

E Monarch 241

Chapter 241: The Emperor's Verdict

A faint sound was coming from the upper floor of the Aristocratic Hall; the source of the sound seemed far, yet near. It was almost as if fairies were singing amidst the clouds. The music sounded misty and wasn't clearly audible to any who listened to it, but it was this indistinctiveness of the sound which made it even more enchanting.

Such a graceful and subdued sound was hard to describe. However, all those who had received the invitation cards were left to rejoice after listening to it. So much so that irrespective of the outcome of the coming auction, they would still consider this a very fruitful trip — even if they didn't gain anything else.

There were others who didn't have the invitation card, but were still standing amongst the crowd. Such people could only feel an unbearable itch in their hearts. They hated themselves for not having an invitation card after witnessing the elegant ambience of this place, since it meant they couldn't stay. [I'll regret it a lot later on... I must get that invitation card even if it is very expensive...]

The invitation card's price continued to increase as the sunlight became brighter. In fact, the speed of its rise was so frightening that it could be compared to whirlwinds. Fatty Tang had initially been quite distressed by the amount that had been spent on making these cards. However, he now stood gazing in admiration at the scene which had been choreographed by the Young Master Jun's persistence.

[Shouldn't he be called a business genius? I have been too shortsighted!] Fatty Tang ridiculed himself.

Jun Mo Xie was sitting calmly through all this commotion. However, even he hadn't expected that his plan would create the sensation of such an effect. The only explanation for this could be that the Tian Xiang City had a lot of rich people. Moreover, they were crazy about invidious comparisons...

Sunshine illuminated the sky.

The Aristocratic Hall's on-sale invitations had been exhausted, and those who had been initially invited had arrived. In three-quarters of an hour, the main street was filled with first-rate carriages. All kinds of

expensive carriages were parked next to each other. In fact, one could say that every vehicle in sight was expensive in its own right. When all was said and done, it was difficult to tell which carriage was the most luxurious. All the invitees had put forth their best harness to flaunt their 'aristocratic identities'. In fact, they had spared no expenses on the jeweler that hung from their carriages.

One could raise their eyes and expect to see a convergence of rich people!

It would be most appropriate to use Fatty as a metaphor to describe these portable mountains of gold; even if he only lost a piece of his bodily meat, then this single piece could still support an ordinary family for a lifetime.

Two cultured white-clothed youngsters were standing at the door along with two beautiful young women. The four of them were serving as a welcome committee. They would examine the guests' invitation cards, and then beckon them in immediately. Soon after, a white clad youngster would appear to receive them, and would cordially welcome and take them in.

Even though three influential families had printed their seals on the invitation cards, none of the familiar faces from these households had come out yet; these people were the only welcome the guests had received. However, even though each individual's invitation card was being inspected before they were allowed to enter, no one felt that they were being treated in a disrespectful manner. Instead, they felt quite proud and honored.

This was in accordance with logical reasoning. It would greatly degrade the reputation of these three families if any of their members were to personally come over to greet the guests. Hence, it would be considered a very inappropriate thing to do.

Almost every guest appeared to be calm and high spirited; irrespective of the fact whether this was their true demeanor, or just an effort to put on such an appearance. As they walked in, they unintentionally shot a glance at the crowd standing outside. This crowd comprised of people who hadn't received the invitations. The veins of the invited guests inevitably turned blue with anxiety as they quickly made their way through the crowd. They then accepted this arrangement in a quiet and aloof manner. The guests then strolled into the premises with elegance, and then disappeared into the lush flowers and trees.

All who had received the invitation card, showed up without exception — and many had been invited. They came in a continuous and endless stream, yet each one of them conducted themselves with dignity. Moreover, there were many people who ordinarily wouldn't accept such arrangements, but even these people were behaving modestly — simply to demonstrate their magnanimity.

However, shouldn't aristocrats always behave with nobility? This obviously didn't have anything to do with their present behavior... it just seemed as if they were trying to put up with the title of 'aristocracy' that had been assigned to them.

In the imperial palace, someone laughed heartily. There was only one person who could laugh like this inside the boundary of the Imperial Palace. It obviously wasn't one of the beautiful imperial concubines. In fact, even Mother Empress would adhere to the importance of mannerism, and would not laugh so heartily. Even the favorite prince or princess would adhere to etiquette and refrain from demonstrating such a lack in manners. The salaried servants naturally would never dare! Keeping this mind, the identity of the person who was laughing in this presumptuous manner was self-evident.

His Majesty, the Emperor of Tian Xiang's hand was clutching a white chess piece. He muttered to himself incoherently as he laughed loudly, "This, is actually quite an exquisite trick; unusual but truly ingenious. I don't know who came up with this exquisite plan. It is hard to imagine that there is person in my Tian Xiang who is surprisingly capable of producing clouds with one turn of the hand, and rain with another, heh heh pretty good, pretty good."

Sitting opposite him was a man of indiscernible age. He was dressed in white clothes that were as white as snow. He was tall and straight in stature and even though he was merely sitting, his shoulders and back were straight. His appearance alone could make people tremble with fear. Straight black hair flowed down from his head, and draped over his shoulders before scattering behind him. A beautiful tri-forked beard floated down to his chest. However, his face did not have a single wrinkle on it; in essence, his face was as fair and smooth as a lady's.

That upright figure contemplated carefully as he glanced at the chess board, "This entire move is truly exquisite. That person's wine must be quite wonderful. But even if it is a heavenly secret and extremely difficult to find... its value cannot be over 10,000 silver taels per bottle. However, this kind of method will make all the influential families compete with each other. In fact, this method will enable him to sell them at over 10,000 silver taels. He might even surpass that amount. It truly is a good plan! But Your Majesty had said, 'produce clouds with one turn of the hand and rain with another'. This person is still not that competent."

"Is that so?" the Emperor smiled in a profound manner and then continued, "In my opinion, however... he is."

“What does Your Majesty mean?” the white clad man intently looked at the chessboard. Even though he was sitting in front of such a great man, he did not seem to be behaving in a very deferential manner.

“It seems to me that this method of selling wine is ingenious, and has been done skillfully with much consideration. Moreover, it is important to note that it far surpasses an ordinary person’s capability to calculate; it is truly amazing.” His Majesty the Emperor slowly stroked his beard as he solemnly said, “This plan seems simple, and one would think almost anyone can succeed with it. However, if it is that easy, then why hasn’t anyone?”

“I’d like to understand better,” The man-in-white also started showing interest, and raised his eyebrows slightly. His eyes had an inquisitive look.

“It was important to understand people’s feelings while formulating this plan. One must clearly understand human nature and its weak points, especially the psychology of the old and influential entities. It is important that one studies these things in detail, without missing out on even the most unimportant facts! Irrespective of whether the said individual is a nobleman, a commoner, a hoodlum, or a beggar, one must understand the weak point of all. If only one is able to grasp this single point, one will at once grasp the failings of people’s personality! Then, regardless of who it is... even a person with a position at the Imperial Court will bow down. However, this part is only the foundation, and the ‘beginning part’ of the plan,” The Emperor’s eyes were belied by a hint of anxiety, and a bit of admiration.

“This man certainly has a gift for understanding the human nature!” the Emperor laid down his first conclusion.

“Secondly, I figure that the people who have gone there today are unlikely to come out empty handed, and they’re only auctioning wine inside! Therefore, each and every family which has gone in cannot return empty handed... even if the wine is of poor quality! Moreover, they’re auctioning the wine at a very high price. Hence, no one will buy it for cheap. The price will be insignificant, and they will not calculate or care about the money they spend. What they will care about is their reputation!”

The corners of the Emperor’s mouth rose to show a hint of ridicule, “Because too many of the people who did not receive the invitation cards are waiting outside. Wouldn’t the crowd possibly await an opportunity to ridicule the so called “Aristocrats”? Anyone who has received the invitation letter and has gone to the auction will not want to lose out; they cannot afford to if they wish to save face. That man has figured out that he can openly, and without fear, fill his pockets with the money he fishes out from each and every family present here. Moreover, everyone will be excited about it; they will all be busy striving to be the first and fearing to be the last! All because they fear being belittled by others.

Spending over 10,000 taels in front of the whole capital city will better their reputation. They can justify their status... as long as they are able to buy something!

“This man is a master who fully deserves amassing all that money. Quite unfortunate for the others though...” the Emperor made his second conclusion.

The white-clothed person sitting opposite to him listened in a calm manner. His face was so blank that there wasn't even a single ripple in response.

“Third, you have to take note of the names on that list. If you give it a careful look, it will be obvious that although this list has snared almost all the big families of the capital to go in, but there is still something rather interesting about it. This list is actually not complete!

“Every business will have its respective rivals. Naturally, the rich noble families involved in this business have their own rivals. Often, these rivals are well matched to keep the industry booming for a long period of time. This list also needs to be altered in order to maintain equilibrium. Otherwise the prices will drop and the merchant won't make profits, or the prices will rise too high and no one will show interest. However, this man's list, intentionally or otherwise, will completely break the equilibrium I have painstakingly built over many years! Moreover, they will not leave even the smallest of clues. Therefore, even though I want to blame someone for this, I do not know who!”

The eyes of the white clothed man looked puzzled after hearing this. It was evident that he hadn't understood what he had heard.

“He He...” His Majesty laughed, “I'll explain with an example; the Sun, the Mu, and the Zhao family are the three of the most well known entities in the capital's salt market. These three are like the legs of a tripod. Amongst these three, Zhao family is the most powerful; its strategies make it stronger than the other two families. Admittedly, the Sun, and the Mu family are somewhat weaker, but they frequently combine to withstand the influence of the Zhao family. The Sun and the Mu Family can therefore be used to maintain the equilibrium of power. This list includes the Zhao family, but not the other two old families — when in fact everyone knows that the other two families are also worth millions in capital and resources. Yet why haven't they received the invitation? However, no one can really blame the man behind the Aristocratic Hall, since he has already invited the most able representative of the salt industry — the Zhao family!

“This method is used in several industries to earn huge profits — only inviting the representatives of the families which have the most influence.” The Emperor looked increasingly worried, “And to use such

formidable means of propaganda to add fuel to the fire between two rival families... I'm afraid that a conflict will arise within a very short period of time! Those who received the invitation will act arrogantly towards the others, while those who hadn't... will be angry. They will feel that they are being pushed aside, and are being considered beneath the first-rate personalities. As a result... chaos will be initiated!

"All this reveals only one thing — this person can be considered a true master of the tactics!" the Emperor made his third conclusion.

Notes:

Idiom; it means 'to possess great power and authority'. May sound off, but does fit-in in context if one considers that Jun Mo Xie liertally overturns the entire social structure of the capital.

Chapter 242: One Smile Can Obliterate Hate and Grievances

"This person actually seeks wealth. However, the amount he seeks is huge! By no means can we consider this normal since such an astronomical figure can easily shake one to the core!

"It's possible that some trouble may arise since members from each of the great families will be gathered there. In fact, I fear that this man might deliberately manufacture an incident if nothing happens. He may try to take advantage of the confusion that may ensue after an incident... He may then try to make a move favorable to him using today's conflict as cover!" The Emperor stood up, and paced back and forth for a while. He then sighed deeply and mumbled, "If only this talented person were working for me... such a pity..."

"Although this man is smart, but he still needs the backing of those three families. In fact, it will be very difficult for him to stir any storms without a proper support from the Jun family, Tang family, and the Prince Equivalent." The man in snow-white clothes offered his comforting words.

"I am also worried about the point you've just now highlighted; it's vital. This man has somehow persuaded these three families to help one another; it is clear that these three families have friendly relations. Moreover, their friendship seems strong. There was a rumor earlier which said that this idea to sell wine originated out of a bet. The Young Master of the Jun Family, Jun Mo Xie, and General Dugu Wudi made a wager on the quality of this wine, and the price it could sell for... It is said that this strategy

was actually devised by Jun Mo Xie. Though, I am somewhat unconvinced by that. However, if it really is that debauchee's doing... then I shall truly regard him in a new light."

The Emperor laughed gently for a little while. However, he couldn't conceal the color of worry over his eyebrows, "This plan is certainly made by someone else!

"Whoever this man is, he is extremely dangerous and talented! His action will spell chaos regardless of what the motive behind them is!" There was a deep scowl on His Majesty's face for a while. Then, his expression changed, and he suddenly smiled, "In any case, this will be a very amusing auction. Would you be interested in accompanying me to that hall Mr. Wen?"

"Your Majesty is tempted to go?" The white-robed Mr. Wen raised his head to look at the Emperor. The expression in his eyes was extremely clear; like a deep lake whose bottom could be seen easily because there was no impurities in it. His skin seemed... smooth like the skin of a new born baby.

"It is an interesting matter. Moreover, there is a talented and dangerous person there; why shouldn't I be tempted?" The Emperor narrowed his eyes, "How can I not go to this lively event when this matter will have a profound and far-reaching effect on the Capital's state of affairs? And it's always good to get new experiences; I also want to taste a wine which costs over 10,000 taels per bottle!"

Mr. Wen stood up in a free and easy manner as the hint sincere of smile surface on his infant-like face. He gently chuckled, "In that case, please allow this old man to accompany Your Majesty on your trip."

"With you by side, I'm certain to succeed!" The Emperor smiled and got up. He spoke as they walked out, "However, first we need to look for somebody who has an invitation since we don't..."

"The three princes and Princess Ling Meng have received the invitation cards, if one is to believe the reports. Therefore, is Your Majesty thinking of following the princess?" Mr. Wen winked; the two men smiled in a tacit understanding.

"I can also conveniently check up on my three sons as they fight and scheme against each other; it ought to be quite amusing. What could be better?" The Emperor smiled in a profound manner. However, there was still a wrinkle of worry on his smiling face, "Has brother Zhu eaten anything in the past few days? I haven't heard much about it."

Mr. Wen was walking abreast with the Emperor. He smiled as he said, "This problem of his should be dealt with. However, that grandson of Tang Wang Li is too... immature; there's no hope for his future. He scared that cleanliness-obsessed man by disseminating his bodily wastes on him. As chance has it, little Zhu had stepped forward just then... And though he had managed to stay clean for so many years now, the poor man's spout was filled with..."

He referred to Zhu Zhu Zhu as "Little Zhu." That man's status was seemingly higher than the people from Zhu Zhu Zhu's generation. Though, it would seem that he was even younger than Dugu Wudi. In fact, he looked closer to Jun Wu Yi's age by his facial appearance.

It was very strange.

"Ha Ha..." The Emperor burst out laughing. He turned his face towards the side, and addressed an Old court eunuch as, "Have the imperial kitchen find a good remedy for eunuch Zhu. Ask them to concoct some kind of mixture to whet his appetite, and then feed him something. He doesn't eat anything at all nowadays; how is that good?!"

The Old eunuch solemnly and respectfully accepted his orders. He was quite close to the Emperor, and had served him for over thirty years. Wen Xian Yin was also aware of this; the idea behind this order was clear. On one hand, Zhu Zhu Zhu's matter required his personal presence. But, His Majesty couldn't drop from his status in order to sort such trivial matters either.

A smile spread across the Emperor's face as he watched the eunuch leave; it seemed as if he was reflecting on something from the past, "I, however, haven't found it easy to go outside the palace; those days... I truly cherish them a lot."

"That ingenious person will not be able to hide himself now that your majesty has personally set-out to uncover his secret plan!" Mr. Wen smiled gracefully, "Or perhaps Your Majesty may acquire a very talented person because of this action. Wen would like to congratulate Your Majesty in advance..."

"I hope so!" His Majesty the Emperor smiled faintly, while the expression in his eyes fluctuated; he seemed to be harboring some doubts. He was constantly mouthing a name, but hadn't mentioned it loud. If one were to look closely, they would realize that he was constantly trying to say three words: Jun Wu Yi.

A cold ray of light flashed in his eyes.

As the sun rose gradually in the sky to mark daybreak, the last of great families started to arrive.

First to arrive was the Dugu Family. This family had the reputation of being one of the premiere great families of the capital. They had showed initiative by arriving with eight major members from their Family. They came in riding atop big horses; all of them gallant and full of spirit. Dugu Wudi had arrived along with his seven burly nephews, 'Heroes and legends bravely rushing forward'. They were crowding around a small green palanquin. They appeared similar to eight majestic black bears which had become exhilarated by the scent of good honey.

This brigade of men and horses finally stopped in front of the main door. One command sounded, and they positioned themselves in uniformity. The door of that small green palanquin opened, and one graceful, fair, and pretty figure came out. Her eyebrows were like distant hills, her almond eyes were joyful, while her cheeks were like peaches; her face was simply picturesque. All kinds of charms... immense loveliness and sweetness poured out of this youthful girl. She seemed very fresh, pure and delicate.

Dugu Xiao Yi, one of Tian Xiang City's peerless beauties, had arrived.

Jun Mo Xie's eyes would've pop-out if he were there. In front of his eyes would be this gentle and beautiful woman, who had undergone a miraculous transformation. She was no longer that violent girl who yelled at him, fought with him, and beat him up every day!

A major member from the Jun Family showed-up to welcome the Dugu Family, upon their arrival.

Jun Wu Yi, the Third Son of the Jun Family, waited for them at the end of the flower-flanked path; he sat perfectly straight on his wheelchair. He was dressed in clean black clothes. His facial features seemed sharp, as if cut by a knife. Nevertheless, there was a faint smile on his face, which enhanced his graceful bearing. A white clothed youngster was unhurriedly pushing his wheelchair.

"Elder brother Dugu," Jun Wu Yi cupped his hands, showing a trace of a genial expression, "you have arrived."

“Younger Brother Jun,” Dugu Wudi jumped down from his horse, and took large strides forward. “Jun Family is opening a major business. So why wouldn’t older brother come-over and show his support? Why have you toiled to receive us personally? I, your older brother, could’ve walked-in myself; we are no strangers to you.”

“There’s no harm in greeting people. But elder brother is the only one in the City who actually deserves such importance. Therefore, how could I ever neglect my duties if my brother arrives here?” Jun Wu Yi smiled. Then he gestured with his hands as an expectant look in his emerged eyes, “Elder brother Dugu, please enter!”

Dugu Wudi immediately looked up, and his eyes were immediately rapt with layer-upon-layer of happiness. “Third brother Jun, please!” He reached and positioned himself behind Jun Wu Yi. He then nudged the white clothed youngster who was standing behind the wheelchair to the side as he laughed loudly, “You take a break; I will push my third brother inside.”

Jun Wu Yi’s body leaned back comfortably so as to allow Dugu Wudi to push the wheelchair. They chatted as Jun Wu Yi showed the way forward. The atmosphere had suddenly become very harmonious, and it seemed as if both sides were a bit emotional.

Could it be that the years-of-the-past had returned once again?

Dugu Wudi was laughing loudly; he was elated from the bottom of his heart. He quietly wiped the tears which appeared in his tiger-like eyes; he couldn’t help but sigh in happiness, [today this younger brother has forgiven me... he called me elder brother once again... I’m so happy; I have no regrets anymore].

Ten years of suffering and silence, and no mention of the events that had occurred. But it had all been melted away by these few words!

The two men seemed extremely happy, and talked cheerfully. However, it seemed to everyone else that these two great generals were still enveloped in a thick layer of sentiment owing to that bloody-event from the past!

There was strange connection between these two iron-blooded soldiers.

Jun Wu Yi had dispelled the sword of resentment with his smile!

Ten Years of conflict and hatred had been obliterated with just a smile!

This opportune moment had announced the end of the uneasiness these two great generals had been carrying in their hearts for a decade!

The Dugu Family's seven burly and ox-like individuals remained silent, contrary to their usual personality. They understood the importance of this moment, and deliberately modulated their breathing for the fear of disturbing the two brothers whose bond had been molded over the course of numerous battles.

They had carried the glory of the entire army and the entire of Tian Xiang Empire on their shoulders!

Dugu Xiao Yi's eyes became red as she sobbed quietly. She was admittedly too young to properly appreciate the special camaraderie between these two men. However, as his daughter, she had always known the matter which had troubled her father's heart from the beginning!

Dugu Wudi had been a straightforward man throughout his life, and had never felt the need to regret. However, there was one matter he had always vaguely regretted.

Jun Wu Hui!

Dugu Wudi would get drunk every year on Jun Wu Hui's death anniversary. He would inevitably burst-out crying even though he was an extremely tough and strong warrior. Moreover, he wouldn't even try to cover-up his loud crying; ...he would cry his guts out.

Dugu Wudi had never in his life shed tears so many times. And all of this happened because the person who had died was his sworn brother.

Dugu Xiao Yi had often seen her father enter his study in the middle of the night. He would sigh endlessly as he would stroke the sword which Jun Wu Hui had gifted to him.

Today however, Jun Wu Yi had eliminated this hard-to-dispel conundrum in Dugu Wu Di's mind with just a smile! How could Dugu Xiao Yi not be pleased? How could she not cry? How could she not be moved to tears?

Following after the Dugu Family, came another important one; the Song family. The Tang and the Meng Family arrived successively, in accordance to the appointed time.

The Magnificent Jewel Hall which was in close proximity across the street had also received an invitation card. Xiao Han and Mu Xue Tong were clad in white like always; they arrived accompanying the flower-like Han Yan Meng.

And at that moment...

Chapter 243: Collision in front of the Aristocratic Hall

An imposing bronze colored chariot was galloping at full speed. The four pairs of beastly war-horses which pulled it were level four Xuan Beasts. A tender and beautifully blooming golden mums flower adorned the carriage, and shone with an abnormal brilliance. Eight horsemen valiantly strode around the chariot on their imposing horses.

The Murong family had arrived at last.

On the face of it, it would appear that the Murong family could not compare to the Li Family in terms of power and influence. It couldn't compare to the Jun and the Dugu Families either. In reality though, the Murong family was actually one of the most influential families inside Tian Xiang City. After all was said and done, it was the most ancient and the robust family. Moreover, it also has the most intimate relationship with the Imperial Family.

Murong Family's influence simply couldn't be ignored.

On top of that, the Murong Family was the only family which was related to the Imperial Family by the means of a marriage.

None of the other noble families enjoyed this honor.

It could be said that the Li Family was powerful enough to disrupt all levels of society. Moreover, Li You Ran was considered to be an outstanding youngster with a lot of impressive talent. However, even though he had set his heart to win over Princess Ling Meng three years ago, the Emperor had neither consented to this, nor given any opinion on it. The Jun Family was a family of martyrs, which had sacrificed many men to the service of the nation. The Grandfather Jun then had no choice but to lay down his self-respect in front of Tian Xiang Empire's Emperor, to seek a relationship by marriage. This proposal was also tactfully declined. No one could trust that debauchee, even though the others were considered reliable. Therefore, if the Jun Family's proposal to join the two Families by marriage was refused... then one could imagine how difficult it had to be.

The Murong Family's importance in the eyes of the Imperial Family was extremely difficult to replace.

Some time ago, Murong Qian Jun had passed wrong information. This had created a huge commotion, and a big mishap had occurred wherein Jun Zhan Tian had brought about a purge in the capital city. By the end of it, he had massacred almost one-third of the Imperial Cabinet Ministers in that purge. There is no need to say that if it had been anyone else, they would have been executed ten thousand times over this matter. However, Murong Qian Jun was simply removed from his post to never be hired again.

Nothing more.

This clearly showed how close the Murong Family and the Imperial Family were, and how big an influence the Murong Family had on the latter. Therefore, how could anyone ever look down upon their power and influence?

The carriage suddenly came to a stop. The eight horsemen jumped down from their steeds with a loud thud. Amongst these, the guard in the lead turned a handle and set the carriage free of its horses. Then, he swiftly moved on to the ornamented door and opened it. He then stood up straight like a ramrod, holding the door open with one hand.

A short while later, a tall and handsome youngster walked out from within with a straight posture. It was none other than Murong Qian Jun. Then a pair of tender feet stretched from the door, marking the arrival of a young lady, clad in splendid bright yellow clothes. Her face reflected arrogance as she leisurely got down from the carriage. Soon after, an old man appeared. He coughed and trembled as he got down from the carriage, with two men supporting his frame from underneath.

The bystanders inhaled a breath of cold air.

The Murong Family was worthy of the Aristocratic Hall in every sense of the word.

The grand Murong Family had surprisingly sent their second in command, who was the old master Murong Fēng Yn's younger brother, Murong Feng Yu.

Perhaps, their reputation was even a match to the Jun Family, the Tang Family, and even the Prince Equivalent.

Murong Qian Jun and the young maiden dressed in yellow supported Murong Feng Yu as they started to walk inside.

"Murong Family? It's quite extraordinary, right? But they are very arrogant!" suddenly, a cold taunt was heard, which was accompanied by a peculiar sneer. Every person of the Murong Family stiffened, and many of their men placed their hands on the hilts of their swords. All of them looked angry. Who in Tian Xiang City had dared to mock the Murong Family? Especially at a time when some of their leading members were present? Weren't they afraid for their lives?

This had never happened before.

On turning to see who it was, their gazes fell upon two middle aged people wearing white clothes and cold expressions. One of them had an angry look spread across his face. His snow white gown had been bathed in the mud and dirt. A beautiful young lady stood beside him.

It was Xiao Han's three-man party!

Those without power simply aren't capable of doing the unprecedented. However, what if the inciter was more than a mortal?

The Silver Blizzard City was simply too high to reach in the eyes of a worldly family.

Xiao Han had been feeling that everything was going against him lately, which had left him feeling very gloomy of late.

He had become quite sullen since his arrival at Tian Xiang City. Previously, he had walked over to the Jun Family to insult his rival over his disability, but hadn't expected the younger generation of the family to make him look like fool and hurt him. Moreover, Mu Xue Tong had added more insult to his injury by beating him up further. However, what had made him really furious was when Han Yan Yao actually sent a gift to Jun Wu Yi in secrecy. He simply couldn't bear the flame of jealousy.

After that, his own nephew was seriously beaten-up by a mysterious master, shortly after the boy's arrival in the Tian Xiang City. Fortunately, the boy's recovery was not an issue after he had been diagnosed and treated using some of the best medicines available. However, this only meant that he had failed to take proper care of his nephew.

Then he heard the news that the Jun Family's cripple had unexpectedly recovered fully from his affliction.

This eventually pushed Xiao Han to his breaking point.

Right now, three families had joined hands to open the Aristocratic Hall right opposite the Magnificent Jewel Hall. They were obviously trying to compete with the Magnificent Hall. However, the part most unbearable for him was that... one of the members in this 'three family alliance' was the Jun Family.

He could not tolerate this.

Then, he had strived hard to find his place as the Magnificent Jewel Hall's representative for this event. His mental status had improved after he had managed to oust Mu Xue Tong's strong opposition to the same. However, then a carriage had splashed mud across his entire body just as he was walking over to the Aristocratic Hall's doorstep.

Could he really have no respite in life? He was almost on the verge of exploding to death because of the anger he felt.

He rained curses unrestrained as he smashed his heel into the ground. The impact of his stomp was so forceful that he dislocated his own heel. Such was Xiao Han's present mental anguish.

The anger in Xiao Han's heart kept increasing, and it soon spread to his guts as he looked fiercely at the Murong Family members who had just gotten off the carriage. Anyone could tell that his stare was deliberately meant to provoke them, since his eyes had no trace of benevolence.

On one side was Xiao Han, who was obviously not in a jolly mood, while on the other was Murong Qian Jun, who was as angry as the former. After all, someone had insulted them in front of the entire Tian Xiang City. He lifted his leg to rush over, "You, you really wish to court death so early in the morning!"

This youngster had been faced with several adversities of his own. His pursuit of Princess Ling Meng had been largely unsuccessful. Moreover, he had been relieved of his duties at the Imperial Palace after he had spread that incorrect message. Hence, it was rather obvious that he was also quite frustrated with his life, and was just looking for someone to vent it all out on.

The old man Murong Feng Yu used one hand to cover his coughing mouth as he pulled the youngster back with his other hand.

Murong Feng Yu's movements were not at all quick, and seemed exasperatingly slow. However, he outstretched his hand just in time to block the 'dashing' Murong Qian Jun's path.

Murong Feng Yu was quite experienced, and his eyes could make out that Xiao Han and the others in his company were of extraordinary origins. He had been able to decipher all that from just the curses this man had thrown at his family. Moreover, seeing that the three of them were clothed in pure white and had walked out from the Magnificent Jewel Hall, he had managed to guess the opposite party's origins.

"What did you say, you little bastard?" Xiao Han's murderous mood violently flashed on his face.

Xiao Han hailed from the Silver City, and was wearing the formal dress of a member of the younger generation. Having any other color upon one's dressing was tabooed in the Silver Blizzard City. This youngster had sinned by coloring his robes in a different color; something they would only do when in mourning. Not just Xiao Han, but anyone from the Silver Blizzard City would've been angered by this.

“Ke ke ke, this youngster is truly rude and rotten. He would like to apologize to you, Mr.,” Murong Feng Yu’s vision seemed blurred as he looked at Xiao Han. The thick skinned person appeared quite sincere, while his smile resembled half a mum’s flower, whose petals had blown away in the wind and rain. “Just by looking at Mr.’s dress, one can see that he is actually an outstanding hero of the number one secret powerhouse of this world - the Silver Blizzard City. How does one address the unknown Mr.? And how is the Xiao Family’s Xiao Bu Yu?”

Xiao Han’s body shook a little as he became even more depressed.

This old man was too crafty. He had first compensated for his loss by apologizing, and then he had brought Xiao Bu Yu into the discussion. In this way, he had faintly pointed out that he knew the man while reasserting his old age at the same time. This rendered the man from the younger generation of the Xiao Family incapable of venting out his anger.

Xiao Bu Yu was world famous, therefore there was always a possibility that the man could be lying. However, this was the Murong Family’s second-in-command. Moreover, he had stated this in front of many people, and so it was quite improbable that he would be claiming a fake relationship.

Xiao Han looked towards the old man and somehow controlled his anger, “The Xiao elder is indebted for your concern.”

“He he, we aren’t strangers. There is no need to speak in such a polite manner,” Murong Feng Yu narrowed his eyes and lowered his stance, “We were wrong in the matter which had just occurred, and my Murong Family will confess properly to you. In return we hope that you will show us kindness.”

Xiao Han groaned heavily, “There is no need for this!”

Murong Feng Yu relaxed a bit as he knew that the matter had now been resolved. He opened his eyes and glanced at the Murong Qian Jun ferociously. He then immediately looked at Murong Qian Jun, who was staring at him blankly. Then, his gaze fell upon the beautiful young maiden standing next to Xiao Han; she appeared as beautiful as a flower which had managed to bloom even in the icebergs.

He couldn’t help but contemplate in his mind, [If Qian Jun can woo this girl... won’t I then be able to pull my Family into a relationship with the Silver Blizzard City? However, this matter... I must take proper

time to decide. This young lady is just a piece of swan-meat to my Murong Family, no matter what position she holds in the Silver Blizzard City.]

At this point, the sound of several horse hooves could be heard in the distance. This was soon followed by the arrival of many ranks of troops. These were in fact the three princes'. However, riding in front of them was the carriage of Princess Ling Meng.

There wasn't enough time for Murong Feng Yu to properly exchange his greetings. Therefore, he hastily greeted Xiao Han and then walked inside, with the support of the people he had brought along.

At this moment the sound of another chariot was heard coming from a different street. This carriage belonged to the prince equivalent, and had arrived at the same time. These highly placed personalities had arrived at the last minute, and all at the same time. Their arrival had been skillfully timed.

Princess Ling Meng sat inside her carriage, with burdened thoughts plaguing her mind.

She had not wanted to come today. It was neither her hobby, nor did she like keeping up false appearances. However, her father, the Emperor, had decided that he wanted to look around and had requested that she come here immediately. Then he and Mr. Wen had disguised themselves, and had followed her to this gathering.

Left with no other option, Princess Ling Meng had to comply. Yet she did not know what her father was planning. He had kept ordering her carriage to stop and then proceed for the entire journey, forcing the three carriages carrying her elder brothers to do the same in the back. It had almost seemed as if he was intentionally trying to manufacture trouble for the three sons by forcing their carriages to collide on the broad road.

As a result, the Princess hadn't found any peace over the course of the entire journey.

Chapter 244: Young Master Jun's Rogue Tricks

The fact was that the Princess Ling Meg hadn't anticipated that the three princes would follow the Emperor. Shockingly, their carriages had travelled on the road side-by-side and had kept bashing

sideways into each other. Luckily, this street was wide enough to accommodate them. Otherwise, perhaps even the houses on the side would have been affected by the three, and would have collapsed.

[I still don't know what father aims to achieve by this plan of his. Could it be that he is not satisfied with the usual infighting, or does not consider it fierce enough? Would he have those three compete, expose their weaknesses, and humiliate themselves in front of everyone? With my three elder brothers' current behavior, this is not entirely impossible!]

However, the scene that the Princess Ling Meng had just imagined would not come true.

Because the carriages of the three princes had managed to battle their way into getting cramped, they had also managed to reach their destination at the same time, without anyone falling behind the other. As a result, the tension between them had quickly eased. The street where the Magnificent Jewel Hall and the Aristocratic hall were located was very wide. However, it still had its limitations and the three Princes' convoy ended up cramming the street to its very limits. In fact, their carriages ended up crashing into each other on the sides.

Though this wasn't a very opportune thing, fortunately there was another carriage which lacked timing. This carriage belonged to the Prince Equivalent.

There were five royal carriages present, with four of them cramped up together and knocking against each other, [I'm afraid that it is very difficult to avoid a problematic situation in such circumstances. Is all this really accidental? Or is it intentional?]

This situation made Princess Ling Meng somewhat dizzy. The only thing worth celebrating here was that the Emperor's brother, in the end, was also a part of the Imperial Family. Since he was one of their own, if her three elder brothers agreed to yield even a little bit, she was convinced that mediating this matter would not be too difficult.

Several youngsters clad in white with the responsibility to welcome the guests, came out from the Aristocratic Hall. However, they were left staring foolishly at the situation. The street where the Magnificent Jewel Hall and the Aristocratic Hall were located was considered the best location within the Tian Xiang City; it was widest street in the city. In fact, this street was actually capable of accommodating three carriages at once without them crashing into each other. Needless to say, a pile-up such as this had never occurred before here.

Moreover, because the Magnificent Jewel Hall was also present on this street, no event had ever escalated to a situation like this. People who were eligible to come here usually knew the origins of the Magnificent Jewel Hall. No one was foolish enough to cause trouble on this street.

However, at present...

The carriage from the Prince Equivalent's carriage was the first to stop. Two white clothed maidservants uncovered the carriage's curtain screen. A child stepped down from the carriage with support. The child was the Equality Prince's son; he was the same boy who Jun Mo Xie had jokingly dubbed 'Adorable little sister' — Yang Mo.

Princess Ling Meng moved aside in order to make way for the Equality Prince. He was a member of her own family. Moreover, excluding her father, he was the only other patriarch of the royal family in his generation. Even though her father was aboard her carriage at that moment, she still moved aside. Not to mention, she was also very fond of her little cousin. On top of that, the Equality Prince was also one of the owners of the Aristocratic Hall. Therefore, it was only proper for her to allow him to proceed inside first.

However, the situation with the convoys of the three princes was still the same. They were still battling it out with each other to arrive first, and things only got worse as they made their way towards the gate. This caused a rather noisy ruckus.

In the midst of the Princes' group, there was a black robed person whose cold eyes watched the three princes' convoys attentively. He observed the activity in and around each of the three carriages. However, he did not say a single word throughout, though his eyes were as sharp as a knife.

By now, Jun Mo Xie had already received information about all of this. Faced with such an embarrassing situation, he could not help but rush out.

Young Master Jun incessantly cursed in rage, [You three brothers cannot distinguish good from bad? Looks like your commotions are going to create a lot of trouble for me! If I had known earlier, I would have sent the invitation to only one of you to avoid all this annoyance.]

[This is an important moment and I still have a lot of work to finish. I have painstakingly managed this huge place for the auction. Do you think this is a joke? Be good you three dirty things; I don't have time to play with you!]

Fatty Tang and Song Shang were the main hosts of the auction. They obviously could not come out. Even if they did, it was not certain that they were capable of handling such a situation. After all, the status of these three people was just too high. Because of that, they simply could not use force to handle this predicament. Admittedly, Jun Wu Yi, the Third Master of the Jun Family could handle this. However, if Jun Wu Yi appeared personally, it was possible that he would get involved in the rivalry of these princes. That really wouldn't be of much help. Therefore, he would be an inappropriate choice for now.

As for the other candidate...

General Dugu Wudi could also possibly come out and roar at these three. Most likely, he would be impartial as well. The three Princes were too high to reach in other people's eyes; nevertheless they did not hold any importance in the general's. However, these three were Jun Mo Xie's guests. Drawing support from external sources wouldn't be pleasant.

Besides, Jun Mo Xie figured that even if he won that bet, he wouldn't have the nerve to accept General Dugu's compensation if he were to truly exploit the man's power to settle this dispute. [Other people had helped you solve this problem.] Therefore, the Great General Dugu Wudi was out of the question.

It could be then assumed that Jun Mo Xie was the only remaining candidate. However, even though Jun Mo Xie's status was still far below the three Princes, he still had to handle this matter. Hence, using the Jun Family's renowned Debauchee's reputation, which continued to devolve into that of a hoodlum and a rogue, was no doubt an effective strategy. Therefore, after receiving the information, Jun Wu Yi and Tang Yuan immediately looked at the Young Master Jun's face.

"Mo Xie, it is important that this matter is settled. It will require some rogue-like means. Hence, only you are qualified to handle this," Jun Wu Yi had said.

[What manner of calling me out is this? Why is it necessary to compare me to a rogue or a scoundrel?] Young Master Jun became gloomy.

“Boss, as they say, it takes an evil to deal with an evil. Your personal involvement would be the best option,” Tang Yuan patted as he flattered him.

Fatty’s flattery left the Young Master Jun raging in anger, [it takes an evil to deal with evil? How am I an evil person?]

These derogatory words of flattery made the Jun Family’s Young Master curse, [Motherf**ker!]

[What did he say? Do you really think I’m that evil? This is really ridiculous!]

However, a problem of this level could only be solved by someone very able.

Therefore, Jun Mo Xie hurried to the scene where all the noise was arising from.

However, before he could reach his designated destination, he ran into Xiao Han, Mu Xue Tong and Han Yan Yao’s younger sister. A high-ranking member of the Murong Family was also accompanying them.

Mu Xue Tong smiled slightly and nodded, whereas Xiao Han snorted at him coldly. He then arrogantly raised his head and pretended not to notice Jun Mo Xie. Only the little girl looked at Jun Mo Xie directly in the face, and then caught the lapel of his jacket. She pouted her mouth as she glared at him and said, “Jun Family’s youngster, greet your young aunt and she will be good to you.”

Jun Mo Xie was not in a good mood at the time. Hence, he rolled his eyes and replied, “I have already told you that your elder sister and my third uncle aren’t married yet. Moreover, all we can consider right now is that they have only shown their intention to marry. So can you please shut your little mouth? Oh, you know something young aunt? Looking at you, your chest is as flat as a slab; your waist and your butt are not at all curved; looking at your hair, it seems you are yet to shed your feathers; even the smell of breast milk is yet to wear off from you. Yet you are under this delusion that you are of from this man’s elder generation? You first wait for yourself to properly develop into an adult before talking to me and pretending to be of my older generation.”

Jun Mo Xie had spoken these words out of sheer irritation. In reality, he had been given no reason to talk like that.

The growth period in girls starts earlier than in boys. Even though Han Yan Yao's little sister was fifteen and a half years old, her figure hadn't yet fully matured. However, it could be said that it was beginning to show promise. If she were compared to Dugu Xiao Yi, she wouldn't come out lacking in any aspect. Therefore, in no way was the Jun Family's Young Master accurate when he called her figure 'as flat as a slab'.

"You... You," Han Yan Yao's sister heard the Young Master Jun's senseless taunt, and stamped her foot. She could not help feeling a mixture of shame and anger. She angrily stamped her small foot on the ground once again, as her pretty and petite face turned red. Then suddenly, her eyes changed their direction and she said in a careful manner, "I don't care. However, you look like you're in a bit of a hurry. So I will not let you pass until you call me 'young aunt'. Do whatever you want! In any case, I'm not worried," Her tiny hand tightened its grasp on the lapel of his jacket.

Her status was quite high in the Silver Blizzard City even though she was the youngest. However, her status didn't matter because every other individual in the city was of an older generation. Naturally, she had to address them as such - 'teacher, master, uncle, great uncle, grandfather, great ancestor'. Moreover, since she was the youngest in her Family, she even had to address the people from her own generation as 'Elder Sister' or 'Elder Brother'.

Ever since she had come to Tian Xian City and had met the Jun Family's youngest son, she had wanted the little devil to show her some respect. Especially when she realized that if her elder sister married his uncle, Jun Mo Xie would surprisingly be considered to be of a younger generation than her. That was indeed a joyous occasion for her. It was like she had found a treasure in a place where she had least expected it. How could she let him off so easily? She would naturally pester him, and fight tooth-and-nail for the honor of being called 'young aunt'.

"Hey..." Jun Mo Xie could listen to the sounds coming from outside, and they were getting louder and louder with every passing moment. Therefore, he suddenly stomped, "Well, I'm afraid to inform that calling you that is absolutely out of the question. Young... pig! Is young pig fine?"

He had sounded a bit vague, and had said these words very softly. Hence, the little girl wasn't able to listen to it properly. Even though it had seemed somewhat fishy to her, she had still thought he had just called her 'young aunt'. Pleased with herself, she raised her little chin, puffed-up her small chest, and released her grip on Jun Mo Xie's jacket as she waved her hand and said, "Go, well behaved child. But on one condition — in the future, you will say 'young aunt' before you say my name, and this young aunt will protect you."

It was as if Jun Mo Xie had deceived his way into getting an Imperial Pardon. He disappeared like a wisp of smoke.

“Oh, he just now called me young aunt... why doesn't it seem right?” The young woman suddenly came to herself.

“He called you ‘young pig’ when he was supposed to call you ‘young aunt’,” Murong Qian Jun had been seeking to woo Princess Ling Meng, and Jun Mo Xie had been a tough opponent. Moreover, this young woman was also quite beautiful. Hence, he immediately resorted to making things worse for Jun Mo Xie, in the hope of winning a favor with this young maiden.

Han Yan Meng's mouth resembled a tea-pot as she pouted. She turned around with great regret in her heart, only to see Jun Mo Xie's back in the distance. She clenched her tiny fists.

“Get lost you B*tch!”

Xiao Han and Mu Xue Tong fiercely glared at the same time, “Shut up!”

Both men from the Silver City had a blank expression on their faces. They had both been sensible in staying out of each other's way since they never agreed on anything. However, it appeared that for the first time in their lives, two mouths had spoken the same thing. They looked at each other at the same time, snorted at the same time, and then turned their heads away from each other... at the same time.

Mu Rong Qian Jun suddenly silenced his mouth in fear.

Xiao Han obviously loathed Murong Qian Jun. Just by looking at Xiao Han's face, one could discern that he really wanted to beat the kid up. What enraged him even more was that Han Yan Meng was the object of his nephew's affection, and had already been approved by the Xiao family as a suitable daughter-in-law. He obviously couldn't allow this to happen in front of his own eyes. [You, a junior generation member of the insignificant Murong Family, intend to make such a move? Do you believe that a toad can eat a swan's meat? You truly overestimate your capabilities.]

As for Mu Xue Tong, kicking someone when they were down was a reprehensible act. Therefore, he naturally did not look too kindly upon Murong Qian Jun.

By the time Jun Mo Xie got there, the Third prince was already with the Prince Equivalent's son Yang Mo. In fact, he had already started causing more trouble.

The adorable little Yang Mo had passed through here several times with Jun Mo Xie. Surprisingly, he was usually quite happy to see this pain in the ass, hoodlum and a complete scoundrel and debauchee for an elder brother. He enthusiastically got down from his carriage and ran towards the Aristocratic Hall. This whole area was quite familiar to him because he had come here quite a few times before.

The first and the second prince were still inside their respective carriages, since they were still trying to maintain a 'this isn't very important' aura about themselves. However, the Third Prince was quite unhappy. Previously, he had tried to cram in with his two brothers and was barely able to. Even his strength was the weakest among the three brothers, and once again it seemed that all the bad luck had gathered in one place for him. He had tried his hardest to squeeze in with the two, but had still found himself falling behind. This obviously made his mood very gloomy. Though, at this moment, he viewed himself as a Prince, and felt that he could still not go in. However, Yang Mo, the little child had overtaken all three of the Princes, and had entered before them — what honor would they be left with now?

He had completely taken this kid for granted. However, he had forgotten that the Prince Equivalent's family owned a third of the Aristocratic Hall.

"Isn't that younger cousin Mo? Don't you know that you are to greet your elder cousin when you see him? How is it that the older you grow, the more you forget your manners? You belong to the royal family. Don't you have enough etiquette to not run around and bump into people? The people from the Prince Equivalent's family are all quite rude. Don't they even know how to wait upon their lords?" The Third Prince's figure was somewhat thin, and his face a bit pale. His voice sounded rather gentle as he got out from his carriage. He stationed himself at a higher ground as he wantonly scolded his cousin, [At least one individual will not leave me behind.]

"Oh... Third Prince... greetings," Yang Mo glanced at him timidly. Yang Mo was unable to say this but he really loathed this 'elder cousin' of a third prince.

"What about the Third Prince? The First and the Second Prince are also waiting over there, and you have not said a word to them. Your etiquettes are horrible! Do you think everyone else is beneath you? Could it be that you have never learned manners? Hmm?" The Third Prince looked down at Yang Mo arrogantly; he was finally enjoying himself since he could vent out his frustration.

He knew that Yang Mo was naturally not to blame. It was just that he wanted an individual with enough status, on whom he could vent out his feelings and deliver himself of this frustration. Yang Mo was very young but his status was quite high. Moreover, this kid had a very soft personality, which made him a perfect target. On top of that, although the Prince Equivalent had a lot of power and was his senior, he was still living a simple life and had never shown any interest in matters of royalty. It could be even said that his influence in the imperial court was minimal. Therefore, the Third Prince wantonly humiliated the little Yang Mo, who was standing in front of him without any misgivings. In fact, he didn't even bother about the fact that this child had the same family name as him.

Inside Princess Ling Meng's caravan, the black gowned man's expression became gloomier and gloomier as he saw all this.

Yang Mo was just a child of ten. How could he endure such a hateful manner of criticism? Moreover, even the kid knew that it was not his fault. Therefore, he naturally felt wronged. Because of that, the rim of his eyes started to get red as tears started accumulating in them. Soon, the corners of his mouth started to twitch, and it seemed like he was about to cry.

"That's enough, Third Brother! The child is not saying anything, so why are you scaring him?" Princess Ling Meng could not bear looking at it anymore. In fact, she was just about to run out of her carriage and towards them to ease her anxiety further. However, just then, the calm and collected black clad man behind her pulled her back.

"Boy? This boy does not understand etiquettes at all. We are members of the Imperial Family. We are the nobility of Tian Xiang City. So how can you compare him to a common child? I am just educating him, because it is important for him to understand how to greet with courtesy. Later on, when he starts handling matters himself, he shouldn't behave poorly. He should not bring disgrace to the royal family's reputation!"

The corners of the Third Prince's mouth rose as he smiled coldly. He did not give any importance to his own younger sister, or took her seriously.

"Oh... oh... oh... isn't that the Third Prince? Very huge drop in etiquette! In fact, a huge drop in character! How come you are just standing at the door and not coming in? Won't this result in my Jun Family, the Tang Family and the Prince Equivalent losing face?"

They all heard an eccentric voice as Jun Mo Xie stepped out. His eyebrows were slanted, and there was a devious look in his eyes. He took a few steps forward arrogantly, swaying with each step, and stationed himself in front of Yang Mo. Then with one foot forward and the other one behind it, he twisted his waist in the opposite direction and poised his body in an inclined and excellent looking posture.

His hand brushed in the air as he drew out a golden fan. It was late autumn at present, and the extreme heat had all but disappeared. In fact, it could even be said that it had already become a bit cold. Yet, here Jun Mo Xie was leisurely shaking his fan in an elegant demeanor. This clearly belied his lack of morality. Anyone who looked at him couldn't help but feel like getting mad at him.

"Third Master Jun, this Prince is teaching his younger sibling a lesson. This matter does not concern you," The Third Prince despised this debauchee. In his eyes, this youngster was nothing more than a leech that was sucking up to his parent's deeds - in other words, a complete waste.

"How can you say this matter does not concern me? Third Majesty, you have just intercepted the third great boss of our Aristocratic Hall and are preaching to him endlessly. This is directly resulting in our auction getting delayed. So how does this matter not concern me? Is such a thing reasonable anywhere under the sun?"

Jun Mo Xie looked at his face. In the eyes of the Young Master Jun, this person was someone who could only depend on people from his father's generation. In fact, this man was unlikely to survive if he were left to his own measures. Moreover, what made him even more useless was the fact that he was ambitious, even though he did not even have the least bit of talent.

Jun Mo Xie pretended a loft and ambitious demeanor with a straight chest. His body was swaying a bit, and it seemed that he was unable to stand steadily as he continued, "This small matter relates to my Aristocratic Hall earning some shining white money and glistening yellow gold. In fact, this is important matter because when we make money, we pay taxes to the country. If you obstruct it, then you will obstruct our country's taxes. If you obstruct those taxes, it will influence an important means of people's livelihood! Are you trying to revolt to the system?"

As the Young Master Jun's mouth danced, his saliva sprinkled everywhere — some of it even made its way to the Third Prince's clothing, including the hat that was fastened to his head.

The Third Prince trembled with anger, "What nefarious nonsense are you talking Jun Mo Xie? You really think I'd want a revolt?"

Jun Mo Xie looked contemptuously, “Have you finally let down the people of Tian Xiang City? The common people of this country provide you with a life of luxury, one of high position and great wealth, of ruling status and powerful senior positions... and yet you still want a revolt! You... You... You... why? Don’t you have any humanity?”

Jun Mo Xie appeared to be brimming with grief and indignation, “You were born into the Imperial Family. In fact, you are one of the three magnificent Princes, and yet you are unsatisfied? Don’t tell me that you have determined to set brothers against each other? Just so that you can climb up and attain the senior most position? Are you willing to give up on family for that? Could it be that the Imperial Family is not your flesh and blood?”

The Third Prince felt very foolish, [This idiot is speaking non-stop of hatred and bitter hardship. He is blaming me in indignation, while the words he says about me are enough to show that he has a heart of cruel and unscrupulous intentions. Moreover, if I continue to let Jun Mo Xie speak, I do not know what he’ll say next. In fact, thanking everyone under the sun wouldn’t be enough if I live through this.]

[This idiot doesn’t even know what topics are a taboo... how dare he say such things? You are a spendthrift and a debauchee who doesn’t know that these topics are to be avoided! And you think I’m the same as you?]

Suddenly, the Third Prince started to feel ashamed, as it was his faction which would lose out now. What’s worse was that if a resolute person delivered the news of this to father’s ears...

The Third Prince hurriedly stepped back as he firmly covered his mouth. The voice that came out from it was almost pleading in nature, “Young Master Jun... You... You... don’t say such things! You... You... You... I’ll die... maybe I made a mistake... I will not obstruct you...”

The corner of Jun Mo Xie’s mouth rose as his appearance became tranquil. Then he groaned once, and his expression immediately became as radiant, “Woah! It is seldom that the Third Prince and Princess Ling Meng both honor my rustic hall with their presence. Wow, haha, the Aristocratic Hall and I are indeed very overwhelmed by your kindness. Please come in, do come in!” Then turning around, he roared, “What are you all doing? The Third Prince has been waiting for such a long time, and none of you have greeted him, or invited him in! I’m getting really angry! You’ve neglected His Majesty! This is a serious accusation. Who was managing this? I’ll personally escort His Majesty and the Princess inside the hall!”

[Huh? Escort them into the hall.]

Everyone had a strange expression on their faces. [He wants to escort the Third Prince and the Princess into the hall?]

[Do you really think that the Princess and the Princes actually need an invitation to enter? That's just what you think. This trip has really been worth it. Now, I've seen everything.]

There were people standing in all directions. Even though they had all witnessed his actions, not many saw their true nature.

For example...

"What's happening?" The First Prince asked his men with a gloomy expression.

"It's quite difficult to say!" an individual with a goat like mustache replied, "This Young Master Jun is very arrogant. It seems that he is quite keen on keeping with the rumors about him. He is certainly an ignorant and thoughtless individual. But nevertheless, the outcome of today's incident was certainly quite clever. If Your Majesty is unable to get a grasp on what is happening and wishes to incorporate that man into his own side, I suggest he should observe this man carefully." Everyone else sitting beside him nodded in agreement.

"Hmm, this fellow is not what I expected him to be. I believed that he wouldn't be able to deal with the problem. In fact, I had merely laughed him off as a joke. However, that drama has certainly stayed on mind," The Eldest Prince nodded and smiled, "However, this sort of rogue methods always give me a headache. Do you think it's really worthwhile to observe him carefully? Ha Ha..."

They smiled together.

As for another example...

"This rogue conduct makes me feel extremely sick, just like it did in the past!" The Second Prince observed Jun Mo Xie from afar, while making no effort to conceal the look of disgust in his eyes.

Cheng De Cao also gnashed his teeth said, "Such scums are a disgrace on the face of earth! This Young Master of the Jun Family is simply unbearable. If it weren't for his Family's name, I would have killed him a long time ago!" His eyes flashed coldly at that moment. [Jun Mo Xie, I have already arrived, and I see that you still act as arrogantly even after all these days. I will pay you back in double for last time's humiliation. I await your death!]

Beside him, the white bearded Fang Bo Wen looked on in contemplation and then said slowly, "Today's matter is quite strange." He shook his head after contemplating a bit more, "Very Strange!"

The black robed man behind Princess Ling Meng spoke quickly, in a low voice, "This is the rumored Third Young Master of the Jun Family? Jun Mo Xie? He seems childish even at this age, even though he isn't in reality. He is indeed a very interesting youngster."

Chapter 245: I Just Like to Bully You

"Who? That Debauchee? He's interesting? This person's appearance is interestingly loathsome. The man is vile, arrogant and lacks grace. He lacks even the least bit of quality. Just looking at that man makes me sick!" Princess Ling Meng was seething with anger when she saw Jun Mo Xie. There were other things in her heart which she didn't dare to speak, [I don't know what Xiao Yi sees in that rogue of a man.]

The Princess knew these words would be harmful, since her father always avoided delving into such things. Therefore, she did not dare to speak these words out loud.

"Everyone has their own way of looking at things," the black clothed person said in a profound manner. However, it didn't seem to be in the pretext of the Princess' argument. He continued to watch Jun Mo Xie's back in mediation.

[Jun Zhan Tian's grandson is really not that simple. My youngest son had needlessly picked a fight. However, this boy dealt with the whole incident in a short period of time with just a few words. He made the problem vanish with just a light strike from the opposite side of the spear. His method was indeed dishonorable, but it was also the quickest and the most efficient one.]

[Moreover, no matter what method one employs, it is a good method if it deals with the problem quickly. It wouldn't have been possible to resolve the situation if he were to blindly argue like my son. As

his father, how could I not be aware of my own son's nature? It was wrong that he was born in the Imperial Family. It was wrong that he got the status of a prince. In fact, he is the sort of person who will rely on his parents' achievements, and eat his own if required. He is a useless man who doesn't have any talents.]

[It doesn't matter what kind of a method it was. As long as it was quick and effective, it was a good method. Jun Mo Xie had clearly adopted the best method available.]

[The rumor about the debauchee has not lived up to its hype. He doesn't seem to live up to his rumored name in reality ah...]

The black gowned man frowned thoughtfully, as he didn't know what to believe.

Jun Mo Xie started to politely greet the guests from the Imperial Family one by one, and then accompanied them into the Aristocratic Hall. However, each invitee could only take two more individuals with them, while the rest of their entourage had to remain outside.

However, the Second Prince insisted on taking three other individuals inside, when it was his time to enter. Jun Mo Xie saw the three people who were accompanying the Prince, and noticed that the first man was actually a repository of wisdom for the Second Prince. Therefore, he obviously had to allow the man to follow the Prince inside. The second person was a pretty and frail looking lady who looked quite hateful towards the Young Master Jun. She was the Second Prince's acquaintance, lady Yue Er from the Ni Chang Pavilion on the spirit fog lake. She had often proclaimed that she was purchased for her skill in music, and not for prostitution. It was not at all surprising that he had to allow the Second Prince's close female confidant to go inside.

Then there was Cheng De Cao...

Young master Jun raised his hand without a trace of politeness, and obstructed Cheng De Cao's entry as he said, "I'm sorry, each card permits the entry of only three people. This also includes the distinguished guest himself. I'm afraid that I cannot let you enter, as the Second Prince already has two other people accompanying him. However, we offer refreshments to those waiting outside."

“Why can’t I go in?” Cheng De Cao glared as if he was just about ready to devour Jun Mo Xie. [This guy has not stopped anyone else from entering. What’s the meaning of acting biased against me alone? Is he looking down on me?

The Second Prince had already gone ahead with the other two. However, he turned around at this moment, and glared at the scene. The Second Prince could not abandon Cheng De Cao, because he needed people of such influence with him in order to succeed. Therefore, lacking a better option, he braced himself and entered because he believed that his identity as a prince would come to his aid. Many people had turned a blind eye to such things in the past because of his status. However, he had been unable to anticipate the extent of Jun Mo Xie’s shamelessness and ability to create trouble. The audacity Young Master Jun was capable of demonstrating was more than enough to damage the Prince’s reputation.

If it were someone else in this man’s place, Jun Mo Xie may have actually turned a blind eye and allowed the said individual to slip by. However, this was Cheng De Cao... a man he would simply not help.

[Let alone allowing you to break the already existing rules... I would’ve created new rules to cause problems for you if you weren’t breaking the any.]

[You’re a two-fold omen of unpleasantness. First your name sounds awful, and then you’re irksome to look at.]

“You’re embarrassing your companions,” Jun Mo Xie craned his neck. It seemed from his expression that he was looking at a monkey in a zoo, “You’re intending to shout? You have violated the rules of this hall. Therefore, in accordance with the law of this place, I absolutely cannot let you inside. It would destroy the hall’s prestige if everyone started breaking the rules according to their whims.”

“Why?” Cheng De Cao asked anxiously.

[Everything would have been alright if I had not tried to enter. But now I’m already here, and just a step short of getting inside. Won’t I become a joke if I return now?] “I came here with the Second Prince. So why can’t I go in?”

Jun Mo Xie deliberately sneered at him in a frivolous manner and nodded, “Your argument actually makes sense. B***s usually go together. However, there is a possibility that they cannot go into some

places, right? So why are you pestering me if you are so clear about it yourself? Could it be that you're special? If such is the case, then you're a very talented person. It would definitely be of use to let you in."

Cheng De Cao was extremely angered by the Young Master Jun's words. In fact, he almost vomited blood, for Jun Mo Xie's analogy had drawn out a very shameful comparison in context of a person.

The two men behind Princess Ling Meng could not help but laugh after hearing what was said. They closed their mouths soon enough, as they felt it would be wrong to laugh at this. However, their bodies continued to shake wildly with laughter.

Everyone who had heard these words turned red. In fact, it seemed as if they were covered in chicken-blood, because they were barely able to keep themselves from bursting out laughing. The First and The Third Prince were among these people, but they did not take any offence. A member of their second brother's posse was being humiliated like this, but they were still cheerful.

Though the analogy Jun Mo Xie had used was far too mischievous, the Second Prince and his companions were the only ones not smiling. In fact, the Second Prince was very angry and a sinister expression was clearly visible on his face.

"Jun Mo Xie, stop bullying me!" Cheng De Cao panted. His eyes were bloodshot as he glared back at his aggressor. In fact, it seemed as if he was on the verge of erupting.

"I am bullying you? Are you kidding me?" Jun Mo Xie twisted his posterior to look at him arrogantly, and then twisted his waist to the other side. The lower part of his body swayed back and forth in a rhythmic manner, "Bully you! Bully you! I want to bully you!"

"Puff!"

Cheng De Cao glared at Jun Mo Xie with eyes full of boundless hatred.

"Such big eyes! This Donkey is trying to scare me? Are you threatening me? Bah!" Jun Mo Xie spat. He then turned around to face the Second Prince, who was looking at him murderously. The Young Master

Jun laughed as he explained, “You mustn’t by any means... You mustn’t misunderstand my words... these words really were directed at you...”

His explanation only added more fuel to the fire.

There was a frown across the Second Prince’s forehead as he snorted and walked inside after flicking his sleeve. Everyone followed suit. However, from time to time, someone would find it difficult to control their snigger. They would eventually clap a hand on their mouth, and cough in order to muffle their laughter.

This was especially the case with the two people who were accompanying Princess Ling Meng. These two men had no qualms about laughing, which made Jun Mo Xie notice them in particular amongst everyone else.

Jun Mo Xie was quite surprised to notice that Princess Ling Meng’s entourage had two men clad in black, who didn’t even look very young, [The Princess came without any handmaidens?]

[What is going on?]

The Young Master Jun was very suspicious of things and paid careful attention to this matter. Though he didn’t show any indication of his suspicions on the surface and was laughing and joking along with everyone, he was still mindful of everything.

[These two people are quite amiable and easy to get along with.]

[Moreover, these two people have beards. So they aren’t court eunuchs.]

[Princess Ling Meng doesn’t look like she is being forced. So that means she knows them well.]

[It also seems that the Princess respects both these individuals unconditionally. These two men definitely aren’t ordinary people.]

[On top of that, Ye Gu Han is unexpectedly not at her side. His aura is not anywhere within even thirty meters of her! What reasons can he possibly have to leave Princess Ling Meng alone like this?]

[Judging by Ye Gu Han's temperament, who would he instill so much trust in the Tian Xiang City on?]

[This is quite confusing.]

[Or maybe... the answer to this riddle is in the identity of the two people accompanying her. If so, then understanding who these two people are will make everything clear.]

Just then, Jun Mo Xie suddenly remembered hearing a rumor that Ye Gu Han and the Empress had been close friends since childhood. [Could it be that I'm over thinking such a small incident? But why are these two here? I could understand the situation clearly if it really was him... but who is the other person with him? It seems that I have no knowledge of this person.]

Jun Mo Xie contemplated incessantly.

Up ahead, the entry point to the Aristocratic Hall's auctioning chambers had been flanked by two large Osmanthus flowers. Their stem and leaves were lush green, while their petals were golden. In fact, the blooming flower showed no signs of withering, and its rich and strong fragrance filled the entire area.

Everyone was quite surprised when the doors opened and they saw the big hall inside. One could even call it a public square owing to the amount of space available.

The Young Master Jun had worked very hard to create this effect. Almost all the adjoining rooms to this hall had been brought into its fold. The columns used to support this linkage had been carved with shapes of dragons and phoenixes.

A hundred tables were neatly arranged inside. Not more, and not less - just a hundred.

There was only one chair behind every table. Two additional chairs had been placed some distance away from each table. These chairs had a small coffee table to keep them company.

A pair of bonsai plants had been placed on each side of every table. These bonsai plants had lush green leaves along with tender and beautiful flowers. There was a distance of at least 3 meters between every subsequent table. Moreover, the distance between any two adjoining tables was the same. This set-up had been arranged keeping Fatty Tang in mind; therefore, even a person of Fatty's dimensions could move around with ease here. That being said, Fatty was one of a kind. It was almost impossible to find another person with his build under the heavens.

Over three hundred people had entered the hall, but unexpectedly it did not feel crowded. In fact, it felt quite spacious. The air was fresh and clean as the long windows overhead had been opened. Therefore, no one was worried about feeling stuffy. Walking into this hall was like walking into a garden in spring time; it could soothe anyone.

Notes:

A yellow colored flower, primarily grown in East Asia. Also known as the Flower of O.