

E Monarch 101

Chapter 101 A Hair's Breadth!

"Pity! Such a pity! It would have been better if Jun Mo Xie was killed! At least, that would have made his bastard grandfather's heart ache!" Lady Yue'er said between gritted teeth. Hearing that Jun Mo Xie had unexpectedly escaped death caused her to feel extremely regretful. Under the boat, Jun Mo Xie was wracking his brain but was at a loss as to how he had offended this "Lady Yue'er." Judging from the bitter resentment in this young lady's voice, it sounded as if she had been violated a hundred times by Jun Mo Xie!

Lord Liu slowly pondered and said. "Now that this situation has escalated to this point, the mission to assassinate the Princess will be temporarily called off. We are fortunate to have acquired the Xuan beast tendons without a hitch. At this juncture, I can make arrangements for your departure from Tianxiang. Haha...as for the other issues, I'll personally report to my master and see what the old man has planned. Perhaps we may have to collaborate with your hall once again, and I'll have to inconvenience everyone to return at that time. Please send greetings to the Blood Sword Hall's Grandmaster on my behalf and tell him "although this was a failure, Er Ye is still grateful."

His voice suddenly became very solemn when he said these last words. Apparently, this sentence was quoting the direct words of this so-called "Er Ye." Jun Mo Xie was speechless as he twitched his mouth. Who doesn't know that Er Ye* is the Second Prince at this point? And you still try to be so mysterious!

[literally translates to second grandpa or elder. It's not that far of a stretch to put two and two together.]

"Lord Liu, thank you for your generous words. As for our departure, we naturally have our means. We'll take our leave!" The three men immediately stood up and cupped their fists. "The Xuan beast tendons have been given to Lady Yue'er for safe keeping. Thirty tendons is not a small number so we hope that we will be informed as soon as this matter is resolved. That which belongs to us, we will personally come back to retrieve."

Lord Liu laughed. "No need to be polite. When you return, please ask the Grandmaster if he had given some thoughts to our request to assassinate an emperor. Regardless of his answer, please inform our side as early as possible!"

"Yes." The three men filed out and disappeared into the night. Lord Liu did not send them off.

“Lady Yue’er. The palace had already conducted a thorough purge after the incident with the princess and all three sides have lost men. But this does not concern us. What’s more important is that the one behind all this is most likely the eldest brother. Therefore, you need to complete your assignment we’ve discussed earlier as quickly as possible. In case the information leak, do your best to arrange some subordinates to get into the palace! Be vigilant and maintain only a single line of communication!” Lord Liu lowered his voice and spoke urgently.

“Yes. Lord Liu and Er Ye can rest assured. I have already made preparation a long time ago and have selected only virgin maidens.” Lady Yue’er’s gentle and beautiful voice echoed. “If not for Er Ye’s important plans, even Yue’er would want to go to the palace to play for a few days.”

“Haha, Lady Yue’er is one of Tianxiang’s top beauties! Who can resist your charms?” Lord Liu laughed a while before lowering his voice once again to speak. “Er Ye has ordered that we move forward with the plans to create crossbows out of the Xuan beast tendons. They might be needed at any time, so there is not a moment to waste. Since many parties are watching our every move, it would be inconvenient for us to be personally involved. That is why we entrust you with completing this task.”

Lady Yue’er replied uneasily. “I naturally understand, but these strips of Xuan beast tendons are too exceptional. Using ordinary steel would not be able to bring out the full potential of these tendons. Unfortunately, we will not be able to employ Shen Bing Pu, even though his craftsmanship is unrivaled in Tianxiang, since a tall tree attracts the wind—attracts unwanted attention. Our only option is to do business with Jiangnan’s famous Zhao Clan Trading Company. I have already sent messengers to get in touch with them before the auction, but I have not received a response yet.”

“The sooner this issue is resolved, the better. We are even willing to double the payment if that is what it takes.” Lord Liu said cautiously. “These crossbows will be crucial to us in the future. Not only has Er Ye paid an almost prohibitive price, but he is also taking a significant risk to involve himself personally with the representatives from the Blood Sword Hall. Before this business with the Xuan beast tendons is completed, we absolutely cannot have any mishaps.

“This subordinate naturally understands.” Lady Yue’er gently smiled before continuing. “Lord Liu, do you know what came of the matter I asked of Er Ye?”

Lord Liu’s voice became quite solemn. “Lady Yue’er, Jun Zhan Tian is a cornerstone of the Tianxiang Kingdom. Killing him is easier said than done. Even the Blood Sword Hall, who dares to assassinate a princess, will still hesitate and not make their decision so lightly when it comes to Jun Zhan Tian!”

“Er Ye only needs to mobilize a fraction of his manpower! We can frame Jun Zhan Tian for plotting a rebellion by taking advantage of the recent uproar the old man caused in the capital. With anger clouding His Majesty’s mind, the result will be obvious!” Extreme resentment was palpable in Lady Yue’er’s voice. “Even in my sleep, I dream of the death and destruction to that old man’s family. Is Er Ye going to let this decisive opportunity slip away!”

“That’s out of the question!” Lord Liu resolutely rejected this suggestion. “Jun Zhan Tian controls at least half of the power in Tianxiang. We can target Jun Zhan Tian himself but not when it may implicate his entire faction. What Er Ye wants is not a fragmented Tianxiang Kingdom.”

“Jun Zhan Tian left my country in ruins and my family dead or scattered. Listening to your words, don’t tell me...” Despair was evident in Lady Yue’er’s voice. “If Er Ye is not capable of accomplishing this task on my behalf, then why would I continue working with him?”

“Outrageous!” Lord Liu harshly scolded before lowering his voice. “Lady Yue’er, your personal grudge is not a priority. Blood Sword Hall is still hesitant so wait until they have completed their assignment in the Yu Tang Kingdom. At that time, Er Ye will certainly have ways to make them submit. The three masters from the Blood Sword Hall are all at the Sky Xuan cultivation level, and their mysterious leader is even rumored to be a peak level Supreme Divine Xuan expert! Dealing with a trifling Jun Zhan Tian would certainly not be a complicated matter. Besides, Jun Zhan Tian already has one foot in the grave, what’s the harm in letting him struggle at death’s door for a few more months?”

Lady Yue’er snorted angrily but did not say a word.

Jun Mo Xie trembled! They are planning the assassination of his grandfather! Not only were the assassins from “Blood Sword Hall” actually three Sky Xuan level experts but their leader is apparently at the Supreme Divine Xuan cultivation level!

But because the lake surface had been incomparably tranquil, the water had unavoidably made an incredibly slight splash sound when he trembled. Although the sound was almost inaudible, Jun Xie still immediately cursed in his heart.

“Who’s there?!” A voice snapped. “There’s someone under the boat!”

His position has been exposed!

Jun Mo Xie didn't have time to think before turning his body around and firmly kicking off the bottom of the boat. His body looked like a big swordfish as he violently shot off underwater, quickly swimming far away.

An explosion rocked the pleasure boat as the roof of the cabin disintegrated into a shower of splinters. A figure layered in a bright and dazzling golden radiance, stormed into the air almost five zhangs high! Like a flash of lightning, his two eyes sweep across in all direction to discover Jun Mo Xie's silhouette escaping underwater at great speed.

With a flash of golden light, the figure returned to the boat to seize the helmsman's long bamboo pole*. Shua! With a heave, the pole looked like black lightning enveloped in golden Xuan Qi as it flew out from his hands towards Jun Mo Xie's underwater silhouette. At the same time, the figure launched high up in the sky and flew out in the same direction as the bamboo pole. Gliding over the lake surface with the sleeves of his robe fluttering, this dazzling golden figure appeared as if a god had descended to earth.

This is precisely Lord Liu!

Peak Gold level cultivation and just a half step from Jade Xuan level!

Jun Mo Xie continued to press on and swam toward the distance when he suddenly sensed layer upon layers of heavy pressure pushing down from above. The water surrounding his body felt as if it suddenly froze and a feeling of impending crisis grew within his heart. His blood rapidly ran cold!

Without turning his head, Jun Mo Xie could sense that the trajectory of this attack would penetrate his torso. If he is unable to avoid it, then there would inevitably be a bloody big hole!

Swiftly making up his mind, he instantly circulated the Art of Unlocking Heaven's Fortune at full strength. Feeling the stress on his body reduced, he exerted all his effort to lean to one side, puff out his chest, stick out his butt, and suck in his waist—his appearance that of an "S" shape. A really, really killer figure with curves in all the right places!

Shua! The four zhang long bamboo pole barely scraped by Jun Mo Xie's skin, continued past the small of his back, coincidentally threading through his clothes and even through his underwear, before deeply inserted into the lake bed.

Jun Mo Xie felt a chill running down his thigh and a stinging pain as short curly hair suddenly floated around in the water. If the bamboo pole deviated by a hair's breadth, he feared that Young Master Jun will wait upon His Majesty the Emperor. He immediately burst into a cold sweat!

Standard bamboo poles are only two zhang in length, but the bamboo poles used at Spirit Fog Lake are relatively longer because of the depth of the lake.

Jun Mo Xie struggled to get free. The bamboo pole that was inserted into the space between his clothes and flesh unexpectedly did not budge. A small and exquisite flying dagger appeared with a flip of his right hand before he made a quick backward slash and became free. Two pieces of gown resembling a pair of butterflies parted to either side of him to reveal a stark naked body in between. If this was a young lady, then it actually would have been very alluring.

Up in the sky, the golden figure quickly descended. Before even touching the lake surface, the speed of his descent had caused waves to ripple out and the water under his feet to sink just enough to expose one end of the bamboo pole.

Jun Mo Xie eyes opened wide as he watched the figure sweeping down from the sky. Snorting in his heart, he suddenly straightened himself and rushed up towards the surface.

Hmmph, don't worry; he would never rush up to fight. As he is now, a Gold Xuan peak expert is still an insurmountable mountain.

As his body shot upwards, his left hand suddenly punched out right as he was about to reach the surface to create a water arrow that exploded toward the falling figure in the sky. Simultaneously, his other hand grabbed the exposed end of the bamboo pole as he rapidly swam back into the lake. Circulating the Art of Unlocking Heaven's Fortune at full strength, the bamboo pole was unexpectedly pulled into a crescent shape and continued to issue out cracking sounds that cause people's teeth to sour.

When the pole had been bent as far back as possible, Jun Mo Xie suddenly lets go after exhausting his strength reserves, his naked body swimming away extremely rapidly far away.

The bent bamboo pole straightened out with tremendous energy, and a droning “weng” sound ricochet out.

Chapter 102 – Very White

Jun Mo Xie noticed a long time ago that, while this man had aimed to strike him dead with the bamboo pole, he had also held back so that he could use the pole as a foothold. This point is further supported by his diving position; he had kept both legs pointed down toward the lake during his descent. An ordinary expert in this scenario would typically dive head first which would more than double his current speed.

This exposes a critical weakness. This Lord Liu, this aloof and dominant peak Gold Xuan level expert, he...does not know how to swim!

Jun Mo Xie had figured out this point in that split second. Therefore, he immediately pulled back the bamboo pole. As long as he could pull apart the bamboo pole, that Lord Liu will have nowhere to find a foothold and would have to drown himself to try and catch him!

But Jun Mo Xie did not anticipate that the bamboo pole was not only very tenacious, but the lake bed was also very deep. Having pulled on the pole to no avail and realizing that the man is closing in, he was forced to give up. A stark naked body, resembling a big whitefish squeezing a bit of jet-black water plant, swimming away...

Lord Liu had decided earlier that this cowardly eavesdropping individual would certainly not be a difficult opponent. Although he doesn't know how to swim, he can still attack, retreat, and defend with the aid of the bamboo pole. When the water arrow shot out at him, Lord Liu waved his sleeves and immediately swept it to one side. This revealed that his counterpart's skill is not high, and became even more relieved. But when he neared the water, he discovered that the bamboo pole head that was recently just in front of him had unexpectedly disappeared!

Panic. Like a moth to the flame, he was unable to stop himself from plunging into the water. Before he had time to collect himself, he saw two big white buttocks not too far in front of him gently swaying toward the distance—and he couldn't help but become angry!

At this moment, the water in front of him churned with life and, with a droning sound, a long bamboo pole surge up violently, propelling a current of water at great speed!

If he knew how to swim, he would naturally evade in time. But he didn't know how to swim, was still panicking from the plunge, and was preoccupied with thoughts of drowning. How would he be able to pay attention to this "bang" sound? The bamboo pole that had been haphazardly drawn back earlier was situated between his two legs. Striking hard and fast, a blood-curdling scream had not even been issued yet when his body instinctively bend forward and his forehead smashes into the bamboo pole!

Letting out a pitiful cry, Lord Liu was sent flying and spinning like a kite with its string cut, losing so much blood that he had appeared like a salted fish that's been dried in the sun. Flying toward pleasure boat direction, the last memory before his consciousness faded was facing a pair of big white buttocks gently swaying...they were very white!

A quick and agile figure flew off from the pleasure boat, unexpectedly radiating brilliant silvery light. Lady Yue'er received Lord Liu's body in her arms before returning to the boat with the rope that she had tied around her waist earlier...

After landing back on the boat, Lady Yue'er had a complicated expression on her face as she looked toward the distance—the spy was long gone. In this pitch-black night and after this delay, there was very little chance she would catch up even if she had wanted to give chase...

The previously awe-inspiring Lord Liu is now dying at her feet, unconscious...

Hidden in a clump of reed on the other side of the lake, Jun Mo Xie still had lingering fear as he crawled ashore. He took advantage of the night to go streaking, all the while thanking his lucky stars. If he had not cultivated the Art of Unlocking Heaven's Fortune to its current level, perhaps he would already have been severely injured if not dead! He really must be blessed.

Knocking out a satisfied patron coming out of the brothel whose two legs were too weak to walk, Jun Mo Xie very nimbly pulled off his clothes and disappeared like a wisp of smoke.

On the ground, a stark naked and plump body splayed out in the shape of a "大," facing the sky. A small, earthworm-like thing collapse askew in his crotch area...

The eight Jun Family bodyguards were going insane looking everywhere for their family's young master. They are acutely aware that they are in a difficult situation; if Grandpa Jun was to become aware of their

dereliction of duty to protect the young master, then they would not be able to escape punishment. If this young master's grandpa creates havoc again...these men did not dare to continue this line of thought.

After searching late into the night, the eight exhausted bodyguards returned to the main gate of the Jun Residence. Suddenly, they caught a glimpse of a figure that looked very similar to their family's young master and hastily ran over.

Why are they not certain this is their young master? Because that man was wearing an extremely ill-fitting robe and his appearance was a total mess. Although Young Master Jun is a completely good for nothing debauchee, his appearance was always regarded as pretty good as he usually attaches great importance to how he looks. That is why they half-determined that this sorry figure is not the one they are searching for. But can two different people look that similar?

So those eight bodyguards continued to stare intently, and simultaneously called out in a pleasant surprise, unable to contain their joy!

This looks very much like their young master but also appear to be just a dirty pedestrian. That's just the way Young Master Jun is?

"What are the eight of you doing? I was scared stupid in the afternoon by that little girl Ling Meng's bulls**t bodyguard. Humph! Humph! I called out to you all several times and was surprised when no one responded." Young Master Jun hurried along while shaking his head, appearing to hate iron for not becoming steel—resenting them for not being there when he needed them. "Was he not just a Sky Xuan level expert? You got that scared? I'm getting angry just looking your stupid expressions. You might as well go first!"

Uh? What?!

The eight men immediately recalled that after Ye Gu Han had bellowed out in extreme anger, they had been despondent for a split second. Could it be that the young master called out right at that moment but we did not respond, and so he ran away after panting with rage? They stared dumbstruck at Jun Mo Xie; their minds were all simultaneously confused.

They actually hadn't remembered to ask: Since you went off by yourself, why would we come back at the same time? We went to all four corners of Tianxiang City to look for you. Where have you been all this time? Furthermore, why are you dressed in the loose-fitting, intolerably vulgar clothes that only the newly rich would wear? Furthermore, why does your hair look like it's wet?

"Don't be distracted and quickly give me the Blazing Heart Meridian." One of Jun Mo Xie's leg has already crossed the threshold of the gate and didn't even turn around before speaking. The bodyguards woke up as if from a dream, mechanically moving in step, to follow after the mysterious young master inside. Almost everyone was bewildered. How are the young master's legs moving so rapidly? Was he possessed?!

How unpleasant. Frigid wind awkwardly blew inside Young Master Jun's current billowing gown as he hurried to change clothes. If people ever find out that he first swam naked, ran naked and then stripped another man of his clothes, then his entire life's illustrious reputation as an assassin would certainly be lost in the Spirit Fog Lake...

The Jun Residence's gate closed tightly shut behind everyone!

Deep into the night when the moon was high in the sky, Jun Wu Yi was still sitting in his wheelchair as before, absentmindedly drinking by himself and calmly waiting for his nephew to come. In the sky, the gentle moonlight spilled upon his steadfast face, light and shadow danced across his tranquil and abstruse expression.

A wishful gaze, a hopeful gaze, an expecting gaze, or possibly...a desperate gaze!

A sound came from the courtyard gate as a Jun Mo Xie, dressed in his own gown, walked in with a grin.

Jun Wu Yi slowly turned his wheelchair and unhurriedly and calmly examined Jun Mo Xie up and down to discover no issues only then relaxed and said. "I heard you...created a large commotion in the afternoon at Magnificent Jewel Hall?"

"Yep!" Jun Mo Xie spoke bluntly. "Magnificent Jewel Hall is too arrogant!" But he suddenly sensed that something was wrong. When Third Uncle spoke about Magnificent Jewel Hall, why did he pause in the middle? His tone is also not very suitable.

Jun Wu Yi had downcast eyes and was silent for a long time before slowly speaking. "Do you have any idea that I broke out in a cold sweat once I got this news. Your grandpa appears to be fine on the outside, but I know that he is scared! Mo Xie, uncle know that you have courage, but...unless it is absolutely necessary—a life or death crisis—never have any conflict with Magnificent Jewel Hall. Our Jun Family...cannot...afford to offend the Magnificent Jewel Hall, at least for the time being. Do you understand?!" He spoke this sentence very slowly, carefully pronouncing every word; it's hard to imagine that such words of resignation came from the mouth of such an unyielding, lionhearted man.

Jun Mo Xie was stunned, slowly sat down in front of him and said, "Third Uncle, it's not like you to say these words. Is this Magnificent Jewel Hall really so frightening?! Even you are afraid of them!"

Jun Wu Yi turned his head away, wouldn't let him see the look in his eyes and replied in a cold, indifferent tone. "If I were alone, I'd naturally not be afraid of the Magnificent Jewel Hall! Even if the Magnificent Jewel Hall were to be stronger by a hundredfold, what can they do? A man has but one life, grass but one spring*, so if death comes then so be it! And you too, Mo Xie, I know that you fear neither the heaven nor earth and this Third Uncle is very pleased. But I always feel you don't have a strong sense of family, so I want you to promise me! To always keep in mind that you are the youngest generation of a noble family! That behind you, there is a large and deeply rooted Jun Family!"

[*These are excerpts from a very profound Buddhist scripture. These first two phrases speak of the brevity of human existence.]

"Most of the time, the family is your greatest support, but occasionally, it can also be your most significant setback!" Jun Wu Yi looked up. His eyes betrayed many things that he could not put into words. "As long as there is hope for the family, we...must not give up! This is the glory of the family and also its tragedy and responsibility!"

Jun Mo Xie was silent for a long time before replying with a smile. "I understand!"

"It's good that you understand." Jun Wu Yi smiled mildly. "In this matter, I have been waiting for you all night. Since you understand now, have a drink with me."

"Drink? Let's postpone this for another time. I'm afraid Uncle will not be able to drink wine for the next fortnight. But first, I would like to congratulate Third Uncle because the five kinds of medicinal herbs are now in our possession." Jun Mo Xie smiled. "And I have already determined from checking your pulse that you were ready as early as a half month ago! Third Uncle, in another ten days, you can tear down

the thing you are sitting on now and light it on fire. That day also happens to be when the restriction on your diet can be lifted! ”

Chapter 103 Fight Poison with Poison!

Jun Wu Yi's hands trembled and the wine from his cup to spill. He silently looked at the wheelchair handle that's supporting his right hand. Although he remained completely motionless on the outside, his heart was pounding, and his mind was reeling from the news!

Ten years as a cripple!

Now he can see a glimmer of light!

Jun Wu Yi remained taciturn and did not say a word before Jun Mo Xie left.

Three days later, Jun Zhan Tian directly sealed the main gates and made an announcement: In the following days, no guests will be welcomed except by the royal decree of His Majesty! If anyone dares to take a step inside the inner courtyard without permission, he will be killed without question!

The oppressive atmosphere that enveloped the Jun Family was as if it were the eve of a great battle! The air was so thick that some were unable to breathe!

The doors to the inner courtyard were securely closed. Two rows of guards stood at attention outside with their swords unsheathed. The blades of their swords were glistening with the reflection of the ardent sun in the sky. Human figures could be seen moving in the shadows. The might of Jun Family that had once shaken the capital was out on full display at this moment.

Moreover, these guards were all veterans who have served for decades as the backbone of Jun Zhan Tian's elite forces. Even if they have any personal misgivings, they will discard such thoughts when they are on assignment. Each and every one is loyal and worthy of trust!

Every possible and even impossible threat must be accounted for during this operation. Not a single thread or hair can be out of place!

On the other side of the four zhang tall perimeter walls, a massive iron caldron was positioned in the center of the inner courtyard. The size of the caldron was so great that it can be described as a small-sized water reservoir. It has previously been filled with water and was raised on top of a raging fire. Six burly men continuously added firewood as bubbles start to emerge on the water surface.

Jun Zhan Tian's entire body is dressed in black and was wearing a pair of strange gloves with long sleeves that completely covered the rest of his arms. A solemn expression appeared on his face as he paced anxiously back and forth in the courtyard. In contrast, the white-clothed Jun Wu Yi's appearance was exceedingly tranquil. It seems that he had come to terms with his inner demons and cast off the shackles on his heart!

Jun Mo Xie was nearby organizing the Nine Leaf Grass, Common Heart Grass, and Persistent Severing Root on a table next to an oversized jade basin. Both his hands proceeded to put the herbs into the basin, mashed them to extract their juice, and collect it in a wide mouthed jade bottle. His movements were swift but controlled and methodical.

Jun Mo Xie finally called out. "Third Uncle!"

Jun Wu Yi trembled from head to toe as a bright-yellow Earth level Xuan Qi rippled out and shredded the gown covering his body. Grandpa Jun flashed forward to support his son's body in a supine position. Jun Mo Xie promptly spread the dregs that remained in the basin on every inch of Jun Wu Yi's body.

The five medicinal herbs prescribed by Jun Mo Xie were all highly toxic weeds! Just one by itself is so lethal that a victim can take no more than seven steps uphill, eight steps downhill or nine steps on level ground before dying. Now with three of the herbs, Jun Wu Yi instantly felt as though he had been thrown inside a blazing inferno as searing pain spread from head to toe. He held in a groan and clenched his jaws as cold sweat dripped down from forehead! The kind of excruciating pain caused by applying three deadly toxins simultaneously on his body cannot be put into words!

But this was only the beginning!

Without any hesitation, Jun Mo Xie swiftly snatched the jade bottle, pressed down on Jun Wu Yi's chin to open his clenched jaws, and poured the contents of the bottle down his throat!

The concentrated liquid had slid down Jun Wu Yi's throat before he had time to react, causing him to feel as if a ball of fire was burning him from the inside out. He couldn't endure the pain anymore and was just about to shout out in pain when Jun Mo Xie heartlessly stuffed his mouth with a balled-up piece of plain white cloth he had prepared long ago.

Jun Zhan Tian shivered as he watched Jun Mo Xie work with such practiced ease that he was even beginning to suspect that his grandson may have tortured others before! His expression became increasingly disturbed; how can a father continue to watch his son suffer at the hands of his grandson?!

"This is something that had to be done. Even a person with a high tolerance will succumb to this extreme pain. It is highly likely that he would have bitten off his tongue if I did not intervene by stuffing his mouth." In the time that Jun Mo Xie took to explain himself, he had already prepared the Intestinal Cracker Flower in the same way as the previous three herbs and even took a short break.

Suddenly, the three deadly toxins simultaneously flared up inside Jun Wu Yi as his skin transformed to a shade of purple and black! The change had just appeared when Jun Mo Xie sprinkled the Intestinal Cracker Flower fragments evenly on his body. Moving at extreme speeds, Jun Mo Xie removed the gag in his uncle's mouth, poured the Intestinal Cracker Flower's extract down his throat, and stuffed his mouth once more before he was even aware of what happened! Jun Wu Yi let out a muffled scream as his bloodshot eyes bulged out.

The potent extract of the Intestinal Cracker Flower reacted explosively with the cocktail of poisons already inside his body and rapidly spread from his insides out. Jun Wu Yi could feel a wave of soul-searing pain rush forth from his dantian and frantically course through the parts of his body that had been severely injured ten years ago!

The four poisons did not exist in a state of harmony inside Jun Wu Yi's body and was constantly attacking and resisting each other. His bare skin transformed once again—this time to the colors of the rainbow—as an unbearable pain emerged from the parts of his body he had thought would never have sensation again!

The deep-seated poison that has hidden in his legs for a decade is finally being forced out!

Jun Mo Xie sighed in relief as he stared attentively at the crotch area between Jun Wu Yi's legs. At such a critical moment, Jun Mo Xie couldn't refrain himself from thinking in his mind: it appears that mine is...bigger!

While this thought surfaced in his mind, his grandfather was having an emotional outburst. “Stand up! I said stand up!” The old man’s white beard trembled as he vigorously pointed at his son’s crotch. As if heeding the call, the little Wu Yi shook its head before suddenly becoming a pillar that can support the sky! The movement was so sudden that it almost pushed against the bridge of the old man’s nose as he had previously moved closer to lean over in examination.

When Jun Mo Xie proceeded forward with the Blazing Heart Meridian, his grandpa jumped up in fright and almost fell over. Shaking his head, Jun Mo Xie reprimanded. “He needs to stand up. If he can’t stand then what is the purpose of this treatment?! Is it worth making such a fuss over something so small?!”

Grandpa Jun repeatedly hiccupped, unconcerned about his grandson chiding him, as his face lit up with a hard to conceal delight. His disabled son has finally recovered a man’s basic function after ten long years. To speak of nothing else, the Jun Family could at least grow branches and scatter leaves*. This was something that he had always brooded over and his son’s recovery simply could not have arrived at a better time! This was great news!

[*add to the family tree by having children.]

Jun Wu Yi’s lips trembled and his face grimaced in pain. A warm sensation could be felt in his lower region followed by the stench of urine. In his mind, he thought that the originally famous iron blood man, veteran of a hundred battles, has now unexpectedly...

Only in his fading consciousness, he can see two men—one old and one young—unexpectedly unable to take their eyes off of his junk as he loses control of his bowel movement. Between the smell and the shame, he gave a pitiful groan before directly fainting!

What the eye doesn’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve over!

As to the pair of men doggedly staring at the middle-age man’s treasure? The old one wanted to reach out to fiddle with it! This isn’t something an ordinary man can endure! Even if he is his father, isn’t Jun Third Master more than thirty years old?

The several men who had been maintaining the fire all poked their head up in succession to take a peep before quickly lowering their head in shame and returned to adding firewood. An impressive general is

an impressive general. He can still be so awe-inspiring even after ten years of inactivity. We really are inferior...

After a while, every part of Jun Wu Yi's skin finished changing into a bright multicolored color—

“It's time!” Jun Mo Xie roared. His left hand swiftly pressed on Jun Wu Yi's chin while his right hand circulated the Art of Unlocking Heaven's Fortune to break the skin of the Blazing Heart Meridian. A viscous black liquid gushed out and dripped into Jun Wu Yi's mouth before he gagged his mouth again, but he also used another strip of cloth to cover his mouth before tying a knot behind Jun Wu Yi's head. Even if he regains consciousness, it's impossible for him to spit out the white cloth!

Finishing up, Jun Mo Xie effortlessly discarded the skin of the Blazing Heart Meridian. His right hand continued circulating the Art of Unlocking Heaven's Fortune as he firmly pressed against Jun Wu Yi's chest and directly injected his Spiritual Qi!

In the blink of an eye, Jun Wu Yi's body swelled up like a balloon at a speed visible to the naked eye. His meridians gradually appeared on the surface of his skin meandering like countless purple earthworms, appearing sinister and extremely nauseating.

At Jun Mo Xie's prompting, Jun Zhan Tian reached out with one hand before an illusory tool formed from azure colored Xuan Qi materialized out of thin air. In no time at all, he had finished constructing a crude bamboo raft before throwing it directly into the large caldron. At this moment, the water temperature had almost reached the boiling point!

Jun Mo Xie leaped up into the air with Jun Wu Yi's body before releasing him over the large caldron. Right before impact, his body slowed down before gently landing face up on the bamboo raft.

Jun Mo Xie followed soon after, landing as light as a feather on the raft and extending out both hands. Under the earnest gaze of Jun Zhan Tian, several dozen shimmering silver needles appeared out of thin air on both of Jun Mo Xie's hands!

A needle flashed as it inserted into Jun Wu Yi's Bai Hui point*. His movement was direct and efficient and did not betray the slightest hesitation. Even the usually steady Jun Zhan Tian shivered from head to toe; just one misplaced needle could strike a lethal acupuncture point and kill his son. But even his best efforts couldn't stop him from blinking and rubbing his eyes.

[Bai Hui point, also known as the Hundred Convergence point, is the acupuncture point situated on the crown of the head and is known as the point where the body's Yang energy naturally converges in traditional acupuncture.]

At the moment he rubbed his eyes, the silver needles in Jun Mo Xie's hand rapidly issued forth and entered the rest of the acupuncture points on Jun Wu Yi. Jun Mo Xie kicked out with his tiptoes to flip Jun Wu Yi's body in the air before landing prone on the bamboo raft.

Jun Mo Xie extended out his two hands once again causing more needles to appear. After several more flashes, all the silver needles were inserted Jun Wu Yi's wide back! With a sigh of relief, Jun Mo Xie pulled the bamboo raft from under Jun Wu Yi and his body directly rolled into the steaming hot water!

The water surface constantly let out "glug glug" boiling sounds as the water temperature steadily rose. Jet-black liquid continuously exuded from Jun Wu Yi's pores and the seven orifices of his head*. In a moment, the large basin of water had dyed pitch-black in color similar to ink!

Chapter 104 Unexpected Ecstasy

Jun Zhan Tian's eyebrows twitched violently, and his two eyes opened so wide they became perfectly round! He had never seen nor had he ever heard of this poison therapy, but the fact that Jun Wu Yi's still alive was already sufficient proof of the treatment's effectiveness. However, when the old man looked down at his body and then back up at the open caldron of water, he felt a chill run down his back. If he were to fall in, he estimated that he wouldn't last long even with Sky Xuan Realm Xuan Qi protecting his body. Perhaps, it would only take a short period before he is cooked and ready to eat...

The men stoking the fire were also drenched in cold sweat; not because of the heat, but because they were terrified!

This is crazy...to actually cook a living person in boiling water?!

What if..what if he dies, then what?

With this temperature, it would be difficult not to boil something thoroughly!

Jun Mo Xie was firmly standing on the rim of the cauldron, his unblinking eyes watching Jun Wu Yi's body that is gently revolving in the water for any signs of change. Jun Mo Xie maintained a calm disposition; his face serene, expressionless, and unfeeling!

Suddenly, Jun Mo Xie extended his left hand in and out of the boiling water without hesitation and fished out Jun Wu Yi's body. Just that momentary exposure left large blisters on his hand; partly from the scalding temperature and partly from the corrosive effect of the toxin!

In contrast, Jun Wu Yi's skin had turned fair and white; the frightening and grotesque colors from earlier have all but faded.

At the moment his body flew down and landed in Grandpa Jun's hands, Jun Mo Xie already placed his right palm on Jun Wu Yi's dantian and unleashed the Art of Unlocking Heaven's Fortune at full strength!

As time passed, Jun Mo Xie's complexion became increasingly pale while Jun Wu Yi's skin became increasingly rosy...

Finally—

A silver needle was forced little by little out of Jun Wu Yi's body—shaking and trembling—until the needle was expelled, triggering a spurt of black blood to fly out.

And then the next...until finally, the needle inserted into the Bai Hui point flew out, leaving a fine trail of six colored blood.

Jun Mo Xie exhaled as he released his palm and quickly sat cross-legged; he calmly controlled his breathing—his face had alarmingly become as pale as paper! Before he released his palm, Jun Wu Yi eyes had suddenly opened to issue forth an acute light! A light blue radiance!

Light blue! This meant?!

The deadly poisons, unsealed meridians, and Jun Wu Yi's ten years of accumulated Xuan Qi all exploded out at the same time! Along with the high efficacy of the Blazing Heart Meridian, he had directly broken through from Earth Xuan level to the Sky Xuan level!

Ascending three stages in the blink of an eye! Not only that, but Jun Wu Yi will henceforth be immune to hundreds of poisons after being refined by the Blazing Heart Meridian! A super-strong expert was born!

Seeing the light blue radiance, Jun Zhan Tian immediately jumped up high, laughed out loud, and his eye bulged out as if he saw a ghost! He had even unconsciously pulled out a tuft of white beard with his right hand!

He had diligently trained for a greater part of his life and had only reached the Sky Xuan level. It had already been remarkable that his son had cultivated to the Earth Xuan level at his age; all the more so when he had achieved this result in the space of ten years that he had been severely injured and wheelchair bound.

But to be able to ascend to the Sky Xuan Realm as if riding a rocket after opening his sealed meridians!?

Unbelievable!

The old man shook his head, his heart was torn; happy, grateful, excited, a little terrified, but mostly still questioning if this was actually happening! On the one hand, he was so happy that he wanted to sing and dance. On the other hand, he had a bittersweet feeling in his heart; bitter because this could all be a dream and sweet because he had not awaken from it yet.

Jun Wu Yi felt a tingling sensation surge from his two legs that have been paralyzed for past ten years. The Xuan Qi effortlessly coursed through his meridians. He was moved to tears! I am finally able to stand up again!

Enemies of the past, I, Jun Wu Yi, vow that I will hunt you down soon enough, and you will pay for your sins!

He stood up with one swift motion to experience the sensation of using his two legs to walk again.

“Third Uncle, you still need to sit down for the time being. Please be patient and endure for a short while longer.” Jun Mo Xie’s tired voice came from behind. “It is imperative that you currently condense and circulate your Xuan Qi. The medicinal strength of the Blazing Heart Meridian is high, and it has already neutralized and flushed out the other poisons. However, all of its therapeutic effects remain untouched within Third Uncle’s body. If you do not absorb it as soon as possible, it will degrade and the benefits will be lost. Moreover, Third Uncle had not moved your legs in ten years so your blood vessels will definitely be blocked. You will require a long period of rehabilitation before you can make a full recovery.

Jun Mo Xie closed his eyes and slowly explained.

This unexpected breakthrough was a moment of ecstasy but also a major obstacle in one’s path of cultivation! However, if one can seize this unique opportunity to meditate and strengthen their mind, there will be great benefits toward one’s consciousness and future cultivation!

One has to know that the medicinal strength of a five-hundred-year-old Blazing Heart Meridian is extremely formidable; it can singlehandedly fight against the poisons that were previously within Jun Wu Yi’s body. But other than the Blazing Heart Meridian’s fierce toxicity, its therapeutic effects are also exceedingly outstanding. According to Jun Mo Xie’s plan, he would borrow the Blazing Heart Meridian’s potency to forcefully resist the other poisons’ toxic effects and then he would utilize the boiling water and silver needles to expel the poison in one go. There were no accidents when he was executing these steps as everything went rather smoothly without a hitch. Subsequently, he intended to revitalize his uncle’s body using the Blazing Heart Meridian’s therapeutic properties. This method would still require at least half a month for Jun Wu Yi to fully recover. After all, his two legs have been disabled for a long time and would be unable to absorb this sudden large dose of nourishment. He would need to take it slow and gently recuperate.

But Young Master Jun perceived a few days ago that his Art of Unlocking Heaven’s Fortune could not only be used to nurse his health but can also be used on others. He cannot recall any other abilities in his two lives that are comparable to this miraculous skill. And one of the topical benefits is that the Art of Unlocking Heaven’s Fortune can cure all the poisons in the world!

So Young Master Jun decided to modify his original plan and used his Xuan Art to nourish his Third Uncle’s body after the poison had been neutralized. Not only did his idea work out but the results had far exceeded his expectation; Third Uncle’s body had been completely reborn within an hour of the treatment and the therapeutic benefits of the Blazing Heart Meridian were not even needed. Instead, its essence had entirely transformed into pure Xuan Qi and assimilated into Third Uncle’s body. When this was combined with the Xuan Qi accumulated from Third Uncle’s ten years of bitter closed-door

cultivation, the amount of pure Xuan Qi was equivalent to the product of at least fifty years of ordinary cultivation. This explained why Jun Wu Yi could break through to become a Sky Xuan Expert!

All of this was credited to Jun Mo Xie's "Fortune" Xuan Art; as the saying goes, when conditions are right, success will follow naturally!

Jun Wu Yi paused and did not dare to dismiss his nephew's instructions. Sitting cross-legged, he tried his utmost to clear his mind so that he could enter the state of cultivation as quickly as possible. Even so, it took a lot more time than usual for him to stabilize his consciousness. As the Xuan Qi finally began to circulate throughout his meridians, he slowly became unconscious of the boundary between himself and the outside world.

Jun Mo Xie had only sat down for a moment before Spiritual Qi had rushed out of the Honjun Pagoda and replenished the energy he had depleted from using the Art of Unlocking Heaven's Fortune. Slow to his feet, he saw Jun Zhan Tian's meaningful glance and the emotions expressed in his eyes.

"Mo Xie..." Jun Zhan Tian stared blankly at his grandson for a moment before bursting into tears! This old-aged, white-haired Grandpa Jun was unable to say a word and wept bitterly.

A once-in-a-generation, famous general who have caused sovereigns to be stricken with fear and generals to flee at his presence, had unexpectedly lost self-control?!

Jun Mo Xie couldn't help but feel pain in his heart as he solemnly lowered his head.

Who knows how much the old man had suffered over the years? What kind of torment had he endured?!

He originally enjoyed many descendants, joyous and harmonious, respected and revered, and served only one and had dominion over millions. Suddenly, two of his sons passed away in succession as casualties of war and his surviving son was crippled for life. How can any father bear such a burden?

An orphan in his youth, a widower in his middle-age, and bereaved father who lost his sons in his old age!

Jun Zhan Tian had reached the highest official position but had lost everything else!

But Providence did not think he had been punished severely enough. The two grandsons that he had put his heart into nurturing, where he had placed all his hopes and dreams, would never return from their military expedition on the eve of their weddings. Even their bodies were never recovered.

Before the news arrived, Jun Zhan Tian was in the midst of ordering people to decorate the bridal chambers, looking forward to his grandsons' return to get married and the day he can hold his great-grandson. He believed from the bottom of his heart that this moment would be the happiest in his life.

When Jun Zhan Tian received the news, his hair and beard turned white overnight! The former days of a loving family sitting in a circle cheerfully talking and laughing were gone forever! Besides himself, such a big family had been reduced to a handicapped son and a disappointing grandson!

Despair filled his eyes!

As a result, Jun Zhan Tian's spirit continued to go lower; he had already fallen into depression and lost all hope!

But in his moment of absolute despair, his once incomparably disappointing grandson, Jun Mo Xie, had an unexpectedly change of heart; gone was the debauchee, replaced with a lofty and unyielding character who acts according to propriety—profound in his schemes, flexible in his thoughts, and circumspect in his attitude. This had already brought comfort to Grandpa Jun's heart and had raised his spirits immensely! But he didn't expect that the biggest surprise was yet to come...

All the renowned doctors from the Kingdom had diagnosed his son's disability as impossible to treat, yet his grandson had now achieved the impossible!

Heaven is merciful! Jun Zhan Tian's tears fell unhindered as he cried tears of joy! All of his sorrow and anxiety these past ten years have been swept clean. Heaven's mercy allowed his Jun Family to be able to have today and have hope for the future!

Jun Family had not only gained a capable heir, but the student had also surpassed the master. The old man closed his eyes at this moment and did not have any regrets! He could proudly face the ancestors

of the Jun Family! The old man was deeply moved and remained speechless, but his body continuously trembled...

After a long time...

A deep, low, and clear hum was heard as Jun Wu Yi's black hair flew up; light burst forth from his eyes as he slowly got off the ground—this is the first time in ten years that he had relied on his two legs to stand up!

Chapter 105 Grand Preceptor Li and the Jade Sea Coral

Slowly lowering his head to inspect his now healthy and strong legs, he moved with caution at first before gradually progressing to kicking as his confidence grew. Suddenly, he broke out in emphatic laughter and laughed and laughed and laughed until he was in tears. This general who had once shaken the world, an iron blooded man who did not shed tears when he suffered a plot against him, had broken down in tears when he had recovered!

He saw, with tears in his eyes, the affectionate moment between his father and his nephew. A surge of emotions overwhelmed him and, with a quick two steps, suddenly plopped down on his knees. "This unworthy child pays respect to father!" It's been ten years...ten years where he could not kowtow* to his father!

[*kowtowing or prostrating before one's father is a social custom to demonstrate filial piety, one of the core doctrine of Confucianism.]

Jun Zhan Tian was trembling from head to toe as he faltered. "My son...stand up. Quickly. Quickly stand up..."

"Mo Xie!" Jun Wu Yi stood up and stared deeply at Jun Mo Xie. "You have given me back my life..."

Before he could finish, Jun Mo Xie's laughter interrupted him. "Third Uncle, you speak as if you were not already alive and well. Besides, I'm your nephew; could it be that we have to write out two "Jun" with one brush? There's no need for petty distinctions between family members. Not to mention that this is my duty as part of the younger generation."

Jun Wu Yi let out a deep, hearty laugh and stared deeply at his nephew; he had made a wholehearted decision at this moment: Since I can stand, I'll bear Jun Family's heavy burden upon my shoulders!

My, Jun Wu Yi's, long sword that has been covered in dust for ten years is once more unsheathed; not for king and country, and not for the common people! But for the Jun Family, and for—Mo Xie!

“Third Uncle.” Jun Mo Xie suddenly started laughing uncontrollably; it was rather strange as if he harbored mischievous intention. The two men were at a loss and looked at him in confusion.

“Third Uncle, your asset is quite substantial, but...” Jun Mo Xie was now shaking all over from laughing, “...this valiant and spirited bearing; although grandpa definitely won't mind, your nephew is still a little embarrassed. You should...cover up, HAHAA...”

Jun Mo Xie winked as he gazed toward Jun Wu Yi's lower half. Jun Wu Yi had been stark naked during his treatment and subsequent meditation. After he had discovered his complete recovery, he had completely neglected this point under his emotional state of mind. Up until now, he was still exposed, wagging his head in a high-spirited manner.

Ten years waiting for this day and he did not know when to test his gun?!

Jun Zhan Tian was prompted by Mo Xie's words to look at his son's majestic thing and also couldn't help blowing his beard as he burst into loud laughter.

Jun Wu Yi's long face immediately turned purple like an eggplant, indignantly gnashing his teeth. “Little brat, you just wait a minute, and I'll come back to teach you a lesson!” He barely made a sound as he disappeared; leaving behind a grandfather and his grandson hold their stomach, laughing without any restraint or regards to their image.

A short while later, Jun Wu Yi reappeared dressed in black, rolling up his sleeves as he said. “Boy, have some guts and don't run.”

Jun Mo Xie jumped out of his skin and screamed. "Save me! I will not fight..." turned around and ran away. But how can his speed compare to Jun Wu Yi who had recently advanced to Sky Xuan expert? The "pow pow" sound of buttocks being struck echoed out around the courtyard.

Jun Mo Xie was laughing one moment then begging for forgiveness the next as he ran for dear life. Jun Wu Yi completely ignored him and continued to beat that a**. Seeing no other choice, Jun Mo Xie suddenly stopped to change direction before taking a big leap forward to hide behind Grandpa Jun. Jun Wu Yi snorted in exasperation and continued to chase and strike.

Even though Grandpa Jun had the strength of a Sky Xuan expert, he still became dizzy and light-headed from these two people running circles around him. However, he was not upset at all but rather enjoyed this moment as he continued to laugh. It had been a very, very long time since this scene of family love and joy had appeared in this household.

Seeing the six burly men who had tended to the fire preparing to tip over the giant iron cauldron, Jun Mo Xie hastily shouted out. "Stop! I still have a use for that so do not dump it!"

When he yelled out, Jun Wu Yi and Jun Zhan Tian were simultaneously flabbergasted. Jun Wu Yi wasn't seriously disciplining his nephew; all three men had been grinning from ear to ear. He had long since forgotten about the awkward situation.

"How can you dispose of it so casually? This is incredibly valuable." Jun Mo Xie drove away the men by iron cauldron and picked up a leather bag that was off to the side. He poured its content into the pitch-black water, and the surface exploded just like pouring water onto hot oil.

Jun Mo Xie quickly backed away after he emptied the bag, only to see the black water splash out from the cauldron onto the ground. The ground where the water landed immediately turned jet-black!

Jun Wu Yi and Grandpa Jun were dumbstruck. This poison is too...malicious!

"What did you add? How can it be so tyrannical?!" Grandpa Jun did not feel ashamed of asking and learning from his grandson; the old man understands that his grandson had lots of strange tricks up his sleeves and cannot fathom that anything he did is ordinary.

“It was just snake venom, but there were many different kinds.” Jun Mo Xie explained unhurriedly. “There are thirteen kinds of viper venom altogether.” Jun Mo Xie pointed at the big iron cauldron. “Grandfather, Third Uncle, take a look. The bath water in the cauldron is comprised of six highly lethal poisons, but their overbearing properties perfectly complement and subdue one another causing them to exist in harmony. Adding the snake venom disrupts this precarious balance and converts the water in the cauldron into the deadliest poison between heaven and earth! If we immerse the weapons from our family’s armories in this solution for several days, then the soldiers under our command will be able to wield weapons that will cause our enemies’ heart and lungs to fail. If this is deployed during wartime, hehe hehe...”

Too cruel! Too malicious! Too despicable! Too shameless!

If such weapons were used against enemy soldiers..., just a small cut on the skin would be capable of killing a man!

Even Grandpa Jun with his Sky Xuan level cultivation might not necessarily survive past an hour if he was afflicted by this ultimate poison!

Horrifying! It really made one feel terrified!

Both of Jun Zhan Tian and Jun Wu Yi stretched their necks with their eyes wide open, staring at Jun Mo Xie like they were looking at a demon that had escaped from hell and simultaneously broke into cold sweat...

.....

Compared to Jun Family’s harmonious joy and jubilation, a cloud of anxiety hang over the Grand Preceptor’s manor at this moment!

Even though Li Zhen and Meng Hai Zhou were driven out of the Magnificent Jewel Hall, and the Li Family had been prohibited from returning to the auction house, it was only a minor inconvenience so long as they still have access to the Meng Family’s box. Moreover, the two of them had successfully bided on the Jade Sea Coral and brought it back to the manor without incident. Just this point is already a great achievement—it would be fair to say that this is their biggest achievement to date!

But after Li Youran saw the Jade Seal Coral, the smug smile that Li Zhen had kept concealed was replaced by fear and trepidation as he recounted the events at the auction house. Li Zhen had thought that Li Youran would punish him in anger and waited on tenterhooks until Li Youran gently said one line. “Oh? Only 5 million taels of silver? That’s not bad considering you were able to obtain the Jade Sea Coral even with the Tang Family’s interference. Little Brother Zhen, you can go to Accountant Li and receive payment for your advance of 3 million taels of silver.” Li Youran unexpectedly did not mention the shame and humiliation from having their access to the Magnificent Jewel Hall revoked. It was truly baffling.

Li Zhen and Meng Hai Zhou could hardly believe they were hearing and were almost convinced that the person standing in front of them is not Li Youran but a body double—when did the young master become so nice?

The two of them were staring blankly for half the day as if they had just woken up from a deep sleep. They were trying to understand what happened but couldn’t come up with anything. In the end, they couldn’t help but sigh deeply and just thank their good fortune.

Li Youran was calmly sitting with a faint smile on his face as he looked at the sparkling and translucent Jade Sea Coral in front of him. After a while, he deeply exhaled and thought to himself. “I was almost too careless not to have considered that old man Tang would also want this item. If I had let this great opportunity slip, it would certainly have been due to my negligence. If I had not sent these two white silk pants* but sent someone else, wouldn’t the latter be intimidated by the exorbitant price and give up on bidding for the Jade Sea Coral? This may be the only good quality of being a white silk pant. As the saying goes, every dog has its day. Everyone will have good luck or success at some point in their lives. This is probably what that means...”

[*white silk pants mean the same as born with a silver spoon. It describes those born into wealth and privilege.]

Having thought up to this point, he chuckled softly before circulating Xuan Qi through his palm into the Jade Sea Coral. A golden aura had flashed across his whole body before he pulled back his hand, a cheerful expression on his face. The rumors were true; there was an extraordinary amount of pure energy inside this treasure! If his grandfather can absorb this energy, it would still easily extend his life even if he cannot cultivate Xuan arts again.

Gracefully standing up, he walked toward Grand Preceptor Li Shang’s study while holding the Jade Sea Coral.

Inside the study, Grand Preceptor Li narrowed his eyes as he examined the Jade Sea Coral in front of him. A happy expression soon revealed itself on his face, not just because of the benefits to his health, but more so because of his grandson's filial piety. Grand Preceptor Li suddenly felt blessed to have such a grandson in his life; what more can he ask for?

"Grandfather, the matter should not be delayed. A long night is fraught with dreams*—we do not know if the others will catch on. Why don't we follow the method that my master had previously disclosed? Let me promptly draw out this pure energy, and then grandfather will absorb this treasure as soon as possible." Li Youran smiled with poise.

Li Shang chuckled and then pondered. "That is also good. You go and get your men to come here so that we can start cultivating." Li Youran nodded in agreement before clapping his hands twice; the footsteps of someone approaching was heard moments later. A respectful and sincere voice reported. "Lord, Young Master, we have already cleared the area thirty zhangs surrounding the study. Is this adequate?"

Li Youran gently said. "Enough."

The people outside responded by not making a sound.

Li Shang looked at his grandson with satisfaction and asked. "Your seniors have already returned?"

Li Youran replied. "Yes. They have already returned to the mountain and had a pleasant if not uneventful journey. I will certainly convey Grandfather's concerns on your behalf."

Li Shang coughed twice, smiled and said. "Why is a grandfather and grandson talking about this? It's unfortunate that your master cannot personally take action. If he can come, our Li Family will be much more reassurance." He heavily sighed as he reached this point.

"Master is already preparing for the appointment in three years at Qi Tian Peak; I fear that we absolutely cannot be distracted for the time being. But with the assistance of those several seniors, I believe we can still easily deal with the internal affairs of Tianxiang Kingdom. So long as it is not a major military campaign, there is nothing for us to worry about."

Li Shang gave a noncommittal nod, deeply exhaled a breath, and said encouragingly. "Since there is no time to lose, let's commence now."