

## E Monarch 156

### Chapter 156 – Buried alive

The gatekeeper was completely unaware that the Jiang Nan delegation had arrived with their own ulterior motives. I have no idea why so many people are flocking to the Tian Xiang City in this time of turmoil..... What is going on here?

Now even my own people are trying to steal from me? Jun Mo Xie frowned, sensing that something was amiss.

The entire Capital was in a state of chaos at the moment.

The days were as normal, peaceful and calm as ever since no one would dare to cause a commotion in broad daylight. But the City's night patrol had been finding an increasing number of dead bodies in every part of the city with each passing night. Often the City's patrol would find unknown and strange devices on the bodies of the deceased. The department of justice and the Imperial army had been keeping a close eye on the movements inside the city, and were completely confused by these events since the major gangs within the city didn't seem involved.

However, all the major gangs of the city seemed to be aware of this instability, and had already tightened their securities, which was making it even harder for the authorities to investigate into the matter. The result of the final investigation left everyone shell-shocked:

The deceased don't belong to the Tian Xiang City; they comprise of every major faction outside the city, and many of the dead bodies discovered belonged to renowned and accomplished foreign individuals. Even though the encounters which lead to their deaths happened in silence, the majority of the deceased were advanced Xuans. In fact, all the dead bodies procured so far are above the base of silver Xuan realm.

These incidents are becoming more and more frequent, with the most recent one involving the Mu Rong Family.

Then as the investigation continued, we were able to discover that three out of the City's five major families were involved in the fray; namely, the Song Family, the Mu Rong Family, and the Meng Family. Although there is no concrete evidence of the roles of these families, but it is evident that they are involved! Even the third prince seems to be faintly involved.....

How can we investigate our own houses? Although the officials weren't able to get to the bottom of the matter, but they couldn't help muttering to themselves: are we witnessing a major revolution in the capital?

The secrecy with which these factions were operating was making them even more nervous.

On one particular night, a variety of Xuan beasts flew over the capital city concealed in the dark curtains of the night, causing fireworks, and leaving only corpses in their path.

The Solitary Falcon had been the most active rogue on the city's streets over the last couple of nights. He had ventured out in this chaos out of sheer curiosity, and even though he was quite disheartened on not finding anyone worthwhile to cross sword against, but he still crushed any opposition he faced to sate his mad desires. In fact, it could be said that he had been killing every person he encountered in the street at night, irrespective of the strength of his victim. Of course, the Solitary Falcon didn't consider his action unjust: I never intended on killing you. I was simply trying to learn something from your skills..... it isn't my problem that you're so useless that I couldn't even learn a single thing from your useless experience. How can I be blamed for someone else's incompetence?

Had he been able to learn anything from a person he dueled against, then he would have allowed them to live on, but unfortunately, no one was able to show sufficient skill to deserve that chance, and were hence massacred by him..... this was another reason behind the chaos in the city. He was one of the main reasons behind the deaths of several Silver, Gold, Earth Xuans.....

The whole city was in a mess!

The Solitary Falcon was walking towards a large building at the moment. He hadn't been able to learn much in the two nights he had spent exploring the talent on the city's streets so far, after all, it was quite hard for him to find inspiring talent at his level.

Therefore, the Solitary Falcon had decided that he would focus his attention only on people above the Earth Xuan realm from now on. But finding such experts was a hard task, and he needed to find himself a large network of spies who were capable of finding such people.....

There is no way I'll find skilled experts roaming around the streets of this city...

Therefore, the Solitary Falcon had decided to approach one of the largest gangs of the Tian Xiang City: The Jin Yang Bang gang.

This was the only shortcut that he could think of. He was confident that the Jin Yang Bang gang's network would be sufficient to give him an insight on the whereabouts of high level Xuan experts within the city. They might be one of the largest factions in this city, but even they cannot reject the offer of currying a favor with a man like me!

The Solitary Falcon was obviously very confident..... or maybe a bit overconfident!

"Boom!"

The thick door of the Jin Yang Bang gang's building was suddenly shattered to pieces, and the sawdust from its remaining fragments filled the atmosphere of the lobby. The handful of people who were sitting and drinking tea in the lobby weren't expecting company, and naturally stood up in shock.

Who would dare to walk into the Jin Yang Bang gang's building in such a manner?!

A figure slowly emerged from the within the cloud of sawdust; long hair, black clothes!

"I'd like to see the leader of Jin Yang Bang!" the Solitary Falcon stated his demand in a rather dominating fashion since he could clearly see that the men in front of his eyes weren't capable enough of calling the shots for such a large organization.

Even though these men belonged to the one of the largest gangs in the city, but they were no more than mere ants in the eyes of this intruder. The Solitary Falcon was well aware that he could decide the fate of their existence at his whims and fancies, so why would he bother being polite to such men?

The Jin Yang Bang men looked at each other in confusion for a long time, unable to decide the course of action, and then suddenly started shouting as they withdrew their weapons and charged towards the Solitary Falcon. The Solitary Falcon grunted as he withdrew his sword, and then painted the room in the bloody colors of a setting sun. The room quieted down as soon as the swords of his victims fell to the ground.....

~ Jun Mo Xie's courtyard ~

Jun Mo Xie's infatuation with the Yin Yang Escape law hadn't diminished yet, and he was still busy practicing the method diligently. In fact, it seemed that his desire had been propelled further, almost to the point where he seemed willing to suffocate himself in the process of achieving his goal!

Guan Qing Han's kick had enlightened Jun Mo Xie, and he had suddenly realized something. As a result of his realization, he had prohibited everyone from coming into his courtyard. So much so, that even Little Ke wasn't allowed to witness his training at the moment. He had realized that the Yin Yang Escape law was beyond the imagination of the men and women of this world; so naturally, if he was able to succeed, then it would cause a sensation.... Jun Mo Xie was well aware that this news would spread faster than any other.

Jun Mo Xie had made tremendous progress after some arduous experiments over the course of the evening: he had succeeding in traversing up to ten feet while holding his breath for a period of three seconds.... Obviously, while being invisible!

The ability of being invisible for a span of three breaths shouldn't be underestimated by any means since this time frame was enough to kill a dozen men!

Delighted by his achievement, the young master Jun had started practicing the ability to escape into the ground. Escaping into the ground ah, now that's the stuff legends are made out of! Imagine if I could vanish into thin air while fighting an enemy, and then my sword sticks out from the ground and kills them all in one swoop! What could be more fun than the sight of their comrades' expressions?

With this thought controlling his mind, Jun Mo Xie accumulated all the energy he could muster, and then suddenly zapped his body into the ground below his feet, leaving no trace of his existence on the ground above. It was at this point when he realized that he suddenly realized his mistake: he had successfully managed to escape into the ground, but what about getting out.....

For the fear of failure, Jun Mo Xie had used the entire energy which he had been able accumulate and had managed to escape several feet into the ground. Obviously, he couldn't help feeling pleased with the result, but soon started to realize the problem he had landed himself in: He had used the entire energy he had accumulated in order to escape into the ground..... but he would need the same amount of energy to get out as well.....

What now?

What do I do now? Stay calm, stay clam; it's just soil!

As he started to feel the enormous pressure of the soil on his body, Jun Mo Xie began to realize something for the first time in his life.....the earth is extremely powerful! But that wasn't the least of his concerns; the biggest concern was the fact that there was almost no air in the soil which he was stuck in. Obviously, there is no way one can live without air. Will I have to rely on brute strength to climb out now? I don't even know how deep I'm buried.....

Moreover, Jun Mo Xie's courtyard's ground was no longer made of average soil. At the time when the Hongjun Pagoda had gone berserk, his courtyard's ground level had sunk by almost three feet due to the enormous pressure of the aura, making his courtyard's floor even stronger than the average everyday granite due to compression. Climbing out of such solidified soil was obviously not an easy task!

Jun Mo Xie frantically called upon the Hongjun Pagoda, but it seemed that the Pagoda was feeling a bit lethargic at the moment..... Jun Mo Xie had used the Hongjun Pagoda almost a hundred times today in order to assimilate the aura he needed for his practice since he was itching to succeed in his endeavor....

Are you mad at me Pagoda? Damn it, you just had to pick this time for taking it out on me? Ah, I'm suffocating here! .....you want me to beg?

He started to choke due to the lack of air, while the enormous pressure of the soil started to interrupt his blood flow, and it seemed from his heartbeat that his heart would pop out of his mouth at any time. It started to seem as if the Hongjun Pagoda had abandoned him in this moment of need. The hitman could barely even move his fingers due to the pressure of the soil....

At this time, Jun Mo Xie's thoughts started taking a bizarre turn, and he started cursing the Pagoda within his mind: "Nothing good has happened ever since this damned broken Pagoda has waltzed into my life! You can shake the entire city in one go, but now you're choosing to sit idly while I'm being suffocated to death?"

It wasn't long before Jun Mo Xie was no longer able to endure the pressure. Soon, all he could feel was the pulse in his brain..... he had already started feeling dizzy, and he was certain that he would lose consciousness very soon. He desperately tried to push his energy into his Dan Tian in the hope of kick-starting the Hongjun Pagoda several times.... No response.

His mind started becoming increasingly unstable, and soon he had given up the rational way of thinking.....

At this point, a golden image suddenly appeared inside his mind, and the Hongjun Pagoda gradually started to rotate at a very leisurely pace. The young master Jun didn't even have enough strength to curse at this point, so he just quietly waited...and prayed.

## Chapter 157 – Business Guru

As the Aura started to circulate through his body, Jun Mo Xie started feeling some calm again. The Aura started circulating around his Dan Tian and then slowly progressed to the rest of his body, and that feeling of suffocation instantly vanished. However, Jun Mo Xie was still a bit frenetic, and the moment he had accumulated a third of the energy required to rescue himself from his predicament, he used the Yin Yang Escape law to propel himself out of the soil!

Puff! Jun Mo Xie inhaled fresh air once again as his head popped out of the soil, leaving him with a feeling of resurrection. As he greedily breathed the air again, he started to realize just how sweet and comforting the atmospheric air can be.....

Wheezing and panting, Jun Mo Xie still hadn't realized that he had only been able to rescue just half of his body, while the other half of his body was still buried in the ground.....

"Master!" a high octave voice sounded all of a sudden as the little Lolita came up running and crying: "Master who did this to you? Who could be so cruel? Buried alive, ah....."

Jun Mo Xie remained speechless.....

I cannot tell this little girl that I buried myself alive, right? That would be too shameful! No, I definitely can't tell anyone that..... stop yelling, are deliberately trying to tell everyone? That would be very embarrassing for me!

He went to great lengths to convince the young Lolita to stop with her tears, meanwhile constantly trying to pull himself out of the ground by sheer force. But he was unsuccessful in pulling himself out since the solidified ground had almost no chinks or gaps, and the constant struggling was causing more and more pain to his legs and feet.

Although Little Ke was surely on his side, but it was still better for Jun Mo Xie's sake that this information stayed out of other people's ears. Jun Mo Xie wanted to pull himself out using the easier method, but he knew that Little Ke wouldn't be able to sustain the shock.....

I can't use the Yin Yang Escape to pull myself out in front of this girl.... So now what? Dig a hole in the ground? Or pull myself out using Yin Yang Escape? This little girl will go crazy if I use the Yin Yang Escape.... But watching her reaction would definitely be fun.....

Jun Mo Xie started digging a hole in the ground, and then climbed out of the ground, and lay down on the floor exhausted.

He instructed the little Lolita to keep her mouth shut, and then got up to return to his room, when suddenly.....

"Good Heavens! Ah ah ah ah ~~~~~" a cadence roar mingled with a strong aria from within Tang Yuan's room shook the entire firmament. The volume of the voice left the young master Jun squatting on the floor from fear.

In this world or the previous, the hitman Jun had never been embarrassed twice in the same day in this manner before!

"Third young master wow, I'd kiss you brother wow..... Mo Xie, you're my brother; no, you're my savior! Where did you get that? Come over here....." another heaven-shaking cry resounded from fatty Tang's

room. The surprise in the voice resembled that of a pervert who had just laid eyes on seven heavenly fairies taking a bare-bodied shower in the rains.....

Jun Mo Xie nervously opened the door to fatty's room, and wasn't surprised to see that the fatty's personal maid was already trembling with fear in one corner of the room. This however, was quite awe inspiring about fatty's voice..... his inspiring call had already received acknowledgement from the watchdogs of the Jun residence, who had started barking now.

"Heaven ah ah ah~~~~~" Fatty Tang continued to chant as he looked at Jun Mo Xie with tears in his eyes, while his body seemed to be twitching to leave the bed. The look of excitement in his perfectly round and small eyes seemed to resembling the look of a pilgrim who had just seen the sacred Buddha .....

"Oh come on! You better lie down..... hurry up and lie down....." Jun Mo Xie stepped forward, if I let this fatty fall down from his bed, then I reckon that the fall will completely disable his body. I need him to be functional.

"I I I I I ..... I .... You ..... you...." Tang Yuan's eyes were tearing while his lips were trembling: "I am me.... I you.... You ... you....."

"What I you me?" Jun Mo Xie squinted his eyes as his patience started to give in: "Fatty, don't call me your brother, I'm one step away from sending you to the dogs.... It's the middle of the night, and? Even if you don't wish to sleep, at least let the rest of us get some rest. At least take some pity on my watchdogs, they've been up all day... they are tired, why don't you let them rest a while? Now, why are you shouting in the middle of the night?"

"I I I I I ..... I damn, I thought I would die!" Tang Yuan looked at Jun Mo Xie with tears in his eyes: "Third young master, I really don't know where you got this from.... Your idea will bring the world to an order... this idea will blow the mind of the entire world.... This is truly genius, I've never been so surprised in my entire life..... me, I could worship you; like a surging river of endless rain, like the immortal waves of the seas, like the boundless white of the snowy mountains! You're really....."

"Stop!" The series of boot-licking comments had left Jun Mo Xie dizzy. His order ended Tang Yuan's flattery, and so he asked: "What are you trying to do?"



Tang Yuan is certainly up to something; I know I'm very talented, he's right about that, but why would he go on and on about it!

"The business plan....." Tang Yuan's hand trembled as he took out the paper: "Did you write this yourself, or are you passing someone else's work as your own?"

Jun Mo Xie nodded in confusion: "Yes, ah? Why would you think that this was written by someone else?"

He had really written the idea himself. Jun Mo Xie had often needed to play someone else's identity in his previous life, which obviously required to him to have some knowledge about everything, such as planning, business, stock market.... In fact, Jun Mo Xie had once ventured into a prestigious business school to learn somethings!

He could talk about the simple things. But he wasn't capable of going into the details.

"You asked if I was in?" Tang Yuan grabbed Jun Mo Xie's hand in excitement, and said: "Master, master, I'm in. Please accept your follower's respect.... No no, master, you must accept me as your disciple..... accept me as a disciple....."

Jun Mo Xie suddenly felt a blob of mass wrapped around his hands, and quickly tried to pull his hands free, but was unable to since he was already quite exhausted. He had really never expected that Tang Yuan would hold on to his hand like it was a matter of life and death. The fatty continued to tear and beg: "master.... Master, you must take pity on me.... Accept me as a disciple....."

"Fatty, if you ever do this again, then I'll throw you in a pit alive. Now will you let go of my hand?" Jun Mo Xie threatened ferociously, and then said: "This plan... do you think it's worth something?" why is this fatty acting out like this.....?

Fatty Tang reluctantly released Jun Mo Xie's hand as his sharp eyes cried with dissatisfaction: "Any good? If your egotism had any limits, then you would have known that this plan is obviously the ultimate business plan! This is an unprecedented invention! Any businessman would come begging to you and would study under you! You're being too humble right now, you're a once in a generation genius business man!" Fatty Tang replied in excitement.

“Uh? Is it really that good?” Jun Mo Xie was a bit skeptical. How did I become such a great business genius? After all, he had never really done business in his life, and had at best disguised himself as one. This information was a gist of everything which he had heard in his previous life, and he was hoping that Tang Yuan would be able to make head or tail of it. But he had never expected this kind of a reaction from Tang Yuan.

Jun Mo Xie hadn't expected that his broken knowledge of business from his two lifetimes would receive this sort of a reaction.....

No knowledge is terrible!

But bragging more than you know is ever worse!

Tang Yuan took two deep breaths and then rolled over to show his backside. Even though turning over was quite painful for him, he endured the pain with a straight face: “Third young master..... quickly look at my ass and tell me if it's still bleeding?”

“I feel like vomiting!” Jun Mo Xie retched loudly: “Damn, you do know that I'm only keeping you here because you have nowhere else to go, right?”

Tang Yuan suddenly started to laugh in embarrassment: “Do you know I can barely eat or drink these days..... I'm surviving on medicine.....”

Jun Mo Xie sternly looked at Tang Yuan and said: “Fatty, do you seriously think that the idea will work?”

“Trust me! This is definitely the gold mine for a business man! The world will never see such a great business plan again! We just need to follow this business plan, modify it at best, and you and I will become the richest business men in the entire world!” Tang Yuan seemed very sure: “Third young master, as long as you have the goods, this Tang Yuan will open shops in every corner of the continent, and even the beasts from the Tian Fa forest will come to shop with us if they have the money for it!”

“That's good!” Jun Mo Xie exhaled: “You will manage everything on your own from here on. I mean it, you're responsible for all of it, the marketing, buying land, construction, jobs, shops, security... etc etc.... don't come looking for me! I really have no interest in any of this!”

“Don’t worry, I understand, and I won’t bother you. We’ll be rolling in mountains of gold and silver soon! Just you wait and watch!” Tang Yuan seemed very confident of himself, while his eyes continued to stare at the paper in amazement.

“Then I’ll go and get some sleep, and we’ll talk later tomorrow.” Jun Mo Xie started to leave.

“Get out of here then. And don’t disturb me, I’m going to have some fun here.....” Tang Yuan waved almost as if he was waving a fly away, while his eyes still hadn’t parted from the paper.

“Really! You disrespect me like that after calling me your teacher! You’re one disobedient disciple!” Jun Mo Xie mocked his friend, but didn’t receive any response. Tang Yuan didn’t even seem to be paying attention to his presence anymore....

The hitman Jun bitterly left the room.....

## Chapter 158 – Hai Chen Feng

Although the training had been very agonizing but Jun Mo Xie was pleasantly surprised to realize that his body’s Xuan Qi had seen a significant rise. In fact, he was even able to execute the Yin Yang Escape law with much more ease than before.....

But the most surprising thing which Jun Mo Xie was able to realize was: Even though the Hongjun Pagoda was very powerful, it wasn’t very reliable. Therefore, Jun Mo Xie figured that he would have to rely on his own strength in crunch times!

I cannot rely on external forces, so I must concentrate on increasing my own strength.

Jun Mo Xie still hadn’t prepared himself for the convention at the Old Song’s shop yet, which was scheduled to take place the following afternoon. Therefore, once Jun Mo Xie had restored his expended Xuan Qi using the Hongjun Pagoda, he went straight to the wine warehouse, and started tinkering.....

Under the boundless curtains of darkness, Jun Wu Yi emerged out of a big house with a mask concealing his face, while his robes were drenched in blood. A bunch of young boys and girls followed after him and towards their independence with hope and appreciation in their eyes.

It shall not be assumed that the blood which stained his clothes belonged to him. This blood had splashed out of the bodies of countless experts who were involved in the trafficking of young children.

The house in the background now housed several dismembered bodies. In fact, this was the third time that Jun Wu Yi had visited this mansion.

Jun Wu Yi had finally learnt to agree with Jun Mo Xie statement: "Some people ignore the law of the land, and use it to shield their inhuman activities. Such people can only be exterminated from the face of the land. Sometimes, dealing violence with violence is the only right path!"

Independent of careful investigation and secretive tracking, no one would have ever imagined that such a rich and imposing house could be harboring such filthy criminals.

The first time when Jun Wu Yi had ventured into this mansion, he had entered with the intention to injure, and not kill. And then he had sent an anonymous message to the City's patrol; arrest these people and bring them to justice under the eyes of the land's law.

A day later he found out that these criminals had vanished from the prison! Jun Wu Yi launched several inquiries and found out that these people were well connected and had managed to escape with help from officials, and were now seeking treatment in secrecy. Angered, Jun Wu Yi had decided to rush into their place of hiding and had drenched the mansion's floor with blood!

Jun Wu Yi had already learnt from his experience: Since the law doesn't sanction them a fair punishment.... my sword will! I'll bring them to justice on behalf of the heavens!

His frozen smile basked in the glorious moonlight for a while, and then a blue light flashed as he faded into the darkness again!

In another corner of the city, a blue-robed man was sitting on the edge of his bed in silence.

A black clothed man was sitting in front of him, adorned in countless bandages. "Brother, if there was any other way, then I wouldn't have asked you to travel all the way to the Tian Xiang City.... Brother, I'm in a lot of trouble, and I can't find a way out! Brother, if you don't help me then my entire life's work will be over in front of my eyes....."

The speaker, dressed in black clothes was Jin Feng Lie! The master of the city's largest gang faction, Jin Yang Bang!

He had confronted the Solitary Falcon at the time when the latter had intruded into the premises of his establishment, and had been knocked down on the ground by the Solitary Falcon in just three moves. He was only alive because the Solitary Falcon had shown him mercy. He belonged to a class of men who were already considered eminent and unapproachable in the eyes of common people, after all, he was the leader of Tian Xiang City's largest gang faction!

Jin Feng Lie was already midway through the Earth Xuan realm, which could be considered unattainable for normal human beings, but in the eyes of a Supreme Xuan, he was no more than an ant.

After proposing the terms of surrender, the Solitary Falcon had deliberately given Jin Feng Lie two days' time to consider his options.

The Solitary Falcon knew that Jin Feng Lie's surrender was only a matter of time, unless of course the man was able to find an expert competent enough to compete against him, in which case, he'd get to have some fun and test his skills. Obviously, the Solitary Falcon didn't reveal his real identity.

He obviously knew that Jin Feng Lie would have surrendered in a heartbeat, if he did.

Unfortunately, Jin Feng Lie was unaware of this!

"Brother Jin, you say.... Did you say that he beat you in three strokes?" the handsome-faced blue-robed man asked calmly: "Three strokes.... You know.... Even I can't beat you in just three strokes.... In fact, if I tried to, I would probably not be able to succeed. As far as I can tell, this man's Xuan realm is above mine....."

“Brother Hai..... do you, you.....” Jin Feng Lie remained tongue-tied as he chocked his throat with the words ‘you will sit idly while he washes his hands with my blood?’.

The blue-robed man stood up, and started pacing back and forth inside the room; his blue-colored robe fluttered around his body like the waves of an ocean.

But the heart of this man was already sinking into a depression. He had already reached the peak of Sky Xuan more than a decade ago, but hadn’t been unsuccessful in making the next breakthrough ever since. He too desired to obtain the Xuan Core, but was well aware that there was little hope for his success in this case as well, but was still hoping that he’d get his hands on the prize by a twist of fate. Although, he had never imagined that he’d be running into such a big problem beforehand.

This blue robed man was known as Hai Chen Feng, and he had always lived his life free and easy like the waves of the oceans, acting on his own moods and whims. For people with such skill, it is often hard to determine the difference between right and wrong.

Ten years ago, he had arrived in the Tian Xiang City and had ended up spurring a clash with a very powerful family of the city. Although he was defeated in the battle which took place a result of the falling out, his life was spared. If it weren’t for Jin Feng Lie’s care and protection, the seriously injured Hai Chen Feng would have succumbed to his injuries.

After his recovery, Hai Chen Feng assisted Jin Feng Lie with the Jin Yang Bang gang’s operations, and they managed to establish the gang as the strongest one in the city’s territory in just one year’s time, after which Hai Chen Feng left the Tian Xiang City.

He had returned to the Tian Xiang city with the hope of using the Jin Yang Bang gang’s network to procure the Xuan Core. After all, the Jin Yang Bang gang’s network was ingrained into the roots of the city, and his deep-rooted connection with them would obviously increase his chances of winning the Xuan Core.

He had never expected that the Jin Yang Bang gang would come asking for help at a time when he wanted their help!

Hai Chen Feng's heart was suffering unbearable angst, and he simply couldn't help asking himself: Is the Tian Xiang City a forbidden territory for me? Why can't I ever set foot in this place in peace? Why is it that every time I come here, I find some big trouble waiting for me?

According to Jin Feng Lie's story, the strength of this man in black is at least as much as mine.... Probably more.... what should I do?

He continued to pace about, only to realize that he still couldn't console his heart. Then, he raised his head and sighed deeply as he made his decision: I'm Hai Chen Feng, and I must act here..... This man in black is either my doom, or he's dead!

He looked at Jin Feng Lie gently: "Brother Jin, you go and tell that man that I will be waiting for him in the forest, south of the city.... three days from now!"

"Thank you Brother Hai!" Jin Feng Lie was overjoyed: "I knew that my Brother wouldn't just sit idly!" Over the years, Jin Feng Lie had grown confident that Hai Chen Feng would never fail at any task. Naturally, Jin Feng Lie firmly believed that even though his enemy was extremely strong, he'd never be able to defeat his Brother; Hai Chen Feng!

Jin Feng Lie was already thinking of going and celebrating.....

He had never even considered that even Hai Chen Feng wasn't invincible!

He was completely unaware of the bitter hardships that Hai Chen Feng's mind was going through at the moment!

The appearance of this mysterious man in black reeks of an ominous sign! I believe that even if I win by a fluke, my victory will still be extremely tragic, and I will definitely be rendered incapable of competing for the Xuan Core. This is the last time that I will try to help Brother Jin. Whatever the outcome of this battle is, I will leave the Tian Xiang City immediately after the battle, and I will never return again!

"Brother Hai, you came to the Tian Xiang City for the Xuan Core, right?" Jin Feng Lie looked very excited: "I will immediately send out search groups to explore all angles surrounding this matter... ha ha ..... in fact, when I heard that you're coming, I immediately realized that you're here for the Xuan Core, and I

set about in making the arrangements to help you get it.” Jin Feng Lie smile and said: “If a power like you is being assisted by the Jin Yang Bang gang, then I believe that procuring even a level nine Xuan Core shouldn’t be an issue.”

“No! You’re wrong.... I didn’t come here for the Xuan Core.” Hai Chen Feng slowly shook his head as a trace of bitterness flashed in his eyes: “It’s been a decade, and I’ve dearly missed my Brother. I came here especially to meet you, and spend some time with you.”

Since I’ve already assessed the dangers of my predicament, what’s the point of getting him involved? I will carry the pain of the consequences of this matter..... alone.

“So.....” Jin Feng Lie couldn’t help feeling a bit sad, and so he said: “That..... since you’ve come especially to see me, you must spend an extra two days with me.... And you’d have made the breakthrough by the time we meet next, right?”

Hai Chen Feng’s lips curved into a bitter smile as he gently shook his head, breakthrough? I’ve already given up on that! “After three days from now, I will leave this city, irrespective of the result of the battle. I will leave the city immediately and I will never return again my Brother. So we only have three days to spend together Brother.....”

## Chapter 159 – The warriors return

“Ah?” Jin Feng Lie suddenly stood up despite his injuries “What do you mean by that?”

“What do I mean? Brother Jin, you need not be present in the woods when I confront the man.” Hai Chen Feng turned away and sighed: “I will deal with this man in black alone!”

If you’re there and you watch me lose, then wouldn’t you recklessly jump in to save me? It is completely unnecessary to increase the number of casualties.

Whether I defeat him or die trying, it’s better that you don’t witness either.....this is the least that I can do after so many years of friendship to save you.....



Once Hai Chen Feng was finished speaking, he turned around to face the wall and sat down cross-legged, unwilling to speak any further.

“Brother Hai.....” Jin Feng Lie cried out as a sudden and heavy feeling clogged his heart. His mind was crowded with concerns about his friend’s safety: was involving Brother Hai a bad thing? Is Brother Hai’s life in danger? Brother Hai has always been very confident about himself.... I’ve never seen him worry like this before. I think everything will be fine once he gets his confidence back! Brother Hai has never ever failed at any task before!

Since Hai Chen Feng didn’t seem interested in any further conversations, Jin Feng Lie sighed in a low voice and then exited the room.

Jun Mo Xie sensed a difference in the aura around his courtyard, so he put on his robes and stepped out into his courtyard under the twilight sky.

Jun Mo Xie’s small courtyard was at present housing over two hundred men, who were neatly organized in lines. They stood up straight as soon as they saw Jun Mo Xie, brushed their uniforms, and shouted in unison: “Master, we’ve returned!”

Jun Mo Xie smiled in return. His eyes scanned each and every one of the men in his courtyard, and then inwardly nodded in approval. The incompetence of these men had been completely annihilated by the training they had undergone, and these originally useless soldiers had now turned into iron-blooded warriors with the blood thirst of an unrestrained beast.

“What’s the report?” Jun Mo Xie asked with a smile.

“The report, Master, is this; twenty seven men dropped out of the training, nineteen lost their lives, making our total downsizing of forty six, while the remaining two hundred and fifty four men stand here in front of you! One hundred and thirty people broke into the ninth layer, eighty four men advanced to the Silver Xuan, while another thirty six men advanced to the peak of the Silver Xuan realm. A total of four men have already made it to the Gold Xuan! Also, we hunted down all the Beasts that we were required to, young master!” one of the men stepped out from the ranks and debriefed Jun Mo Xie. The man’s voice was clearly expressing his excitement! These people seemed very happy and proud of their progress!

“Very good!” Jun Mo Xie praised approvingly: “You all have done a lot better than I expected. Can everyone feel that change in their bodies?”

Jun Mo Xie’s sentence left the entire lot laughing in embarrassment as they recalled their days in the forest, and the times when they didn’t even have enough food to eat..... who could have ever imagined that they would return victorious, and the suicide training mission that their young master had sent them on would force out their skills! The strength of these men had more than doubled over the course of their training!

“Remember, you’ve only managed to achieve this result because you pushed yourself to the limits! Pushing oneself is the only way to tap into the infinite potential of the human body! Even cowards can become warriors! But if you stop pushing yourself, then your body will start decaying, and the warrior inside you will transform into a coward!”

Jun Mo Xie continued in a loud voice: “You have made excellent progress and it is your right to celebrate, but let me tell you that you’ve only taken your first step. Even the best of you has only reached the Gold Xuan, what’s the value of that in this world? There’s still Jade Xuan, Earth Xuan, Sky Xuan and then the Supreme Xuan realms left! There’s a long way to go, and I find it very strange that you haven’t realized that yet..... always keep your eyes and ears open and one day you may be able to attain the Supreme Xuan realm as well! There’s still a long way for you all to go, but haste makes waste, and you need not look too far now. Just keep pushing yourself everyday... one step at a time, and unknowingly one day you’ll realize that you’ve achieved the heights you could never even have dreamt about!”

“Yes! We honor and respect the young master’s instructions!” everyone replied in unison.

Before accepting the training mission, these men didn’t really think very highly of Jun Mo Xie. But these men were alarmed to realize that Jun Mo Xie’s instructions had helped them in avoiding several life threatening situations inside the forest, owing to which these two hundred and fifty four men were convinced of Jun Mo Xie’s leadership qualities and foresight.

“You must go and report to third uncle, and he will assign you to your tasks.” Jun Mo Xie waved his hand.

“Master.....” several of the men stepped forward in excitement: “We know that we don’t deserve it, but..... Master... can you allow us to follow .... You?”

“Third Uncle will make the decisions.” Jun Mo Xie smiled since he knew that Jun Wu Yi would assign these men back to him. The uncle and nephew duo had a very clear tacit understanding in this respect!

Tang Yuan’s snoring was loud enough to shake the very foundations of the Jun residence, and occasionally he’d even scream out: “ah.... My ass is in pain.....!!” Everyone preferred his snoring over his complaining.

The Sun had just risen in the sky when Jun Wu Yi rolled out in his wheelchair and came into Jun Mo Xie’s courtyard. Jun Wu Yi could sense that Jun Mo Xie’s courtyard seemed a bit different again, almost as if the already sunk ground level was missing a chip now!

It was a lot harder for Jun Wu Yi to manipulate his wheelchair these days since he had gotten used to walking around on his own two feet during the night time. But he still enjoyed sitting in his wheelchair since it gave him a very solid alibi for all his covert operations.

“You assign them work.” Jun Wu Yi said: “I’m very busy at the moment.”

“Busy killing people?” Jun Mo Xie’s keen sense of perception sensed the taste of a very familiar feeling coming out of his uncle’s body: “Uncle, you’re becoming very selfish... you actually went out alone for a party..... why didn’t you invite me along?”

Jun Wu Yi hesitated as he looked up, but couldn’t help a laugh: “I came back, took a bath and changed my clothes.... But the little devil you are.... You still figured it out.”

“Killing isn’t just a manual labor; it’s a job which requires a lot of mental strength as well.” Jun Mo Xie smiled interestingly: “Those who kill people, do it out of anger or sadness or hatred, which evokes an outrage in their minds at the time of the deed. Therefore, once you’ve killed a person and dismembered their body, your mind also loses its focus and purpose. After killing someone, the hostility of that viciousness continues to linger within one’s temperament, and the killer tends to become socially elusive and odd; even a war general is no exception to this.”

“This is one of the reasons why most people are unable to progress very far in their lives!” Jun Mo Xie smiled coldly: “So after killing people, it is very important to clean up your mind as quickly as possible, by doing something that you enjoy. This is necessary to relax and loosen up your mind, or else you’ll

never rid yourself of that hostility and you'll eventually lose your mind. Drinking is always a good way to do just that, which is why most warriors are alcoholics; in fact this is the main reason why most military men drink!"

"Therefore, just taking a bath isn't enough, Uncle." Jun Mo Xie winked: "However, I don't think that a lot of people will be able to tell this apart from me, so you needn't worry about it ha ha ha....."

Jun Wu Yi blushed with embarrassment since he had never even imagined that Jun Mo Xie would catch his lie: "Now even toddlers have the audacity to tease an old man like me!"

Jun Mo Xie looked up skywards: "Uncle, you'll have to get me an aunt before you go about calling yourself an old man!"

Even though these words were only meant as a joke, they had a base in reality as well. Even though Jun Wu Yi had been crippled for over a decade, his Xuan Qi had never slacked off, which reflected on his face, and even though he was in his thirties, he didn't look any older than mid-twenties. His young looks coupled with his middle-aged demeanor made his personality and appearance very contrasting.

And now he's also suddenly claiming to be an old man? What's wrong with this world!

Jun Wu Yi was speechless: "And why would I need to do that?.... When the youngest generation of the house starts maturing, the previous one automatically becomes old....."

"So according to that, if and when I have nieces and nephews as old as I am at the moment, I should also be calling myself an old man?" Jun Mo Xie deliberately asked this with difficulty: "But I'm only sixteen years old!"

"Of course." Jun Wu Yi replied sternly.

What kind of a justification is that.... this world is going crazy!

Jun Mo Xie practically collapsed to the ground. How's being uncle to a sixteen year old a valid reason for being old??? God, let me die now.... I can't take this anymore!

"You've nothing important today, right?" Jun Wu Yi smiled gently: "Remember to come back early in the evening today, we have guests and we need to entertain them by hosting a feast tonight."

"Uncle, why are they here?" Jun Mo Xie took the opportunity to ask his question.

"Given then current situation, they shouldn't be here for more than two reasons. One is obviously the Xuan Core; and secondly, they are here to fetch your sister-in-law, which they have already conveyed."

Jun Wu Yi brandished a faint smile: "Qing Han has been staying with us for several years now, which has been greatly detrimental to her reputation, so if she's decided to return to her home, then the Jun Family must compensate her in whichever way possible. For example, telling the world that she's going back by her own free will and hasn't been abandoned by us for any reason!"

"The Xuan Core situation is difficult to assess, so we'll have to put that aside for now. As for sister-in-law's return, I'm afraid that it's not that simple either.... They've only been conveying their interest of taking her back verbally all these years, so why have they showed up here in the middle of all this fanfare? Third Uncle, doesn't something seem a bit fishy? And there's the perspective of sister-in-law's identity and happiness.... She chose to be a part of the Jun Family, and has been so all these years..... wouldn't this be a mockery to our name and her decision?!" Jun Mo Xie skeptically analyzed the issues.

Chapter 160 – I'm not late, you just got here early

Jun Wu Yi faintly knitted his brows: "Mo Xie, you and I must clearly understand that Qing Han's future lies with her own family and not the Jun Family. Although Qing Han lives with us in the capacity of our daughter-in-law, she's just so in-name and not by law since there was no wedding ceremony to induct her into our family. Whether we look at this aspect from a social or moral perspective, she really cannot be considered a Jun. Her emotions took control of her at the time of your Brother's death, and she was unable to make a radical decision under the influence of her grief."

"But Qing Han is still young, and she may still have a shot at living a happy married-life ahead in her future. Both the families have been very clear on this subject, and in fact, both the sides made sure that this could be made possible in the future. In fact, at the time when your brother died, your grandfather made it very clear that Qing Han will only live with the Jun Family till the time she decides to. We decided that as long as she chooses to live with us as a part of our family, we will use all our power to make sure that she doesn't get any flak from the society about it!"

“But if Qing Han decides to go, then we must do everything to make her happy. If it’s for her good, then the Jun Family must even use its influence and try to get her married into a good and powerful family. Keeping her here and unmarried all her life isn’t fair to her. Do you understand my point?” Jun Wu Yi looked up at setting moon of the morning sky; the regrets that his eyes were trying to conceal were clearly visible in the light coming from the heavens above. “Qing Han would have made a very good bride for this family, but unfortunately your brother wasn’t lucky enough.”

“Third Uncle, if a good match can be found for sister-in-law, then I would surely be very happy for her, but I’ve always thought..... strangely of her family’s intentions!” Jun Mo Xie frowned as he suddenly felt a little strange within his heart.

“If her family is thinking of her and their interests alone, then we must also be able to think of our family’s interest, and we must make sure that they don’t exploit our family!” Jun Wu Yi stated this frame of sentence in the most imposing of demeanors, as would be expected of a Sky Xuan expert!

“Now that’s the spirit Uncle! Spoken like a true Sky Xuan war general!” Jun Mo Xie praised.

“Beat it!” Jun Wu Yi kicked his nephew in the buttocks and sent the young master Jun flying. A Sky Xuan expert’s kick is no trivial matter, and the hitman Jun was sent volleying into the air with his arms wide open, clutching the escaping air for support.

“That’s what you should get!” Jun Wu Yi chuckled. It was rare for him to find an opportunity to play around with his nephew.

The young master Jun splendidly rolled in the air, and then safely landed on his buttocks. He slid forward for a while before he was able to get up again. Being a Sky Xuan expert, Jun Wu Yi was skilled and powerful enough to apply his force in the right spot which sent him flying with actually hurting him in the process.....

Jun Mo Xie smiled evilly as he landed on the ground, almost as if he had just obtained a level six Xuan Core!

As the afternoon hours approached, Jun Mo Xie started making preparations to depart for the contest’s venue.

Jun Mo Xie took out two jars of wine, and boarded his most reluctant choice of ride – the red palanquin, which started wobbling its way to the Old Song's tavern soon after.

Old Song was already waiting anxiously in his wine shop.

Old Song had initially decided to close his shop after half-a-days' business today, but then changed his mind later, and decided to keep his shop shut for the entire day instead. Therefore, he directly listed his shop as 'closed' for the entire day since half-a-days' business didn't mean much to him anyway. Naturally, he decided to use the time to make his preparations for the contest.

A wine contest was one of the rare and great joys of his life! It ignited the same kind of excitement and nervousness in his heart that a martial expert would feel before a duel with another.

Although he was sure that the kid wouldn't be able to come up with a wine which would be a hundred times better than his own, but his heart was still full of expectations. No one can ferment a better wine than me, but since the kid had boasted so much about his skills, I'm hoping that the kid would be able to come up with something worth looking forward to....

The usually dirty pub was now spotlessly clean.

There was a green carpet on the ground. The tables and chairs which lacked an arm or a leg, had been replaced with good-quality tables and freshly crafted rose-wood chairs, which had been neatly arranged in files.

The twenty four tables with two chairs each made for a seating arrangement which was enough to seat about forty-eight people.

The corners of each wall were adorned with large pearl-shaped pigeon eggs which were hanging down from the wall, exuding a soft and lustrous white light which was brilliantly reflecting the white wine glasses set on the tables. The magnificently decorated pub would give any customer a feeling similar to that of a heavenly reverie.....

The middle-aged man excitedly stepped into the pub, and cried out in alarm and surprise, while his feet retreated a couple of steps as some doubts sprung up in his mind: Ah yes, this is the Old Song's pub, but how did this small pub suddenly become even cleaner and more luxurious than my palace?

This usually dirty pub has now suddenly transformed into a heavenly paradise..... I'm not inside a dream right now, am I?

Old Song hurried over to greet the confused and amazed middle-aged man: "Old Song, you're an odd character. You're taking this contest so seriously that even the Emperor would think twice before coming here."

Old Song obviously knew his real identity; therefore he didn't really feel the need to hide much from the man.

"I can't comment on that, but even if wine is just another drink to most people, it's everything to me! I have a hunch that this contest is something that I've been waiting for a long time now! This might turn into one of the most precious moments of this Song Shang's life." Old Song stated solemnly.

"Song Shang? So you're Song Shang?! The Song Shang, 'Send a wine before the kill' Song Shang?!" the prince was completely taken aback for a moment, and then immediately smiled: "But why have you been hiding that from me all this time?"

"Hiding or revealing... what difference does it make?" Song Shang smiled bitterly. What's left to conceal after that black-clothed man exposed my Xuan Qi? There was no way to hide here anymore, and if it wasn't for this wine contest today, then Old Song would have closed his shop a long time ago, and would've set out in search for a new place of refuge.

"According to the legend, Song Shang was quite the romantic, sophisticated, but also a bit weird. It is said that he used to send a jar of wine to his future victims before he came to murder them. Allegedly a gentleman, people say that he used to say 'You must gift a man a jar of wine before you visit him'..... but I don't know why someone like that would change?" The surprised prince asked with a smile.

Song Shang shook his head faintly as a thread of bitterness flashed across his eyes, but didn't say anything in reply.



The Prince naturally realized that Old Song wasn't interested in talking about his past. Therefore, the prince gestured to the cute ten year old boy who was standing next to him, with the intention of introducing the boy to Old Shang. Even though the boy seemed very graceful and fearless in front of complete strangers, his hands were secretly clutching onto the Prince's clothes.

"This is my boy." The prince stroked the boy's head affectionately.

"Good ambience." A faint voice sounded behind them. The Royal Highnesses and Song Shang turned around at the same time, only to realize that the man in black had appeared out of nowhere and was casually sitting on the chair behind them with a calm look on his face; even though he had complemented the new look of the pub, it seemed obvious that he didn't really care about it.

Having the vision of a prince, the middle-aged man could clearly tell that this man in black was something extraordinary; He has to be some sort of a legend from some folklore, else there would be no reason why an assassin of Song Shang's class would be so scared of this man.

Now that some of the secrets had come to life, the tavern went completely silent.

We are all present here to witness a wine making contest.... The judges are here.... But the opposing party hasn't arrived yet.

Is it because of stage fear?

The Hitman Jun was never the one to worry about stage fright. He was always more likely to worry himself with winning the match rather than worry about silly things like stage fright. However, even the young master Jun had never anticipated that a small wine making contest, which he had just jokingly made a bet on would be dragging influential characters like a world renowned expert, a Sky Xuan expert and some members of the royalty including a prince to witness the proceedings!

And now all these influential characters were stamping their feet as they sat and waited.... For him to arrive.....

Half an hour went by.... He didn't arrive; another half an hour passed by.... No sign of him.....

What does he think of himself!

The men seemed a bit angry; even the man in black was no exception. Wherever these three men went, people waited for their arrival. These three weren't accustomed to waiting for anyone.

A long while later, the man in black raised his eyebrows, while Old Song also moved his gaze in the entrances' direction almost simultaneously. However, the prince didn't realize why they did so until he heard a commotion on the other side of the ally's entrance.

Jun Mo Xie's palanquin was slowly swaying its way through the ally, while an extra two men were leisurely walking in front of his palanquin with a jar of wine in their hands.

The ally leading up to the Old Song's tavern was so narrow that Jun Mo Xie's procession barely left any space for the other pedestrians in the ally; hence they all squeezed to one side to allow the palanquin to pass through.

Although the palanquin was already quite wobbly, the hitman Jun had asked his bearers to make it sway just a bit more than the usual.

He felt that this deliberate movement would add some more flair to his arrival, and well..... he had been missing the roller coaster rides from his previous life for a while now.

As Jun Mo Xie parted the newly setup curtained entrance to the tavern, and stepped in, he found the prince staring at him with wide-open and round eyes: "Boy, are you preparing to get married to someone today?"

Old Song continued to stare at his competitor while the prince broke into laughter.

Jun Mo Xie looked around the room, only to realize that everyone seemed a bit dissatisfied by his actions: "Didn't we say 'evening'? Why did you guys get here so early?"

This remark earned him the angry glances of the three men! In fact, even the usually expressionless man in black narrowed his eyes.

Forget about blaming himself for arriving late, he's actually blaming us for coming early? This guy is a piece of work!