

E Monarch 171

Chapter 171 – You're lucky I'm not killing you

Guan Qing Bo couldn't help wondering, This guy is so naïve.... he's just revealed his true colors in three words!

"We've also heard about the Spirit Fog Lake." Guan Qing Bo smiled and said: "In fact, we've spent almost one-and-a-half days of our two in the Tian Xiang city there itself."

"Ah? The brothers have good taste, ah, ha ha ha, I guess I'm not alone in this world." Jun Mo Xie's face blossomed, almost as if he had just run into his soul-mates: "So? What was it? Girls? Boys? Or both? Gee... he he...."

Guan Qing Bo's face reflected a slight trace of embarrassment as he said: "Not at all... we were actually there on a business trip....."

"Brother!" Guan Qing Bo was in the middle of his sentence when his younger brother interjected, and passed him a warning-like glance.

Guan Qing Bo laughed in a free and easy manner: "Ha ha, Qing Yue, a man must always be upright and honest about his ways, and must never hide it from the world; there's nothing shameful about this. Moreover, third young master is practically a part of our family, and therefore we can discuss any matter with him without worry."

Jun Mo Xie nodded in agreement: "That's right." Although he was a bit confused: Could it be that these two brothers don't get along very well? Guan Qing Bo is practically trying to expose his own brother against his younger's wishes.... What's going on?

"It's rather obvious third young master; my younger brother's confidant resides in Spirit Fog Lake, ah, this was the purpose of our..... business trip" Guan Qing Bo cleverly used the word 'Business' for the activities and services that a woman provides in a brothel.....what are you? A flesh trader?

“That’s just what I thought.” Jun Mo Xie suddenly realized: “The second brother is indeed a very romantic man, ha ha..... but then that’s just in our nature ah.”

Jun Mo Xie’s mind was finally putting together the cause and effect, and he could finally tell why the timing of the assassination attempt was so precise even though the common-folk weren’t normally aware of his whereabouts since his activities were regarded as a ‘Jun family secret’. The traitor is sitting right here in our midst!

But such a traitor can be very hard to guard against!

There was no doubt about the identity of Guan Qing Yue’s confidant.... It was obviously Lady Yue’er! He had obviously revealed Jun Mo Xie’s whereabouts to her, which had consequently led to an attempt on his life!

As for Guan Qing Yue... he wasn’t directly involved in this matter.....

Jun Mo Xie was confident about that!

Else he wouldn’t have appeared so shocked and frightened upon seeing Jun Mo Xie safe and healthy.

Damn it! We received you in kind and treat you as family, and then you just turn around and run your little mouth to that whore? Jun Mo Xie silently cursed within his heart, aware that this wasn’t the right time for his revenge. In fact, it was rather obvious from Guan Qing Bo’s body language that the man was completely unaware of his young brother’s personal actions. Moreover, even his own father along with the rest of his family also seemed to be in the dark in regard with this matter, else they wouldn’t have dared to attend this banquet at this time.

Youngsters can be very impulsive. If a beautiful woman begs and pleads a young man for a favor, the man is likely to promise without even bothering about his own family. Although such men are often unable to understand the gravity of the consequences of their actions! The ignorant is fearless! Jun Mo Xie sighed.

Although this isn't the time for my revenge, but I won't allow you to enjoy yourself here! So, Yue'er is your dream lover ah? Good! Great! Then let's talk about your lover, Yue'er! You're damn lucky I'm not killing you right now!

"I bet that the two of you have less friends in the Spirit Fog Lake than me, ha ha ha, no disrespect intended. But I visit the Spirit Fog Lake very frequently." Jun Mo Xie smiled as he whispered: "Speaking of which, I can introduce you around the place."

"Ha ha, this place is your native; therefore you're obviously more familiar with it than we are." Guan Qing Bo smiled back.

"That's right! And I've even been the first one to open the flowery buds of several beauties there." Jun Mo Xie whispered as his face started to flaunt a very triumphant and obscene look: "For example, the Ni Chang Pavilion's Yue'er.... She's said to be the best beauty of the Spirit Fog Lake. This young master was kind enough to be her first customer."

"....."

Guan Qing Bo suddenly realized that something wasn't right! He wasn't with us when we visited the Spirit Fog Lake earlier..... so how does he know that my brother's lover is named Yue'er?

Could he really be talking about the same girl?

Guan Qing Yue's face suddenly became ashen! His eyes sharp eyes started shooting flames at Jun Mo Xie as he cleared his throat and stated in a slow and unhurried tone: "The third young master mustn't brag too much. Lady Yue'er is a pure and clean woman, so kindly do not insult her self-respect!"

"What? You don't believe me? And what self-respect does a prostitute have? Anyway, I can prove it." Jun Mo Xie's expression become even more proud, while his smile even more obscene: "Let me tell you, Yue'er's buttock has a birth mark on it; three red color dots which are placed really close together. Her skin is really soft and tender; her smooth waist, fiery lips and full breasts kept me awake for several nights in bed. I would have given her a lot of money, but she told me that she loved me and wasn't just selling herself. I spent several days with her but then I left since I didn't know what she wanted....."

Jun Mo Xie's face was wearing a very perverted look on it, and his eyes were reveling in a color of recollection. He swallowed a mouthful of saliva down his throat, while his hands remained hanging in the air, almost as if he was still trying to feel Yue'er's soft and silky skin.....

"That's enough!" Guan Qing Yue suddenly burst out and roared as he stood up from his seat. He looked at Jun Mo Xie with blood-red eyes and started raining curses: "Jun Mo Xie! You bastard! You bastard! You shameless pig!"

Jun Mo Xie suddenly woke up with a start, and couldn't help trembling backwards while carrying a frightful look on his face: "You..... what are you saying?"

This sudden outburst had shocked everyone!

The Jun Family and the Guan Family weren't actually related, but still harbored a very similar sentiment. And since their relatives had come to visit, even Jun Zhan Tian had decided to personally attend this dinner. Guan Dong Liu's talks had been bringing a smile onto the old man's face, while Jun Wu Yi and Guan Ru Shan, who were sitting beside them would plug in a phrase or two every now and then, resulting in a burst of laughter.

No one had anticipated that the second son of the Guan Family would suddenly freak out at this time! Moreover, no one could have ever anticipated that he would actually start abusing the young master of the Jun Family in such a strong voice. It seemed from his reaction that Jun Mo Xie had killed his father and had then taken his wife as a mistress.

Even a Spirit Xuan expert would have a difficult time in getting such a reaction from this gathering: Jun Zhan Tian, Jun Wu Yi, Guan Dong Liu, Guan Ru Shan and Guan Qing Han were being served food by Old Pang, and now all of them were blankly staring at each other.....

Forget about the reaction of others, Jun Zhan Tian and Jun Wu Yi were both war veterans, and had seen several shocking incidents on the field. But this shocking uproar from this youngster had left them completely stunned!

The second son of the Guan family certainly had a voice powerful enough to ensure the safety of life in a critical juncture!

He looked at Jun Mo Xie as his trembling fingers slowly started reaching for his sword's hilt resting around his waist, almost as if he was ready to kill his instigator in that moment.

"You evil bastard! Are you mad?" Guan Dong Liu finally snapped out of the shock, and cursed out: He had never expected that his usually well-behaved son would suddenly start cursing a Jun. You simply cannot insult a Jun even if the sky is falling down. And then you just hurled abuses at the only heir of the Jun Family?!

Guan Dong Liu obviously didn't know just how provocative Jun Mo Xie's words had been for Guan Qing Yue!

Guan Qing Yue had fallen in love with Yue'er at first sight; a long time ago. But then he was forced to move away from her since he had to return to his native. Guan Qing Yue's silly pursuit of Yue'er had driven him mad; Yue'er had become the sole objective of his life, and the goddess of his heart! He absolutely couldn't stand anyone using profane words to describe her.

He simply couldn't hear one wrong word about her!

Then one day, Guan Qing Yue received a note from Yue'er with just two words written on it: You're precious! From then on, everything apart from Yue'er had completely disappeared from the eyes of this infatuated youngster.

His desire for Yue'er, which had somehow simmered down due to the distance which separated them, instantly intensified again. He sent a message to Yue'er upon finding out that he would be travelling to the Tian Xiang City again, hoping that it would bring her joy. Naturally, he was overjoyed at the thought of seeing her again!

When he told Yue'er that he was visiting the Jun family with his father and elder brother, a sad smile creased onto the woman's face, and she started narrating tales about the troubles that Jun Mo Xie had been causing for her lately. She expressed her desire to teach Jun Mo Xie a lesson, and Guan Qing Yue promised to help out without considering the consequences of his actions.

He ended up disclosing Jun Mo Xie's whereabouts to her, feeling immensely pleased with himself: I'm finally getting a chance to do something for her! Obviously, seeing Jun Mo Xie returning unharmed made his heart worried about Yue'er safety.....

She wanted to set him straight, but Jun Mo Xie is perfectly unharmed..... did Yue'er's plan go wrong somewhere? If so, then how is she right now? He didn't hurt her right?

With these thoughts taking control of his mind, he was obviously unable to put on a straight face upon seeing Jun Mo Xie since he was endlessly cursing his fate and actions. After, all, he was the one who had leaked Jun Mo Xie's whereabouts, so could he not feel guilty about the consequences of his actions?

However, he had never expected that his elder brother and Jun Mo Xie would 'hit it off' so quickly, and would actually start talking about their experiences; let alone that the first subject would be his beloved Yue'er! On top of that, Jun Mo Xie was actually gloating about being her first man!

This is the biggest insult for any man! Not to mention that the woman he most cherish and loved, being... not only being treated as an object, but also being used for such shameless bragging.....

How could any man tolerate such words?

Guan Qing Yue's entire body was ready to explode with anger!

And shame, and disgrace!

Chapter 172 – Taking her back?

Guan Qing Yue was extremely reluctant to believe Jun Mo Xie, but Jun Mo Xie's vivid description of Yue'er along with the factual reference to her birth mark was enough to make the youngster lose his mind!

Guan Qing Yue stood there ignoring his father's words.... wheezing, and panting. He stretched out his finger, and pointed it at Jun Mo Xie as he barely found his words through his trembling lips: "Jun Mo Xie! I swear I'll kill you!"

The pain of his heart, the ache of his lungs and the shame on his manhood had brought tears to his eyes by the time he finished his sentence!

Jun Mo Xie couldn't help wondering: you silly boy, you actually believed Yue'er?!

This one sentence had transformed the atmosphere of the room to that of a cold winter's night! Jun Zhan Tian and Jun Wu Yi's face had turned gloomy, but in the back drop of a surging murderous outburst!

Inside the Jun residence..... in front of Jun Zhan Tian and Jun Wu Yi, someone was actually threatening to kill the only remaining heir of the Jun Family? If this ever got out, then the people of Tian Xiang Empire would laugh, regarding this as a fool's joke! But right now, this mockery was actually taking place inside their house.....

Everyone knew the importance of Jun Mo Xie's life.....

Guan Dong Liu, Guan Ru Shan, Guan Qing Bo, and even Guan Qing Han's faces suddenly turned pale!

"Bastard! Stop with your nonsense at once!" Guan Dong Liu simply couldn't stay still anymore, and hence he quickly got up and slapped his son across his face: "You will apologize to the Son of Jun right now?!"

"I will not apologize to him! I haven't said anything wrong!" Guan Qing Yue didn't even flinch, and continued to stare brazenly at Jun Mo Xie; not even willing to wipe off the blood which had already started to stain the corner of his mouth: "Jun Mo Xie, as a man to a man.... I challenge you to a duel!"

"Duel? Why ah?" Jun Mo Xie looked extremely confused, and even managed to display a slight but bewildered smile on his face: "Second Guan Brother, I don't know where I offended you ah? This is the first time we're meeting! We're related by a bond of marriage..... you come here to the city of Tian Xiang, you eat with my family, you drink with my family, and we do everything to entertain you, but still you're cursing me in a room full of people, and now you're even challenging me to a duel?! You clearly wish to kill me! May I dare to ask the reason?"

"You..... you dare not ask the reason! How dare you ask the reason? If you're a real man, then you should accept my challenge!" Guan Qing Yue's eyes were still fixed provocatively at Jun Mo Xie.

“You damn thing! Didn’t you hear what your father just said?” Guan Dong Liu’s hand shot out again with the intention of slapping his son again as his anxious heart compelled him to take strict action in this situation; this is getting out of hand today.... Even if the Jun Family considers us to be relatives, would they still go easy on my second son for this insolence? Even the reasonable men of the Jun Family may not act very reasonably in this situation!

Does he know who Jun Mo Xie is? He is the only surviving heir of the Jun Family! Even though my second son has only threatened to kill him, but if someone had threatened to kill my son, then I would have sent that man to his death without giving him any chances of explaining the situation! If this is how I think, then how long will it be until the Old man Jun makes this decision?

Guan Qing Yue was still staring at Jun Mo Xie with a stubborn face and unblinking eyes, and no intention of dodging his father’s second slap either. Guan Dong Liu’s hand was in mid-air, ready to strike his son even harder this second time when a hand appeared out of nowhere and tightly clutched his hand, and held it in its place. Guan Dong Liu turned around to realize that it was Jun Wu Yi’s hand.

Jun Wu Yi smiled gently as he stated in a casual manner: “Brother Guan, there must be reason behind your son’s words. We must investigate and get to the bottom of this matter to determine if Mo Xie’s unplaced words might have accidentally or unintentionally offended the second son of Guan. There can often be friction between youngsters, and as their elders, we must never hastily intervene to suppress them.... It will never bring any good. It could possibly lead to a grave misunderstanding, right?”

Jun Wu Yi’s smiling face, and affectionate expression sent shivers down Guan Dong Liu’s spine.

Although Jun Wu Yi’s words had been gentle and mature, but there was still a faint hint of dominance in his body language, which was rather self-explanatory. Guan Dong Liu’s head gradually turned downwards as he realized that responding in disagreement might result in the slaughter of his entire family.

“Third Uncle, please allow me to get to the bottom of this.” Guan Qing Han quietly bowed her head in front of her second brother’s eyes: “Kindly allow me to find out why Qing Yue acted in this manner today. Please allow me the authority to decide the course of action once I’ve determined which of my two brothers is at fault; Mo Xie, or Qing Yue, since I’m an older sister to the both of them!”

She had noticed that the three youngsters were huddled together only moments ago, and were whispering and laughing with obscene looks on their faces. She could sense this sudden rise in the

temperature of their conversation could have been provoked by something not worth mentioning in front of the adults.

However, Guan Qing Yue was her brother in blood and she had always believed him to be very well-behaved. Therefore, she had already made up her mind that her own brother could never cause such trouble, and Jun Mo Xie must have provoked her brother beyond his limit of tolerance.

“I.....I.....I.....” Guan Qing Yue opened his mouth but was unable to find his words this time. His face was clearly reflecting the anguish and distress of his heart.

He really couldn’t speak up to disclose the truth behind the matter because he was well aware that Yue’er resided in the Spirit Fog Lake, a place where women were objects of pleasure. In spite of being his lover, she would be branded as a prostitute! Even stating that she is woman clean of such activities, and doesn’t sell her body would be fruitless; prostitutes are prostitutes!

If father and sister actually find out that I challenged the third young master of the Jun Family to a duel over such a woman, then wouldn’t they react madly?

No matter how much Jun Mo Xie slanders her name, I cannot let anyone know the reason behind this dispute..... else the only thing that will come in play will be the perception that she is a prostitute!

In reality, although he had met Yue’er in the worst of places for a noble woman to be, Guan Qing Yue had actually believed her words since he had never been able to investigate into her past! But regardless of that, he had taken her to be the woman of his heart! Guan Qing Yue had already made up his mind then, that he would love her to his last day, and would do everything in his power to protect her dignity.

“Second Brother Guan, I would also like to know how I offended you...? If I really offended you brother, then I’m willing to admit my mistake, and I’ll apologize for it, but brother must first tell me my mistake!” Jun Mo Xie put on a sincere face, and tactically took his chance to throw stones at a man who had already fallen down the well.

“Speak up!” Guan Qing Han saw the sincerity on Jun Mo Xie’s face, and then looked up at her brother as a sadness took over her heart, could my brother really have been the one at fault here?

“Kindly allow me to explain this situation.” Guan Qing Bo calmly analyzed the troublesome situation his younger brother had gotten himself into, and knew that if he didn’t clearly explained this matter then things could end on a very calamitous note for his entire family.

Therefore with the elegant and refined narration abilities that he possessed, he narrated the story of Yue’er and Guan Qing Yue in a very romantic arrangement, depicting the two to be star-crossed lovers. He went on to narrate that the two lovers were forced to separate due to some unavoidable circumstances, post which Yue’er came to the Tian Xiang city, and became....uh.... a temporary singer and host at the Ni Chang pavilion.

As chance had it, Guan Qing Yue happened to be visiting the Tian Xiang City soon after, and the two lovers were reunited again by the will of fate, and coincidentally.... Jun Mo Xie had already been Yue’er.... Guest..... once by then.....

Although Guan Qing Bo’s narration was subtle enough to create compassion about the touching love story of the two people, but the eyes of the Guan Dong Liu were already shooting flames at his younger son! In fact, Guan Dong Liu almost fainted with shame.

No one was stupid enough to misunderstand this matter. Everyone had already guessed the real reason behind this matter after listening to Guan Qing Bo’s modified story. These two debauchees were publicly fighting over a prostitute! This was turning into a big mockery!

Everyone was contemptuously staring at Guan Qing Yue while silently cursing him in their hearts, this boy falls in love with a woman from a brothel, and ends up threatening the heir apparent of the Jun Family inside their own house? Is the second son of the Guan Family really that dumb?!

The entire Guan Family including Guan Dong Liu and Guan Qing Han had always looked down upon Jun Mo Xie owing to his immoral behavior, but now they were beginning to realize that their own family’s son may not just be immortal, but also foolish.....

Guan Qing Han had trusted her brother’s judgement, and had volunteered to investigate into this matter knowing that it would lead up to something involving immortal activities. But now she was left red-faced with anger..... she mercilessly stared at her brother, and then glanced fiercely at Jun Mo Xie’s face, and then retreated to one side. Jun Mo Xie was obviously quite angered by this: Your brother is the reason behind this whole ruckus, and you’re still glaring at me? Do you know that your brother is the main culprit behind the assassination attempt on me? I’m the real victim here.... I’m the one who’s entitled to be angry in this case!

“You evil bastard!” Guan Dong Liu’s thundering roar echoed through the shaking hall: “You, you challenged your own relative.... Your own sister’s brother-in-law.... to a duel of life and death over such a woman?” Guan Dong Liu’s entire body was trembling with anger: “You’re a disobedient son! You’re an unworthy son! You you you... you’re a disgrace to our family’s name!”

Even though Guan Qing Yue was repenting and fearing his father’s anger, but his mouth still opened to refuse his defeat as his stubborn brain ordered him to refute his father’s words: “Yue’er is my beloved; she is not a vulgar woman, and nor is this man my sister’s brother-in-law. We’ve come here to take my sister back, and once we do that, he’ll no longer be associated to her, or us, in any way!”

“Shut up you insolent beast!” Guan Dong Liu hurriedly intervened as his face turned pale with fright. But his words came too late.

Guan Qing Han raised her pale face to look at her father; her rosy lips trembled to speak her mind, but were unable to find any words to express them.

The Old man Jun and Jun Wu Yi were left speechless; even Jun Mo Xie was left surprised by this sudden change of events. A deadly silence engulfed the entire hall!

“This Old man is drunk; I must excuse myself.” Grandfather Jun stood up and stated in a cold voice. His words were obviously quite strange; the dinner hadn’t yet started, the dishes hadn’t been tasted yet....in fact, even a single glass of wine hadn’t been emptied at this time, and the Old man Jun had just stated that he was already intoxicated.

Chapter 173 – Intense infatuation

Guan Dong Liu’s smile was accompanied by a thin trace of sweat on his cheeks: “Of course, please.....uh, take care of your health.” Jun Zhan Tian snorted in reply, and sullenly walked away.

Guan Qing Han was only associated to the Jun Family in name, and not in reality; everyone was aware of this fact! Even though the Guan family had repeatedly risen the issue of taking her back, and the fact that Guan Qing Han had always refuted the proposal was one side of the matter, but their arrival in the city to take her back was a completely separate issue altogether!

The only way in which the Guan Family could take her away was by terminating the engagement between the two families. Both families were fully aware of this. But knowing this was one matter, and the Guan Family taking the initiative on raising the issue in-person was a completely different matter.

Initially, even though the Guan Family hadn't even raised the subject, Jun Zhan Tian and Jun Wu Yi were both already willing to provide all necessary means to supplement their desire since it was for Qing Han's well-fare. However, raising this issue in front of the Jun Family was equivalent to slapping them in the face! Even though this slap was only a metaphoric one across the face of their prestige, but the Jun Family simply couldn't afford to lose their face in this regard!

The originally well-intended actions of both sides had turned into a very complicated situation at this moment.

Jun Wu Yi slowly said: "Let that be as it may." He pondered for a moment, and then continued: "We'll discuss Qing Han's situation later, but for now let's just concentrate on getting to the bottom of this issue between our two sons!"

Guan Dong Liu was already panicking; this was his first time as the head of the family that he was at a complete loss for words!

"Jun Mo Xie, since you've insulted my Yue'er, you're Guan Qing Yue's sworn enemy from this day on!" Guan Qing Yue contrariwise and audaciously sneered: "Are you really going to use the Jun Family's influence to keep my here forcefully? Yue'er was right about you! Your shameful behavior is the reason she wishes to take revenge against you! Since you were lucky to escape away earlier today, I will finish this task for my Yue'er! Accept the challenge of this young master, Jun Mo Xie!"

The youngster had actually revealed the entire situation, and had ended up doing it with a very confident and angry look on his face!

Is this kid an idiot?

Perhaps newly born calves aren't exactly afraid of the tiger.....

In fact, this was probably due to the influence and power of the Guan Family in the eastern region! Guan Qing Yue had been raised like the son of an emperor since he was the second son of the Guan Family. Owing to this, even though he was in the Tian Xiang City at the moment, he still didn't think of the Jun Family as anything more than a slightly powerful and influential family at best since the Jun Family's Xuan Qi strength wasn't as high as the Guan Family's Xuan Qi strength. But no one had ever told him that the Guan Family kept their supremacy to the eastern region for a reason!

Therefore, his young mind was unable to see the true power of the Jun Family.... All he saw was an Old man nearing his grave, a 'good for nothing debauchee', and a cripple; in his eyes this entire family was useless!

He was obviously overlooking a very important point: Even though the Guan Family comprised of several advanced Xuan Qi experts, but unless their might became at par with the Blizzard Silver City, they would have no option but to adhere to the secular constraints of this world!

Even though the Jun Family wasn't as powerful as the Guan Family in terms of the number of experts in the family, but they were the representatives of the highest military authority of the entire Empire! And they also had the power to mobilize the entire Empire's troops behind them!

Whether it's a super-family or secular one, power can dominate all! A high Xuan level martial artist may be able to kill thousands of people, but still may never be able to rule a country, or a city, or even a village!

But power can!

This was the biggest difference between the Guan Family and the Jun Family! It was also an insurmountable difference!

The fact was: The Guan Family's had a very strong reputation, but their reputation was only strong enough to control their own territory. Whatever attention they had been receiving outside their own region of control was simply because their daughter had been engaged into the Jun Family; it had nothing to do with their own authority!

"You were lucky to escape away earlier today?" Jun Wu Yi unhurriedly repeated this sentence in a stern voice while his eyebrows continued to rise with every word: "Second son of Guan, do you mean to imply

that you played a part in the assassination attempt on Mo Xie's life earlier this evening?!" Jun Wu Yi's sharp eyes suddenly started exhibiting a surging murderous aura.

Jun Wu Yi had only been looking at this dispute as nominal falling out between two youngsters, and it wasn't even remotely enough for him to spoil his mood over, but this one sentence of Guan Qing Yue's had revealed something entirely different and was enough to flare his anger! This was the first time today that he was actually considering taking action against the youngster!

How could a young and inexperienced man like Guan Qing Yue resist the power and might of an iron-blooded war General?

"I did not!" Guan Qing Yue suddenly felt frost bites on his entire body, and cried out in dismay: "The assassination? What assassination? I was just mentioning it in reference! Why would I have wanted to kill him at a time when I didn't even know about all this? And if I did wish him dead, then why would I tell them anything? If this young master wanted him dead, then how could he have ever escaped alive?!"

Jun Wu Yi, Guan Dong Liu and Guan Ru Shan sighed in unison upon hearing his response.

It's obvious that Guan Qing Yue is only a tool-for-use in Yue'er's eyes. She must have used him earlier when they met in the east, and would have continued to use him till she left for the Tian Xiang City. And now she's managed to use him to get the information about Jun Mo Xie's whereabouts, and then went about planning the assassination attempt on his life!

It was obvious to them all, that he had played no part in the attempt on Jun Mo Xie's life!

Guan Qing Bo and Guan Qing Han, being younger in age and less experienced in worldly matters, took a little longer to understand the whole story.....

Guan Dong Liu sighed again as his eyes reflected a color of despair. His second son had not only cursed Jun Mo Xie inside the Jun Family's mansion, but had also gone ahead to threaten his life! If this wasn't already hard enough to get away with, he had also revealed that he was the sole culprit behind the attempt on the young master Jun's life.....

It wasn't hard for the man to imagine the consequences his son would now have to face as a result. The thought that they had only arrived in the city a mere two days ago, and his son had already painted several targets on his back, made him extremely sad about his son's destiny!

"You idiot, you've been used by that cheap woman all along....." Guan Dong Liu's voice seemed very weak: "Qing Yue, I never expected that someone as quick-witted as you would fall straight into such a lousy trap! Do you even realize that we are in the Tian Xiang City right now?" It didn't sound like he was scolding his son this time around.

"Of course I know!" Guan Qing Yue's face twitched in pain: "She used me when we met in the east.... more than once, but every time.... I knew! But you don't know how good I felt each time she used me! I was willing to let her use me! It made me happy!"

"It makes me really happy!" Guan Qing Yue was almost roaring out at this point while his usually handsome face was strangely curved into a twisted grim: "As long as she can use me, I'm someone valuable in her eyes! If I'm of no use to her, then what is my value? Aren't I just another guy from a powerful family?!"

"I allowed her to use me!" The youngster's stubborn voice boomed through the hall, and then the hall immediately went silent.

Two thin lines of tears streamed down from Guan Qing Yue's eyes.

Jun Mo Xie sighed. Whether in this life or the previous, Jun Mo Xie had always been very ruthless by nature. As an assassin by profession, it had been vital for him to give up certain things in life, including love since he couldn't afford to be tied down to anything. Love would make him vulnerable. This was an important aspect for him since he intended on climbing the peak of the world!

Therefore, Jun Mo Xie had never known the meaning of love!

It's not that he couldn't, he just didn't! This was one feeling that the hitman Jun had never attempted to experience;affection!

An emotional attachment has always been the hardest aspect to break away from; this has always been proved over and over again in the past!

How many peerless experts and heroes were thrown into a situation and ended up becoming soft since they experienced an attachment with someone?

Emotional attachment must be a very hard thing to break away from since such people were either sunk by it, or acted logically and lived the rest of their lives... burdened with regret!

Everyone present could clearly feel the depth of his affection, his pain, the desperation and despair of his heart, the power of his sadness, and the haze of his future!

These feelings were especially beginning to take over Guan Qing Han. If there was anyone for whom I was willing to do anything, then it was Mo You.....

Mo You..... and still you left me....

Jun Wu Yi could also understand the hopeless and helplessness of the youngster's anguish since he too had been longing for his lover's company for the last ten years; in fact, his anger had greatly reduced by now.

Jun Mo Xie's face on the other hand, reflected a faint hint of admiration! Of course this guy's actions have caused me a lot of trouble, but the depth of his feelings are worthy of admiration. Although... his feelings have set him on a path of doom and no hope.

Yue'er was not just a woman unworthy of worship in his eyes, but also a mortal enemy. Even if she was willing to change, and was willing to accept Guan Qing Yue's love and reciprocate, Jun Mo Xie still couldn't allow his enemies to exist in this world!

Sympathy is one thing, and respect is another. If I let these feelings wantonly govern my decisions even when they are endangering my life, then even a love as deep as the sea, or as high the sky is of no good!

Guan Qing Yue's fate is doomed to be tragic!

And this tragedy is inevitable; one way or the other!

Jun Mo Xie looked at Jun Wu Yi, and made a gesture. Jun Wu Yi stared blankly at his nephew since he had understood the meaning of this gesture, and then slowly lowered his gaze to the ground. Jun Wu Yi's heart sympathized with this youngster since he had faced something similar in his own life, but if this young man's infatuation was to turn into a threat for the Jun Family's safety, then it was obviously an entirely different matter!

"If that's the truth behind this matter, then this young master really admires Brother Qing Yue! Our earlier rambling shall just be considered as a joke between us youngsters, and mustn't cause any further issues for our elders....." Jun Mo Xie showed a rare sight of his generosity.

The emotions of people, no matter how pedantic or silly, had always been an object of admiration for Jun Mo Xie; simply because he had never had the courage to climb this particular mountain. But just because Jun Mo Xie admired this aspect of human nature didn't mean that he wouldn't take the logical action when needed. He'd even kill if he needed to; he still wouldn't turn soft... not even a little bit.

Chapter 174 – Xue Hun forcefully approaches her!

However, there were a few problems; the two families were associated by engagement... Guan Qing Han's sentiments also needed to be taken into account. Also, the overall bond and alliance of the two families needed to be considered. Was Guan Qing Yue's punishment more important than the fate of the two families?

The overall situation would naturally take priority!

Guan Qing Han was naturally overjoyed since the situation had not only been resolved, but had also reached the best possible conclusion under the circumstances. Therefore, she bowed her head in front of her father and Jun Wu Yi for interceding on her brother's part in negligence to reflect that she was embarrassed by her brother's actions. However, she was very surprised by the Jun Mo Xie's actions; she had been expecting that her brother-in-law would have instigated her brother, and was even more surprised upon hearing that Jun Mo Xie had decided to generously ignore the situation even though Guan Qing Yue had threatened to kill him!

She had never imagined that her brother-in-law would be capable of being so pleasant and mature in the face of such a situation; Jun Mo Xie's reputation had suddenly improved in her eyes!

"Thank you for your generosity Third young master." Guan Dong Liu sounded very sincere and grateful. Being the head of his family, he knew that this time would be best suited to eliminate any anger which might still be lingering in their hearts!

Then, he turned around and thundered: "You two little beasts will return to your rooms right now! And pray that I don't return to see your faces soon, because when I do come to your room, I will rip your skin away!"

Jun Wu Yi's eyes reflected his desire for words, but he kept his mouth shut. The two Guan youngsters bowed their head, and left. Jun Mo Xie clearly saw Guan Qing Bo's face as he left the hall; and he also noticed the faint trace of a 'smiling' expression on it....

Guan Qing Han hesitated for a few moments, but then called two servants and asked them to serve dinner to her brothers in their rooms. Regardless of their faults, they were still her brothers....

"Brother Guan!" Jun Wu Yi raised his gaze and fixed his cold pair of eyes on Guan Dong Liu, but his eyes weren't completely able to conceal the faint pain he felt within his heart: "I wouldn't like to comment on the incident which just took place between the young generation of our families this time, but if anything like this ever happens again, then please don't blame me if I don't take the friendship between our families into account before taking action!"

"Brother Jun, please be assured that such a disgraceful incident will never occur again; and if it ever does, then I will personally chop off the offender's head!"

Guan Dong Liu's face was clearly expressing the seriousness of his heart since he knew that the Jun Family had already been more than accommodating today. However, he was still ashamed to know that his own second son had done something as disgraceful as forging a relationship with a prostitute, and was well aware that it could easily turn into a major scandal in front of the world.

"I trust you brother, and I presume that you trust me as well." Jun Wu Yi's fingers were thoughtfully stroking the blanket on his legs, as he slowly continued: "I think that we must put the earlier incident to

rest here itself, but when I comes to Qing Han, I hope the my brother will be honest, and will inform me of the truth behind withdrawing this engagement!”

Guan Dong Liu was about to speak up, but found himself interrupted by Jun Wu Yi.

Jun Wu Yi shook his head slightly as he calmly stated: “You and I are both aware that the two families were extremely overjoyed at the prospect of this marriage, and firmly believed it as match destined by the heavens. However, Mo You’s untimely death changed everything drastically, and the Jun Family agreed to break off the engagement since it was in Qing Han’s best interests, beacuse we too wished to see her happy and prosperous. However, since Qing Han insisted on keeping the engagement, the Jun Family agreed to accommodate her temporarily in order to console her grief. But this arrangement was only temporary since this engagement was to be withdrawn sooner or later; both the families were clear on this particular matter. We were all just waiting until the fortunate timing of finding a suitable match for Qing Han!”

“Therefore, your arrival in the City to take her back seems a bit strange to us.” Jun Wu Yi squeezed his lips while rigid lines creased across his face: “What happened? If you still recognize my family as friends, then please tell us. If you don’t wish to state the reason, then I’ll allow you to take your daughter back! But I’ll break off all ties between our families; forever!”

It was obvious from Jun Wu Yi’s words that he was in no mood to show any leniency in this matter!

Guan Dong Liu stared at Jun Wu Yi dumbstruck for a long while, and then sighed while his backbone slumped as he started with his explanation in a low tone: “Brother Jun, this matter..... in reality..... I can’t tell you the truth..... but I just want you to know that I’m very grateful for your generosity and support.....”

“Jun Wu Yi stands beside you; so then what are you afraid of?” Jun Wu Yi’s face was as still as a wall: “Is there a force in this world which is be capable of taking away our daughter.... against the wishes of the Guan and Jun Family, even when we stand united?!”

“This is the girl’s own doing.” Guan Dong Liu sighed as he helplessly glimpsed at Guan Qing Han.

“Ah? Daddy, how could this be my own doing?” Guan Qing Han’s face flushed with anger as she stared at her father furiously: how can you even say such a thing? How can you say such a thing to your own

daughter? You're trying to imply that I've been willfully attracting interests from the opposite gender?! Humph! Don't pin the blame of my two brothers' actions on me!

"Qing Han, do you remember when you set out to visit Mo You's cenotaph to pay your respects.... about half a year ago?" Guan Dong Liu sighed again: "There, you must have met a green cloaked youngster, right?"

"Is this about him?" She suddenly remembered the green-robed youngster who had tagged along with her on that entire journey back and forth. First the youngster had behaved very strangely, and had later disappeared. However, she could still clearly remember the last words that youngster had uttered before leaving: I don't care who you are, not do I care about your identity or status, but one day you will be my woman! Ha ha.....

The arrogant laughter of that youngster started ringing in Guan Qing Han's ears, almost as if he was still laughing in her face, and her facial expression suddenly transformed to that of extreme disgust: "That man was a scoundrel!"

"Whether that person was a scoundrel or not, he carries the name of 'Li'." Guan Dong Liu forced a bitter smile: "He is the supreme master Li Jue Tian's only son... Li Teng Yun! He's also the sole heir to the Tian Nan Xue Hun manor!"

This sentence exploded with the intensity of a bomb. The hall went silent in a second; proverbially speaking, even the sound of a dropping needle could have been heard very clearly at this point!

Li Jue Tian was one of the greatest experts alive, and was widely recognized as the second strongest individual in the entire world; even the Solitary Falcon was no match for him. Many people even believed that if it weren't for Yun Bei Chen's level nine Xuan beast companion, even the great Yun Bei Chen wouldn't be able to surpass Li Jue Tian on his own singular merit!

"Li Teng Yun made his enquiries about Qing Han's identity, and immediately sent a note to the Guan Family, stating that if we didn't send her to him.... then he will destroy the Guan Familyand the Jun Family!" Guan Dong Liu's bleak manner of speech was clearly reflecting his humility and his state of utter helplessness.

The Tian Nan Xue Hun manor was almost as powerful as the Silver Blizzard City!

These two mysterious forces were considered almost at par with each other in the present time.... Silver Blizzard City and the Tian Nan Xue Hun manor!

This style of action had always been the trademark of Li Jue Tian and the Xue Hun manor! They would never regard the opinions of those weaker than them, and would take whatever they needed.... by force if needed!

Guan Qing Han's face went deadly pale with horror in an instant!

That scoundrel turned out to be Li Teng Yun! The sole heir and master of the Xue Hun manor! Perhaps he's not, but he's definitely being backed by Li Jue Tian and the Xue Hun manor! Forget about the Guan and the Jun family, even the entire Tian Xiang Empire cannot afford to provoke such a powerful force.....

So that's.....

"Ha ha, how old is Li Jue Tian at the moment? If I have it right, then he must be around a hundred years old now, right? Even then, he's still actually functional enough to produce a twenty year old son?" Jun Mo Xie's face revealed a ridiculous smile: "Therefore, he must have been at least around eighty when he fathered this son of his? I really admire that old chap, ah, I really, really admire him! I've decided, Li Jue Tian is my idol!....."

Jun Mo Xie hadn't even arrived in this world half-a-year ago.....

"Mo Xie, you find this issue funny?" Jun Wu Yi raised his eyebrows, somewhat disappointed with his nephew. This matter related to the survival of two major families, and Jun Mo Xie was laughing like an ignorant fool!

"Funny, very funny!" Jun Mo Xie turned around to look at Guan Dong Liu and sneered: "I find Li Jue Tian and Xue Hun manor's marriage proposal ridiculous, but I find you even more so than them! Forget about considering Qing Han's reputation and integrity, you are actually considering your own daughter as a commodity for trade? Or, an entity for exchange?"

“Trifling with the mere innocence and a lifetime’s happiness of a mere woman in exchange for the survival and a prosperous future of the thousands of your family’s followers.... Very cost effective, right?” Jun Mo Xie laughed in mockery.

“I don’t want to do this either! Qing Han is my own daughter, and I only have one daughter! Even I don’t wish to do this!” Guan Dong Liu stared angrily at Jun Mo Xie: “But this matter regards the life of more than just a thousand followers! Do you think I could justify sacrificing the life of thousands and thousands of people..... just to keep my daughter safe for a little while? You don’t know the power and might of the Xue Hun manor!”

“If you really sentence her for a lifetime of fornication and insults, then would you actually be able to survive with even slightest peace of mind?! Would you actually be able to thrive with this shame? Would you really be able to raise your head knowing that the cost of your prosperity is being paid by your own daughter... each and every day of her life... for as long as she may live?”

Jun Mo Xie finally couldn’t hold it back anymore; he just felt that this entire situation was absolutely ridiculous: “Has it even crossed your mind that the cost of your family’s survival isn’t hers’ to pay? What right do you have to trade her life and happiness for your safety and prosperity? I genuinely don’t know if you even have one strand of shame left in your soul anymore!”

“People have been dying ever since the beginning of time; that’s all they do; they die! They are born, and then they all eventually die! They come and then they go; so what’s this big fuss about? But wouldn’t a survival of shame murder the peace of your heart? Do you really think that all the burning incense sticks on your grave would be able to deliver any peace of mind to you in the heaven?”

Jun Mo Xie spat out a mouthful of saliva: “And what kind of offspring would be burning these incense sticks in your memory? Only a bunch of men and woman who were brought up in the shamelessness of such a heinous crime; people with no conscious! Would you actually resort to taking such an irresponsible decision just so you could physically live-on in this world? What kind of a shitty idea is this?!”

“Mo Xie!” Jun Wu Yi shouted out: “Don’t be so presumptuous!” Although he had shouted out to stop Jun Mo Xie’s cursing, he made no efforts to hide the appreciation his eyes exhibited in an equally loud but silent manner! Although his nephew had taken things a little too far, but the reason for his objection had won over a lot of appreciation from Jun Wu Yi!

What is a man? This is!

A man's shameless behavior in peaceful times isn't enough to define a man, but when it comes to a matter of principle.... A real man is one who is willing to break before he bends!

A man's survival and glory must never rely on the sale and trade of the weak; especially women! This is a matter of principle! This isn't just a matter of principle, but also honor! It's better to die with honor, than to live with regret!

This is what a real man does!

Chapter 175 – No compromise

Guan Dong Liu's eyes roved as he closed them: "How can I ever feel at ease... she is my own family's daughter. But this is happening to her, and if my family had the power to protect her, then I would have spared no effort..... but since my family doesn't have the ability to defend her, then sacrificing them would be useless!"

"Nonsense! You aren't even trying, you're not even trying to make an effort, so then how do you know that you don't have the ability?! You're simply sacrificing your daughter's happiness; you still call yourself a man? You're a coward!" Jun Mo Xie retorted furiously: "You're just afraid of your enemy's strength. Your daughter isn't as strong as your family's forces, but you're still using her as a shield? You're just using her as an excuse to conceal your cowardice!"

Guan Dong Liu's facial expression was still as calm as ever: "If I have to sacrifice one person for the sake of the entire family, then I consider it to be a worthy price. If I could sacrifice my life to save my family... then I'll look forward to that day. But if Li Jue Tian spares no effort to take my daughter, and if I bet my whole family's fate on her protection..... and lose, then where's the rationality in it? What I can choose, is to defend my family and the friendship between our two families. And therefore, for the sake of this friendship, and that of the Jun Family's safety, I request that you stay out of it!"

It must be recognized that Guan Dong Liu understood his own limitations very well even though he was the master of the Guan Family and had thousands of people under his command. And even when faced with this tough situation, he was still unwilling to abandon his friendship with the Jun Family, which too was worthy of admiration. However, even though his actions were worthy of praise, but the praise still wouldn't be justified in the context of this situation!

“The master of the Guan Family speaks about his daughter’s fate; my sister-in-law’s fate! But now she belongs to the Jun Family; she’s not the Guan Family’s daughter anymore! Alive, she belongs to the Jun Family; once dead, even her ghost belongs to the Jun Family! She’s a married woman, and no longer has any relationship with your family now! You do not have the right to decide her fate!” Jun Mo Xie’s voice resounded throughout the hall.

He smiled grimly as he continued to despise: “As for your family, what’s the point of such a useless family that can’t even protect its own women? You should simply put a knife to your throats and be done with it!”

Guan Qing Han was wanted by the Xue Hun Manor, and if their demand wasn’t met then they would inevitably destroy the Jun and the Guan Family! No one had ever dared to go against the command of the Xue Hun manor!

Therefore, Guan Dong Liu’s predicament, choice and helplessness were more than understandable!

Many-a-men would have made the same choice in this situation since the relationship between women and their parents was as such in this era. If two families were capable of surviving at the cost of one woman’s happiness, then most people in this world would pick the same choice as Guan Dong Liu, or at least wouldn’t contradict his choice.

After all, she was just a woman! It didn’t matter if she was his own daughter.....

However, Jun Mo Xie could never allow himself to live with this shame!

If the men of my family can’t even protect a woman, then what’s the point of having such men? What is the meaning of such a humiliating existence? For Jun Mo Xie, this wasn’t a question of Qing Han’s reputation or integrity, or even survival. This was a question of his life’s principles!

Perhaps this decision was foolish, and perhaps this decision would eventually lead to the destruction of the Guan and the Jun family, but for Jun Mo Xie..... this matter had no room for compromise!

Even if this decision costed the lives of tens of millions of people around the Empire, Jun Mo Xie still wouldn't alter his decision!

Life or death? What's the meaning of it?

We all breathe so someone can light incense sticks in our memory!

If I exchange the innocence of a woman for my survival, then I might as well be dead. Whether she's innocent or not, this will be a matter of grave shame!

And real men cannot stand shame!

And now this was all happening in front of Jun Mo Xie!

Even if this wasn't happening in front of him, and Jun Mo Xie simply found out that such a thing had happened somewhere, then he would probably set out to punish those who had bullied a woman from a less influential family into marrying their son, but only after he had first destroyed the family who had sent their daughter away under these circumstances!

Such people aren't worthy of living in this world! What is the meaning of life if one's dignity is lost? You don't value the dignity of another's life? Then I must first destroy yours! Then I'll let you live on! I'll make you live like your mother's ass!

Hitman Jun's ideology was undoubtedly very strange for some and obviously differed from the rest of the world's opinion, therefore it was naturally very difficult to gain the approval from the majority of people, such as.....

"Third master Jun! You will bring a disaster towards the Jun Family! Have you even considered how much ruin this impulsive decision of yours' will bring to the Jun Family? And the Jun Family is your own Family!" Guan Dong Liu spoke out sternly in a fit of anger.

"I'm the only heir to the Jun Family! The Jun Family's future is in my hands. If the Jun Family's destruction is to come at my hands, then I don't mind letting it happen a little early. My decision is the

decision of the Jun Family!” Jun Mo Xie sharply glared back at Guan Dong Liu as he stated these words slowly enough for the man to understand them very, very clearly: “Master of the Guan Family, the Jun Family disagrees to withdraw the engagement! Your family has no rights or relation to Qing Han, so you may please stay out of this!”

“If the power of the Jun Family cannot protect her, then before my Family is destroyed, I will personally kill her! A death is far better than the existence of such shame!!”

Jun Mo Xie’s stern and stubborn words suddenly stirred up a storm of emotions in Qing Han’s heart.

He was ready to let thousands and thousands die for one person! None of it mattered to him! He was simply unwilling to look at the big picture here, not even for a second!

She belonged to the Jun Family, in her life, and then in her death; no matter the circumstances, she would always belong to the Jun Family!

This was just in Jun Mo Xie’s nature, whether in this life or the previous, he would have done the same! Even if this matter wasn’t concerned with Qing Han, he would have still done the same thing! Even if he didn’t know the woman, he would have still done the same thing!

Tears came streaming down from Qing Han’s eyes.

She had already submitted herself to a life of despair! Xue Hun Manor was one the strongest factions in this world, even the most talented and powerful individual or factions wouldn’t dare to stand up against their commands! Had Guan Dong Liu insisted on it, even Jun Wu Yi wouldn’t have been able to stop this. After all, Qing Han was the Guan Family’s daughter, and once the engagement was withdrawn, the Jun Family would have no control over her life or future!

Qing Han had already decided to make the sacrifice for her Family’s sake, and was preparing herself to commit suicide after reaching the Xue Hun Manor!

But she had never expected that Jun Mo Xie would actually decide to take a stand for her at this moment! She had always looked down upon her brother-in-law, and had been really mistreating him for

the past several months.... She had never even imaged that her insolent brother-in-law would really be capable of saying something like this!

He is even willing to accept the blame for the destruction of our two families... even in the face of this tragic fate! He's even willing to risk his own life, and that of his entire family!

It was obvious to Qing Han from Jun Mo Xie's firm and resolute voice that he was actually ready to sacrifice everything before bending to the will of such an enemy!

Qing Han almost wanted to burst into tears at this moment! Even her own family, and her own father had abandoned her in this moment of need and dark, but this man had risen up and had decided to risk everything for her in her moment of extreme desperation!

Jun Mo Xie's slim stature, and his average shoulders..... suddenly became the most reliable structure in this world for her! He became the only support she had in this downpour and heavy wind; the only one she could hold on to!

She had been very moved when brother had opted for the same decision when it came to Yue'er, but it suddenly seemed to her at this moment....as if he was nothing compared to Jun Mo Xie! After all, Guan Qing Yue had arrived in the Tian Xiang city in order to persuade the Jun Family to withdraw her engagement, and allow her to remarry. However, Jun Mo Xie hadn't even hesitated in picking the choice of defending her against all odds!

One man was ready to betray his own sister's trust for the sake of his own survival, and was ready to subject her to a drifting life with no purpose. This man had also ignored his own principles and morals for the sake of a vulgar woman! While the other had fiercely risen to protect her in the face of extreme difficulty!

It wasn't even correct to say their names in the same breath, and suddenly they were like to extremes in her eyes.... Like heaven and earth; there was absolutely no comparison!

Guan Qing Han's face turned red with embarrassment as this thought crossed her mind, out of sheer guilt over the actions of her past: could it be..... earlier, he was only....is this the real 'him'? Was he just pretending to be someone else all this time.....why....?

Otherwise, why would he act out so emotionally today? He didn't even show one sign of hesitation! He is ready to risk everything and fight the entire world for me?!

God, why didn't I see the good in him?

A moment of fear, a moment of despair, a moment of excitement, and a moment of emotion.... Qing Han stood rooted to her spot with a blank expression on her face as a violent storm continued to churn inside her heart.

She was completely unaware that Jun Mo Xie wasn't doing this for her sake, but for the sake of his own principles! Jun Mo Xie would never change his principle; he would never allow anyone to hurt his pride!

He would readily and madly go to war with the entire world than drag out an ignoble existence!

In Hitman Jun's mind, life and death was nothing more than mere fantasy; an illusion... nothing more. But principles and pride, they were factors of immortality!

And he would never compromise on them!

Jun Mo Xie's words and fierce attitude frightened Guan Dong Liu for a moment, but then he immediately thought of the last decade of the Jun Family's existence, and couldn't help feeling anxious again. Therefore, he looked towards Jun Wu Yi: "Brother Jun, the young master Jun is still naïve and speaks out of pride, but may not have considered the consequences of such actions under the influence of his youthful vigor. The Jun Family is far more powerful than mine, but when compared to the Xue Hun Manor....."

Jun Wu Yi smiled faintly, and flatly replied with a calm expression on his face: "Mo Xie is right; Qing Han is my Family's daughter-in-law. As the head of the Jun Family, I agree with him; Mo Xie's decision is the Jun Family's decision!"

Even though Jun Wu Yi was sitting in his wheelchair, but the strength and resolve of his voice coupled with the power of his wide shoulders was enough to send the heavens shaking!

Jun Mo Xie might have spoken his words under the influence of his youthful vigor, but Jun Wu Yi, being a veteran generalissimo was well aware of the endless struggle that his family would have to face against the might of the Xue Hun Manor!

Guan Dong Liu stared at him for a long while. Suddenly a deep sense of guilt arose from the bottom of his heart! He had given up his daughter; however the young and the old of the Jun Family had risen to take a stand for her without any hesitation!

He was unaware of the rivalry between the Jun Family and the Silver Blizzard City; he was unaware that these two factions were mortal enemies! And now, these men were even willing to face the Xue Hun Manor for Qing Han's sake!

The two most powerful forces of the continent were standing against the lone Jun Family! One enemy in the north and the other in the south; and Jun Family was right in the middle!

[Xue Hun is probably in the south, and the Silver Blizzard City is in the north.... Most likely. They haven't made this very clear, probably due to the secretive nature of these two factions.]

But Jun Mo Xie, and Jun Wu Yi were still smiling, indifferent to it all; still holding their heads proudly high up in the sky!

Chapter 176 – Different positions

Qing Han was no longer able to hold her tears!

The previous anger and despair of her heart had suddenly transformed to gratitude over the course of these last few sentences.

Even though Qing Han could understand the reason behind her father's choice, her heart had still felt a surging pain inside. In fact, she even considered not making this sacrifice for two such hateful families!

But now, Qing Han's thoughts had suddenly taken a flip, and she simply couldn't allow these people to die.

Her father's idea of forcing her to marry into the Xue Hun Manor for the sake of the two family's safety was a logical decision, however, after witnessing Jun Mo Xie and Jun Wu Yi's decision to make a stand, she simply couldn't think of being selfish anymore!

A feeling of infinite warmth and affection arose in Qing Han's heart as she looked up at Jun Mo Xie and Jun Wu Yi: they are willing to stand up for me... even at the cost of their own lives? What could be better than ensuring their happiness and safety?!

I cannot live a life of humiliation and ruin, but if I commit suicide and the Xue Hun Manor vents out their anger on the Guan and the Jun Family.... I can't think of committing a greater sin!

How can I bring about the ruin of two such heroic men, and such a great family? How can I allow so many innocent lives to be sacrificed, trampled, and slaughtered to save myself from a life of humiliation? Would I ever be able to forgive myself? Would my heart ever be at peace?!

"Third Uncle, Father.... I have something to say." Guan Qing Han quickly restored a cold expression on her face, and even managed to look slightly magnificent.

"Please speak your mind; Uncle is here to support you." Jun Wu Yi looked at her face, but his heart suddenly felt the signs of something ominous coming from her.

Qing Han quietly raised her head to look at the pouring rain outside the dining hall, and finally made up her mind. Then, she faced Jun Wu Yi, and bent down to her knees, and then slowly lowered her head to the ground in salute.

She looked up at Jun Wu Yi and spoke calmly: "Qing Han didn't interrupt the original decision because Qing Han is the reason behind this problem. Even being the eldest daughter of the Family, Qing Han has only bore the Jun Family misfortune since the day I stepped in through the door, and even today I bear only misfortune; such is my incompetence. I have brought such a major disaster to the door of the families, but the three of you, Uncle, Father and, brother-in-law Jun Mo Xie, need no longer dispute over this matter." Qing Han had clearly decided to frame her decision very tactically: "Even though Mo You and I were married, but only so in name and not in reality. However, I stayed in the Jun Family for such a long time because of my stubbornness, which was wrong to being with. And therefore, Uncle, please forgive me. Qing Han wants....."

Qing Han coldly bit her lower lip as she slowly said the rest of her sentence: “....to withdraw the engagement!”

She was unable to hold her head up; it seemed as if she had already exhausted her bodily strength, “Qing Han would have wanted to face the grandfather and apologize to him in person, but I cannot find the courage to seek his presence anymore. I would like to leave with my father tomorrow, and return to the Guan Family; I pray that Uncle supports my decision. Guan Qing Han and the Jun Family no longer have any relation!”

Jun Wu Yi almost jumped out of his wheelchair! Qing Han’s words clearly mean that she only considers herself to be her parent’s daughter, and doesn’t admit to being the Jun Family’s daughter-in-law! What does this mean?

Guan Dong Liu was aghast to hear his daughter’s words, but dismay apart.... he could now clearly understand that ‘women are complicated’. Regardless of the Jun Family, her bitter decision was the best option for Guan Family! Two silent tears dropped from his eye at this thought.

Jun Mo Xie quietly looked at Qing Han’s cool and calm face, only to see that there were absolutely no traces of any emotion on its surface. However her small palms, which were so tightly clutched that even her joints seemed to have gone pale, were enough to understand her true meaning!

“Qing Han, this decision is not a trivial one; it relates to your life and future. Therefore, I advise that you think carefully! You will be the Jun Family’s daughter-in-law for as long as you chose to be, and no one will ever force you against your wishes as long as even one Jun breathes air!” Jun Wu Yi’s cold eyes didn’t have the courage to look at Qing Han, and were instead focused on his own two ‘Sky Xuan strong’ hands!

“I do not need to reconsider, I have already made up my mind; I hope Uncle complies!” Qing Han smiled sadly: “In fact, Mo You and I had only met three times in our entire lives, but I was obstinately persisting on going about things in the wrong way.....”

Qing Han turned her head to look at her father, but only to see her father turning his head away. As a father, he couldn’t dare to look into his daughter’s eyes at this moment! He was afraid that he might turn soft, and may end up opening his mouth to stop her instead!

Qing Han smiled gently as she switched the topic: "Time will never turn; the past is gone." In this era, marriages were considered a verbal agreement, and now even a marriage document wouldn't be able to oust her decision. If she chose, then she would no longer have any relation with the Jun Family.

Jun Mo Xie had already understood very clearly that she was only acting under the impulse of her emotions. As he pondered a little more, he couldn't help doubting Guan Dong Liu more and more: could it be that he had some hidden intention behind forging this bond in the first place?

"Qing Han, Uncle knows that you're sacrificing yourself to save us from harm! But this matter has reached too far now, and it's already too late for it. Even if you terminated this marriage, and announce that you have no relationship with the Jun Family, it will still be too late since I've already found out about this matter now, and I will not ignore it.... either way."

Jun Wu Yi pondered for a little while, and then suddenly smiled: "Qing Han, Uncle is now a cripple. But you mustn't forget that I was once a soldier! I'm still a soldier, and I will always be a soldier. And soldiers are born of blood and iron!"

"And as my daughter-in-law, you must understand that my iron-blood will not allow me to go back on my decision in this regard! Especially when this is happening to you.... my own daughter-in-law!" Jun Wu Yi sharply raised his eyebrows: "As far as the topic of rescinding the marriage is concerned, I will not stop you, but when it comes to the issue surrounding the Xue Hun Manor, I'm the one in control of the Jun Family! Even if you decline to be my Family's daughter, you'll still always be the Jun Family's daughter, and we won't allow anyone to tarnish your reputation!"

"That's right! Well said Uncle!" Jun Mo Xie spoke up coldly: "Even if you're acting out of kindness, you need not worry about the Jun Family; however, we will not allow you to rescind this marriage right now! Even if you decide to lift this marriage now, we cannot allow you to since it will be a matter of extreme shame and dishonor for the Jun Family!" Jun Mo Xie stared at her: "Don't be so self-righteous! Why do you have to act like a woman now? You have no experience of such matters!"

Though Jun Mo Xie had been cold and insolent, his words still stirred a storm of emotions in Qing Han's heart.

Jun Wu Yi called out to a servant, and whispered a few words in his ear. That servant quickly ran out of the hall, and returned in a few moments with a small wooden box, and handed it over to Jun Wu Yi.

Jun Wu Yi raised the wooden box and said: "Niece Qing Han, this box contains a document which was written by my father proclaiming that you're a 'daughter-in-law' to the Jun Family. Once the matter with the Xue Hun Manor has been resolved, then at that time, as the master of the Jun Family, I will announce to the world that: You, Qing Han, and my family have no relation anymore. But if you deny this relation before that time comes, then we will never agree to it!"

Jun Mo Xie smiled as he looked at the wooden box, and leisurely stated: "I believe that this wooden box can only have two possible fates. First, I will personally open it, and set you free. Second, it will be buried and turned to ash along with our dead bodies. But either way, I will never allow you to go to the Xue Hun Manor."

Even though Jun Mo Xie had stated his words with a smile on his face, but the expression in his voice was enough to express his determination very clearly!

Guan Qing Han's eyes blurred with tears upon seeing that calm and gentle smile on Jun Mo Xie's face. His eyes suddenly started seeming like the sword which could protect the world from any danger... and suddenly the disturbance of her heart started to settle.

Guan Dong Liu felt as if he was sitting on pins and needles. Even though his daughter's 'morally righteous' choice had left him infinitely sad, but he was still pleased to know that she was ready to make this sacrifice for his family. However, now this situation had suddenly gone beyond any point of persuasion. He sighed and stomped his foot heavily: "Brother Jun, you, you, what are you doing?! Your choice not only fails to live up to Qing Han's heart, it doesn't live up to the expectations of the country, and your family or your people... what are you saying?"

"I can understand your problem brother, and I can understand Qing Han's heart." Jun Wu Yi smiled understandingly: "Your decision was wise, and I believe that even the Emperor would have made the same choice as you in this matter. No one will ever say that you're wrong, but everyone has a different position."

"In fact, such matters have always been the biggest point of conflict and contradiction between the military and the polity. Polity seeks peace, and military seeks otherwise; this can never be resolved. If the polity seeks war then the country gets divided. However, if the military seeks peace then the country is not far from ruin!"

“And if our Jun Family, as the country’s leading military force, compromises on this matter, then wouldn’t we become the laughing stock of the entire world? It’s not that we don’t want peace, but in this regard, we can’t dare to compromise!”

Guan Dong Liu fiercely cursed himself within his own head: I was forgetting this! I walked into a madman’s house and wedded my daughter, and was still silly enough to be happy about it?! These damn beasts! If this matter becomes public then there will be no harm to the Jun Family, but the Guan Family will be worse than ruined!

“Despite being the master of your family, I will not blame you for the end result of this matter; no matter which way it goes. However, Qing Han will remain in the Jun Family for now.” Jun Wu Yi smiled. Even though his voice was low, it was obvious that he wasn’t to be refuted.

Guan Dong Liu sighed but remained silent for a while. Then, he finally got up, and starting striding out. Since they weren’t bending, he’d have to make a lot of arrangements; after all, this disaster would be harder to take for the Guan Family!

“On the topic of your second son and that woman, I have another idea. I request Brother Guan to not intervene in that matter either.” Guan Dong Liu had been intending on going straight to the Spirit Fog Lake’s Ni Chang pavilion to seek his revenge on Yue’er. However, he immediately dispelled the idea after listening to Jun Wu Yi’s words.

He reached the doorway, and stopped: “Li Jia only gave us two months’ time, so please Brother Jun.... resolve this matter as early as possible.”

Jun Wu Yi’s eyes flashed from one point to the other: “Thank you brother. You must go back and prepare of it.” Guan Dong Liu stomped his feet as he left.

Chapter 177 – Xuan Core comes out

“Well, alright. You should also go and get some rest.” Jun Wu Yi glanced over at Jun Mo Xie and Qing Han: “Don’t worry, the sky isn’t falling down; and even if does, your Uncle will be here to look after you!”

Qing Han was still whimpering, while Jun Mo Xie's eyes were flickering with excitement. Suddenly, his lips bent into a crooked smile, almost as if he had been struck by a moment of enlightenment. He slowly glanced towards Jun Wu Yi and said: "I'm going out!". Jun Mo Xie quickly turned around before either of them could react, and disappeared into the storm outside.

The rain was still pouring heavily outside, and wasn't showing any signs of stopping any time soon.

The sky had become completely dark.

Even though Jun Wu Yi's facial expression was calm and collected, his eyes had deepened under the effect of his thoughts.

Qing Han was quietly standing in the dining hall, while her cold and motionless face was still staring at the rain outside the hall. The rain drops would splash onto the ground and scatter, and some would even spray onto her body and face, bringing a strangely cold sensation along with them.....

~ The Li Mansion ~

"There was an attempt on Jun Mo Xie's life today?" Li You Ran was wearing a mask, but the gleam in his eyes was enough to express his interest in the incident: "Is he dead?"

"No." A thin and lean black-robed man answered: "A mysterious person appeared at the key moment, and killed several of the assassins. This man was far too powerful, and the assassins were forced to retreat."

"Do you know who was behind this attempt on Jun Mo Xie's life?" Li You Ran didn't care much about Jun Mo Xie's life in reality since he considered Jun Mo Xie to be of no significance in his own merit. However, he was well aware that the youngster's life was important to the Jun Family and its followers.

"That is not clear." The black-robed man lowered his head.

"Then go and find out!" Li You Ran's cold shout sent the man shivering with fear. Li You Ran's appearance had been degrading ever since that accident, which is why he had been staying indoors ever

since. His temper had started becoming more and more unpredictable with each passing day, which had been becoming increasingly scary for his servants.

Li You Ran walked into his bedroom, pressed his hand against the wall, and pushed. The sound of 'rolling' machinery was heard, and then the wall gave-way to a door. An array of wide stone steps seemed to be leading into a basement chamber, and then these stairs started leading back upwards, making it seem as if there was another entrance to this chamber.

Li You Ran slowly walked down and then up these stairs, and soon started hearing the sound of the rain getting more intense, almost as if he was nearing the surface again. Soon enough, Li You Ran's figure leisurely appeared in a small but secret courtyard.

"Young Li!" There were about ten people in the courtyard, all dressing in white robes. The first one to speak up was a middle aged man, around forty years in age judging by his appearance. His tall, burly body and his sharp eyes exuded a sense of indifference, almost as if he considered himself to be above the rest. A delicate thirty-year old woman was standing behind him, while the remaining men and women were seated on his sides. These people had helped Li You Ran in silencing someone a while ago, and had since become his acquaintances.

"Brother!" Li You Ran respectfully greeted: "There's no news of the Xuan Core so far, but I've spread out a vast network of people, therefore we shouldn't miss out on any detail. If there's any new news about this treasure, then we'll surely be the first ones to know about it! But there's a rumor that we have to take note of... the words has it that Silver Blizzard City has arrived in the Tian Xiang City, along with several other powers. It is being said that there are at least four Supreme Xuan experts in the Tian Xiang City at the moment, along with countless Sky Xuan experts, which could destabilize the situation completely. Once there's any news on the Xuan Core, these parties will start fighting against each other..... and we may not have a very bright chance of emerging as champions.....!"

"We may not be as strong as some other parties involved, but given that we have Six Sky Xuan experts, and four peak Earth Xuan experts, I believe that if we were able to get our hands on it before the others, then we could get away with it at full speed, in which case even Yun Bei Chen himself won't be able to stop us from getting away." The middle-aged man replied categorically: "You mustn't worry about that, Young Li."

"Yes, everything depends on you, Brother." Li You Ran smiled and said: "I've always felt that the Jade Coral's explosion was a bit strange, and therefore before that time comes, could you please look into the Magnificent Jewel Hall and the other related people?"

A thin man smiled and said: "Young Brother, who are these 'other related people' you speak of? My Xuan Qi may not be as high as some of my six brothers, but when it comes to tracking people, I'm confident that even my brothers cannot surpass me!" This man was the leanest amongst the ten, but was also their most agile tracker, and was capable of gathering almost any information in the most discrete of ways.

"There are two more people involved in addition to the Magnificent Jewel Hall; Tang Yuan and Jun Mo Xie. Both of them are inside the Jun mansion at the moment; Tang Yuan is injured at the moment, therefore you must only concentrate on Jun Mo Xie for now.... I have a very strange feeling about that kid." Even Li You Ran's mask was unable to conceal his thoughtful expression: "However, both these places are usually very heavily guarded, and so you must be very careful; you mustn't take their security lightly, brother."

"Don't worry, this man is somehow always able to track down the things even I can't. He's a true master of the art." The middle-aged man smiled as he fiercely stared at his companion.

The woman standing behind the middle-aged man laughed: "Still unable to bear the memories of the past?"

The man hummed twice and then said: "What's so difficult to bear about it? I was misled by false information, and ended up charging right in... that's the only reason I ended up getting fooled that one time, else I would have....."

The entire gathering broke into laughter; even Li You Ran couldn't help flashing a smile, and then he said: "In case even you weren't able to track it down, then I believe that no one could have. I have full confidence in you, brother."

The entire room suddenly went quite as a small bell suddenly started ringing in the corner of the room.

Li You Ran's face immediately changed colors, but... this bell is connected to the main room, it wouldn't have rung unless there was something extremely urgent! What is happening? This is completely unpredictable..... Is there something my people were unable to handle on their own ah?

“Brothers, please remain seated for some more time while I go back out and check.... although I don’t expect any activity in this pouring rain.” Li You Ran stated in a rather normal tone.

“There’s no need to be so formal young brother, we understand if you have other business to care of.” The middle-aged man replied with a smile.

Li You Ran leisurely went out, and then immediately darted back in; he hastily spoke up before anyone was able to say anything: “That Xuan Core’s Qi has been picked up in the western part of the city; the message is accurate and several high-level Xuan experts are reported to be gathering in the western part of the city as we speak!”

These people had always known Li You Ran to be a very calm and elegant persona; this was the first time that they were witnessing him act and talk in such a hasty manner in the five years of their acquaintance with him!

The ten people simultaneously jumped onto their feet! The middle-aged man waved his hand: “All out; to the west!” the ten silhouettes quickly fled and scuttled away into the wind and the rain. Their blue and brown Xuan Qi lights flashed as they sped through the distance which separated them from their destination, and soon their flickering lights disappeared into the endless rain.

Li You Ran just stood gazing at the misty sky, unable to fathom the reason behind the sadness oppressing his heart.

~ The Western part of the City ~

The young master Jun was sitting inside a small, broken and battered house, with a mask concealed his face. A Xuan Core lay quietly placed on the small table in front of him.

This obviously wasn’t the peak level nine Xuan Core, but the level six Xuan Core which Jun Wu Yi had procured for him earlier. Although it was a rare and precious object, however it wasn’t beyond the reach of a family such as his’.

The Hitman Jun’s earlier words and pledge to defend the dignity and honor of the Jun Family might have been spoken under the effect of an impulse, but his survival instincts were clearly warning him of the

impending danger. Even though the Hitman Jun was quite bold and audacious, but faced with the power and might of a force such as the Xue Hun Manor, even his 'brazen' heart couldn't help but beat like a drum.

After all, the Xue Hun Manor's Li Jue Tian was widely acknowledged to be the second most powerful man alive, and to feel reassured in one's own strength when faced with an enemy of such power would be absolutely foolish!

But considering all this when faced with this imminent threat was meaningless, and therefore, rather than pondering over such meaningless specifics, Jun Mo Xie was busy trying to find a solution to the problem at hand!

Jun Mo Xie was well aware that provoking the fury of either the Silver Blizzard City or the Xue Hun Manor would be bad enough for him; but at the moment, he was faced with them both at the same time!

It was a matter of life and death now!

Jun Mo Xie simply couldn't tolerate the shame of the situation attributing to his hot-blooded nature; however it was obvious that he was no match for these two forces. Since I can't take them head-on, I must trick them! However, how do I come with the right plan?

He was well aware that he couldn't handle either of the two sides using the ordinary means, and even though he had contemplated several strategies, the overall picture was still a bit vague since he hadn't been able to come with a feasible plan of action yet.....

During his research of the Xuan Core, Jun Mo Xie had come to realize that the 'art of unlocking the heaven's fortune' was capable of replicating the Xuan Core's Qi! Obviously, Jun Mo Xie had been devising this strategy ever since.

Jun Mo Xie had conducted several experiments after getting his hands on the level six Xuan Core, and had finally come to realize: No one would be able to identify the true level of the Xuan Core once its outer appearance had been transformed, and it would only seem like a mysterious Xuan Core. Even its internal Qi would be of no use since the 'art of unlocking the heaven's fortune' would render that means of detection useless.

Jun Mo Xie had been waiting for the situation to stabilize a bit, and until Tang Yuan's health was restored to carry out his plan, and would then use this method to gain profits. However, the matter surrounding the Xue Hun Manor had immediately changed his mind.

The Hitman Jun had decided to start his program early!

He had no time to tarry; none at all!

He needed to add more to his Grandfather and Uncle's strength if they were to build a solid defense for their protection!

If the Silver Blizzard City was alone powerful enough to scourge the Jun Family for ten years, while toying around with Jun Wu Yi at the same time, then the added pressure from the Xue Hun Manor would make life impossible for them!

Chapter 178 – A quartet movement

It was impossible to estimate the number of high level Xuan level experts who had ventured into the Tian Xiang City at present. If fact, given that two of the 'eight great masters' were rumored to be inside the city at the moment, it was even difficult to estimate the number of Spirit Xuan experts competing for this treasure!

Although this storm was dormant at the moment, but there was bound to be mass chaos in the city once the Xuan Core appeared in public. Jun Mo Xie was planning on using this confusion to his benefit! Or perhaps, he was planning on using this situation to weaken the hostile parties!

Since the Hitman Jun had already made up his mind, he closed his eyes and emptied his mind. Then, he extended his hand towards the Xuan Core, and launched the Hongjun Pagoda into action the moment he felt the cold texture of the Xuan Core. A strong Aura rushed out through Jun Mo Xie's meridians all of a sudden, and slowly trickled into the Xuan Core.

Jun Mo Xie's Xuan Qi wasn't enough to create such a huge Qi Field (Aura), which is why he needed the Hongjun Pagoda's assistance!

A dark-golden light emerged out of the originally dark Xuan Core, and lit up the entire room. The strong Aura coming from the Xuan Core instantly spread out in all directions, and started scattering far beyond the domain of the small cabin.

“What could be giving rise to such a strong Aura?” three white-haired old men, who had been sitting cross-legged inside the Magnificent Jewel Hall, suddenly opened their eyes as the man in the middle blurted out loud.

“The peak level nine Xuan Core!” the three men spoke up at the same time, and then glanced over at each other to confirm their suspicions.

“Let’s go!” the three elders simultaneously ordered, and then charged out without any hesitation. They smashed their way straight through the roof of the Magnificent Jewel hall; fortunately for the structure of the building, they were already seated in the highest chamber of the building.

Thunder rolls and lightening filled the sky as the rain continued to pour down!

The third elder closed his eyes to sense this Aura better, and then shouted out: “The Xuan Core is in the Western part of the City!” the other two elderly men immediately diverted their eyes towards the west, and gazed at the rainstorm which was shrouding the western part of the Tian Xiang City.

“Let’s go!” their three figures flew out towards their target, and faded away into the thundering sky, leaving a big hole in the building’s roof below them, not even paying attention to sobbing of the structure as rain started to pour into it through that massive hole.....

Another four figures appeared into that chamber as soon as they left; three men and woman. The woman was the first to speak up: “He he, this looks like something fun; how can we miss out on it? Let’s catch up to them.”

It was obvious from the manner in which she took after them that she wasn’t afraid of the fray which was about to unfold. The three men looked at each, smiled, and then rushed after her. Two of these men were flying close to each other; however the third had intentionally placed himself at a distance for some reason.

Six men were stationed outside the residence hosting the foreign royal visitors in the southern part of the city. A tall, thin, and creased-faced man appeared in the door way, and these six men immediately arranged themselves in a line. These six men were all Sky Xuan experts, but this thin man hadn't exposed his Xuan Qi level yet; however it was evident that his Xuan Qi level was higher than his subordinates!

He whispered in a low tone: "Let's go!"

The seven men readied themselves to march!

At the same time, the door to a chamber on the western part of this residence slowly opened with a creaking sound, and a voice slowly said as its owner smiled: "Brother Shi, isn't this what you've been waiting for? Don't you wish to go and capture it?!"

The speaker was a white-robed man, who had made his way towards this chamber through the pouring rain; it seemed that he wasn't even afraid of getting his robes drenched in the pouring rain. His walk up to this chamber through the beautiful garden outside was so elegant, that it seemed as if a flower had grown feet and was walking around the garden.

This man was the Yu Tang Empire's imperial teacher, Fei Meng Chen!

"Fei Meng Chen!" a wide, white-robed man smiled and said: "No one is stopping you. You can go as long as you're afraid of death, that is!"

Fei Meng Chen looked skywards and laughed: "Brother Shi, others might see you as one of the 'Eight Great Masters', but it should be made clear that I'm still in charge here!"

The man Fei Meng Chen was speaking with was the actually one of the 'Eight Great Masters', Shen Ci Empire's Shi Chang Xiao!

Shi Chang Xiao smiled as he stood up, and then stepped out into the rain. He sprung up into the air, and stationed himself mid-air; he half turned towards the west, and then quickly flew out. Fei Meng Chen laughed, and then chased after him. The others silently galloped behind these two men in full speed!

The Solitary Falcon was laughing while gulping down a mouthful of alcohol: "Amazing wine! Really amazing wine!". He and the prince had gathered in Old Song's tavern to witness a wine-making contest, and had decided to stay back due to the sudden and heavy downpour of rain.

He wasn't in his preferred company of men.

However he still wasn't feeling uncomfortable, after all, he was being accompanied by some of the best wines ever known to him. Not to mention that he was a wanderer, and had gotten accustomed to 'going with the flow', so naturally he was enjoying drinking the wine in the isolated company of his mind!

They had already finished the two jars that Jun Mo Xie had brought with him, and were now making their way through Old Song's wine. The wine which had initially intoxicated them with its mere scent was now feeling harsh to their throats in the contrast of Jun Mo Xie's brew; almost like a fly in the ointment!

Even though the prince, Yang Huai Nong's house wasn't far from there, he still didn't wish to leave until the wine had been finished since it would mean that the Solitary Falcon would get to have it all by himself. I can't allow him to have all this wine for himself.... even if he's one of the 'Eight Great Masters' of this world.....

On the other hand, Old Song couldn't help feeling endlessly gloomy as he continued to watch these two men enjoying themselves. This is my master's wine, and I was preparing to use it for research.... And now these people have actually finished it all.....

However, the most depressing and annoying thing apart from the fact that they had emptied his master's wine was the fact that they were now busy finishing the wine that he had begrudgingly parted away with; and moreover, were drinking it with a resentful look on their faces.....

One man was the only brother to the Emperor of an Empire, and the other was one of the strongest individuals alive..... but these two men were nothing more than scoundrels in his eyes at the moment!

The Solitary Falcon's eyes suddenly opened up widely as he sprang to his feet, surprising the two men in the process. Then he lifted his body upwards, and laughed: "I've finally found a good opportunity!"

Then, his body flashed out without even saying 'goodbye', and practically disappeared into the rain outside.

Being a Sky Xuan expert, Song Shang was also able to sense that turbulent Aura which was fusing with this surging storm; Song Shang's flickering eyes were clearly expressing his desire to get to his feet, but he simply sighed, bowed his head, raised his glass of wine and poured it down his throat in condolence.

Given his strength, participating in the competition for this Xuan Core would only bear him only one result: death!

Song Shang had instantly given up on the idea of competing for the Xuan Core after sensing the terrifying strength of the Solitary Falcon, which had spread out in the air at the time of his departure, since he had realized that his involvement in this fight would only be a waste of his effort.

"What just happened?" the Prince looked confused by the strange departure of the Solitary Falcon, and couldn't help asking.

"It seems that the widely-rumored peak level Nine Xuan Core has appeared." Song Shang answered in a heavy tone: "Only a peak level nine Xuan Core is capable of emitting this kind of an Aura! This definitely isn't a fake."

"The peak level nine Xuan Core!" the prince gasped. "The Solitary Falcon simply disappeared upon sensing it! Does it mean that he's also competing for it?"

"He has taken off in that direction, however he may not be interested in the Xuan Core, and may just be looking for some good opponents. Given his nature, I don't think that he's much concerned with materialistic objects." Song Shang hung his head in despair: "Given the intensity of this competition, I can't even do anything in this fight."

The Royal Highness could clearly sense the sadness in his friend's voice.

Song Shang had been practicing desperately all his life, but now that such a wonderful battle was taking place in such close proximity, he wasn't even qualified to take part in it.....

Movement was taking place in all four directions simultaneously.

The three figures of the third, the sixth, and the ninth elder of the Silver Blizzard City were charging from the northern end of the city!

The ten associates of the Li You Ran were charging from the eastern part of the city!

Shi Chang Xiao and Fei Meng Chen were leading a squadron of six or seven Sky Xuan experts at blistering pace, and were practically tearing their way through the curtains of rain, from the southern part of the city!

In the west, the Solitary Falcon was speeding through the rain like a hawk, while his black robes were making a 'hissing' sound as he cut through the fierce winds at the speed of lightening!

And all of them had one target in mind; the small cabin..... the source of this Xuan Core's Aura!

One could clearly see several earthen and blue colored lights flashing through the sky of the Tian Xiang; all of them approaching that small cabin at ghostly speeds.

"It is really stupid to bring out a Xuan Core in such a rainy weather; does this guy even know that this rainy weather will cause a violation with the Aura field of the Xuan Core?Could this be a trap instead?" even though the three elders from the Silver Blizzard City were travelling at an extremely fast pace, the third elder was still able to speak without the slightest of problems.

"At least the rumors surrounding the Xuan Core are true! This Aura can only be coming out of a level nine Xuan Core; this simply cannot be a fake! As for the chance of this being a trap, I really can't say." The sixth elder's face was clearly reflecting his confidence.

"We sensed the Aura of a 'super-being' in this city, and but he hasn't appeared yet; could this be his doing?" the ninth elder's voice was clearly reflecting a lingering trace of fear in it. His heart was still shuddering at the thought of facing this mysterious power!

“Third Brother, I’m still confused by the power of that being, and I don’t know if we are capable of getting away from.....”

The ninth elder hadn’t yet finished his sentence when he found himself interrupted by the third elder: “Don’t say that again!” the third elder’s voice clearly reflected his anxiety.

“Yes; yes.” The ninth elder immediately acknowledged his ‘slip of tongue’.

“Given our aspirations, now isn’t the right time to fail.” The three men immediately accelerated their pace as the third elder finished speaking this sentence.

Suddenly, the three elders shifted their gaze southwards; the third elder raised his eyebrows and said: “This Xuan Core is attracting a lot of competition! Even Shi Chang Xiao and Fei Meng Chen are here for it! You two go and block their path, while I’ll go and get my hands on this Xuan Core!”

Chapter 179 – A Quick Escalation

“There’s movement in the east as well, however the strength.....” The Sixth Elder looked at the Blue colored lights which were flying towards their target from the east, and coldly stated: “The strongest is only a Sky Xuan. Well, these guys are a bit overconfident..... They shouldn’t be any trouble for you Third brother, so we’ll just head out south.”

The third elder nodded gently as his two companions spread out their arms, and burst out southwards like flying meteors.

The Sixth and the Ninth Elders’ body cut past the storm and towards their new target. The Sixth Elder opened his mouth and shouted in a resonating voice: “Silver Blizzard City’s greetings to Brother Shi Chang Xiao and Fei Meng Chen!”

Shi Chang Xiao’s figure suddenly came to a halt mid-air, and he started staring blankly at the two Elders from the Silver Blizzard City: “It’s you guys!”

Fei Meng Chen also stopped and then broke into laughter: "It's a small world, and one can never be sure who you bump into these days. I would have never thought that we'd run into the Third, the Sixth and the Ninth Elder of the Silver Blizzard City here; It's nice to meet you though!"

He realized that since only two of the three Elders had come to greet them, the third one must have gone ahead to seize the Xuan Core, which is why he chose his words carefully and hoped that Shi Chang Xiao would understand the meaning.

Although winning the Xuan Core was already being estimated to be fairly difficult task, but allowing the Silver Blizzard City's people to take it away this easily was out of question. These three Elders were all inside the Spirit Xuan realm, which is why beating one or maybe even two was possible for Shi Chang Xiao, however defeating all three wasn't possible for even a man with his skill.

Shi Chang Xiao smiled as he nodded, but his Spirit Xuan eyes remained motionlessly glued to the two men obstructing his path as he calmly stated: "Step aside!"

"Where are you planning on going brother?" the Ninth Elder smiled: "Tell us; After all, we're old friends, and if you two gentlemen have some urgent business then we could always help you out if you wish it."

"You think you can stop me?" Shi Chang Xiao sneered: "Even Han Feng Xue wouldn't dare to muster such courage!"

Although they were all Spirit Xuan experts, but Shi Chang Xiao was one of the 'Eight Great Masters', which meant that his strength had already reached the pinnacle of the Spirit Xuan realm, whereas even the strongest of these three Silver Blizzard City's elders had only managed to reach the peak of Spirit Xuan realm's foundation. And this gap was quite large! Naturally, Shi Chang Xiao was more than qualified to say these words since needn't fear them as much. But as far as Fei Meng Chen and others were concerned, they were quite terrified of being caught up in the middle of their battle.

"Elder Brother Shi, please don't say such a thing. We haven't even seen each other in ages, and now that we've met on such a sultry night and with such amazing autumn drizzling to make this evening even better.... We must definitely sit down together and have a cup of that special Silver Blizzard City tea that I've brought with me." The Sixth Elder continued to talk nonsense; in fact, he had even managed to refer to the downpour of rain as 'drizzling', and the thundering dark sky as 'sultry'; on top of that, he had even managed to invite his 'dear friends' over for a cup of tea!

“Ha ha.....” Shi Chang Xiao broke into laughter. His laughter continued to get louder and louder, almost to the point where it started replacing the deafening thunderbolts!

Another bolt of lightning pierced through the sky and the light from it lit up the sky, but only to reveal the deathly-pale expression on everyone’s faces!

Shi Chang Xiao had burst into action at the same time as that lightening had stricken, and the palms of his two hands were almost upon the chests of the Six and the Ninth elder now!

“You’re truly worth of being called a ‘Great Master’ brother!” the Sixth and the Ninth elder shouted back at the same time as they dodged his attack.

Even though these two men were Spirit Xuan experts, they were both well aware that they wouldn’t be able to defeat the man they were confronted with, and would only be able to make a temporary stand against him at best. Moreover, Fei Meng Chen was waiting on the sidelines for the right opportunity. The Sixth and the Ninth elder simply couldn’t dare to neglect the gravity of the situation, and hence they immediately mustered their entire Xuan Qi and moved into action!

They shot out at the same time, but found their attacks repelled and their bodies flying backwards through the falling rain; ‘Cling’ ‘Cling’, and suddenly two silver colored blades lit up the sky.

It was the Flying Snow Swords!

A wall of the snow encased the entire sky ahead as the two men blocked their paths once again!

Shi Chang Xiao roared out in excitement: “It seems that you two are catching up to Han Feng Xue after all; your expertise with that sword is reaching your master’s expertise!” They attacked with their swords, but he was able to dodge them with ease.

“It’s like the Elder Brother said; I’m catching up with Han Feng Xue’s skills”. The Sixth Elder’s body started moving erratically in the sky as he mustered his entire Xuan Qi and burst out.

“Then don’t hold back!” Shi Chang Xiao roared as he moved forward furiously. Even though the Six Elder had stated that he wasn’t far behind Han Feng Xue now, but he was still far behind his superior in reality. Therefore, he was obviously in no position to match a man like Shi Chang Xiao with ease. Their bodies started spinning around in the air like bats in the midnight sky, making for a marvelous spectacle.

Suddenly, Shi Chang Xiao’s figure came to an abrupt halt in the mid-air. Suddenly, several silhouettes started disintegrating from his body, painting a very strange and baffling scene in the sky, almost as if several Shi Chang Xiao were standing in a line in the middle of the sky... at the same time!

Whoosh!

A strange piercing sound was issued as all these figures brazenly came crashing down on that snow wall, and smashed it into pieces!

Simultaneously, Fei Meng Chen charged past the Sixth Elder at a lightning fast pace, and rushed towards that small cabin!

His timing was simply perfect!

The Sixth and the Ninth Elder were left with just two options in that moment: One, to stop the charging Fei Meng Chen, or two, to stop the deadly incoming strike of Shi Chang Xiao’s from killing them! There was no way in which they could have obstructed Fei Meng Chen while blocking this deadly strike from Shi Chang Xiao!

Jun Mo Xie was sitting alone in that small cabin with closed eyes as he continued to pour more Aura into the Xuan Core. He suddenly opened his eyes, and burst out of the cabin; a big hole split open in the roof of that cabin the moment he escaped out of it, which was followed by another loud ‘bang’, and a white-haired elderly man rushed out after him, while the cabin shook a bit and then eventually collapsed to the ground.

The Third Elder looked at Xuan Core in Jun Mo Xie’s hands, and then smiled kindly as he stated in a calm voice: “Sire, an innocent man like yourself mustn’t get into trouble on account of such a cherished item; what you’re carrying is called a Xuan Core, and if you hand it over to this Old man, then I will defend your life in return. Your life for this Xuan Core, Sire; It’s a fair deal!”

“Fair, really? This Xuan Core and my life are both my own, and I can protect them both! Anyway, since several distinguished experts such as yourself have made their way to the Tian Xiang City for this Xuan Core, I don’t think that you’d be able defend me from them all!” Jun Mo Xie’s face was beginning to get tense under the effect of his thoughts: how come only one? Where have all those other damned idiots gone off to die?! Don’t tell me that I exposed this Xuan Core at the wrong spot!

His mouth was rambling incoherently at the moment; after all, he was faced with a Spirit Xuan expert at the moment!

I’m sure that if he decides to act, then this Xuan Core will be in his hands and not mine.....

Is this guy really going to get away with this so easily? Why are those other people so damn slow?

The Young Master Jun knew that there was no room for mistake here since it was rather obvious that this man wouldn’t stop at anything to procure this Xuan Core. Moreover, the strength of this man was far superior than his own, which was rather obvious from his speed of arrival and the collapsing house in the background!

Even if he was somehow able to dodge the man’s attack, he was sure that he wouldn’t be able retain the Xuan Core; therefore, if he acted rashly at this time, then this entire fiasco would end up bringing more harm than good!

“This Old man is the Third Elder of the Silver Blizzard City; I believe that has some credibility attached to it. As long as you hand over this Xuan Core to me, I promise that you will exit this place safely!” The Third Elder stepped forwards as he smiled again.

Being a Spirit Xuan expert, the Third Elder had already identified that this masked man’s Xuan Qi wasn’t very high, and he would be able to grab hold of this man even before the man could take one step away!

However.....

Power isn’t the only thing one can rely on; intelligence and wits are also often very resourceful! Jun Mo Xie was well aware that fighting against a Spirit Xuan would be tantamount to courting death!

Therefore Jun Mo Xie needed to buy himself some time; enough for the other competitors to show up!

Suddenly a green colored light flashed out of Jun Mo Xie's body, and slowly started turning darker and darker as it enveloped his entire body, making it seem as if a giant, dazzling human-shaped emerald was standing in the middle of the rainy street.

"Jade Xuan Peak? Ha ha, that won't be sufficient ah." The Third Elder shook his head as he stated in a sorry tone. He had already made up his mind to take the Xuan Core by force since the man in front was only a Jade Xuan expert; such people would normally be regarded as good quality experts in the eyes of normal people, but in the eyes of a Spirit Xuan expert, such people were nothing more than a 'joke'!

Or perhaps even ants!

He was a bit careful earlier since he was completely unaware of the man's strength; but now, he was planning on simply taking the Xuan Core by force!

The Third Elder was absolutely certain that he'd be able to grab the Xuan Core the moment he shot out, and was sure that the man in front wouldn't even be able to destroy the Xuan Core in time, if he chose to in order to protect himself!

But at this very moment, he discovered something extremely strange!

And this particular thing was strange enough to seize his footsteps in their stead!

The green-colored light encompassing Jun Mo Xie's body had suddenly disappeared, and had been replaced by a faint yellow light, which immediately after transformed into a khaki colored light in the blink of an eye! Then, this light slowly transformed into a deep brown colored light, and started dazzling in the rain in a very elegant and magnificent manner!

How's this possible?

How can someone's Xuan Qi realm change from Jade Xuan peak to Earth Xuan Peak like this?

The Third Elder had travelled extensively over the course of his lifespan, but this was the first time that he was witnessing something so weird and mysterious! What is this guy's true Xuan Qi level?

Chapter 180 – Spirit Xuan experts gather

Xuan Qi stabilizes tends to stabilize a while after reaching a certain realm, and the Xuan Qi color never changes again unless the person advances again. Even after one advances, though one can suppress their strength, one still can't issue the Xuan color of a lower realm.

Such as, even if a Sky Xuan expert lowers his strength in combat, he still cannot issue the Xuan color of the Earth Xuan realm or lower!

This was a simple and universally known fact!

There was only one way to change the color of one's Xuan Qi: An advance in Xuan level!

And this process was irreversible!

Going by that principle, this person had somehow managed to advance from Jade Xuan peak to Earth Xuan, and then to its mid-level mark, and then to its peak in a matter of moments.

A normal, sane man would never believe that such a thing could ever be possible!

However, irrespective of the fact that whether anyone would believe it or not, the Third Elder had just witness this miracle with his own eyes!

Even though he had seen the changing colors very clearly, the Third Elder's subconscious couldn't help prompting him into rubbing his eyes. This isn't some strange damn dream, right?

But it doesn't matter even if he's an Earth Xuan Peak, does it? This guy still can't take away the Xuan Core from me.... I'm a Spirit Xuan! Third Elder comforted himself and then shouted out: "Boy, don't play tricks on me; they are useless, just take the Xuan Core....."

He had intended on saying 'Bring the Xuan Core here', but had ended up saying 'take' instead, under the effect of the shocking scene he witnessed as he was speaking his sentence!

Holy Grandmother.... Has this world gone crazy? Or are my old eyes betraying me?

He rubbed his eyes wildly as the Xuan Color of the black-robed man instantly disappeared and was momentarily replaced by a faint blue light!

This blue light slowly started becoming deeper and transformed into a sky blue color soon after, and then eventually turned azure!

A Sky Xuan Peak?!

The Third Elder almost fell down to the ground under the impulse of the shock!

I didn't sense a fart-worth's Xuan Qi in this boy earlier, and now he's suddenly advanced to the peak of Sky Xuan? How this even possible?!

What's going on! This guy isn't some kind of a ghost, is he?

Just as these thoughts were revolving around the Third Elder's head, another astonishing this happened: The azure color coming out the man's body suddenly disappeared, but this time no other color emerged to replace it.

The emergence of no other color surprised the Third Elder even more; has this man actually entered into the Spirit Xuan realm now? He was trying to investigate the uncertainty behind the man's Xuan color when he noticed that the impatience in the man's eyes had slowly calmed down, and had then gradually transformed from indifference to mercy, and had then started turning into disdain....

The Third Elder stood there as the expression in Jun Mo Xie's eyes, concealed behind his mask started taking a very arrogant shade, almost as if he was master of all life and death in this world; cold and ruthless!

These were the eyes of a Spirit Xuan expert! But far sharper and far more arrogant than the Solitary Falcon and even the Silver Blizzard City's master, Han Feng Xue!

My God! Ah! My God! The Third Elder was unable to tell head or tail of this matter, what in the world is happening here?

At this point, Fei Meng Chen also arrived overhead in the sky, and descended downwards in manner so that he seemed equally potent of taking the Xuan Core. The three people were now stationed at equal distances from each other, almost like they were the three corners of an equilateral triangle!

By the virtue of being the Yu Tang Empire's Imperial Teacher, Fei Meng Chen had always been cautious by nature. Having seen the Third Elder and the black-robed man seemingly poised for a battle, he couldn't help but wonder: Is this black-robed man actually capable of competing against a Spirit Xuan expert? Is he so powerful that even Silver Blizzard City's Third Elder won't dare to act rashly against him?

As a result, the men just stood there motionlessly with no man willing to make the first move.

If Fei Meng Chen hadn't arrived in this moment, then the Third Elder would have ended up making a move; even if he would do so reluctantly. After all, even if the other man was actually a Spirit Xuan, it would only make this difficult for him... at best!

And then, he always had a chance of getting away with the Xuan Core!

After all, if the man was a fake, then he would effectively be nothing more than an ant in front of him!

But now that Fei Meng Chen had arrived as well, he wouldn't dare to attack first!

The Third Elder shot a glance towards Fei Meng Chen! Even he can't see through this guy; If I had attacked him earlier, it would surely have been difficult to guess the winner..... but now this situation has completely changed- this is just plain bad luck....and awkward.

Fei Meng Chen's concerns were of similar nature, however his thoughts were derived from the Third Elder's hesitation: The Third Elder could have taken this Xuan Core a long time ago, but then why is he hesitating from making a move on this man? There's more to this man than I think! If Silver Blizzard City's Third Elder doesn't have the courage to act rashly, then should I take the lead,no, right? Why didn't I just wait for Shi Chang Xiao to finish his battle? I should have waited for him, damn it. Now I've foolishly landed myself in a pincer position against two Spirit Xuan experts, what is this..... holy grandmother.... Damn my misfortunes!

Jun Mo Xie was the only man among the three with no hesitation in his mind, after all, he was the only one willing to escape away at any point of time – The Xuan Core was simply useless, but moreover, he also had the 'Yin Yang Escape' law to help him escape away to safety at a moment's notice, but he was still waiting for Shi Chang Xiao and Solitary Falcon to show up. Where have the two of them gone off to? Come quickly so I can throw away this Xuan Core, and then sneak away to a safe place. I'd really like to watch you all fight and die as I count my fortunes ah.... What kind of silly 'Great masters' are the two of you if you can't even get here before a normal Spirit Xuan expert.....

But this isn't good for me.... These two old idiots have me trapped in his awkward position now; I can't even move a finger right now.... one move and my bluff will be exposed... once I'm exposed, I'll have to leave immediately.... This wasn't a part of the plan! I, I, I, I'm so unlucky.

I had planned everything so accurately, but I had never expected that the Solitary Falcon..... that crazy fighting machine, and that Shi Chang Xiao guy would actually decide to be late today out of all days!

These three men stood their ground with the elegance and authority of peerless masters, but even though their arms and legs were free to move about, no one took the initiative. These three men continued to stare at each other sharply as they held each other in place with their gazes!

Jun Mo Xie's body was sweating coldly, but thanks to the cover from the pouring rain, neither of the two men was able to spot them, else his bluff would have been exposed, which would have marked the end of his bluff...

Finally.....

Two popping sounds came from a distance, almost as if something had been broken, which was followed by a wave of frightening surge in the air pressure and Shi Chang Xiao's booming voice: "Brother Fei, since you've missed the opportunity, I guess I'll have to take this Xuan Core myself!"

These words had barely been spoken when a black figure came flashing into the sky overhead!

“Ha ha ha..... Shi Chang Xiao, you shouldn’t start celebrating so early; I also want this Xuan Core!” A powerful sonorous voice resounded, making everyone a bit more uncomfortable!

A low flying black figure approached closer, almost as if hawk was looking for its prey as the elegant-bodied, cruel-eyed, and desolate-faced man moved towards the gathering.

This man was also one of the ‘Eight Great Masters’; Shen Ci’s Solitary Falcon!

Shi Chang Xiao’s smile immediately vanished off his face as he accelerated his pace, but still fell short since the Solitary Falcon managed to land on the ground half-a-breath earlier than his counterpart. The two men landed at a relative distance, and their eyes started flashing more currents towards each other than the thunderbolts in the sky above!

‘Whoosh’ ‘Whoosh’, the Sixth and the Ninth Elder of the Silver Blizzard City landed at the same time, each holding a broken sword in their hand. Even though their faces were slightly pale, it was evident that they hadn’t sustained any serious injuries, and they quickly stationed themselves behind the Third Elder; since the Three Elders were now united again, their confidence obviously grew!

After all, the Three Elders were all Spirit Xuan experts!

Momentarily, six more people made their way through the storm and quietly stationed themselves behind Shi Chang Xiao.

“Looks like everyone is here.....”

“Lei Jiang Hong is pleased to meet his seniors. Master-Brother Shi, Master-Brother Falcon, I extend greetings on behalf of my master Li Wu Bei!” A middle-aged man emerged from the shadows along with his nine companions; this was obviously Li You Ran’s cavalry. Since their line-up’s strength was the weakest amongst the parties involved, it wasn’t surprising that they were the last ones to reveal themselves.

“Strange.... I have no relation with Li Wu Bei...? So why is his apprentice calling me Master-brother? Where is this even coming from?” the Solitary Falcon batted his eye-lids, and then asked in a cold voice: “Shi Chang Xiao, don’t tell me that you have an alliance with Li Wu Bei?”

Li Wu Bei!

Li You Ran’s ten associates were actually the disciples of a ‘Great Master’, Li Wu Bei!

“You bald Falcon! What nonsense are you talking?” Shi Chang Xiao glared back: “Even if you’re not associated with Li Wu Bei, how dare you act so arrogantly to his apprentices? You don’t have the manners of a Peak Spirit Xuan – We have our laws!”

“Bah, this is how I am; Why don’t you come and teach me otherwise!” then, the Solitary Falcon looked towards the new arrivals, and said: “Since your Xuan Qi is so pathetic, you people have no right to call me ‘Master-brother’. And since you’re obviously here for the Xuan Core, I’ll knock your heads together if you call me that word again. Moreover, what kind of an idiot is your master to send you here all by yourself? Do you actually think that you can take this Xuan Core? In fact, given your strength, you’re not even qualified to join this charade!”

Lei Jiang Hong had only greeted the Solitary Falcon out of respect and protocol, but he still smiled as he said: “Since the Solitary Falcon doesn’t recognize our friendly greeting, we will no longer address you as ‘Master-Brother’.”

In reality, the ‘Eight Grand Master’ had a norm; their disciple’s would be treated as a Brother’s disciples by another, however, this norm had always seemed extremely irrational to the Solitary Falcon; There were only two lone-wolfs amongst the ‘Eight Great Masters’, and the Solitary Falcon was obviously one amongst these two.....