

E Monarch 231

Chapter 231 – Silver Blizzard City’s history

“The explanation to that... has a lot to do with the Silver Blizzard City’s history... it is said that over three hundred years ago, there used to be a large alliance between gangs, known as the Supreme Alliance, which controlled more than half of this world’s underworld factions. Their fame, might and strength were unmatched, and it is said that even Spirit Xuan experts would detour from their paths upon seeing the Supreme Alliance’s emblem obstructing their way, afraid of the troubles they would provoke otherwise!”

The Solitary Falcon continued narrating, slowly: “As fate had it, one day, the Supreme Alliance’s young master, Yu Ling Feng happened to meet a woman, a woman who’s eyes were so beautiful, and style so magnificent that people used to call her the ‘Jade Phoenix of the Nine Firmaments’; her name was Kong Yan Luo, and she was regarded as the world’s most beautiful woman...

“Yu Lin Feng was quite excited by the prospect of wooing her, and hence, he tried any and all means to win her heart over, same as countless other experts, but none of it bore any fruit. Seeing that Kong Yan Luo had repeatedly rejected his feeling, Yu Lin Feng was so pained that he ordered the extermination of the entire Luo Family, along with Kong Yan Luo of course. However, just when Kong Yan Luo’s fragrance was about to perish, three men suddenly showed up, rescued her, and then fled with her. She fell in love with the eldest of her three saviors, and they tied their fates in a bond of marriage soon after. It didn’t take long for this news to reach Yu Lin Feng’s ears. One day, he encircled the three men with the intention of killing them in order to extract his revenge, but was killed by those three men in the fight that ensued.”

Jun Mo Xie couldn’t help himself, doesn’t Solitary Falcon’s tale sound very similar to the situation between Guan Qing Han and the Xue Hun manor?

“The eldest of the three men was named Han Xiao Yao; the second brother was called Xiao Xing Chen, and the third one was named Chu Duan Xiang; these three men were amongst the best warriors of that era’s younger generation, and naturally, very talented as martial artists! After killing Yu Lin Feng, the three brothers obviously made an enemy out of the Supreme Alliance’s master, Yu Zhan Yun, who ordered everyone under his command: Spare no effort in tracking and killing those four!

“The three men were well aware of their respective strengths, and knew they would be of no match to the Supreme Alliance in battle; the four of them decided to leave, and disappeared without leaving any tracks behind. However, no one knew that these four had found refuge in a faraway snow-cladded land!

Moreover, the four of them had secretly started creating their own forces atop those snow-capped mountains! These three men went on to become the three founding ancestors of the Silver Blizzard City, establishing its three founding families, the Han Family, the Xiao Family, and the Chu Family.

“A decade later, the four of them left the mountains once again after having accumulated a reasonable amount of force since they had decided to stir trouble for the Supreme Alliance. However, the Supreme Alliance was already in a lot of trouble at this time since the public was infuriated by their conduct. Thus, when the three of them launched their assault on the Supreme Alliance, they received a large and unexpected response from the rest of the world with several of the world’s finest experts joining hands with them. In less than three years, the world’s most powerful alliance was not only brought down, but completely removed from the setting.

“However, Yu Zhan Yun and Han Xiao Yao came face to face at a critical juncture during the final battle. Once the two men were worn out, Yu Zhan Yun issued one last desperate attack Han Xiao Yao simply wouldn’t be able to withstand; seeing this happen, Xiao Xing Chen blocked off Yu Zhan Yun’s killer strike from reaching Han Xiao Yao, using his own body as a shield, but took Yu Zhan Yun with him as he parted from this world!

“At that time, Xiao Xing Chen’s cultivation had already surpassed Han Xiao Yao’s, and was progressing further by leaps and bounds since he aspired to become the strongest in the world! He had a beautiful wife and son waiting for him at his house... and one could truly say that he was living the best years of his life... but had still chosen to die for the sake of protecting his sworn-brother! They say his face reveled in a spirit of brotherhood and heroism at the time of his dead...

“Han Xiao Yao was so aggrieved by the death of his younger brother that he publicly took out his sword and cut his own two fingers, causing his blood to drip to the ground; his thunderous voice shook the entire world as he swore a blood-oath: as long as the Silver Blizzard City remains, the Xiao Family’s descendants will never perish! And his descendants still uphold his vow to this day!”

The Solitary Falcon seemed a bit moved when he was narrating that incident of sacrifice and brotherhood, which was evident from the passionate note his voice had taken.

Jun Mo Xie heaved a long sigh. He had finally understood the meaning behind the Solitary Falcon’s words.

The Jun Family is very lucky to have survived for this long... very, very lucky!

“Even though the Xiao Family isn’t in control of the Silver Blizzard City, but their opinion is very critical when it comes to making the important decisions in the Silver Blizzard City! And no one can do anything about this! Moreover, the City’s masters have been holding the Xiao Family’s descendant very dear ever since, which has spoilt their attitude for the worse! Do you understand it now? If your Jun Family is up against the Xiao Family, then it also faces the Silver Blizzard City! In fact, it’s one-and-the same thing!”

After spitting out the entire story in one go, the Solitary Falcon opened his mouth big, and drank a few mouthfuls of wine before he sighed, and said: “One really can’t blame Han Xiao Yao... I too would do anything in order to ensure a life of comforts for such a brother! For such a brother’s love, I, Solitary Falcon would pay no mind to life and death!

“But because of this, it would become very difficult to protect your Family from the Xiaos’! Even I stand helpless in this regard; I have no idea how your Uncle’s woman has been managing it for so long...” the Solitary Falcon heaved a long sigh, before continuing with a sense of desolation in his tone: “But I’m certain that no matter how she did it, the steps would’ve been extremely difficult! That girl’s life must’ve become very, very bitter ah!”

The Solitary Falcon leaned to his side after finishing his tale, and started gazing at the dark of the night sky; his eyes were reflecting a strange, unknown, and complex emotion as they stared at the sky above, seemingly concealing the... pains of a very distant memory...

“So that’s what’s going on!” the young master Jun sighed; in both his incarnations, this was the first time the Hitman’s mind actually felt over-burdened since this was first time he was up against a problem he couldn’t find a solution to.

The Jun Family’s previous situation had completely changed since several of its cornerstones had been destroyed, bringing the Family to a point of decline. The only survivor, Jun Wu Yi had lost both his legs to disability, aware that there would never be any hope of recovery. Although Grandpa Jun’s heart was filled with anger over the loss of his sons, but he was still helpless; after all, one can’t twist a thigh with a mere arm, and hence, he was forced to silence his anger as well.

However, even though the Xiao Family held a very powerful position within the Silver Blizzard City’s structure, they had still stopped mid-way in their goal of destroying the Jun Family; but why wouldn’t they have cut the weed at its roots? There could only have been one reason behind the Xiao Family’s decision to abandon their task half-way!

And this reason was most certainly a woman one could only take pity on!

Han Yan Yao!

God knows what kind of a price she would've payed to keep the Jun Family from its doom...? And how much effort it must have taken...?

Only god knows what kind of a life that poor woman must be leading atop those snowy mountains... what kind of a miserable existence has she been enduring...?

The Jun Family's life has surely been very uncomfortable and miserable, but would it even remotely compare to that woman's?

Although the Jun, and the Xiao Family's mutual animosity won't allow them to coexist, but poor Han Yan Yao's credit cannot never be discredited since she's fighting against her own Family for the sake of the Jun Family, whilst still maintaining her Family's grace!

I need to ensure that Third Uncle and Han Yan Yao are reunited as soon as possible so that these lovers can finally get married!

The Hitman Jun had suddenly started feeling anxious.

He had finally understood the plight Jun Wu Yi had been suffering this past decade... the pain and helplessness his calm face had been concealing...

However, the Hitman Jun could barely bear to imagine Han Yan Yao's plight, so how could Jun Wu Yi endure watching something like this happening to the love of his life? This would've obviously thrown his conscious deeper into the abyss of depression!

If it hadn't been for the burden of this entire Family's future, if it hadn't been for the cause of his two brothers, if it hadn't been for an aged father... then Uncle would've already slit his throat with his own sword!

In such circumstances, even a bare existence must've been at least a million times more difficult than death! And also a million times more painful!

Moreover, the only confidante of his sacrifice still sits in wait far away, suffering in silence for just one ray of hope...

How could someone endure this?!

The Hitman couldn't even imagine the pain Jun Wu Yi had been shouldering this past decade; dragging a disabled body through the routines of life under such miserable circumstances, just for the sake of a father and the future generations... to live just for others... he is a hero!

In fact, death would've been very easy; even a knife would've sufficed... but to live like this, would be similar to enduring a thousand cuts to one's soul... every day, and every night!

"Falcon, you just told me that you're presently at the fifth level of Spirit Xuan, and breaking into the sixth level wouldn't as difficult as the breakthrough from the fourth to fifth... but even though you wish to make that breakthrough, you can't because it's been very difficult for you to enhance your cultivation, and you haven't been able to overcome these difficulties as of yet, right?" Jun Mo Xie bit his teeth, while his firm eyes clearly demonstrated his heart's resolve. In fact, the Solitary Falcon had never heard him talk in such a solemn and slow tone before.

The Solitary Falcon could instinctively feel the power and unwavering determination of Jun Mo Xie's words, and couldn't prevent himself from being startled as he looked up at Jun Mo Xie, while his eyes suddenly started exuding a sharp and fierce aura: "Why are you saying this... you, you, what does this mean, boy... what are you trying to say?"

Previously this would've been treated as mockery between these two men, however, at this time, the two of them were quite serious since they had clearly understood each other's intentions. In fact, the entirety of their surrounding had also suddenly tensed-up in accordance with this impending, and unusually serious discussion.

It was almost as if someone had uncovered a bow in the dark of night! With the arrow already touching the chord!

“My master was always obsessed with refining Dans, and as chance has it, a few years ago, he managed to develop a method to refine a very special Dan!” Jun Mo Xie’s focused gaze met with the Solitary Falcon’s eyes, and didn’t leave them: “This Dan requires various precious and rare herbs, jewels, and other items as raw material. Moreover, this Dan’s refining process is even more difficult. However, once it’s ready, it will possess the ability to enhance a person’s level, regardless of their strength, and without any side effects. Do you understand what that means?!”

The Solitary Falcon’s hawk-like eyes motionlessly stared at him for a long time; Jun Mo Xie, too, didn’t speak anything after, and simply continued to watch the Solitary Falcon in a calm and composed manner.

The Solitary Falcon was undoubtedly in need for this Dan! And, his requirement was urgent!

A desperation breeds in the heart of a person who has reached the extent of his ability, and still has people ahead he wishes to, but, can’t chase down. Why else would a dignified man like the Solitary Falcon drop from his status and ask a kid to teach him martial arts; this itself was a proof conclusive of the fact that the Solitary Falcon had already reached his limits, but was still desperate to forge ahead!

The Solitary Falcon wouldn’t shy away from going to any extent or expending any kind of effort in order to procure such a Dan; if one such existed!

The Solitary Falcon was also aware that Jun Mo Xie wouldn’t just present such a Dan to him, like a gift without costs. Thus, the next topic on the discussion table would obviously be the conditions! They both understood that well.

Chapter 232: Operation Begins

The Solitary Falcon was aware that he’d have to pay a huge price in order to obtain this Dan!

In fact, the Solitary Falcon was aware what this ‘price’ would be.

Thus, even though Jun Mo Xie still hadn’t finished, it somehow seemed that there was no need for him to!

Both men were well aware of what the condition would be!

Even though the two pair of eyes were gazing into each other, seemingly in understanding, but the slight and quiet smile on their faces concealed the contest these two men were secretly having! A silent battle to see who's more impatient; to see who'd lose!

...and it stayed as such for a long, long time.

Suddenly, the Solitary Falcon shook his head, laughed, sighed and said: "All I can say is that you can put forth any condition, because this offer is so tempting that I wouldn't wish to refuse... in fact, I can't refuse; and then there's you... attaining and maintaining this sort of temperament at such a young age is nothing short of miraculous! I, Solitary Falcon, have traveled the entire world, but if you ask me, I've never seen anything comparable to the tiny monster you are. However, I'm glad that I met you today! But, this time, you've miscalculated!"

"Oh?" The Hitman's expression didn't waver in the slightest as he maintained his composure while slightly lifting his eyes.

"No one in this world is capable of resisting the temptations of this marvelous medicine you speak of. As far as I'm concerned, I'm simply incapable of even denying that I can resist the temptation of advancing to the sixth level of the Spirit Xuan realm from my current fifth;"

The Solitary Falcon smiled: "However, even though it's extremely difficult to resist, but this Solitary Falcon will never allow anyone to look down upon himself! I would never agree to these terms; even if your master personally set them!

"Because... I am the Solitary Falcon! The Falcon of the Savanna!" A flame smoldered inside his eyes as he sneered: "I will only ever do the will of those gods who reside in the skies; never become the slave of mere men! And there shall be no exceptions!"

"Well said!" Jun Mo Xie gently applauded his words with a slight smile: "Perhaps Master Falcon misunderstands me; I've never asked for Master Falcon to become the slave of mere humans! But then, how could I be mistaken if I haven't stated my conditions yet?"

“He he... young master Jun, it seems that I’ve underestimated you even now, however, you cannot deny that this sentence of yours was the complete reverse of your thoughts, can you?”

The Solitary Falcon was somewhat taunting now. “You’re that kind of person who’s willing to achieve his goals by fair means or fowl, moreover, you’d stubbornly seek to maximize your profits in case you see any! This, I’m confident, I couldn’t have misunderstood!”

Jun Mo Xie was silent for a long time... had he really underestimated one of the most capable men in the entire world?

He had been manipulating everyone to his will ever since his reincarnation into this world, however, for the first time in this life, he found his confidence lacking, leaving him dumbstruck and speechless!

The young master Jun bitterly smiled as he said: “Master Falcon is right, I am such a person. You made no mistake in judging that about me, but... you do not agree with the words I haven’t said... however...

“I can still help you in enhancing your cultivation as long as you promise to do just one thing for me! And if you promise, I will immediately try to inform my master to collect the raw material required for refining this Dan!”

“What’s the condition? I’m listening.” The Solitary Falcon didn’t seem even the slightest bit excited, but appeared somewhat alert instead. The Solitary Falcon had been in touch with this youngster long enough to understand that taking advantage of his treacherous mind was harder than reaching the sky! [Even though the benefits he provides are extraordinary, but he never acts without incentive and hence the price he usually asks for, are far above the market-worth of his products.]

And thus, the Solitary Falcon couldn’t help being on guard, however, unknowingly this turned his face gray in anticipation.

“I only ask that in case the Xiao Family comes seeking to end this dispute and the Jun Family goes to war with the Silver Blizzard City; you lend me a helping hand if I decide to rescue my Third Aunt!” Jun Mo Xie’s eyes shone brightly: “It will be a rescue operation, but you’ll be the killer on call.”

The Solitary Falcon paced back and forth about the room for a while as he pondered over it, and then finally clenched his teeth with determination: "Good! Just this one thing!"

"It's a deal!" Jun Mo Xie's smiled.

"However, at least a year after! If this happens before one year's time, then the deal won't be valid." The Solitary Falcon smiled proudly: "I won't help if you ask me to do this within a year after the Dan helps me make the breakthrough because I won't have enough strength to execute this task! However, a year after, I will certainly be able to!"

Jun Mo Xie's face revealed a heartfelt smile for the first time: "So be it!"

This one trait of the Solitary Falcon's character was the reason he had been able to keep up with Jun Mo Xie for so long.

He'd never take advantage of anyone.

However, no matter what, he'd never agree to be at a disadvantage!

The Solitary Falcon walked away; with two jars of wine.

Jun Mo Xie retrieved that strange piece of jade from the Hongjun Pagoda and carefully observed it for a while, but put it back since he was unable to understand its particulars. However, Jun Mo Xie could distinctly feel the Hongjun Pagoda's odor becoming cleaner, fresher, and livelier as he returned that Jade pendant to the Pagoda, and could also sense the Pagoda's Aura becoming stronger and denser with the passage of time as the energies of these two strange artifacts continued to mix.

Jun Mo Xie tugged his knees as he sat down, and started gazing at the moon outside the window as he immersed himself in his schemes.

[I need to find those three Spirit Herbs as soon as possible in order to enhance Grandfather's cultivation level; Also, I need to figure out a safety-route for saving his life in case something goes wrong... that's first.]

[Second, this Dan's refining is also beginning to turn into a pressing matter now!]

[Whether it is Solitary Falcon or Uncle, their strengths need to be enhanced as soon as possible. Plus, I can't neglect those people from the Tian Fa forest either.]

[Third, I must urge Hai Chen Feng to start the unification of Tian Xiang City's underworld factions as soon as possible. We must be sure to get a grasp over the knowledge of all activities inside the capital city.]

... One task after another, none easier than the previous, had left the Hitman frowning as he blankly continued to stare at the bright moon...

As the oil lamp gradually started to set, the young master Jun's silhouette got even lonelier in the dark of this night ...

Suddenly, a distinctive white figure appeared on the courtyard's wall. Though looking from afar, one could clearly see Jun Mo Xie's puckered eyebrows, a sight sufficient to deduce that this handsome youngster had been exhausting his thought and ingenuity, day and night for the sake of his Family's future...

This beautiful figure tenderly watched for a long time and then eventually sighed as she left; leaving behind only a hint of her fragrance...

In the other partition of the courtyard, Jun Wu Yi sat leaning against the window; his eyes shut, and face hard with creases... his distressed eyebrows and unconsciously clenched teeth clearly exposed every tiny blood vein on his face, vividly illustrating the desolation of his heart...

... ..

Hai Chen Feng's entire body seemed to resemble the waves of the blue seas as he gently drifted through the crowd comprising the dozen or so of the Jin Yang gang's finest members: "The Operation begins! The management wants to see the results before tomorrow's first light!"

The gentle moonlight bathed the weapons they held as the crowd silently raised them in the air, virtually infecting the steel with a faint, yet dark layer of a lustrous... condensation of blood!

A few people swiftly climbed over the walls from within the Li Family's residence, divided into groups of two, and immediately disappeared into the dark of the night.

Tonight was destined to be another bloody one for the Tian Xiang city...

One of the six major underworld factions, the Spirit Dragon gang had brought a disaster upon itself.

Though the capital's six major underground factions had always been ranked in order of their might, but the disparity between the strengths of their primary forces wasn't much. Although the first ranked Jin Yang gang was obviously stronger than the bottom ranking Northern City gang, however, not by much; or at least, wasn't strong enough to overwhelm and subject them to its whims.

Moreover, these six gangs also had an unwritten understanding between them, which had allowed them to coexist in a peaceful manner since any conflict between these gangs could never result in one gang subduing the other; in case such an incident ever occurred, the remaining gangs would all team up against the aggressor.

Today however, the Spirit Dragon gang received a message in reply from the Jin Yang gang;

The situation of these six gangs was getting more and more detrimental to their sake since they were beginning to get surrounded by an increasing number of powerful families, which were constantly nibbling away the existing might of these gangs. In fact, the Northern City gang had recently been exterminated in its entirety by Old Man Tang.

Alarmed, anxious, and panic-stricken, the gangs were failing to carry out even the most basic of their operations. And thus, the Spirit Dragon gang took the lead in raising the proposal for an alliance between the major gangs, hoping that they could all sail the storm in the same boat. Naturally, they wanted the most powerful gang, the Jin Yang gang as their main partner in this alliance.

However, unfortunately, at the time they raised this proposal, the Solitary Falcon ran amok the Jin Yang gang, beating Jin Feng Lie black and blue in the process, forcing the “alliance” initiative on a temporary hold.

Today, however, the entire Spirit Dragon gang was overjoyed upon receiving an unexpected reply from the Jin Yang gang. But, the replying letter was shredded soon after the Spirit Dragon gang’s leader Long Da Hai was done reading its message: [This letter demands that we surrender to their superiority, and bid allegiance to them!]

[This is simply too bold! Has he ever heard of a gang surrendering to another in these past ten years since we first established ourselves? Jin Feng Lie, did you even consider that the six major gangs have always been on equal footing? Why would you dare to propose this?]

Seething with anger, Long Da Hai immediately summoned the heads of his gang to discuss countermeasures. In fact, his personnel were so incited by this incident that a vast majority of them were even willing to fight the Jin Yang gang to death, while many others were clamoring to use this opportunity for taking control of the Jin Yang gang. However, the Spirit Dragon gang’s leader was staidly taking his time for making the decision as he considered his options...

In this awfully noisy moment, the entrance door suddenly exploded with a ‘boom’, sending the wooden shavings flying in all directions. Several people were left wincing in pain as these wooden shavings cut their faces, drenching them in blood.

Everyone furiously looked towards the entrance.

A distinct blue light was radiating in the densely foggy night.

The wooden shavings settled down; one man stood at the entrance.

This, seemingly, blue-colored man, stood clad in blue-colored robes with his hands behind his back as his eyes calmly mapped the room in the radiance of his azure light; even this man’s eyes were as blue as the oceans!

“A Sky Xuan expert!”

The Spirit Dragon gang's members couldn't help crying out in alarm upon seeing a Sky Xuan expert!

A Sky Xuan expert had arrived!

The entire Spirit Dragon gang was left shivering!

"May I dare to ask Sir's..." Long Da Hai's mustache trembled as he hastily stood up, and asked in a respectful manner.

"The Jin Yang gang shall rule the city's underworld; you have two choices: pledge allegiance, or die!" The blue-robed man's ice-cold eyes seemed a bit strange, like they were bathing in an inexplicable aura, as he slowly scanned the crowd again while making his statement.

In fact, even his words seemed to be reeking in an acute aura of death!

Chapter 233: Subduing the Spirit Dragon Gang

The blood of the Spirit Dragon gang members turned cold because of Hai Chen Feng's sharp Sky Xuan aura.; they felt like they were standing naked on the summit of a snow-clad mountain, in the midst of the winter season, and were beset by extreme cold... it was as if icy knives had penetrated their flesh and were piercing down their very souls...

So much so, that it would sap any man's willpower and even the strongest of souls could not hope to contend with such terrifying strength.

Long Da Hai's face turned pale as he stood facing Hai Chen Feng; it was as if the opposite party was a formidable mountain while he himself was just a small stone at its foot, which wasn't even qualified enough to fathom a means to look up at it. He took five or six step backwards so that he could breathe a bit easier, but as he did, his back hit a wall with a loud "bang!" only to realize that he had retreated from the middle of the hall, and all the way to the inner most wall...

[What kind of pressure is this!?]

“Who are you, sire? Why is a person of such high skill siding with Jin Yang against our Spirit Dragon gang? What is the need for your interference, sire?” Long Da Hai gathered courage and asked in a stern manner. “Where is Jin Yang gang’s leader? Where is Jin Feng Lie hiding!? Since he is attempting to gain control over my gang, why does he hide, show yourself!”

Although his loud voice appeared majestic, and was intended to improve his position and make him look imposing, however, the slight tremble in it, made it seem like he was begging the man in front.

“The Jin Yang Gang’s boss is standing in front of you! When did I ever hide?” Hai Chen Feng focused his stare as he raised his eyes and looked directly across the hall at Long Da Hai’s face, shrouding him in a murderous aura.

Suddenly, Long Da Hai’s heart found itself shuddering.

Just looking at Hai Chen Feng’s eyes was painful for the Earth Xuan strong Long Da Hai! And even though there was a distance of about a dozen paces between him and Hai Chen Feng, the feeling of imminent death was very clear in his mind.

And even though several members from the Spirit Dragon Gang were present in close proximity, he felt that in that huge space there was no one now who could give him a sense of security; he would have to face that tyrannical and sinister expert all on his own!

A feeling of incomparable despair arose inside Long Da Hai’s heart; he felt his knees becoming weak with pain as he started to sweat profusely, feeling a sudden urge to kneel and submit...

Hai Chen Feng, who was looking at the other party like an eagle, suddenly waved his arm and gave his blue cape a whirl. At that signal, a sound similar to the stampede of thousands of horses, charging all full gallop some distance away, was heard!

“Kill!”

There was a loud rumbling sound and suddenly hundreds of men burst in carrying their glimmering swords in front of them, while on the walls several archers appeared with their arrows notched in their

bows, surrounding the Spirit Dragon gang; the tip of the arrows shone like the teeth of a smiling angel of death, illuminating the hall.

Hai Chen Feng had stealthily eliminated the spies guarding the premises earlier on, without anyone getting to know about it.

“Swear allegiance now or die, if you do not comply, we will kill you all. I will count to three and if Long Da Hai does not respond by then, you all will die no matter what you personally feel about this matter!” Hai Chen Feng’s eyes were cold as he said this and raised his right hand as a blue light appeared from the base of his raised finger.

“One!”

Everyone from the Spirit Dragon gang started moving in panic; altogether, they turned their eyes to look at Long Da Hai, pleading him to rescue them. “Boss...” their voices sounded like they were begging him.

“Two!”

Hai Chen Feng’s cold expression didn’t change even the slightest at doing this slovenly job as he sang the next number while raising his second finger, as if to the tune of some music.

“...”, Long Da Hai’s face turned deathly pale as his lips trembled open, his eyes were filled with despair and helplessness.

“Archers, prepare!” Hai Chen Feng, already looking furious, raised his arm as he gave the order in a tsunami like voice.

“ARGHH!” the archers answered in unison as they pulled the arrows on their bows, making them resemble a full moon; the moment Hai Chen Feng would say “three,” numerous arrows would rain down on their targets!

Like angels of death, sent from the heavens, to bring upon imminent death!

Now, resistance would only lead to death and the only way they could survive would be to...

"Slow down!" Long Da Hai bellowed suddenly, though a trace similar to that of weeping lingered in his voice. "I...I...I am willing to swear allegiance..." He seemed to spit out these words as he slumped into a soft ball. The sweat covered faces of his people showed utmost relief on hearing his words as they dropped their weapons one by one, it was like they had received a pardon from the death penalty.

"Good!" Hai Chen Feng said approvingly. "Since you have surrendered, we will be family from now on, and you will abide by its law! You are now in-charge of the Spirit Dragon gang's operations."

"Yes, and comply with the boss's orders sincerely!" A tall and sturdy silhouette came out of the shadows taking long strides; he had thick eyebrows, his mustache was like a dragon's, his extravagant nose and wide mouth resembled that of a lion.

This man was no other than Jin Feng Lie.

"Jin Feng Lie, you..." Long Da Hai pointed at him unbelievably, at a complete loss for words.

"Ha Ha! Is it really that shocking that I have abdicated my position?" Jin Feng Lie laughed in a carefree manner.

Truth be told, Jin Feng Li did not really mind the fact that Hai Chen Feng had taken over his position as the gang's leader. That position was not as important as his friendship with Hai Chen Feng and also, he figured that the Jin Yang gang would not risk any harm from Hai Chen Feng's leadership, it would only benefit from it!

"Such impressive might and Xuan Qi! Conquering an entire gang just by using a few words, it is indeed very admirable of this Xuan expert; you are really extraordinary, Sir!" A solitary voice seemed to flutter in for a fleeting moment; it had an eccentric and sour tinge.

"Who is this?" Hai Chen Feng asked, his gaze sweeping around the hall. His figure, covered in blue light, quickly flew up and proudly stationed itself on the rooftop.

"It's me!" one of the men said with a sardonic smile as several archers cried out in alarm, falling down, while two black clothed men replaced them on the wall, ferociously staring at Hai Chen Feng. "The capital city is too big a pie for one gang to swallow whole on its own; even if you try, you'll end up vomiting everything out!"

Hai Chen Feng's aura rose sharply, spreading the gorgeous blue light even further. "Good that your distinguished self has made yourself heard, but the fact that the weak are eliminated by the strong is the basic rule of the game!"

Suddenly, his figure, bathed in blue light flew to the sky and then shot towards the two men, covering the distance to them in a blink of an eye, and attacked them, which they were just barely able to avoid.

The two men clothed in black laughed mockingly, "A sky Xuan Expert is quite hard to come by right?" In answer to that attack, the two men, also covered in blue light, shot up towards him and shouted in unison as they clashed together with their adversary; their clash culminating in fireworks.

The three people floated backwards a little, stopped mid-air at the same time, and then maneuvered towards each other in order to attack again.

Hai Chen Feng's face was reveling in a tranquil smile as his palms incessantly attacked his opponents, his deep-blue Xuan Qi appearing similar to a half-moon.

Such attacks were like giant hatchets capable of cleaving mountains, and though these strong attacks left the two men struggling, they still weren't powerful enough to force them to retreat by even a bit!

Suddenly, one of them retreated while hissing sharply, while the other man resorted to frantic counter-attacks. In the meanwhile, the man who had retreated was now standing on the wall, covered in blue Xuan Qi. Soon, his palms, along with the rest of his body turned black, and he pointed one finger at Hai Chen Feng, who was still in the middle of a battle.

Hai Chen Feng had been confident of coming out victorious even when faced with the both of them at once, so naturally he was sure of being able to better just the one he was faced against now. However, making quick work of a Sky Xuan opponent wasn't possible for him as long as his own safety was a prerequisite. Thus, the fight was bound to continue a little while longer since he didn't wish to injure himself.

Hai Chen Feng had, for the time being attained a comprehensive advantage over his opponents and could easily win against them at any time he wished to. Then suddenly, a burst of cold air filled the atmosphere, staining the area with a pungent smell, which after assailing the nostrils, made everyone tremble fearfully. Then, retreating a bit after smelling the stench, Hai Chen Feng asked in a stern manner, "Is that the Merciless Cold Blooded Finger of Master Li Wu Bei's school?"

"Haha, how lucky we are that your arrogant self has recognized the Merciless Cold Blooded Finger." The men clothed in black smiled. "And since you are aware of it, why don't you hurry up and go down on your knees to ask for forgiveness?"

The men clad in black were the disciples of one of the 'Eight Great Masters' and they themselves were Sky Xuan experts, and hence, obviously weren't weak. Also, the bold way in which they were acting showed their master's backing in this endeavor of theirs'; Hai Chen Feng didn't wish to offend Li Wu Bei. However, if he were to retreat now, he would certainly lose control over both the Jin Yang and the Spirit Dragon gangs.

On the other hand, the two men in black had begun to count their chickens before they had even begun to hatch because they were sure of victory.

It is very unfortunate that such wishful thinking does not come true in this world.

"Come out with your nonsense!" Hai Chen Feng cursed in anger because of the arrogance of the words spoken to him. He moved his hand behind his back and unsheathed a long double edged sword, which came out with a ringing sound as he once again rushed towards his enemies like a crashing wave; it seemed like the sky blue waves of his aura were mixed with the silvery and snowy spray of his sword as he attacked them.

"The Blue Snow-Storm Sword! So you are the Blue master's disciple!" laughed the men clad in black. "This is good, now we can finally see which of our schools is superior, and which is inferior."

Hai Chen Feng got even angrier upon hearing this!

He was confident of defeating the two men on his own and had originally planned to leave them lying around, however they had used a formidable move, and he did not want them to recklessly attack and

risk their lives as they were his brother disciples. Therefore, he had drawn his sword in order to deter them; though, opposed to his expectations, they continued to act arrogantly even after that.

He was unaware that Li Jian Hong had promised to help Li You Ran in unifying the capital's underworld, and that these two men were his fellow disciples. They had made their first move tonight, though it turned out that they were a step behind. However, they couldn't back away now, even if they had to face Hai Chen Feng as a result.

If they were unable to gain control over these gangs, they would not be able to face their elder brother, and perhaps even the little master, ever again. So even if they were aware of the relationship between the parties involved, they couldn't give up.

Chapter 234: Silver Blizzard City!

Although the two men had judged that Hai Chen Feng was stronger than them, but they had also guessed that he neither intended nor dared to act rashly, and was in fact trying to avoid severely injuring them. As a result, he was being cautious and wasn't attacking them blindly; the two men simply couldn't believe their luck!

At the same time, Hai Chen Feng too had realized that the two black clothed men weren't even remotely grateful for the mercy he was showing them; therefore, he couldn't help getting angrier each time he was attacked. Then suddenly, his sword gleamed brightly, and his body shot towards his opponents like a comet, as he shouted, "This place is not appropriate for fighting! Do the cold blooded Master's disciples have the courage to follow me to a more suitable place?"

The two men laughed, "Good, then the one who loses will desist from trying to conquer the capital's underworld.", the three figures, covered in blue light, then disappeared from sight in the blink of an eye.

Long Dai Hai and Jin Feng Lie were both Earth Xuan experts, and wouldn't be considered weak; however, they couldn't help but be dazzled at the spectacle of these three experts engaged in a battle above them. Seeing the three depart, Jin Feng Lie energetically patted Long Da Hai's shoulders, "Let's go and discuss the arrangements to be made for our gang."

Jin Feng Lie was a veteran of the underworld, and although he could not discern which among the parties was weaker, he had known Hai Chen Feng for a long time and after hearing the dialogue

between him and the two men, was confident that his friend had the upper hand, and hence felt no need to worry!

It was only then that Long Da Hai opened his eyes, which he had shut earlier due to fear, and after understanding his counterpart, with a grunt, walked inside with him.

... ..

In the extreme north of the land, lay the Silver Blizzard City!

There were snow-capped mountains in all directions as far as the eye could see!

In the middle of the vast and misty uninhabitable peaks was a magnificent, mysterious and unpredictable city of pure ice, seemingly overlooking the entire world from the secrecy of the clouded snow-covered peaks!

It was not yet day break, and the sky was still dark when the bell to convene rang out; the loud echoes of the bell disrupted the seemingly perpetual tranquility of the place, and the many pure-white birds which were sitting in the area suddenly shot up like rockets, scared away by the sudden drum beats; their cries filled the sky as they circled above for a very long time without coming down.

The base of the main building was made of pure ice; and inside the hall, on a wall of snow white bricks, was a portrait of people in white clothes, the posture of each of them was different; however, each of them revealed the same look on their face, one of pride and cold power!

Their eyes were 'God-Like' and full of murderous aura, and it seemed like they had power over life and death, and could seize anything they wanted; in fact, they seemed so powerful that they considered everyone else below them!

They were the Silver Blizzard City's ancestors!

The hall was quite big, so much so that even if hundreds of people were to dine in it, still no one would feel that the place was overcrowded.

A white clothed old man, with white hair and beard, stood in front of the incense table with his hands behind his back, silently looking at the portrait of the ancestors, and on his face was an expression as tranquil as calm water and as cold as ice.

And even though his hair was white, he had a straight back and a proud chest. He stood erect like a shaft of a formidable blade, all the while emitting a cold sword-like aura!

No one could doubt that this old man was hiding immense power within him!

In fact, it seemed that his strength could shake the earth, surpassing all his peers!

Then, the swishing sound of many clothes overcame the silence in the hall as many white clad people entered it rapidly from all directions, and assembled in a manner which indicated that each already had a predetermined position to stand on. And even in that huge crowd no one bumped into each other and only a word or two could be heard being spoken.

In a short while, everyone settled down in their respective positions and all eyes turned towards the old man standing in the center. And though they were all a bit surprised at being called like this, no one uttered a single word thereafter.

Blue lights emanated from their bodies! There were nearly a hundred people there, and all of them were at least Sky Xuan experts!

Just then, sound of approaching footsteps was heard as seven old men entered in a line, walking unhurriedly on the floor made of the ten thousand years old mysterious ice; each and every step of these seven elderly men was very calm when they walked in, and they stationed themselves behind the old man who still stood quietly in the center.

An individual clad in white was standing at the door in graceful poise; his eyes twinkled and a power radiated all around him as he appeared at the door and stood proudly. It seemed that all the land under the heavens, including everyone in the hall, existed solely to be his dominion!

At his side, his partner, a beautiful middle-aged woman, was nestled against him like a frail willow; their looks were unrivalled; the man looked like a confident hero who stood above everyone else and the woman had a grace and style unlike anyone in her generation! The bystanders were admiring the couple, looking at them with envy for their perfect-match!

Everyone inside the hall turned to the couple the moment they entered, and bowed, "Welcome, city's master and mistress, it is a pleasure to see you!"

"You needn't be so polite." The two replied with a hint of a smile on their faces as they unhurriedly proceeded to the middle of the hall, and sat down on the only two chairs in this huge space, which was capable of seating hundreds of people.

Only these two were qualified enough to sit on chairs inside this hall!

These two were the lords of the city: the Heavenly Sword of Ice, Han Zhan Meng, and his wife, the Far Soaring Frost, Xue Shuang Qing.

The old man then waved his hand and said, "You have been invited here because of a matter that is extremely important for this city's future; everyone below the Spirit Xuan realm may go outside and stand guard; allow no one to come closer than fifty meters of this place. If anyone tries, kill them without exception!

"Yes, we will sincerely obey the elder's command!" they answered in a chorus, and after cupping their hands, slowly left the hall; less than ten of the initially addressed were left, and suddenly the hall seemed quite empty with less than twenty people present at the moment.

"Does this matter concern Tian Xiang city?" Han Zhan Meng smiled at the elder, "Otherwise, elder Xiao Xing Yun would not have taken such precautions!"

"It is just as the master has guessed, there is news from Tian Xiang city... see master, the Third Elder has sent a message, and one of our snow eagles has flown through the night to deliver to us this astonishing news!" the elder replied as he opened a roll of parchment and handed it over.

Han Zhan Meng shook his head lightly and chuckled as he took the snow white parchment, while Xue Shuang Qing leaned in close to him to read as well, both curious to see what this astonishing news really was...

But as the two people sitting read the message, their calm expressions slowly turned serious, and soon their smiles also vanished!

The beautiful woman's flowery face lost its color and became pale, though there was a hint of happiness present there as well. Still, her smile faded and was replaced by a worried expression, and she could not help but grasp her husband's hands, as if to warn him about something.

"This is unexpected news; everyone, have a look and give your opinion." Han Zhan Meng finished reading and closed his eyes as he felt Xue Shuang Qing grabbing his arm, seemingly cautioning him of something as he waved the letter for everyone to read.

"Solitary Falcon is watching over the Jun Family, and has severely injured the Sixth Elder... a mysterious master severely injured Feng Wu, and the latter also snatched away the Sixth Elder's Soul Replenishing Jade . . . and no one could resist him? . . . This . . . how is this possible!?" everyone exclaimed in bewilderment, crowding around, each trying to get a better look.

"So many events have taken place in these past few days!" Elder Xiao Xing Yun smiled coldly, "also, that arrogant kid from the Jun Family, who thinks too much of himself, has somehow been cured of his disability; this is really a rare occurrence..."

Han Zhan Meng sat silently for a moment before looking at the Great Elder, and asked, "The elder has called everyone here today . . . thus, I'm presuming he has a plan?"

"This person could formulate many plans, but the final decision has always been up to the city's master, and he decides how to act on such plans." The elder bowed respectfully and retreated half a step.

"Great Elder is a very important member of the city, what does he suggest?" Han Zhan Meng did not beat around the bush and directly came to the point.

“Despite his status in the society, the Solitary Falcon has taken it upon himself to seriously injure and insult the Sixth Elder for no reason; this act must be punished severely! If this news got out, then what would happen to the prestige of our city? We cannot take this matter lightly!” The Great Elder said in an unhurried manner.

The Great Elder had, shockingly, suggested punishing one of the Eight Great Masters! However, all those present nodded in agreement because in the eyes of the elders of the Silver Blizzard City, even the Eight Great Masters, including the Falcon of the Savannah, were not very important; this clearly showed how terrifyingly powerful the Silver Blizzard City was!

“This is a given, do you have another plan in mind?” Han Zhan Meng nodded lightly, with a blank expression on his face.

“Yes, the Soul Replenishing Jade is an extremely important heirloom of my Xiao Family. Its efficacy is extraordinary and can be considered to transcend the mortal realms; therefore, it must certainly not fall into the hands of an outsider! The retrieval of this jade is absolutely necessary, and there can be no compromise on this! It is of supreme importance that we get it back!” The Great Elder’s eyes flashed and it was clear that he was very angry at the loss of the Soul Replenishing Jade.

“We must take our time to consider this point, because if what the Third Elder says is true then we cannot be sure of this mysterious person’s strength. And if such is the case, then even if all of us go together to confront him, we may still not necessarily be able to retrieve the Soul Replenishing Jade. Thus, we must be careful not to jeopardize so many lives for such a mission.”

Han Zhan Feng lightly knocked on the chair’s armrest, his eyelids half-closed as he said this.

“The master’s concern in this regard is justified! We must certainly not give caution to the wind while deploying our people, and we should also avoid conflict with this mysterious man as far as possible. However, the Third Elder is not yet a first-rate Spirit Xuan expert, and his assumptions may not be necessarily correct; even if compared to the Solitary Falcon, the difference in their strength would be similar to that of heaven and earth. Therefore, his speculations may be far more exaggerated than the truth. Also, he claims that not only is the mysterious master stronger than the city’s old master, but also, Yun Bei Chen! How can this be possible? This shows that the information in this letter may not be entirely correct!”

The Great Elder knit his white eyebrows as he slowly spoke these words.

He then continued, "In any case, we should send someone to verify this news; if this person really is that strong and unpredictable, we will enquire more about him. However, if it turns out that he is not a threat, we must immediately recapture the Soul Replenishing Jade from him."

"Great Elder is truly wise, and his suggestion is the best option in this matter." Han Zhan Meng said while looking at the elder appreciatively. "Still, it seems that you have a third plan in mind?"

"Yes, I do!" The Great Elder raised his white eyebrows. "This Jun Family is just a worldly family, and yet it has repeatedly provoked our Silver Blizzard City! This cannot be tolerated anymore! I suggest that we completely wipe out that entire family as a warning to the rest of the world against making light of our Silver Blizzard City's power!"

Saying this, the Great Elder extended his right hand, and made a decisive and destructive downward gesture.

Chapter 235: The Seven Swords of the Silver City

On hearing the plans for the Jun Family, Xue Shuang Qing immediately became tense, and clenched her husband's arm tightly, unable to bear it anymore.

"This cannot be done!" Han Zhan Meng's eyebrows suddenly arched like two sharp swords which had been unsheathed quickly. "I don't have any problem with the Great Elder's first two plans, but I will not agree to the extermination of the entire Jun Family! Moreover, wasn't the suffering we had to endure ten years ago, the first time this plan was put into play, enough?"

Han Zhan Meng looked coldly at the elder, and continued solemnly, "Ten years ago, many of the Xiao Family's Spirit Xuan experts secretly went off to deal with the Jun Family and involved themselves in the war of two other nations without even taking permission; and because of this, the Jun Family came to the verge of ruin! And even though I put a stop to all of it, the Jun still suffered three successive attacks; as a result, the only surviving member of their second generation was crippled, while only a debauchee was left in their third. It doesn't matter what you say, this is too much!"

"No matter what, the Jun Family is good and faithful, and the grudge between your families is your personal matter, so why are involving the rest of us? Also, I could not understand the Great Elder's

words from the very beginning; what did you mean when you said that the Jun family has repeatedly provoked my Silver Blizzard City, and questioned its power? The only one which seems to have been provoked is the Xiao Family! This matter will not be mentioned again! And if anyone else decides to go forth in order to deal with the Juns without permission, the same will be punished according to the city's laws; no mercy will be shown to them!"

"But, now the Jun Family has got two powerful individuals supporting it, and sooner or later, they are going to create big problems for the Silver Blizzard City. Anyway, even if we don't take the initiative to deal with the Jun Family ourselves, they will certainly try to harm the Silver Blizzard City in order to avenge what they've suffered in the past, owing to our animosity! Whether it was right or wrong, we killed four important members of the Jun Family, and though it was a mistake, crippled one of them; nothing can change this fact. An animosity which is carried forward from generation to generation cannot be dissolved this easily. Will my Xiao Family have to stretch its neck and bear the Jun Family's resentment for the Silver Blizzard City's future, all alone?" The Great Elder's face clearly showed his indignation.

"The actions taken by the Xiao Family, in the past, are the root cause of this problem. Does the Great Elder really wish to add to the list of mistakes which have already been made, and commit more wrongs thereafter? The Great Elder is willing to bleed us all, forever, simply because of the mutual feelings harbored by two young ones; you are completely mistaken! They are good men, and they will not be killed needlessly because of this; such madness will not be allowed in my Silver Blizzard City!

"This matter has been in dispute for ten years! And in ten years, it has only seen stalemates! I have no interest in discussing it again." Han Zhan Meng gazed coldly as he looked up. "Great Elder, if the Jun Family truly, and seriously, attacks the Silver Blizzard City in order to extract their revenge, then you do whatever you feel like, and I will not meddle therein! However, unless the Jun Family attacks us first, we will not do anything!"

"The Jun Family taking on the Silver Blizzard City? That is a big joke; it is just another family, without any significant capability; will it not be akin to courting their own death? Even in a hundred years, the Jun will not have enough strength to pose a threat to the Silver Blizzard City!" A tall and thin elder snorted; he was named Xiao Bu Yu, and was in fact, the Second Elder of the city.

"If the Jun Family is really that weak, then why is the Xiao Family so worried?" Han Zhan Meng stared coldly.

“The thing is that . . . your eldest daughter Yao isn’t young anymore, and is still unmarried, and if this continues . . .” looking at Han Zhan Meng’s stubborn resistance to his proposal, the Great Elder decided to change the direction of his argument instead of insisting upon the same thing.

“This matter requires further consideration.” Han Zhan Meng’s face appeared as if he was having a headache. “Great Elder, have you forgotten what happened ten years ago? Do you really want Yao to go mad; do you really wish to force her into torment herself to death again? You’ve always loved her like she was your own granddaughter! Are you really so heartless that you’ll do this to her!?”

On hearing this, the Great Elder sighed sadly, but didn’t speak anymore.

Ten years ago, when Han Yan Yao had returned to the Silver Blizzard City, she went mad, and destroyed her meridians in front of Han Zhan Meng upon finding out the treatment the Juns had received at the hands of the Xiao Family. She had sworn that she would live and die with the Jun Family; the image of her blood staining the entire floor was still very vivid in everyone’s mind! This was why Han Zhan Meng was so vehemently opposed to Great Elder’s plan to eliminate the Jun Family!

No one had forgotten the hardships that were faced to save Han Yan Yao from the clutches of her death. At that time, the Great Elder had presumed that given her weak physical condition, she wouldn’t be able to harm her meridians any further; and thus, he had decided to go ahead with his plan to deal with the Jun Family again. However, on learning this, that stubborn girl pierced herself with two swords, right up to the shaft, and stood covered in blood from head to toe in front of the elders, and demanded that they immediately withdraw their orders!

As a result, the Great Elder was rendered helpless and was forced to cancel his secret plan to destroy the Jun Family. However, Han Yan Yao’s recklessness had already put her life at a great risk; and because of that, the Old Master of the City had gone into a fit of rage, and even Han Zhan Meng and his wife were furious with the Xiao Family; it was then, that the first signs of dispute between these two families of the Silver Blizzard City had started to appear.

Naturally, only a very few important people within the Silver Blizzard City had any knowledge of this incident, while outsiders were completely unaware of what had happened.

“Tracking the conversation back, wouldn’t teaching a lesson to the Solitary Falcon be a huge blow to the Jun Family? The Jun Family will not be able to rise again after that; and therefore, there will be no need to exterminate them anymore!” saying this, Han Zhan Meng sighed and his gaze swept the hall as he

looked outside at a solitary snow-capped peak in the distance, and then wondered in his heart, [Yao, your father can do only this much for you right now. The rest . . . you can just hope . . .]

“In that case, I would like to make some arrangements.” although the Great Elder did not agree with Han Zhan Meng, he had no option but to relent. “This time, the capable second brother will lead the fifth and the eighth Elder. And to make our efforts foolproof, I would like to request that the Old Master of the City shall allow them to take the Seven Swords with them as well. After all, if the mysterious person actually turns out to be that formidable, then wouldn’t the Seven Swords provide extra assurance?”

“Good! It is decided then! As for the remaining matters, I give the Great Elder full authority to make arrangements.” hearing this, Han Zhan Meng rubbed his forehead, got up, and started to move out of the hall with his wife. But just as he had reached the gate, he turned his head and warned, “In any case, no one is to involve themselves with the Jun Family; and if anyone disobeys this order, I will make sure to send a report to my father. And I can promise, that man, will be expelled from the Silver Blizzard City! Without any exceptions!” after saying this, the two leisurely walked away.

This left the Great Elder standing there expressionless for a moment. And though he continued standing calmly rooted to his spot, a trace of anger could be seen flashing in his eyes. Then, he suddenly turned towards Xiao Bu Yu, “You will make preparations to descend the mountains this afternoon; act immediately and without fail!”

“Elder brother so . . . what about the ‘Jun Family’ issue?” Xiao Bu Yu asked wrinkling his silvery eyebrows.

“There will be many opportunities for you to make use of in order to complete that task.” Xiao Xing Yun took a deep breath and replied in an expressionless tone. “And after you get down, do what you think is necessary!”

“Yes!”

Outside the hall, Xue Shuang Qing patted her stomach, letting go of some of her worries, though some concerns still lingering in her mind. “Thank you dear husband, if you had not insisted, then perhaps the Jun Family would have been annihilated . . . and if such a thing were to happen to them, I fear that Yao . . .”

“Even though I have stopped things from progressing any further for now, Yao’s still got a lot of problems . . . we can only help her one step at a time.” Han Zhan Meng sighed deeply and looked up to the heavens as he quietly said, “Our daughter has suffered a lot of pain in the last decade. And as her father, how can I let her last source of hope be extinguished?”

“No matter what, no one will ever harm my daughter! Nor my family!” Han Zhan Meng said in a low voice. And as he waved his arm from his sleeves, a huge ice rock suddenly shattered into tiny pieces, which scattered into the air like snowflakes!

Xue Shuang Qing nestled against her husband, and suddenly felt a sense of security warming her heart. She felt that as long as her husband’s broad and sturdy shoulders held the burdens, no harm would come to either of her two precious daughters; and thus, she could not help but smile satisfyingly...

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Inside a cave of a solitary peak not far from the hall stood a lone and frail woman, dressed in white clothes and a mask. She opened a letter with her lily white hands and read it very quickly; but the moment she finished reading the letter, her fingers started to tremble while her eyes started to brim with tears.

“Is he really . . . ! His injury has really healed; thank god . . .” The woman dressed in white, cried tears of joy as her slender body bent forward while her shoulders trembled like dead leaves in the wind. Her heart had become very cold during the past one decade; however, this letter had finally broken through that ice, and her now precarious mental state was clearly reflecting the weakness, and the helplessness she had been feeling all these years!

With tears in her eyes, the woman in white sobbed softly for a while; but then, she suddenly stood up and walked over to the mouth of the cave. She knelt down with her hands cupped in devotion and looked up to the heavens as she prayed in a soft voice, “Thank God, for he has completely recovered; thank God for he is no longer in pain . . . give him happiness . . . this woman will trade ten . . . or even twenty years of her life for his safety and happiness . . .”

“Even if we can’t be together . . . I am still your Yao . . . forever!”

She gently prayed on the ground; and as her plea quietly faded in the blowing wind, a strong gale arose from the heavens above, and kept getting stronger and stronger; without relenting. The waves of snowflakes started becoming bigger and denser, and started to fall down upon the mountains with much more ferocity than before . . .

And though this lone woman on that snowy peak was completely covered in snow soon, she remained motionless; kneeling in prayer as her unceasing tears fell on the floor and froze . . .

However, not long after this, ten shadowy figures shot skyward and flew out of the Silver City. They descended down the mountains; hidden by wind and snow . . .

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Inside the Jun Family residence, Fatty's ghost-like howls woke up the Young Master of the house very early in the morning; he was dragged from his bed by Fatty. And when he opened his eyes, he saw that the Fatty was covered in black clothes from head to toe, and surprisingly, seemed to be in good spirits. Moreover, the fatty also appeared somewhat thinner than before; now he looked like a man . . . at least a little bit.

And not just that, his face was scrubbed clean and his hair was unexpectedly neat, while his body was giving off a faint hint of a honey locust's fragrance. After looking at his face, one could see that he had applied a lot of cosmetic powder . . . this Fatty had actually covered his face with cosmetic powder, and that too, with a very thick layer . . .

"Bleuuurgh . . ." Jun Mo Xie burst out retching. "Fatty, that much powder on your face looks scary because of your body type; you know that right? Are you trying to play the role of a ghost with such a thick layer of cosmetic powder on your face? And why did you wake me up so early in the morning?" he looked out the window to see the early glimmer of dawn.

"Third Young Master . . . brother . . .", Tang Yuan was being uncharacteristically bashful, "did you not promise that you'll accompany me to meet the Sun Family's Young Miss..."

"Miss Sun . . . oh, that Miss Sun?" Jun Mo Xie realized suddenly, and stood up. "Isn't she your fiancée? The one you had once lost while gambling?"

“Bullsh*t!” Fatty retorted in a somewhat fiery manner. “Is it possible that you wouldn’t mention that matter before her? Haven’t I always stayed away from such despicable things since then?” he said as sized himself up; looking quite satisfied. “I look thinner; pretty good right?”

“Uhh yes . . . really slim. In fact, you almost look like a person.” Jun Mo Xie whipped out from the corner of his mouth. “You really are looking very slim. In fact, I am truly confused . . .”

Tang Yuan opened his big mouth and let out a loud and narcissistic laugh. Then, he swirled around twice, thinking he looked very elegant.

However, this swirling movement ruined whatever arrangements he had done in order to look slimmer. As a result, his belly drooped down again, which then flew out like a flexible elastic bag; followed his axial rotation, and then changed its direction once again as he stopped, only to dropped down to slap his thighs and knees.

“I’m meeting Miss Sun for the first time; I must make a good impression on her!” a look of longing and happiness flashed in Tang Yuan’s eyes while his pupils almost resembled the shape of a heart.