you meet any danger, immediately break this jade sword. When you break the jade sword, I will immediately know, and I will immediately use the ‘Traceless Talisman’ to instantly teleport to you and save your life.”

“Ah!” Ning instantly understood the reason why his father needed this Traceless Talisman.

Yichuan barked at him, “On this adventuring trip, you are not permitted to go too far from the West Prefecture City. This Traceless Talisman has a maximum range of only ten thousand kilometers. Through sensing the location of the jade sword, I’ll know how far away you are. If I sense that you have moved more than ten thousand kilometers away from the West Prefecture City, I will immediately head towards you, capture you, bring you back, and imprison you in the underground prison for three years!”

Ning rubbed his eyes. Imprisoned for three years in the underground prison? The forever dark underground prison, where the sunlight never shone, was the place where felons and those who were to be executed were held by the Ji clan of the West Prefecture.

“Your son will definitely remember.” Ning hurriedly said.

Ten thousand kilometers?

More than enough. After all, the area which the Ji clan of the West Prefecture controlled was only a few thousand kilometers. If he kept heading west, he would enter the territory of one of the other local hegemony.

“Ning, son.” Snow asked with concern. “When do you plan to head out and go adventuring?”

“I’ll make some quick preparations first.” Ning nodded. “Three days from now.”

Three days passed in the blink of an eye.

Dawn. The sky was barely lit. Within Ning’s room.

“Ning, son, take these with you.” With a wave of Snow’s hand, atop Ning’s bed, two large sets of beast fur clothing as well as some other miscellaneous items appeared out of nowhere.

“Mother.” Ning couldn’t help but say. “I’ve already prepared everything. Clothing, food, tools.”

Yichuan snapped coldly, “If we tell you to take it, then take it. Your mother personally stitched every single one of these items with her own hands.”

Ning's heart shook. He couldn't help but glance at his mother. Yuchi Snow's gaze remained on her son, and Ning could clearly sense the boundless, infinite love within his mother's gaze...ever since he was young, his mother had taken care of him in every way possible. It was like he was everything to her. For him to go adventuring, his mother most likely was truly frightened for him.

As the saying goes, 'When the son travels far, his mother worries at home.' What's more, this time he was going out to adventure.

"Father." Ning had a serious thought. He hurriedly asked, "This time, when I go out, will Ji Lee secretly..."

"He will not." Yichuan said coldly. "The reason why our Ji clan has been able to remain in existence in this part of the world for so long is because of our internal unity. We absolute forbid infighting. Anyone who violates this would suffer the pursuit and slaughter of all five prefectures of the Ji clan! In addition, I understand Lee's personality very well. He just doesn't want to submit to Prefecture Lord Young, but in his heart, he still holds the matters of the Ji clan in the highest regard. In addition, his arrogance is bred into his bones. He disdains doing such things."

Ning nodded as though he had understood something.

"Don't worry about Ji Lee." Yichuan barked. "What you need to worry more about are those Diremonsters. Diremonsters all possess different innate powers and also have different tactics. Even the Xiantian level experts of the Ji clan of the West Prefecture will often die, much less you, who have not even reached the Xiantian level!"

"Don't say such things." Snow said hurriedly. "Our son is about to go out adventuring. Say something more pleasant. Ning, son, Mother has one more thing to give you." As she spoke, a golden book appeared in her hands. The pages seemed made from gold leaf, and on top of the book there were four ancient-looking words: [Wind Wing Evasion Technique].

"This is a set of footwork techniques, and this is also the most precious Immortal training manual which Mother has. Wait until you become a Xiantian lifeform before reading it." Snow instructed. "Also, you are not permitted to teach it to any other member of the Ji clan."

"Yes." Ning nodded.

The [Shadewind Steps] which his mother had taught him was something which only his mother knew! This was because even the Ji clan didn't possess that footwork technique, so his mother had instructed him...that he was forbidden from teaching the [Shadewind Steps] to the other members of the Ji clan. This [Windwing Evasion] technique was also possessed by his mother alone, and thus she was forbidding him from teaching it to other members of the Ji clan.

"Alright. You can head out now." Yichuan spoke. "If you are going to leave, then leave. Be straightforward about it."

"Father. Mother. I'm leaving now." Ning looked at his parents.

And then, with a turn of his head, he left. Outside, Mowu and his female maidservant, Autumn Leaf, were waiting for him.