

## E Monarch 176

### 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!”

“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.....