

E Monarch 256

Chapter 256: Brother, Will You Be My Scapegoat?

“Fatty, this is perfect... this is amazing.” Jun Mo Xie wiped his mouth. It seemed as if he couldn’t find the right words. He could distinctly remember the last time Fatty had something like this. These words had clearly brought back that paranoia.

Fatty had clearly lost his mind. The Young Master Jun could only describe this as — [a poor man loses his mind if he earns too much money!]

“Fatty Tang, you, you, you.... you are too shameless!” Dugu Xiao Yi flushed with anger. Her almond-like eyes were wide open with rage. She had held her breath in anticipation to hear Fatty Tang’s cherished dream. However, she hadn’t expected to hear something so shameless.

It was evident that Fatty Tang’s outrageousness had reached an entirely different realm altogether.

“Fatty, don’t get so worked up; ahm, ahm...” Jun Mo Xie coughed twice, “Let’s get down to business first.”

“Sure. Sure. But I’ll hire a few carriages once we’re done here. Then I’ll have them take the money down to the Spirit Fog Lake. I will spend the entire evening spending lots and lots of money! Let’s see who can resist me then!” Tang Yuan waved his hand in a very overbearing manner. Suddenly, he felt as if his throat had become dry. Then, his gaze fell upon a glass of wine, and he drained it down in one gulp.

“Concerning this auction...” The Young Master Jun instantaneously sunk as his gaze swept through the crowd. He felt very stifled all of a sudden, and couldn’t prevent his expression from becoming grave. There were several Sky Xuan experts present — Jun Wu Yi, Song Shang, and Hai Chen Feng. In fact, Jun Wu Yi was his own uncle. However, they couldn’t help but feel insignificant in front of that expression in Jun Mo Xie’s eyes. The cold and acute austerity in his eyes was indeed awe-inspiring.

Jun Wu Yi couldn't help but exclaim in admiration. [Perhaps such unique temperament is needed in a person who occupies the top position. Why would there be a need to flaunt if you're at the top? His involuntary reaction to stay aloof from the world is simply awe-inspiring.]

Even the seasoned general who had seen and commanded many wars over his lifetime couldn't help but feel a sincere pang of oppression in his heart. So, what could one possibly say about the others...

"This auction is... your idea! Do you understand that Tang Yuan?" Jun Mo Xie sternly looked at Tang Yuan as he spoke.

"This auction is my idea?" Tang Yuan scratched his head. There was a look of utter confusion on his face. He was surely confused with regard to the meaning of Jun Mo Xie's words. However, he was even more perplexed since the Young Master Jun had addressed him as "Tang Yuan". The Young Master Jun very rarely addressed the Fatty by his real and full name. The friendship between the two youngsters had indeed been very deep. So much so, that the two would address each other by almost any name jokingly, and neither man would take any offense to it. Hence, this was a rare term of address.

"That's right. This auction was entirely your idea! No matter who asks... this auction was your idea. Understand?" Jun Mo Xie's tone became even sterner, "I said, no matter who asks... the reply will be the same... do you understand?"

"I understand! Even if you were to ask... this was all my idea!" Fatty Tang sounded a bit complacent, "I cannot think of anyone smarter. Bah! Only I had the brains to draw out this plan. I oversaw everything and nothing went wrong. Who would dare to doubt me? Who would dare to disagree? Whoever doubts me will die. Whoever questions my brain will perish!"

"Exactly! Your only intention was to make money! And aristocrats have money! That's the reason this place is called the 'Aristocratic Hall'. Some people were invited, while others weren't... this was all done to incite competition and consumption... in other words... it was all done to make money! Got it?"

Jun Mo Xie glared at him, "I will explain everything later if you don't understand things right now! But you are the founder of the 'Aristocratic Hall' from now on. This whole plan was yours. You will tell me the whys and whats of everything soon. And you shall remain silent if you can't think of a reasonable explanation for something. Also, you can't just go to the Spirit Fog Lake at your whim. In fact, you shouldn't even step foot outside this Hall."

Jun Mo Xie was being capriciously mule-headed and stern, “Brother, you will carry the burden of my secret?”

“This doesn’t require any justification. I am a genius! This is only a small matter. It’s nothing for my big brain. What’s all this fuss about? Wow, haha...” Tang Yuan burst into laughter. Tang Yuan had spoken all this in a very casual and easy manner even though his entire body was rippling with confusion. ...but one really couldn’t tell from his demeanor. However, he was betrayed by the narrowed glance he shot towards Jun Mo Xie; his vision contained the trace of extreme anxiety which he couldn’t convey in words.

Tang Yuan was no fool. In fact, he was very intelligent. Why would the Young Master Jun chose him as his partner if wasn’t smart enough for the job? Fatty clearly knew that there was a justification behind his friend’s words. [Something has certainly happened... he’s definitely thinking of something... It’s got to do with the Jun Family’s situation... Jun Mo Xie is truly remarkable.]

[I will have to carry this burden on my back this time since there is no one else who can.] The Fatty was well-aware that there was no one more suited for this position at this time. Hence, he left his doubts for later, and took upon the responsibility without even knowing the particulars.

But... most people would still suspect Jun Mo Xie for this idea. However, they could never be allowed to be certain of it. He and his idea needed to remain unlinked.

Fatty had always considered Jun Mo Xie to be his brother. In fact, the Tang Family had a few other youngsters in Fatty’s generation. However, Tang Yuan had always associated himself more with the Young Master Jun than his own blood-siblings. Hence, Fatty had opted to help out Jun Mo Xie without even considering the consequences of the matter.

Dugu Xiao Yi’s face turned pale. She was naïve and young. However, she was still fairly intelligent, and had obviously sensed something. She may not have been able to realize the gravity of the situation, but it was enough to get her worried. She could sense that this matter would implicate the Young Master Jun if it were to come to light. Hence, she too knew that she couldn’t lower her guard... even if it turned out to be a trivial matter in the end.

Jun Mo Xie felt an indescribable sense of comfort upon seeing the anxiety in Tang Yuan’s eyes, and the worry on Dugu Xiao Yi’s face. He feigned an indifferent smile as he said, “It’s nothing. Don’t you see my uncle over there? He’s a seasoned strategist... do you see any fear in his eyes? Isn’t that self-

explanatory? My uncle would've been the most worried if there was anything major. It's okay if you don't trust my words. But wouldn't you believe my uncle?"

Dugu Xiao Yi immediately turned and looked at Jun Wu Yi sitting upright in his seat with a slight smile on his face. In fact, there was no trace of worry on his face. Jun Wu Yi smiled the moment the young maiden looked at him, and said, "Don't worry; just do as told. My Jun Family will continue to persist in the Tian Xiang Empire as long as certain super-families don't come into play."

The young maiden immediately felt reassured after listening to Jun Wu Yi's words even though he had spoken them in a very dull tone. However, he had clearly exposed every variable of the equation — without making any omissions.

His words came as reassurance to the young girl... but only made Fatty more worried. The young maiden was clearly no match for Fatty's intelligence. Fatty had clearly understood that something was off even though he didn't have any insight on this mystery. [Why would Third Master Jun say something like that if everything is fine? Third Master Jun's words obviously didn't slip out by mistake... but why would those super-families come into play?]

[Even the Royal Family can't put that kind of pressure on the Juns... I must do everything in my power to assist my brother!]

Fatty and the little girl were unaware that the anxiety they had just sensed were the true emotions of the Hitman Jun. They were completely unaware that only a handful of people had ever been able see the Hitman's true feeling over the course of his entire existence...

Suddenly, someone came into report that Princess Ling Meng had invited Dugu Xiao Yi downstairs.

Dugu Xiao Yi stood up and glanced at Jun Mo Xie. Jun Mo Xie smiled as he nodded for her to carry-on.

Dugu Xiao Yi took two steps towards the exit, but then suddenly turned around and went over to Jun Mo Xie. She caressed his collar as she whispered, "You... be careful. You know... you know you're an idiot."

She lowered her head after she finished. Then, she quickly ran out of the room. Little White had been reluctantly looking at Jun Mo Xie's body ever since they had entered the room along with Dugu Xiao Yi; it was almost as if he didn't wish to leave. However, he too quickly followed after Dugu Xiao Yi when he noticed the change in Jun Mo Xie's bearings.

"Alright. It's time to get busy. Fatty, you can't move the money out at this time." Jun Mo Xie immediately put Fatty's long-cherished desire on hold. He then took out a piece of paper from his pocket, and wrote down the names of several medicinal herbs on it.

"Send out news. We need to purchase these herbs at any cost," Jun Mo Xie carefully handed the paper to Tang Yuan. "The more, the better; the sooner, the better."

"Heavenly Star Grass, Tri-colored Reishi Mushroom, Nine Xuan Roots, Dream-lined incense, Chiba Grass, Dragon Whisker Leafs, Black Ginseng, Black Bamboo fruit, Silkworm Stems." Tang Yuan sucked in a mouthful of air. He was knowledgeable enough to know the value of these herbs. Moreover, he was completely taken by the sheer number required. He had realized that even his own share of profits from the auction would slip away from his fingers by the time these herbs were purchased...

"Third Young Master... My Brother..." Tang Yuan's face turned sullen, "This has been my life's objective... I've lived my entire life for this purpose alone... You, you, you cannot be so cruel to me... I've just earned a little money that I can spare... You have to consider that I've been kicked out of my Family's home..."

The little money that Tang Yuan was talking about — was estimated to be around ten million silver taels. It must be mentioned that the military expenditure of the entire Tian Xiang Empire was around thirty million silver taels per year...

Jun Mo Xie kicked his foot as he smiled, "Stop with the nonsense! Hurry up! Do you know how much money the 'Aristocratic Hall' will make once these herbs have been collected? You can't see what I can. If you think that our current profits are splendid, then you can't even imagine the volume of the next one!"

[That would go over my top! I've got no idea what a big profit will look like if this one is being considered small?]

Fatty momentarily raised his eyebrows and laughed, "That's good. That's good! Uh... Third Young Master, this wine... Will we really sell this wine only once? Why can't we sell it again? It's a real pity!"

"Never. Don't you understand the truth of the matter? The rarer something is... the greater it's value!" Jun Mo Xie waved his hand decisively, "The value drops if there's too much of something... This wine was good enough to make them spend so much money. Would they think that it's worth so much if they could get their hands on it whenever they wanted?"

Chapter 257: News of the Crossbows!

"Correct! Master's words make sense. In fact, they don't even deserve it!" Song Shang was listening on side with deep emotions in his heart. He licked his lips, and then brought himself to speak up, "Master, when will you teach me how to ferment this wine?"

"Shortly, when the time is right; however, I must give you a few words of warning, Song Shang! No one apart from our people is to drink the wine we will ferment; because the wine which we will ferment from now on will be even more delicious. Do you understand?" Jun Mo Xie broke into a smile.

"I understand! How can such ordinary people deserve to taste the wine which we — master and student — ferment! How can those people ever taste the Immortal Wine? This 'never-before seen' product is beyond this world of mortals. It exceeds both the earthly and the immortal objects; so how can we sully it?" Song Shang was angry inside his heart, and his disdain was evident in his tone; his words even shook-up his master.

The Young Master Jun was in a daze. [How am I getting confused by whatever this guy is saying?]

"Ahem! Yes you hurry-up and go down! We have to start purchasing these herbal medicines immediately!" Jun Mo Xie waved his hand.

Jun Wu Yi frowned after the two of them left, "Mo Xie, the news of this event is too massive. I'm afraid that..."

"I'm still convinced that there will be no harm because of this!" Jun Mo Xie chuckled gently, "Third Uncle, you said that you would immediately return home after seeing Dugu Wudi off... yet you are still here. Has something interesting come up?"

"You little devil. Indeed... nothing can ever be hidden from you!" Jun Wu Yi smiled helplessly as he said, "There has been news from Jiangnan — the south of the river..."(1)

"Oh?" Jun Mo Xie's eyes glittered.

"The Zhao Trading Company has completed the manufacture of the Xuan Beast tendon crossbows. They will soon be transporting them into the city." Jun Wu Yi sounded very serious as he said this slowly, "Also, several unknown experts have propped up from nowhere. They seem to be restlessly. It seems that the Second Prince is getting ready to make his move."

"Ahem. This wasn't very difficult to guess. The more noise they make, the deeper we should conceal ourselves since that would allow us fish-out more profits from secrecy. We must especially get our hands on those Xuan Beast tendon crossbows. The cargo of those Xuan Beast tendon crossbows from the Zhao Trading Company shall be akin to a gift for us. He He He..." Jun Mo Xie's eyes narrowed.

"We cannot let our guard down! There has been a lot of instability of late, and the situation is only getting worse. I believe the Second Prince won't handle this matter casually. Besides, he might employ an elite force of guards from outside to protect his cargo. Moreover, the Second Prince is extremely rich and might also engage experts to escort the cargo. Also, there might be a person from a top guild of Jiangnan, and he might be in charge of escorting the goods. Finally, there is a high possibility of the Blood Sword Hall escorting those crossbows in secret."

Jun Wu Yi frowned deeply, "We have determined their strength from the shadows and it is quite considerable. And I believe that there are other powers involved here; powers which we do not know of. And they may be adding to this already very powerful set-up. We need to utilise a lot of strength if we aim to fight for the crossbows. How much expenditure will we have to incur to do that? Moreover, we also need to be subtle, and shouldn't leave any traces behind..."

Jun Wu Yi let out a deep sigh, "I fear that it is as difficult as scaling the heavens!"

“As difficult as scaling the heavens... it will be as easy as turning a hand!” Jun Mo Xie raised his eyebrows. His expression seemed to exude a somewhat demonic radiance. His elegant face seemed to have become cold, sly and devilish. “The matter definitely depends on the individuals involved. If we ourselves will have misgivings that the task is almost impossible and not act because of it... then it truly will become something which is more difficult than scaling the heavens. However, we will always come up with various means to take on the task as long as we decide to act. In fact, I would even venture to believe that half of our battle will be won by the time we decide to take action.”

“Yes, that’s right!” Jun Wu Yi approved.

“Third Uncle, how much time do they still need in order to reach the Capital?” Jun Mo Xie pondered, “In other words, how much time do we have to make our preparations? I need to know the detailed and definite point of time.”

“They should take two days on the southern river, and then they will have to disembark and come ashore. From there they will have to travel for three days in order to reach the city’s vicinity.” Jun Wu Yi muttered the accurate time frame in reply. “I estimate that there are experts escorting the cargo, and I don’t expect them to have many ordinary merchants along. Hence, their journey will be much quicker than an average person’s. However, taking everything into consideration I feel that they would at least take five days to reach here.”

“In other words, we have five days, or more, to make our arrangements!” Jun Mo Xie nodded.

“More. The Second Prince would first have to go to the river, and only then can they begin their journey from there onwards. This means that their party would take at least ten days or more to truly reach the Capital.” Jun Wu Yi pronounced in a definitive tone.

“Ten days? ...That will be enough!” Jun Mo Xie smiled. ...it was unclear what thought made him pleased enough to smile like that.

“Third Uncle, I reiterate my need for accurate information. Who has the Zhao Trading Company sent? And what is his strength? What is the strength of the person the Jiangnan’s top guild has sent to help escort? And what type of troops did the Second Prince dispatch, and their strength... We have no information about the Blood Sword Hall. So we will let them off for now and act according to the situation later.”

“That won’t be a problem.” Jun Wu Yi’s expression was tranquil as always. He grasped his wheelchair firmly, “I am only interested to know — what kind of strength do we need to put forth?”

“The Jun Family’s master should not move. Furthermore, we can employ the three hundred bodyguards and the three Sky Xuan experts!” Jun Mo Xie grinned, “Third Uncle, you, Hai Chen Feng and Song Shang are the backbone of our family!”

“I fear that the mere power of us-three won’t be nearly enough. Will it be possible to make the Solitary Falcon...?” Jun Wu Yi didn’t finish. However, the meaning of his words was quite obvious.

“That will absolutely not do!” Jun Mo Xie vetoed that idea resolutely. “Solitary Falcon’s power is too great and might expose our identity. Not to mention with his temperament — he will absolutely refuse any such sneaky assignments; especially when we initiate the conflict since it contradicts our initial agreement with him. This can hinder our future plans since he may disobey before the great plan comes into play.”

“I fear that exposition as well. Hai Chen Feng’s features are also very distinct. So it would be very difficult... to hide his identity!” Jun Wu Yi said.

“It won’t do us any harm. I can try to get rid of that light blue color when the time comes.” Jun Mo Xie was very confident of the outcome. He started to slowly pace to-and-fro. He then came to the front and looked down from his vantage point. Then, he said lightly, “This matter will involve an unprecedented arduous struggle and hard fighting. However, we must deal with this matter ourselves and face it without relying on any outside power. We can only depend on our own strength.

“And eventually, our Jun Family will depend on only ourselves no matter what the matter; only then will we slowly rise! But our rise will be abrupt, and no man or power will be able stop it!” Jun Mo Xie’s sound was low. But he said this in a resolute and vicious manner.

Princess Ling Meng was slowly pulling Dugu Xiao Yi out of the hall. They were going towards a teahouse diagonally opposite to the hall. A tall and sturdy man-like figure of a woman stood-up there. The silhouette moved towards them with long strides.

It was Sun Xiao Mei, Tang Yuan’s fiancée. She had arrived a while ago, but hadn’t entered the hall.

"You don't look very good." Sun Xiao Mei looked at Princess Ling Meng. She asked with deep concern, "What happened?"

Sun Xiao Mei's was born with the appearance of a heroic man; she even had the temperament of one. However, she was an extremely kind-hearted and intelligent person. Moreover, she was like an elder sister to Princess Ling Meng and Dugu Xiao Yi. However, these little sisters didn't wish to burden their 'caring' elder sister with their worries.

"I don't wish to conceal anything from elder sister. However, something did happen, but I am too embarrassed to mention it. In fact ...I do not wish to mention it." Princess Ling Meng seemed sad. She rubbed her forehead tiredly.

Sun Xiao Mei was quick-witted. She quickly understood from the Princess' speech that the matter must be relating to the Imperial Family. She couldn't ask for further details about it since she was not related to it.

Princess Ling Meng was also smart. She saw that Sun Xiao Mei had stopped speaking, and quickly realised that her elder sister had understood everything. She could sense that her elder sister had started to feel awkward. Hence, the Princess hastily said, "It was a pity that elder sister wasn't inside. Otherwise, she could've helped me examine that man and his actions. It was a really strange occurrence."

"What man? What strange occurrence are you talking about?" Sun Xiao Mei couldn't help her interest pique when she heard this.

"Li You Ran, the eldest son of the Li Family's third generation." She had sensed that there was something odd about Li You Ran's bearing. Stemming from her intuition as a woman, Princess Ling Meng had a sharp feeling that something was not right.

"Li You Ran, that man..." Sun Xiao Mei muttered to herself for a while. She was apparently finding it difficult to word her thoughts, "...He is just like Jun Mo Xie. You won't be able to read him properly if you don't observe him carefully, and you won't be able to understand him..."

"Jun Mo Xie?!" Princess Ling Meng exclaimed. "Jun Mo Xie and Li You Ran? How can you confuse these two people? Why are you mentioning two completely different people together?"

“There is maybe no evidence to suffice that these two men can be discussed together, but it’s not that simple...” Sun Xiao Mei chuckled and went quiet. She gave no further explanation. However, she said in a low voice as they walked inside; almost as if she was mumbling to herself, “But I feel that Jun Mo Xie is more dangerous!”

“Elder sister Xiao Mei, I don’t understand. But we are sisters... and I’ve discovered that you look at the special qualities of people.” Dugu Xiao Yi hadn’t heard the words Sun Xiao Mei had mumbled to herself. “You had said that Jun Mo Xie had an air of arrogance the Last time we met. I still don’t see any arrogance in him. He just acts a little bit like a rogue; nothing more... And that doesn’t mean that it is very bad... In any case he was really graceful today! I regret that you weren’t with elder sister Ling Meng and me to witness him handle the situation in such a graceful manner, he he...”

“I feel vexed by the way your brother Mo Xie handles things!” Princess Ling Meng retorted in annoyance, “Xiao Yi, you must consider this matter very seriously... and countless times so that you don’t live with regrets for the rest of your life! Listen to what your elder sister says!”

Dugu Xiao Yi was somehow not convinced. She snorted as she mumbled to herself, “Brother Mo Xie is no good? And your brothers are awfully great... are they?”

Princess Ling Meng was dumbstruck. It was true that Jun Mo Xie was a dandy and a bully. And he even rampaged about without any fear. However, even then... he still hadn’t behaved as shamelessly as her brothers.

They were vile of character. They were really vile of character!

Notes:

Jiangnan is Pinyin for the southern part of the China which falls below the Yangtze river.

Chapter 258: Unexpected Misfortune

The little girl could see that Princess Ling Meng was distressed. She was aware that she had spoken something unwarranted. She wanted to comfort the Princess. However, she was dumbfounded, and didn't know what to do.

The three women remained silent for a long time. Sun Xiao Mei eventually broke the silence as she answered Dugu Xiao Yi's problem...

"You both know that my body experienced great and sudden changes in childhood, and now appears like this. This also made my nature calm and tranquil." The corners of Sun Xiao Mei's mouth rose bitterly, "I never dared to leave home. I didn't eat for several days to lose weight... but to no avail. ...until that year... when I met my master."

She heaved a long sigh and spoke, "I've had this bewildering illness since the age five. And it has already been fifteen years now! I've learned to see through things and understand them over these past thirteen years. I don't care about my appearance anymore. Do you think I would measure people by their beauty? I only perceive people's feelings when I look at them. As to how good they look — external beauty is only something one can show-off... its secondary.

"The importance lays in a person's nature. We can clearly understand a person's intentions and capabilities by paying attention to this point." Sun Xiao Mei smiled a 'somewhat' mournful smile, "Little sister Xiao Yi, Jun Mo Xie always shows a different side of himself. He always acts like a debauchee. He goes amuck whenever he wishes without fearing anything. And I worry that he may not be pretending. I fear that it is his true nature. He and I could meet only for a short while. However, it was clear that he never gives anyone importance, and only does what he wants. That man will never hold anyone highly in his eyes.

"Therefore, I called his nature 'arrogant'." Sun Xiao Mei's smile was indifferent, "It may even be called 'evil'!"

The little girl was convinced deep inside. So, she stayed still and listened to her elder sister Xiao Mei with rapt attention, "However, I saw another defect with this person. Though, it might not be seen as a defect by the person himself... And with regards to this... The Young Master Jun is more ruthless than anyone else! Therefore, you haven't ascertained him properly. You have already been moved by him once, but you mustn't invest too much into your relationship with him...! It will be very painful for you."

Dugu Xiao Yi pursed her rosy lips. There was a resentful look in her eyes, but she didn't say anything. She knew that Xiao Mei was deeply concerned about her, and did not have any malicious intention.

Sun Xiao Mei sighed inwardly. She was aware that her little sister was not listening to her.

Princess Ling Meng was on the side. It seemed as if she was in a daze. She seemed to be walking 'in between the conversation'; she appeared to be listening and not listening. Her mind was a complete mess, and she didn't know what she was thinking. She became aware that her sisters had suddenly become quiet.

"Ling Meng, you don't seem well. It's better if you return to the palace and rest." Sun Xiao Mei looked at her with a worried expression.

"I don't wish to go back! I won't go back!" Princess Ling Meng was afraid of returning to the palace. She didn't know how she would behave... or what frame of mind she would meet her "family" in...

"Elder sister Ling Meng, let's go and find Jun Mo Xie if you don't wish to return to the palace." Dugu Xiao Yi raised her eyes as she made this suggestion. "That guy is quite amusing."

Her 'cherished' Little White suddenly grunted and poked-out his little head as she said this. His round eyes were very wide open. He had already reached level eight. Hence, he had very sensitive ears. How could he not feel elated when he heard his owner talk about meeting 'that' man?

"This sounds good. I also wish to examine this guy since Xiao Yi admires him so deeply. In fact, I will also try my best to think highly of him. And I will finally get to see how outstanding he really is!" Princess Ling Meng said as her spirits rose. She smiled as she mocking herself, "Unfortunately, I wasn't able to see how amazing a person he is. Have I been blind these past ten years?"

Dugu Xiao Yi's face turned red. She knew that the princess's words weren't like her elder sister Xiao Mei's. Her elder sister had given her a warning out of pure goodwill, but Princess Ling Meng had just taunted her. So, she couldn't help but retort, "Of course you are prejudiced. You look at him with disgust... so, how can you find anything good in him? In any case, I've got good eyesight!"

Sun Xiao Mei smiled. Her two sisters were sticking to their own opinions and were refusing to come to an accord. The three women leisurely paced towards the Jun Family's residence; their six maids followed in their suit.

The bickering between Dugu Xiao Yi and Princess Ling Meng somewhat pacified the mood as they walked along the way.

The distance to the Jun Residence wasn't much, and the streets were bustling with people. Other pedestrians were admiring the two beautiful women walking on the street. Everyone, without exception, feasted their eyes on the two pretty women. After all, many hadn't seen outrageously beautiful woman such as these in their entire lifetime. Now they were actually two of them walking together...

Some dignified nobleman would even take a hasty and covert look at them. They would then turn back and move on. They would keep that image in their hearts, [this is my kind of beautiful.]

Then, suddenly...

There was a strong gale, and two azure lights reached up to the void sky. Then, these two lights suddenly shot towards Princess Ling Meng, who was amongst the pedestrians. It was like two blue arrows had been shot from a bow; such speed could not be avoided!

An angry cry was heard. A person glowing with a glamorous azure light appeared. He was dressed in black. There was a long double-edged sword in his hand. The sword seemed to be congealed in brilliant rainbow-like aperture. And then, a lonely light came towards Princess Ling Meng. A single sword had suddenly held back many others... of Sky Xuan Level!

Ye Gu Han had arrived!

"Bam! Bam!" the sound of the collision echoed twice. The three people retreated simultaneously. The two other Sky Xuan experts were dressed in black, and their faces were covered with masks. They fell back at first, but charged forward once again. Brilliant blue lights flickered from both of them as they moved towards Ye Gu Han. Ye Gu Han smiled coldly. He didn't seem frantic as he held his double-edged sword at an inclined. It emanated blue light as he pointed in towards the enemy; as if ready to do vital damage. It seemed as it wouldn't succumb to the opposition.

The crowd exclaimed at the sudden outset of this incident, and quickly scattered in order to escape. The bustling city street had quickly become deserted.

The three people including Ye Gu Han tumbled and entangled. Suddenly, there was a loud whistle. Three azure lights appeared, and shot towards Princess Ling Meng at great speeds; she was behind Ye Gu Han.

Ye Gu Han's voice trembled as he shouted. He got away from his enemy, and retreated with a sense of urgency in his movements.

He didn't evade any of their attacks and bore them on his palm and leg while still fighting his two enemies. His body sprayed blood on getting hit, and was sent spinning backwards. He fell in front of Princess Ling Meng; his long sword issued a 'clanging' sound as it fell. His hair and beard were dishevelled, yet he still didn't step back further; not even a little.

The other three men arrived simultaneously.

The other two assassins had followed Ye Gu Han's retreat as well. They caught up with him at lightning speed. Ye Gu Han's angry complexion quickly faded away. It was replaced with a blood-red, yet tranquil expression.

His sky blue Xuan color became stronger and stronger. Even his swords killing intent grew sharper. His power seemed like that of an insane tiger. However, his sword's movements weren't chaotic; they were precise. Surprisingly, one Sky Xuan was taking-on five other experts of the same level — alone with his own strength.

His hands were full as he fought off the assassins. However, he still caught hold of Princess Ling Meng's slender body. He put all his effort to throw her away... as far as he could. He then howled, "Quickly, run!"

The Princess's delicate body flew for about thirty meters, and then fell to the ground. Her eyes were red and teary. She choked with emotion, "Uncle Ye..."

Most people of the senior generation would only think about their own good. ...only her uncle Ye was different...

Sun Xiao Mei's eyes twinkled. [The target of the assassins is obviously Princess Ling Meng. And Ye Gu Han won't be able to keep five Sky Xuan experts at bay. We can only request for quick reinforcements in order to deal with this situation!]

However, these five great Sky Xuan experts could be considered the strongest in all of Tian Xiang City. So even if all the great houses of the Capital were to lend aid... and even if their reinforcements arrived on time — it was doubtful that they would be sufficient to deter the threat.

"Xiao Yi, quickly send Little White to call for reinforcements!" Sun Xiao Mei was very intelligent. She saw Little White at Dugu Xiao Yi's bosom. She looked at his eyes and realized that he had understood the plan. She had calculated that no one would be able bring help on time... much less escape help them escape. However, Little White was different — Little White was still very young and not very strong. However, he was still a level eight Xuan Beast. His ultra-speed was unmatched. Even a Spirit Xuan expert was unlikely to catch-up with him. Moreover, his small size would make it very difficult to catch.

Dugu Xiao Yi immediately came to her senses and grabbed Little White from her bosom. It didn't matter if he understood what she was going to say or not, "Little White, I'm depending on you. Hurry up and inform my father. Tell him to come as quickly as possible, and save us! Hurry up and go!"

Sun Xiao Mei urged anxiously, "Why are you dawdling?" She quickly drew out a blade. She resisted the pain as she cut her arm with it. Then, she quickly tore a strip of Dugu Xiao Yi's clothing, dipped it in her own blood, and tied it to Little White's leg. She then tossed him away...

As long as anyone from the Dugu Family saw that blood stained piece of cloth — they would immediately understand that Dugu Xiaoyi was in danger, and would quickly rush-over to their rescue. Beyond that... these women could only wait.

Little White whimpered loudly, and shot like an arrow. One of the five assassins grinned fiendishly, "Come here, you little whelp!" He reached out with his hand. He had thought that it was just a little cub, [what could it possibly do?] And so, he attempted to grab it.

He thought...

Little White was angry. He jumped and suddenly its small mouth bared a set of very sharp teeth. He ruthlessly chomped down on that man's hand. And simultaneously, Little White extended his sharp claws with lightning speed and scratched the man's arm. He took out a chunk of the man's flesh while doing so. Then he proudly hummed and scuttled away to escape from that place. He vanished from everyone's eyes like a wisp of smoke.

That black-clothed assassin howled bitterly in pain; the pain was sharp enough to cut through to his bone marrow. The Sky Xuan expert had underestimated the enemy, and had thought it to be merely a small cub. However, that small enemy had left him in this condition...

He was completely unaware that the young cub was already a level eight Xuan Beast!

Chapter 259: Desperateness' Gentleness

"Bam!" the explosive sound was followed by loud echoes. Ye Gu Han[1] staggered to withdraw. He took several steps back. Wisps of blood were visible at the corners of his mouth, but he still took advantage of his backward motion and rose in the sky to stop two of the masked assailants who were going after Princess Ling Meng. His longsword seemed like a boulder that was blocking off a mountain pass.

The leader of the black-clad assassins sneered, "Ye Gu Han, our original target was only Princess Ling Meng. But now we younger brothers have no choice but to kill you since you so wish to court it so dearly!" He waved his hand. All the five men disappeared into five different directions with that gesture. Then, attacked Ye Gu Han in unison like 'howling wind and torrential rain'.

Ye Gu Han's sword was as quick as a snake; it took the shape of a light in the rain. He opened his mouth to shout, "Who are you? Do not hide! Tell me your names!"

"Our names? We have covered our faces with masks in order to hide our identities. Ye Gu Han, it is a surprise that you make such childish demands despite the fact that you are a Sky Xuan expert. I'll tell you what — why don't you take your white face to the underworld? Then you could ask the King of Hell himself who sent you there!"

The leader of the masked men smiled devilishly. Then, his body suddenly rushed forward and his expansive clothes floated in the air... as if to cover all the bright things in the mortal world, “Third! You must hurry and capture that little girl! Any delays will create complications; we can’t live with such problems. Leave Ye Gu Han to the rest of us!”

There was a loud ‘hiss’ and his body suddenly came down like a terrifying illness. He opened his arms wide, and a sharp light of blue energy emerged from each of his ten fingers. It seemed as if he held ten blue-longswords in each of his hands. It was a very fearsome sight as he fell down with a loud “bang”; with a lot of momentum as well!

One of the five assailants — one with a comparatively slender figure — twisted around without uttering a single word. This person was about to disappear in order to fiercely pursue Princess Ling Meng.

Ye Gu Han saw this, and let out a loud and mournful cry; his cry shook the heavens. His sword seemed like a rampaging dragon, and it seemed that a storm shower had occurred as over three hundred swords bore down on his enemies at once. This forced the other four to retreat, and even injured their leader’s shoulder. There was a bubbling sound. Then unexpectedly, two spurts of blood started to gush out of his back.

Despite his injuries, Ye Gu Han roared again! One person was sent turning in the air 25 meters away. He dropped down to the ground, and started to drip blood. Another person was spinning in the air and was yet to fall. Ye Gu Han’s attack was like a downpour of swords. It covered the somewhat slim-figured assassin.

The other four rushed to catch up, but it seemed that Ye Gu Han wasn’t frightened of death. In fact, he seemed to have prepared his sword, and was ready to die along with his enemy. He was prepared to fight tooth and nail to meet his fate. It seemed that his only desire was to go down the infernal Hell. He stubbornly kept-up with his extremely sharp attacks. He was like ‘death personified’ with his sword in his hand. He had placed himself in such a way that he blocked-off the entire street.

The five similar ranking Sky Xuan experts were simply unable to cross this obstacle.

How could a Sky Xuan expert’s last-ditch effort ever be weak?

It was clear from Ye Gu Han's body language that he was ready to risk his own life...

"If you want Ling Meng — you'll have to step over my dead body!" Ye Gu Han put his entire life and spirit into acting on these words as he demonstrated the implementation.

Every move of his sword covered the whole area; it was proud and desolate.

Every blow from his sword could be entrenched in the mind... as lonely and crazy.

Each blow was revealing something...

The loneliness and desolation that had come to be...

That distant place where he had buried his emotions...

His lonely life — his lonely blows...

His lonely sword-play...

Ye Gu Han's lonely swordplay was oppressive, and it showed his extreme saturation. However, the man had only one thought in his mind — he would never allow them to harm Ling Meng.

Apart from this act of selflessness... Ye Gu Han had already entered the crazy state of a berserker.

[My sword is everlasting!]

[Heaven and earth are boundless; my sword's winds will rise high and fly!]

[This sword will carve out a solitary path to the King of Hell!]

[This sword will wreak havoc in the world, and there is none who can stop it!]

[Kill!]

[Die!]

Princess Ling Meng was being forced to escape farther and farther by Dugu Xiao Yi and Sun Xiao Mei. The leader of the assailants shouted loudly. However, there was no way he could give instructions at this point of time. He couldn't help but bite his lip and say, "Hurry up and deal with this manservant first; at all cost!"

Ye Gu Han laughed loudly; his laughter was completely desolate... same as before. His longsword rushed forward and pierced. It entered the side of the masked man and then suddenly retreated at lightning like speed when it reached half-way. This forced the opposite party to retreat in confusion for it seemed as if it had been casted in the heaven.

Ye Gu Han had fought almost-all his life. And he had almost-always been surrounded by numerous enemies in the battles. Therefore, he had a very rich fighting experience. He was obviously going to display his absolute peak strength when it was a life and death situation for his precious Ling Meng.

How was Ye Gu Han able to hold up five similarly leveled Sky Xuan experts in place without yet falling to a disadvantageous position even though he was staggering?! If he was somehow able to put all his heart and mind into it, and was able to emerge victorious... it would be sufficient to bestow him the crown of the most arrogant warrior of his generation...

His shoulder was bleeding profusely, but he unconsciously acted like everything was normal. Surprisingly, it hadn't affected his fighting prowess either.

"Bam!" His longsword hit the left side of a black-clothed man who was now staggering to retreat.

Ye Gu Han snorted; his body was shining a little. He took advantage of the situation and swung his longsword in a wide semi-circle. A cold-blue color emanated from it, and spread around the area. He didn't move an inch as he constantly fought the three enemies at once. The last of his sword's power

was about to exhaust... yet he still continued to press his opponents. His body rose and then came down hard with a “thump”. He attacked another masked man as his two pillar-like legs touched the ground. He caught hold of him firmly, and then shook him violently.

He snorted as he lifted that man. Ye Gu Han was like a kite without a string; he was beyond recall. Wisps of blood sprayed out of his nostrils; the black-clad person still had a lot of energy stored for use. However, Ye Gu Han had faced four people, but still had energy left to violently shake that man. His superiority was evident.

However, Ye Gu Han still didn’t retreat. He straightened his back and floated in the air. But, he suddenly stopped as he avoided another masked man’s attack with great difficulty.

This person was Li Wu Bei’s second disciple, Zhou Jian Ming. He was also quite violent of nature. He could see that Ye Gu Han wasn’t about to die so easily, and had been clinging to life for such a long time. Zhou Jian Meng couldn’t bear it anymore. He let out a loud shout and raised his great sword to hack down on him head-on. That sword had the assailant’s entire Xuan Qi concentrated in it. Therefore, it was necessary for Ye Gu Han to evade it. It was possible that Ye Gu Han would’ve been killed if he hadn’t evaded that attack.

His eyes were blood red and cold as he retreated. Zhou Jian Ming saw this and cried in exultation as he rushed forward to take advantage of such a retreat. However, Ye Gu Han immediately returned to his original position after the retreat. Then, he continuously hacked at Zhou Jian Ming’s great sword three times from above.

Ye Gu Han was already fighting on fumes. He was very exhausted after he had hacked-down on Zhou Jian Ming three times since the man had stored-up his energy. However, Zhou Jian Ming felt that he had just been attacked three times by a thousand sledgehammers; very ruthlessly at that! He couldn’t help his face turning white as he staggered to retreat, and then spat out blood.

Zhou Jian Ming wasn’t weak when compared to Ye Gu Han. However, he had mostly trained in secret under his master, and had gained fighting experience by fighting only his fellow apprentice. However, he was battling with Ye Gu Han now; a man who was fighting tooth and nail like a maniac. He obviously wasn’t able to keep up. The gap between the two parties was very huge when it came to a ‘real’ life-and-death match; despite the fact that they were pretty evenly matched skill wise. Therefore, it was natural that Zhou Jian Ming would individually lose.

Ye Gu Han had been seriously injured. Therefore, he wasn't acting very recklessly. He was also consuming a lot of Xuan Qi in order to put-up the fight. Otherwise, his attacks would've been sufficient to take Zhou Jian Ming's life in such a life-and-death confrontation between the two experts.

Ye Gu Han thought that it was a pity. He would've torn his opponent to shreds if his attack had gone well. Then, he could've outflanked the rest of them... or even might have had the opportunity to retreat and recuperate.

However, Ye Gu Han couldn't take it easy even though his previous strike had given him an advantage. His opponent's Xuan Qi had struck-back, and it had made it hard for him to exercise control. However, he only had enough energy to pull-off that one attack; he was now panting heavily. He was rendered incapable to perform the quick and nimble move he had just pulled off.

The fierce battle had forced him to go all-out. This had sapped-off most of Ye Gu Han strength. The fact that Ye Gu Han had alone been pressed from all sides by five similarly levelled Sky Xuan experts... and had managed to hold them off up till that point was a miracle unto itself.

His sword resembled a rainbow bent-on taking the life of the harbinger. The five assailants weren't as strong as Ye Gu Han; unfortunately it would not matter now. He had come to a state where he had 'burned through the oil of his lamp' — he had almost no energy left.

There was a loud "bang". The other four assailants couldn't help but be frightened to see Zhou Jian Ming nearly lose his life. Their bloodshot eyes invariably turned towards the powerful sword. Their eyes had a mixture of anger and shame in them. They shivered as they let out their murderous aura. Their party had five Sky Xuan experts, but was being held back by a single one. This was simply the greatest humiliation — ever.

Now was the time to decide the victory and the defeat!

Ye Gu Han smiled bitterly; [it seems my short life will end today! I do not know if little Ling Meng has escaped far enough...]

The dark blue light once again burned fiercely around his body; it was like a giant star that had responded in the night's sky. Ye Gu Han had concentrated the remains of his depleted Xuan Qi into his final strike.

Zhou Jain Ming was ashamed and angry. He howled terribly as he leapt madly into the air, and was followed by his four companions — all of them were intending to attack Ye Gu Han in the sky.

Ye Gu Han accurately calculated the enemy's weapons, and waited for a good opportunity. He didn't know when the blood-red color disappeared from his eyes. But he was now calm like a tranquil deep lake that had been left undisturbed.

The only thing he couldn't comprehend was that — he had been fighting for a considerable period of time... yet why had no one come to lend support? Where were Princess Ling Meng's Imperial Body Guards? Why hadn't an expert from the Imperial Palace shown himself yet?

However, now wasn't the time to think about it.

Ye Gu Han turned towards the inner part of the city. He gave it a final and profound look.

This look was full of emotion... a great ocean of emotion which was endless and lonely. It reeked of a strong sense of reluctance.

[Xiu Xiu... I fear that I will not be able to protect your Ling Meng from now on!]

[I knew that I could never get you... I had become tired of life long ago... I'm aware that you will never be mine even in this moment of life or death... yet, I'm unable to let you go... I hate to part with you...]

[For you had always claimed the softest part of my aching heart...]

[Xiu Xiu!]

[Will you be lonely if I cease to live in this mortal world? Will you shed tears for me?]

Ye Gu Han didn't have anymore time to think since the sword attacks of his five enemies had descended upon him like a storm, and had drowned his proud body amongst them.

Ye Gu Han laughed loudly and unimpeded...

He gripped his longsword tightly; his face was unhesitant, calm, and welcoming...

All the sweet memories of the past had quickly and had vividly flashed in his mind. The freshness and purity... the long silky hair that floating in the wind... that flower-like smile, and that ardent face so full of hope and expectation... And finally, those tearful eyes looking at him with reluctance... all of it first became fuzzy, and then faded away...

The past twenty unfeeling years of Ye Gu Han's life had just flashed through his mind... all stemmed from this gentle feeling of inseparable love in his heart...

Notes:

Ye Gu Han's name means 'The lonely night'.

Chapter 260: Little White Arranges a Rescue Squad

~ The Li Residence ~

Li You Ran was alone inside his room. A small portrait hung in front.

The person in the picture had bright eyes and white teeth. As it so happened, it was a portrait of a smiling Princess Ling Meng. Li You Ran was worthy of being called a genius amongst members of his generation in the Tian Xiang Empire. He had drawn that lifelike image of Princess Ling Meng on his own. He had based it on that profound image of hers which he had stored in his mind.

However, Li You Ran's eyes were shrouded with pain... [The operation must have begun... presumably...]

[Ling Meng...]

Li You Ran looked up, and then resolutely closed his eyes. Suddenly, a yell arrived on his lips... it had come from the bottom of his heart. The sound was similar to the howl of an injured beast that neared its death; it sounded coarse and sad. He then ferociously started to punch the wall with his fist in anguish.

These powerful fists collided with the wall. His fists were soon covered with blood, which started to drip to the ground.

It seemed like Li You Ran hadn't slept much; in fact, he looked distracted. His face was expressionless as he closed his eyes, and a drop of tear noiselessly fell down from each of his eyes...

[I'm sorry! My beloved!]

[...to increase my influence and gain the favor of my master's men... I had to sacrifice you...! I had no other choice...]

Jun Mo Xie and Jun Wu Yi were slowly moving away from the Aristocratic Hall. They had repeatedly reminded Tang Yuan to purchase the discussed herbs and to store such purchases properly in an appropriate place. They seemed satisfied and hence finished-up with their busy day, and started to travel towards their home.

Taking into account that day's matter — it went satisfactorily overall... except for a few unexpected incidents. The prices during the auction of the extraordinary wine had reached a point that even Jun Mo Xie hadn't dreamt of. One could say that they were returning home from a rewarding endeavor.

The Third Prince had used his powerful position to force a misdeed at the end of the event. However, it couldn't be considered to be a bad turn of events since the Young Master Jun had taken advantage of this incident, and had successfully planted a seed in the immature and spirited mind of Little Yang Mo. He could use this in the future to perhaps incite, or eliminate many targets.

And coming back to the original topic again... the final batch of those hundred wine bottles was under the Prince Equivalent's name. Therefore, they were a part of the Prince Equivalent's stock. So it would

seem that the Jun Family and the Aristocratic Hall had no direct relationship to it. Even though such a thought process would seem a bit shameless — but this fact would hold true regardless...

The Princes didn't treat the Prince Equivalent's side as one of their own. However, it was unlikely that Jun Mo Xie would take a step to help them out. Because it... wouldn't be worth it!

Jun Mo Xie wasn't a man of vile character who always sought after profits. However, he never pursued matters which didn't gain him anything. This was a hit-man's code of conduct. And this was how Jun Mo Xie conducted himself — in his previous life, and in this one.

[Heroes... I'll leave that role for others. I'll just do what I do... what my heart desires... what I love. I decide what I love; I decide what I do — no one in this F**king world shall control me!]

Absolute freedom! This was Jun Mo Xie's biggest goal; the main pursuit of his life.

Jun Mo Xie had once said before the Aristocratic Hall's opening, "I'll take the Aristocratic Hall to a stage where one day of its sales will be enough to sustain a Family for three years' time!" However, hadn't the day's achievements crossed the goal? Perhaps a Family could sit and eat in leisure for an entire lifetime with so much money...

Hai Chen Feng — the man now known as 'Gang Leader Hai' — wasn't able to obtain a single bottle of that extraordinary wine. However, Jun Mo Xie sent him a gratuitous present of fifty wine bottles from the batch under his own name; such treatment was a-must for the people on his side.

"I bid one million taels" ... the Sky Xuan 'customer' had raised this trademark bid several times. Hence, he merrily received the fifty bottles and returned to his lair. He would certainly announce that he had obtained them during the auction since he was an 'Aristocrat'...

Jun Mo Xie was riding a horse, while Jun Wu Yi was on his palanquin. The Uncle and the Nephew had their hands tucked in their sleeves. Their mood was cheerful yet serious. Each was thinking about their future plans, and the arrangements of manpower that were necessary for their schemes. Both of them were individually making their calculations on the road back home. Surprisingly, neither spoke to the other about it.

The uncle-nephew-duo was aware that the upcoming operation would be a very tough one. However, they couldn't lose; it was a-must that they win. They needed to win — but they needed to win beautifully. They needed their victory to be flawless.

However, the enemy trumped them in terms of strength.

[How shall this next round be fought?]

The stories of the weak defeating the strong have been told since ancient times. However, they not only had to use the weak to defeat the strong, but they had to win their battle without incurring any damage. And this feat would be extremely difficult since this was reality... not a fantasy story.

This small party from the Jun Family hadn't travelled far, when suddenly; Jun Mo Xie saw a shadow in the distance. This shadow shot towards him like electricity. He hadn't even recognized it properly, but the tiny white shadow had already embraced his chest. It called out in urgency as it groaned and squeaked. Its claws tugged at Jun Mo Xie incessantly; its dripping-wet eyes were full of anxiety.

"What happened?" Jun Mo Xie quickly noticed the strip of light-green cloth tied to one of Little White's hind legs. He distinctly remembered Dugu Xiao Yi's appearance before she had left; she was wearing light-green clothes. And now a strip of the same light-green cloth was tied to Little White's leg. Moreover — it was stained in blood.

[Dugu Xiao Yi is in trouble!]

Jun Mo Xie suddenly became tense. He felt as if his heart had suddenly been seized by something. His usually steady aura was now in chaos. Dugu Xiao Yi's lovable, pretty... mischievous, yet flowery smile appeared in front of his eyes...

[When did I start to care so much about this girl?]

Jun Mo Xie didn't have any time to think about this. There was only one thing on his mind; [I must save her!]

“Third Uncle, Dugu Xiao Yi is in trouble; I need to check-up on her!” Jun Mo Xie pressed his legs onto the sides of his strong horse, and it ‘neighed’ loudly in response. Its front hooves rose up in the air as it stood up on its hind legs. They hadn’t even touched down as its back hooves took a step ahead. Then, he leapt-up and shot-away like an arrow. The crazy hoof beats rolled and echoed like thunder as Jun Mo Xie followed Little White’s swift shadow, and went-off at a great speed.

A wind whistled as the horse turned the corner of the street — it was almost as if a black cloud had descended upon Jun Mo Xie’s horseback. However, it seemed like this new arrival was weightless. In fact, the strong horse subconsciously went a little faster in its state of mad rush.

That man was Jun Wu Yi!

This bloodied war general’s face was filled with an air of cold murderous aura.

Jun Mo Xie regarded Dugu Xiao Yi with affection. How could an experienced man like Jun Wu Yi not see it? To him — Dugu Xiao Yi was as good as his nephew’s wife; how could he allow anyone to trouble her?

He wouldn’t permit anyone to harm a single hair on her body.

Such was the Jun Family’s mindset. It was such in Guan Qing Han’s case. And it was the same for this little girl.

Jun Wu Yi wouldn’t allow the tragedy that had plagued his life to occur again. If he thought it necessary — he would destroy everything in order to protect his nephew’s wife.

So, would Jun Wu Yi be willing to sit through this matter after hearing about it?

The strong horse neighed wildly as it galloped like a mad beast. It seemed as if the doubly astride horse had lost its mind. It turned one corner after another and disappeared into the distance.

It only left behind some windblown dust, which quickly dissipated in the autumn wind.

Dugu Xiao Yi and Sun Xiao Mei had carried the same idea: Send Little White to the Dugu Family in order to arrange a rescue squad. Only the experts from the Dugu Family could be expected to have a chance against such a threat. Any other reinforcements might turn out to be useless since they may not have the capability to face five such high levelled Sky Xuan experts.

Though in consensus... their idea was naïve... Moreover, Little White was immature, and couldn't understand their words clearly. However, he understood that his master was in serious danger. And he understood that his master had sent him away to seek reinforcements.

But, who was he likely to seek out?

Naturally, he'd seek out the most powerful rescue squad he could think of...

Little White was quite intelligent. However, there were only two people in this world he was close to. One was naturally its master — Dugu Xiao Yi. And the other was that 'good man' who was also the strongest person in Little White's mind — Jun Mo Xie!

This person had helped it upgrade its level in childhood itself; so wasn't he already the strongest? So, who else would he seek out for to help when his master was in danger and needed reinforcements?

Therefore, Little White set to the task of finding Jun Mo Xie. Anyway, he didn't wish to go to the Dugu Family to look for help. [How could those uncouth long beards be useful? How could they compare to that 'Great Man'?] Little White had looked down upon them.

But then again... if he had gone to the Dugu Family for help... any experts they might have sent may have been too late to arrive. Therefore, Little White had made the correct decision in its state of inadvertent ignorance.

Little White couldn't speak. Therefore, his attempt would've gone in vain in case he had actually decided to go to the Dugu Family's residence. They would've surely sent their soldiers if they had judged Dugu Xiao Yi to be in danger. However, it wasn't necessary that the line-up they'd arrange would be able to help against those five Sky Xuan Masters. Wouldn't those men have fallen short of the task then?

The sword had fallen. The Xuan Qi which had been condensed in his palm had also been ferociously shot.

Ye Gu Han was continuously getting besieged by his enemies from all sides. He would've quickly retreated if it weren't for Ling Meng's safety; it wouldn't have been very difficult either. He would've been able to retreat if he were to use his remaining strength. He could've then used his skills to fly far away very quickly. He would most probably suffer injuries... but a shot an escape would've been possible.

However, Princess Ling Meng hadn't escaped far enough. Therefore, these five powerful Sky Xuan experts would undoubtedly capture her if he decided to retreat at this time. He didn't know why they wished to capture her. All he knew was that he would rather die than let them get their hands on his precious Ling Meng.

He wasn't acting out of character; he was acting out of necessity.

[I know I will probably die. But I will still fight with everything I have.]

[It is either life or death; what do I have to fear?!]

Ye Gu Han stood straight like a mountain; a sword suddenly appeared beside his body. It curved towards him as he dodged it. But then it retreated as another sword approached him. Then, another sword appeared with a gleaming blue light, and took the shape of the shiny sabre which was ready to pierce its enemy.

Pfft!

A sword pierced Ye Gu Han's lower-left abdomen. Another two swords skimmed his entire body; they tore his clothes and his skin to shreds. It was followed by a fountain of blood gushing out. Two meaty palms carrying attacks as powerful as thunderbolts bombarded Ye Gu Han's chest.

"Snap! Snap!" a teeth grinding sound echoed as the brittle ribs in Ye Gu Han's chest gave away. All seven orifices in his body suddenly overflowed with blood.

However, Ye Gu Han suddenly seemed to have a somewhat elated expression on his face. He had a tender smile... or perhaps a nasty one... but it looked extremely bitter on his bloodied face.

Because...