

## E Monarch 301

### Chapter 301: We Just Need The Eastern Wind!

The original Jun Mo Xie would've used the same means as Tang Yuan if he had faced a similar situation.

The present Jun Mo Xie and the previous one were very different from each other. Jun Xie was an evil spirit, and was also regarded as a 'free bird', but his bones weren't made of the same debauchery that consisted Tang Yuan and the original Jun Mo Xie's. Jun Xie had always relied on his own self. In fact, he wouldn't even alert the police if he were to spot a vicious crime; he'd treat the evil as his own enemy and would deliver justice himself.

The original Jun Mo Xie had a habit of oppressing people using his power. He would use it to push them down. These two people had such different characteristics; so, how could they be so easily integrated?

However, Tang Yuan's divine inspiration came 'in the nick of time' to help Jun Mo Xie settle his urgent matter. Time was of the essence, and Jun Mo Xie was merely a rookie at refining a Dan. In fact, he hadn't even practiced the most fundamental basics. Besides, there had always been a shortage of medicinal ingredients. But, Fatty Tang had solved the Young Master Jun's greatest problem. And, Jun Mo Xie wasn't going to blame him even though the methods he used were extremely despicable. Anyway, they had compensated the frightened shopkeepers with a lot of silver. So, that would justify as 'compensating for their losses'.

[This was naturally unfair to them. However, is this world ever 'truly fair'? This Young Master has crossed-over to this world; can they do that? Isn't that unfair too...]

The world doesn't exist in a balance of fairness and justice. So, what was the need to conceive such perfection?

[However, it doesn't matter if it was fair or unfair. I have to refine the Dan by tonight!]

This was very important, and Jun Mo Xie was looking forward to it. [What would be the result when I refine these ingredients?]

Then, suddenly a loud and dragon-like roar echoed. The Cold-Blooded Master, Lei Wu Bei appeared in the sky above the Jun residence. His expression was indifferent as he spoke, "Solitary Falcon, why haven't you left when the entire manpower from the Silver Blizzard City has departed? How long do you plan to procrastinate? Do you not fear the Xuan Beast uprising?"

Careful eyes would see that the Cold-Blooded Master's complexion wasn't good. His eyes were somewhat bloodshot, and his vital conditions weren't good either. The person responsible to bring him to such a condition should've been very proud of themselves.

"I'll go if I want to go. And, I won't go if I don't want to go. So, I'll only go when I feel like it. Do you have a problem with that?" the Solitary Falcon replied in a bad mood.

Solitary Falcon was depressed. [This nonsensical summons has come at a key moment. Couldn't you have waited till I had finished mastering the 'Nine Claws of the Ghostly Falcon'? When will I be able to come back and practice in the calm if leave for Tian Fa right now... When will I get an opportunity like this? On top of that, I might miss out on the medicines too!]

Lei Wu Bei snorted coldly, "It's important to go. You and I are both in The Tian Xiang City, Old Falcon. I know we have some grudges between us. But, when the supreme summons comes — we are to set everything aside. You're one of the Great Eight Masters; you ought to know the consequences of ignoring the supreme summons. This Old Man wishes to travel with you. But, I didn't know that you'd be so unappreciative of such kindness."

Not only Solitary Falcon... Jun Mo Xie was also alarmed by Lei Wu Bei's words.

The Cold-Blooded Master wants to travel with the Solitary Falcon? This was extremely strange!

No one was aware that Lei Wu Bei had gone mad while searching for his personal enemy Chu Qi Hun. He wanted to find the man so that he could kill him. He would be extremely tense all day, and was always on-guard against his 'imagined' foe since he believed that the number-one assassin could deal a fatal attack from the shadows at any moment. Eventually, Lei Wu Bei's body had become tired, and his mind had become exhausted. In fact, this Great Master was nearly on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Then, the supreme summons came. Lei Wu Bei realized that a mountain-forest or a lonely inn on the way to Tian Fa would pose as a very convenient setting for Chu Qi Hun's ambush. Moreover, his enemy was evil, and intelligent. Lei Wu Bei realized that his entire life's work would go wasted if he weren't careful. So, he came up with the idea of travelling with the Solitary Falcon. ...The two Great Masters had some grudges, but it wasn't like they had a life-long hatred which couldn't be mediated.

If he could get the Solitary Eagle to help him... the two Great Masters could possibly jolt Chu Qi Hun's nerves... and he may not dare to attack either one of them.

A person's shadow flitted across as the Solitary Falcon appeared before Lei Wu Bei, "Speak the truth Lei Wu Bei — what sly plan have you formed in that head of yours?"

"Are you afraid?" Lei Wu Bei snorted in provocation.

"Me? Afraid? Ha ha ha... this Old Man is aware that this is an indirect method of yours to get me to go with you. I can see the trick you're trying to play!" the Solitary Falcon laughed heartily.

"Stop!" The Young Master Jun couldn't stay calm as he realized that the Solitary Falcon might leave with the other Great Master. So, he quickly moved into action in order to stop them. He knew that the Silver Blizzard City was a step ahead, and may be waiting in ambush for the Solitary Falcon. The Young Master Jun hadn't anticipated that Lei Wu Bei would seek the Solitary Falcon's company in order to guard-against Chu Qi Hun. Moreover, he believed that Lei Wu Bei was unlikely to render any aid in case the Solitary Falcon was met with any mishaps on the way. In fact, he was likely to step-on the Solitary Falcon if it were to serve his purpose.

"What's the matter?" the Solitary Falcon frowned.

"This young student has to pass-on many things before the Master's return," Jun Mo Xie's eyes turned.

The Solitary Falcon's heart jumped when he heard those words, and he became extremely excited with anticipation, "What things?! You brat, you've made me happy with those words."

Lei Wu Bei was somewhat alarmed. [Who is this youngster's Master? How strong is he? He made one of the 'Eight Great Masters' jump around with joy using only a few words...?]

"My master told me to recite the following lines to you, "The falcon soars in solitude; like a cloud floats in the empty sky — it is dissolute in this empty solitude. The dead falcons don't exist in the solitude of the sky. And, ten thousand laws don't exist in the solitude of the sky. The ten thousand laws are the solitude." Jun Mo Xie wasn't very verbose about it. And, he stuck close to Solitary Falcon's name in order to create his mnemonic chants for him.

"The falcon soars in solitude; like a cloud floats in the empty sky — it is dissolute in this empty solitude. The dead falcons don't exist in the solitude of the sky. And, ten thousand laws don't exist in the solitude of the sky..." the Solitary Falcon frowned as he contemplated. It was like he had the meaning in his hands, but was unable to grasp it properly. His eyes revealed how perplexed he was.

"This is a very clever and creative line. It can be understood, but not described. I can't express it in words. Master knows that you will have to rush to Tian Fa; he knows that you will be involved in several battles. So, he has preponed the time of my telling you this line since he didn't wish for these incidents to interfere with your cultivation..."

"Many thanks!" the Solitary Falcon's rough face appeared very grateful. He then cupped his hands.

"Master also told me to inform you that Six Spirit Xuan experts from the Silver Blizzard City are already a step ahead, and may try to way-lay you on the way to Tian Fa. They'll be accompanied by their seven swords. I request you to be extremely careful, and move as fast as you can."

"Six Spirit Xuan experts? The Seven Swords? Could it be 'THE' Seven Swords from the Silver Blizzard City?" the Solitary Falcon's expression turned grave as his heart sank. He wouldn't have believed this if someone else had told him this. But, the Solitary Falcon believed this news since it had come from the mouth of that Mysterious Master.

"Then, I shall travel with Lei Wu Bei. There may be some disadvantages in that, but there can be many advantages if we co-ordinate properly. So much so, that the former outweighs the latter," the Solitary Falcon mumbled to himself for a long while. Then, his expression changed, "What else did the Master say?"

"Master said that the senior's spirit will soar like a Falcon by the time he returns," Jun Mo Xie chuckled. He then cupped his hands, and said, "God-speed! Tread carefully!"

"Goodbye!" the Solitary Falcon bowed in a rare instance of respect, and cupped his hands. "Again, give my sincere thanks to your Master. Solitary Falcon holds him in very high esteem. I take this matter regarding the Jun Family very seriously. Tell him to feel relieved." The Solitary Falcon let out a long roar after he was done speaking. Then, he soared up into the desolate sky. Lei Wu Bei laughed out loud, and followed after him. The two figures flitted in the sky for a moment before they disappeared without a trace.

"A Great Master isn't to be trifled with, ah..." Jun Mo Xie let out a profound sigh, and turned to walk inside the room.

Many Xuan Experts gathered in the Tian Xiang City that night; regardless of their level or backing. Then, they rushed towards the Tian Fa forest; whether in groups or alone.

After all, this was the Supreme Summons. No one could take it lightly.

Even Song Shang and Hai Chen Feng asked permission to leave for Tian Fa since they had a mind to go and lend aid. But, Jun Mo Xie forbade them from doing so, "What are you doing? Do you have a dislike for long lives? I prohibit you from going there. You're staying here. Song Shang, get back to fermenting wine; I'll cancel your apprenticeship if I find you slacking-off. And as for Hai Chen Feng — get back to looking after your gang! You needn't involve yourself in others' matters. You must focus on developing your gang."

This was a joke. The Young Master Jun was in no position to stop the Solitary Falcon if he wished to leave. But, he had marked these two as 'men of the Jun Family'. So, how could he allow them to leave?

What would happen if Jun Mo Xie left the Jun Household with ordinary men? But, if both these experts stayed behind... they could take care of the Jun Household even if something were to happen. In fact, the Jun Family would be considered the strongest in the area. And, Jun Mo Xie had made-up his mind.

Coming back to the original issue... he wouldn't allow them to leave even if they weren't required to look after the Jun Household. This was because they had been labeled as 'men of the Jun Family' now. So, sending them to Tian Fa would be like using them as cannon fodder against the Xiao and the Li Families. These two men were Sky Xuan experts, but the Tian Fa forest was crawling with Spirit Xuan experts at present. A Sky Xuan expert would be akin to a dog in the south. Therefore, they would be better used in Tian Xiang.

[I've selected the members of my factions so carefully! So, why would I throw them away at Tian Fa? The Xuan Beast uprising? What difference would it make to me if a lot of people die, huh?]

Hai Chen Feng and Song Shang had gone to meet Jun Mo Xie in very high spirits. However, they had no choice but to return embarrassed after they had listened to Jun Mo Xie's words.

~The Second Prince's Residence~

The Second Prince was in a very cheerful mood. He was feeling extremely happy.

He felt that all men under the heaven were coming to his aid. Two Great Masters had issued the supreme summons just when the Xuan Beast crossbows were about to arrive. So, the well-known, and the not-so-well-known experts had started to leave for the Tian Fa. The Tian Xiang City's experts were no exception to this.

The Capitals's strength would be reduced incomparably since so many experts were leaving. He could use this chance to transport the deadly weapons safely. Moreover, these weapons would deliver far better results since his men wouldn't have much competition. So, the tiger could grow wings when the time was ripe, and could move-in to fill the power vacuum of the city. Would he be able to seize the city with ease?

The Second Prince and his councilor were embroiled in a tense discussion in his secret chambers. Everyone seemed very excited.

"Mr. Fang, inform the Spirit Storm Guard to hurry up to the Capital. Tell them that they are to leave the southern provinces, and come here as fast as they can," The Second Prince looked amiably towards his mastermind. "Mr. Fang, I would request that you proceed with the future plans."

"I request the Second Master to be relieved. This is Fang Bo Wen's job, and you can be assured of safety."

Fang Bo Wen then muttered to himself irresolutely, "I know that the Zhao Trading Company has sent two hundred men as escorts. Two Jade Xuan experts lead them. Then, there is the Company's Vice-

President... Meng Xiao Song... he leads a group of eighty experts. That Meng Xiao Song is an Earth Xuan expert. With him, there's no need to be anxious. The Zhao Trading Company will move in the bright light — and the guild in the dark; they will move together yet separately. This would eventually go smoothly. The Spirit Storm Guard and the Zhao Trading Company will travel together. In addition, the Blood Sword Hall has been notified as well. They will send two Sky Xuan assassins, five Earth Xuan assassins and twenty Jade Xuan assassins. These assassins will secretly escort the convoy; just to make things absolutely safe. And, most of the power has left the Capital now. That leaves it vulnerable; so, the power of our means will guarantee victory!"

"Humph! This Blood Sword Hall had never sent anyone higher than a 'Jade Xuan' expert in any of their previous missions for me! This had often resulted in their assassins' failure to achieve anything. It had been a waste of labor and money. But, they suddenly dispatched two Sky Xuan and five Earth Xuan experts when it comes to the Xuan Beast tendon crossbows?! And, the lowest level assassins they're sending are Jade Xuan! They are merely trying to show their terrifying strength!" The Second Prince was extremely indignant. He spoke these words very angrily.

"The Blood Sword Hall's method of handling things has always been a profound mystery. This Old Man doesn't know the reason behind it." Fang Bo Wen frowned and continued, "These Xuan Beast Tendon crossbows are very important to them. Therefore, they are being cautious. And, this isn't without reason. One should be better to oneself than he is to others... After all, it is 'every man for himself'."

Then, Fang Bo Wen suddenly stopped talking. There was a hint of doubt in his eyes. Then, he suddenly started to tremble with fear. It seemed as if he had recalled an extremely dreadful matter.

However, the Second Prince hadn't noticed his mastermind's unusual behavior. He was still seething with anger. He then spoke in a cold voice, "Let that be then! They will be of no use to me after I get those crossbows. And, that's a good thing. I won't be angered by their unfathomable way of working again!"

Fang Bo Wen's snow-white eyebrows shot up, and a trace of fear condensed in his eyes. He wanted to say something, but felt that his idea was nonsensical. In fact, it seemed too fantastical. Therefore, he swallowed his words back. But, that expression of worry became even more profound in the secrecy of his eyes.

He was in no mood to listen to the speaker.

The Second Prince was just whining; nothing more. However, his words resounded like thunder on a sunny day to Fang Bo Wen's ears.

The matters that were hazy before... were becoming clear...

[Do I have to think of another way...? Will I have to retreat from this road?]

The Second Prince leaned to the side, and put his hands behind his back. His face was full of confidence as he laughed. He was brimming with the confidence of a man who was on the verge of victory. The Prince then mumbled, "I can use this opportunity to deal with the First and the Third..."

He didn't speak his thoughts, but his face had a very fierce expression on it. He then suddenly turned around, "That's it! Mr. Wen, is Yue'er ready?"

"There has been no news of Miss Yue'er for several days. She has made... very few public appearances. Our contacts in the Ni Chang Pavilion... don't know much about this matter either. This Old Man is... very confused in that regard," Fang Bo Wen went through those words very slowly. In fact, he hadn't stated them in a very fluent manner. He had stammered several times in between. It was evident that he was disturbed, and his thoughts weren't on the same matter.

"Humph!" A cold light flashed in the Second Prince's eyes. He remained silent for a little while. Then, he finally spoke-up, "Let her be for the time being. Anyway, it's not like she can turn the tide with her strength alone. What about Cheng De Cao though? What has he been up to? Why hasn't he shown his face for so many days?"

There was a slight look of loathing in Fang Bo Wen's eyes. It was obvious that the Young Master Cheng's reputation wasn't good. He replied, "This Old Man hasn't seen Young Master Cheng for a long time. It seems that he's busy with something. Though, he isn't telling anyone about this matter. Also, the corresponding manpower is yet to arrive. He may have met with some mishap..."

The Second Prince frowned. He strolled around for a bit before he spoke in a gloomy voice, "Shelve the trivial matters for now... everything will be determined with the arrival of the crossbows." His fair face suddenly revealed his murderous intention.



[Humph! A woman and a Young Master! Humph! You consider yourself as something important? So, you agree with me outside, but defy me in private? Yue'er, you mustn't think that you can take advantage of the way I treat you! You'll regret this!]

[This Cheng De Cao thinks himself to be a formidable person? The Second Prince can destroy you whenever he wants!]

"Yes," Fang Bo Wen could sense the Second Prince's killing intentions. His white eyebrows quivered. The mastermind couldn't help but tremble. [Your Majesty is already quite ruthless and without any pity. But, why are you being so shallow? Why are you being so domineering in such a minor matter? What will you do if you accomplish great things in the future?] Suddenly, he became bored to death, and hung his eyes. He shut his mouth, and kept his thoughts to himself.

The Second Prince looked outside at the moonlight. A fiery expression suddenly swept across his face. It was zealous expression. His eyes seemed to burn with a hot flame. It seemed as if he already believed himself to be a great entity.

... ..

The Jun Family's residence; Jun Mo Xie was having a sleepless night.

He had carefully filtered through the ingredients. The list of medications that Jun Mo Xie required was finally in order. He had unexpectedly received two hundred herbs. There were no rare or legendary herbs among them. And, there weren't any precious herbs ingredients among them either. But, there was a massive amount of low-level ingredients. Besides, there were some 'never before seen' low-level ingredients present in this stock-pile as well. It was almost like one could find anything in that pile. The entire stock had been piled-up in the special room in Jun Mo Xie's courtyard.

He then dispersed the bystanders. He even shooed Fatty Tang away to take rest. Then, he selected two trusted helpers to sift through those ingredients.

The so-called 'trusted helpers' were very few in number. In fact, there were only a total of four in the entire Jun Household as far as Jun Mo Xie's count was concerned. But, he couldn't dare to exhaust Grandpa Jun and Third Uncle. As for the other two... he had regarded it to be very impolite to make

Little Ke do this work. Sister Qing Han was available too. So, he had unwillingly asked for her help as well since he needed more people.

After all, Guan Qing Han was the daughter of a Xuan Qi Family. These drugs mustn't be unfamiliar to her. So, she would be a great help to Jun Mo Xie. Moreover, she was one of his most trusted people to say the least.

Jun Mo Xie sat at a place where the light of the lamp couldn't reach. He sat there like a wooden figure; motionless. He frowned deeply in rapt attention. The two females assumed that he was immersed in deep thoughts about a very serious matter since he was frowning so profoundly. So, they decided against disturbing him, and allowed him ponder in peace...

The two tiptoed around. They even spoke softly in order to avoid causing disturbance to Jun Mo Xie's thoughts. Their hands worked quickly in accordance to his instructions. They first segregated the ingredients according to their weight. Then, they mixed them together; as per requirement. Afterwards, they wrapped the mix up, and put a serial number on each package.

The work was not arduous in itself, but working continuously at a stretch for such a long time had exhausted them. The fact that it was a very monotonous and dull job also tired them out. The two worked hurriedly past midnight. They aimed to hand over at least five batches of prescriptions; each with a hundred items.

The two women were drowsy-eyed by the time they finally stood up. They didn't know why Jun Mo Xie wanted these medicines, but he seemed to want them very urgently. So, they didn't dare to take it easy, and had worked incessantly throughout the night. And now, it was finally done. The two females stood up, and smiled bitterly at each other. They felt out of energy, and had a slight ache in their slender waists.

However, the two couldn't help but feel like being praised for completing so much work so fast. They smiled at each other, and then looked at Jun Mo Xie in unison. [So much work has already been finished! So, what's he still frowning at? What problem could take such a long time to ponder over?]

Jun Mo Xie remained seat; same as before. His head had lowered a bit. The Young Master had a serious look on his face. His frown was so profound that it seemed as if he had encountered the mystery of the ages...

He was concentrating so hard that the two females were able to walk up to him without him detecting their movements...

"Ah! This bastard! He has swindled us into becoming his work-oxes! This bastard fell asleep long back!" Guan Qing Han observed him for some time, and came to that conclusion. She obviously became very angry. They wouldn't have been to tell that his 'breathing' was 'snoring' in reality if they hadn't walked so close to him.

[He's just too much! Who does such things?!]

[We both tired ourselves out working busily throughout the night. You didn't say anything; neither did you help! We didn't disturb you since we thought that you were pondering over something important. But... you were actually sleeping the entire time! This is too much!]

Anger rose inside Guan Qing Han's heart. She rubbed her eyes, but was so tired that she was unable to open them properly. This made her even more sullen. She raised her leg, and gave that 'shameless good for nothing' a tight kick on his thigh.

"Bang!"

Jun Mo Xie fell from his chair, and woke up. He opened his eyes, and immediately understood the reason for that kick. Then, the Young Master calmly got up, and sighed as he put on airs. He then exclaimed, "This problem is very tough! I've thought-it-over all night, yet I still can't understand it. This is an amazing headache!"

The Young Master Jun looked very gloomy. He continued to moan and groan in pain. Jun Mo Xie tried his best to look very concerned... as if he feared for the country. Anyone who looked at his face would fear that all the land under the heavens would perish if he was stopped from pondering over his problem.

Guan Qing Han sneered. Her beautiful leg landed at the pit of Jun Mo Xie's stomach as she scolded, "Young Master Jun, is it normal for you to have so much saliva when you're focusing hard on a problem?"

Jun Mo Xie made a 'hiccupping' sound. He then replied in a frustrated manner, "This is one of the many problems I have. I don't pay attention to what my body does when I'm thinking long and hard on something important. So, my mouth opens when I think for a long time, and I forget to shut it. A lot of saliva ends up getting collected as a result..."

[What bullsh\*t is this?!]

Guan Qing Han was in a good mood, and found it funny. Though, her face was cold as she chided Jun Mo Xie. She then suddenly realized that the Young Master's eyes had changed direction. He then smiled, "Ah, Third Uncle! What are you doing here so late?"

Guan Qing Han and Little Ke looked around frightfully. But, they didn't even spot the Third Uncle's shadow. They then realized that they had been tricked, and became very angry. Even the usually gentle Little Ke felt her face becoming hot as she turned to look back. However, their eyes opened in amazement once they turned around to face Jun Mo Xie. There was no one in Jun Mo Xie's chair anymore. He had vanished without a trace...

Such speed was... simply heavenly...

The two females looked at each other with blank stares. Then, they recalled Jun Mo Xie's funny appearance from a moment ago. "Pfft, Pfft" sounds escaped from their lips as they started to laugh.

Little Ke pursed her lips and chuckled. She then looked at Guan Qing Han appreciatively, and exclaimed, "Young Lady, you have a very attractive smile. I'm seeing you smile after a very long time. You should smile more often... it's very, very pretty."

"I'm seeing you smile after a very long time..." this made Guan Qing Han's body tremble. A frantic look passed through her eyes. Then, she resumed her cold expression and sighed, "It is very late at night; go and rest." She said this and silently walked out of the courtyard.

Her silhouette seemed very lonely and desolate in the night-light. She appeared like a 'Snow Lotus' on a faraway mountain peak that was covered in snow and clouds — alone, proud and upright.

"God!" Jun Mo Xie had hidden inside the HongJun Pagoda. [The two tigresses come up so suddenly! Why didn't I hide before?] He hadn't slept for two nights and a day. That was the reason why he had fallen asleep like that. He was extremely tired. Another reason was that he was re-vitalizing his vigor in order to concoct the Dans.

As for the selection of the ingredients and formulas was concerned — Jun Mo Xie had already combed through the Book of Folk Remedies, and was confident that he could refine 5 kinds of Dans.

The Mysterious Yang Dan, the Missing Yin Dan, the Spirit Amassing Dan, the Multi-Division Dan, and the Connecting-Meridians Dan!

## Chapter 302: Alchemy and Progression

The Mysterious Yang Dan and the Missing Yin Dan were bodily nourishment medicines, and were to be taken by men and women respectively[1]. They were refined using the most ordinary herbs, and could be consumed by the most ordinary of people; without any fear of a side effect. However, the Spirit Amassing Dan was a high-level Dan, and was only suited for high-level martial practitioners.

The Spirit Amassing Dan was also known as the 'Devil's Heart' Dan. This Dan was designed to be consumed while undertaking martial training. It would increase the concentration of the 'spirit energy' inside a person's body by a very significant margin. Moreover, the possibility of a backlash — or the 'Devil's Bite' — would be more-or-less eliminated even if a person would wholeheartedly immerse themselves in their practice. This function of the Devil's Heart Dan would seem rather simple, but it was no trivial matter. This Dan wasn't a rare treasure, but it wasn't exactly sold openly in the market; nor did it have a price.

A martial practitioner can't afford to be afraid of foreign object; they can't fear pain. However, the 'Devil's Bite' was one the biggest hurdles in their path. And, most people were afraid of this phenomenon.[1] It was hard to say how many high-level martial practitioners had succumbed to the Devil's Bite over the course of their training, and had lost their lives and cultivation to this tragedy. In fact, the effect of the Devil's Bite was likely to be more severe for a martial practitioner of a higher level. But, the Devil's Heart Dan effectively put an end to this phenomenon's possibility. Hence, this Dan was often considered as a 'Life-saving' Dan.

An open circulation of the 'Devil's Heart Dan' would likely give rise to a ruckus in the entire Xuan Xuan continent. This small medicine pill could easily cause a blood-bath; a very tragic one at that. In fact, the

intensity of the scramble for this medicine wouldn't be very different from the one that had unfolded for the 'Level Nine Xuan Core'.

The "Multi-Cure Dan"[3] did what its name suggests. It was miracle medicine that could cure a myriad of infections and diseases. This medicine could blend with a plethora of infectious and poisonous substances inside the host's body, and could remove them from therein — without causing any harm to the subject. It was a long road to Tian Fa. Moreover, the journey and the destination were filled with a variety of elements that could cause infections in the troops' bodies. And, this medicinal pill could act as a major means of prevention against all such elements by preserving the troops' health. Therefore, Jun Mo Xie had given this medicine preference over the others.

The last was the 'Connecting-Meridians Dan'. Jun Mo Xie had given it a different name: Ten Years Dan. According his experiments — a person's Xuan Qi and internal strength were likely to see an enhancement after the consumption of this Dan. This Dan wouldn't exactly open-up a person's Xuan meridians, but it could enhance a person's Xuan cultivation by ten years' time!

Moreover, the effects of this enhancement were possibly permanent in nature!

In other words, this 'Medicinal Dan' could provide a life-long enhancement in person's combat effectiveness. Moreover, this miraculous medicine could produce this effect in a very short period of time. Jun Mo Xie could enhance the cultivation level of the 300 hundred guards he was training to an entirely new level if this medicine could be combined with the 'Devil's Heart Dan'.

Jun Mo Xie could naturally refine a few more medicines using the second level of the 'Art of Unlocking the Heaven's fortune'. But, those medicines were mostly nourishment medicines such as 'Spirit Purifying' Dan etc. These medicines were quite effective as well, but Jun Mo Xie didn't think very highly of them; nor did he need them very urgently. So, he had temporarily ignored them when he had made a list of his first-choice medicines.

It was imperative for him to enhance strength as soon as possible. Not just his own — but that of the entire Jun Family's troops.

Jun Mo Xie sat cross-legged inside the Hongjun Pagoda. He was facing the 'Furnace of Good Fortune', and was trying to calm his excited frame of mind. The 'Art of Unlocking the Heaven's Fortune' had been surging like a torrent, but it started to flow like a smooth stream as his mental state became calmer. Suddenly, he felt burst of clarity in his mind.

[Well!]

Jun Mo Xie raised his hands after a loud shout, and drew a large circle in the void of the air. Then, he rapidly drew some characters with his finger. He wasn't using any kind of ink, but some strange characters would show up in that circle he had previously drawn. And, those strange characters would fly into the Furnace of Good Fortune once they had been fully formed...

Boom!

The 'Flame of Primal Chaos' was lightly ablaze under the 'Furnace of Good Fortune' when he had started. However, the flame suddenly became more ardent and fierce. A jet-black flame soared ten feet into the sky, and enveloped the entire 'Furnace of Good Fortune' inside it.

Jun Mo Xie pointed the index finger of his hand towards the 'Furnace of Good Fortune' as this happened. A 'buzz' resounded from the Furnace, and it started to float and swirl in midair. Soon, the Furnace's body started to radiate with a rainbow-colored light, and countless strange patterns appeared on its outer surface. Then, those patterns suddenly disappeared. But, that rainbow-colored light continued to radiate on the furnace's body. The furnace continued to swirl and buzz midair as its lid was raised into the sky.

Jun Mo Xie tossed the medicinal ingredients into the furnace with his right hand, and the entire atmosphere was suddenly filled with a rich medicinal aroma. This dense fragrance had come to life the moment the ingredients made contact with the Furnace. Then, the Furnace's lid slammed down, and the 'Flame of Primal Chaos' lit-up once again. Then, Jun Mo Xie pointed his finger towards the furnace, and it was enveloped in that jet-black flame again.

Suddenly, Jun Mo Xie felt as if the spiritual energy inside his body had surged out like a massive river that had broken past its dam...

This was merely the beginning. The Young Master Jun had always sailed swiftly — despite the direction of the current. However, he found himself complaining like never before...

[Oh My God! Is this medicinal alchemy or blood suction? That feeling from a moment ago was simply terrifying! Refining such a small amount of Dans requires so much strength, and such a substantial

amount of Aura?! And, that's when I'm only refining the most basic and ordinary Dans! If this is merely the starting point... wouldn't it kill me if I were to refine high-end Dans? This is too much...!]

[Damn it! I've seen the movies! Those Daoist alchemists would concoct Dans with so much ease. They would merely stroke their beards and scratch their whiskers, and the job would be done. The clouds would shake, and the Dan would show up in front of them. And, a person could be brought back from the dead with the Dan they would concoct! In fact, a person could become as light as feather, and ascend to the heavens as an Immortal...]

[Ah... why did it have to be so difficult in my case? I just want to treat some injuries, cure some infections, and enhance a person's cultivation by a few years... that's all! But, why does something so simple have to demand so much energy from my spirit, ah?]

Jun Mo Xie grumbled in his heart, but didn't dare to slack off. He tried to maintain a steady flow, and allowed his body's spiritual energy to surge out like a massive river...

A long while later...

"Bang!"

The Furnace of Good Fortune issued a loud sound, and resumed its original position on the ground. The Flame of Primal Chaos simmered down and reverted back to its original color.

As for the Young Master Jun — he was completely exhausted. He didn't even have the strength to move his fingers. He panted for air as he sensed the HongJun Pagoda frantically pour Aura into his meridians. He felt as if he had just run 5 kilometers with a 500kg boulder on his body. He was literally on the verge of his sticking his tongue out of his mouth to breathe more air. In fact, the Young Master Jun would've probably fallen into a deep slumber if it wasn't the crazy amount of supplementary energy that the HongJun Pagoda was pouring into his body.

Physical fatigue was secondary. The crucial point was that his spirit had been exhausted. This was a rather frightening situation. The consequences could be very serious if his spirit wasn't timely supplemented.



A long, long while later... Jun Mo Xie finally felt as if his dried-out meridians had been somewhat replenished. He strutted off the ground with the help of the little remaining spiritual energy in his body, and lifted the Furnace's lid. Then, he peeked to take a look inside it. He violently cried-out after a quick glance, while his limbs started to tremble.

There was nothing inside the Furnace of Good Fortune! ...apart from some burnt-out ashes...

"I'm going to fu\*k you!" The Hitman was flabbergasted. He continued to curse in anger, "I don't believe this! I spent all the effort I could, and this Dan still didn't get refined?! I can't believe that I'll have to try a second time over such silly and ordinary Dans!"

He sat down cross-legged, put the HongJun Pagoda into motion, and started to absorb the spiritual energy... [I won't mess up the second time]...

Then...

"You recumbent furnace!" the Hitman couldn't believe the result of his second attempt either. "This is again... ah... well, my I'm going to get serious! Let's see who the real daddy is!"

Then, he started all over again...

Bang! Then...

"Damn it! I can't believe this devil! I don't know how many attempts this nonsense is going to take... ten times... Do I have to try a hundred times? A thousand times...?" he continued to curse in anger. He vented out his anger till he exhausted himself, and then sat down cross-legged again. He restarted the HongJun Pagoda to replenish his energy, and started the process again...

He couldn't believe the result again... abused till he was exhausted... and then started the entire process again...

It's hard to say how many times it took, but eventually...

“Wow, ha ha ha ha... I’m your daddy! How can a piece of trash like you keep turning my stuff into ashes, huh? Ah? You son of a bit\*h! You think I don’t know you? You’re a bastard! Ha! You evil little thing! You think you can beat me? Hum...”

The Young Master Jun’s messy hair and dirt-filled face didn’t look much different from that of a beggar’s. In fact, even a beggar would look better than Jun Mo Xie’s present appearance. His face had gone as green as that of a zombie’s. His entire body was trembling as if he was suffering from a stroke of epilepsy. He extended his hand, and grabbed a tiny and shiny pill from the Furnace. He then raised it into the air, and started jumping up and down like a maniac...

He gnashed his teeth as he held that pill in his hands. Jun Mo Xie had a strong impulse to throw that pill on the ground so he could trample it like a maniac. [Damn it! I suffered so much for this tiny piece of trash?! I’ve got cramps from that tortuous ordeal! What if I were to toss you to the ground, and stamp on you... that would be fun... that would feel so good... how good would that feel?]

However, the heartless and ruthless Jun Mo Xie was reluctant to part with it. [Damn! Trample on this thing? Has my brain short-circuited? That’s not enough! I’m going to swallow you! You will squirm inside my intestines till you’ve been digested. And then, you shall be transformed into my moisty and stinky sh\*t. That’s the best punishment for you!]

He continued to rain curses as he slowly put them into a jade bottle. Then, he pulled one pill out of the jade bottle, and brought it up to his mouth. His hands treated the pill as if it was a priceless treasure, while his mouth cursed it “Tiny piece of trash”. Then, that pill reluctantly left his hand, and dropped into his mouth. Crack, crack, crack... he chewed it a few times, and swallowed it down...

“The result looks good.” Jun Mo Xie face reveled in the aftertaste of the Mysterious Yang Dan as it came in contact with his mouth. Then, Jun Mo Xie’s face revealed a bitter expression as he realized that he had many more to refine, [How much time will this take?]

[Forget about the material required for this Mysterious Yang Dan... I came in with 100 packets of herbs... and now I only have 78 left. It took me 22 attempts to succeed once. And, it could’ve been by accident too! I can only concoct 30 pills in one go. So, I will have to succeed 10 times if I want to make enough for all my trainees. How many attempts will it take to succeed 10 times...?]

“This stupid furnace!” Jun Mo Xie sat down again, and started to replenish his spiritual energy...

One had to say that Jun Mo Xie had a very tough will-power. It had certainly surpassed that of an ordinary person. An ordinary person wouldn't back away if they were met with a wall on their path. However, Jun Mo Xie wouldn't just refuse to give-up... he'd continue to knock against the wall until he had broken past it.

Jun Mo Xie had initiated the Hongjun Pagoda to reinstate his spiritual power for the 22nd time. He wanted to restart the Furnace of Good Fortune and Flame of Primal Chaos so he could adhere to his task of concocting the required number of pills. However, the spiritual energy in his body had been exhausted. In fact, not even a spec of it was left.

What kind of sensation would a martial man feel once their Xuan Qi and Spiritual Energy had been depleted? Such excessive strain would leave their limbs cold, and their mind in chaos. And, if a person had to experience this feeling over 22 times... one would feel as if the very depth of the sea of their soul had started to tremble... as if they would wither at a moment's notice; it was a very creepy sensation that would leave one's hair standing at an end! It would be akin to taking a recreational hike along the gates of hell.

An average person would at best endure this the first time due to their "discipline". But, they would never attempt it a second time. Moreover, the memory of this sensation was likely to shatter the said-person's will-power, and leave them traumatized. In fact, even the individuals bestowed with the strongest of will-powers wouldn't attempt this more than three-to-five times.

However, the Young Master Jun had attempted this process 22 times in a row! He had failed the first 21 times... but judging by his zeal — he would've single-mindedly carried-on even if he hadn't succeeded in his 22nd attempt.

Who could claim to be more tenacious than Hitman Jun? Who could claim to be more ruthless?

Let alone the Spiritual Energy... even the mental discipline required to accomplish this feat wasn't trivial! It was simply unimaginable!

As the situation stood — the Young Master Jun had succeeded once, and had concocted a few pills. However, he still wasn't willing to stop. In fact, he was brimming with desire to refine all the ingredients he carried...

Even if an almighty alchemic master was to see such tenacity... they'd probably roll their eyes over and faint!

They'd call him a freak; perhaps an evil spirit!

However, Jun Mo Xie wasn't aware of this. In fact, he probably wouldn't bother even if he was. So, he'd endlessly gather his energy, and would immerse himself into refining the pills. Then, he'd put-up a miserly expression on his face as he'd slowly put those pills into his small jade bottle...

One bottle could only hold a hundred pills. Seeing that one bottle had filled-up... he brought out the next one... filled it... and then the next... Perhaps it could be attributed to his previous failures, but Jun Mo Xie had become very skilled at this. In fact, it seemed as if he was one of the best alchemists alive...

Perhaps he had failed too many times in the beginning. But, his rate of failure had decreased very significantly after he had gained some experience. Now, he'd succeed one out of every three times...

However, this wasn't the most important aspect. The most important thing was — the recovery speed of Jun Mo Xie's spiritual energy had been increasing incessantly. Jun Mo Xie's countenance had resembled a 'dead dog' after his first attempt. But, he would only be left to pant grumpily at present. Then, he'd gasp a mouthful of air, sit down to meditate, recover himself in a few moments, and then start again... this had increased his speed by two or three times...

His success rate had also increased!

It was hard to say how much benefit these pills would provide. But, Jun Mo Xie's spiritual energy was deriving great benefits from this refining process. And, these benefits would certainly be profound and long-lasting.

Jun Mo Xie's spiritual strength's condensation and his spiritual awareness's strength had shown massive improvements over the course of those 21 failures. And, they had unexpectedly burst-out when he had successfully concocted his first batch of pills. This had revealed the progress that Jun Mo Xie had made while concocting these pills.

However, Jun Mo Xie was unaware of this. In fact, he hadn't taken any note of this aspect.

Jun Mo Xie had “accidentally” or “unintentionally” attained a state of detachment from his body.

He was completely detached from himself. There was only one thing in his mind — [refine pills! Refine pills! Refine pills! I need to refine pills at any cost! ...there's no time! I don't have enough time! I must pay close attention to how much time I spend in refining these pills...]

The expression on his face had gone from that of excitement... to calm and serene... to 'it's only a matter of time'... to a wooden expression... and had eventually transformed into that of a man who was mundanely sitting and eating his daily cabbage...

And the cheapest variety of cabbage at that! The kind that would be sold for a dozen a dime... the kind that one would grow bored of consuming...

But then, Jun Mo Xie made a startling discovery by the time he started to refine the Connecting-Meridians Dan. And, he finally woke-up with a start...

[What the fu\*k!]

[My body's spiritual power has supported three consecutive refining processes, and I still don't feel exhausted! This... what's happening? Are these pills of a lower level than the previous ones? Nah... they are all at the same level. But, this Connecting-Meridians Dan is the highest-leveled pill amongst these... It's the hardest to refine, and requires the maximum amount of Aura input... I remember that I was barely to persist when I refined the first batch of pills... so why don't I feel dead-tired right now? What's happening...]

Jun Mo Xie's mind was set into motion. And so, he peeked inside his body. One glance — and he jumped-up in shock!

The traces of the formless spiritual energy still persisted within his meridians. It had broken past the first layer, and was gradually breaking through the second layer as it shuttled back and forth his meridians. This spiritual energy was still in the form of mist, but it was much denser than before! In fact, it nearly felt as if it had solidified!

[Don't tell me! My spiritual strength has seen such a massive growth by merely refining these medicines?]

Jun Mo Xie couldn't understand this. After all, wasn't he merely concocting pills?

He would exhaust his bodily aura every time he'd refine the ingredients. But, he'd instigate the HongJun Pagoda into motion since he didn't have any time to replenish his spiritual energy. And, the HongJun Pagoda would reinstate his meridians with pure aura, and revive his spiritual strength. However, it would replenish his meridians with a little more aura than they previously contained.

It was hard to tell the number of times he had undergone this process... but, he'd put all his effort into the process each time, and would overstrain himself in the process...

It could be said that Jun Mo Xie would've died without a dreg if it weren't for the HongJun Pagoda. However, the HongJun Pagoda existed. And, his body was presently inside it. This was greatly beneficial for him, but it's difficult to describe these benefits in words...

His strength had more than doubled since the time he had started to concoct these pills in the Pagoda!

As for the measure of his Xuan Qi — he had at-least reached the mid-level mark of the Jade Xuan realm. And, he could make another breakthrough at any point. As for the 'Art of Unlocking the Heaven's Fortune' was concerned — he had reached the mid-level mark of the second layer! He could reach the peak of the first layer after one more giant stride. Then, he could advance further by impacting the third layer's bottleneck!

Moreover, it hadn't even been 15 days since he had broken into the second layer!

In other words, he had managed to enhance himself by two full steps over the course of this frenzied time when he had been immersed in refining these medicines. Two full steps! Ordinary people couldn't even think about such progression!

Xuan Qi cultivation was easy before a person reached the Silver Xuan level. So, the growth was rapid. But, every step would become harder once a person had made the breakthrough into the Silver Xuan

Realm. In fact, the same was true for every type of martial cultivation. It gets tougher to make a breakthrough with every grade a cultivator advances.

Take the Tian Fa King beasts for example. They were far beyond the ordinary. In fact, one could say that they had been blessed by the heavens. However, they had been stuck at the same breakthrough for decades; but still hadn't seen any signs of a breakthrough. They had made progress every day over the course of these decades. But, they still hadn't been able to make a breakthrough. So, one could imagine how fanatical they must've gotten when Jun Mo Xie offered to assist them in making one. This was probably the most apt description of the difficulty of progression.

An ordinary person simply couldn't fathom this!

Jun Mo Xie exhaled a long, long, long breath. His mind was enveloped by ecstasy, and he suddenly loosened up. Then, he suddenly felt a strong ache in his head; as if his skull had been punctured with needles. Jun Mo Xie had forgotten about the passage of time since he had entered the HongJun Pagoda. In fact, he had no idea as to how much time he had been here!

However, he had an unbearable headache at the moment. His entire body felt powerless. His spiritual energy had been re-filling itself, but his body had long been exhausted. Then, a strong sense of starvation emerged from his stomach. So much so, that Jun Mo Xie was left aggrieved to death.

[How long have I been at this without any food? Ah, not to mention... without any water...]

Jun Mo Xie scanned the floor beside his feet, and was again shocked by the sight of his doings...

Rows after rows of jade bottles had been neatly arranged on the floor.

He counted the number of bottles... [My God!]

Jun Mo Xie sucked in a breath of cold air. [Did I really refine so many pills? Crap! I'm so abnormal! In fact, I'm not even a human being ah...]

[There's five bottles of Mysterious Yang Pills, three bottles of Missing Yin Pills, six bottles of Devil's Heart Pills, eight bottles of Connecting-Meridians pills, and fifteen bottles of Multi-Cure Pills...]

[My God!]

[I'm too great! Too great! I'm very, very handsome! I'm amazing! ...no adjective can aptly describe my talents!]

[These pills... they are... power ah! How much progression will my 300 guards' strength see once I give them these pills? It's certainly going to be formidable!]

Jun Mo Xie spent some time praising himself. Then, he quickly ducked-out of the HongJun Pagoda... [I'm going to starve to death if I don't leave this place...]

However, Jun Mo Xie was completely unaware that he had spent three days and three nights inside the HongJun Pagoda instead of that one 'intended' night. Moreover, he was completely unaware of the commotion his absence had caused...

The Jun Family's Young Master had disappeared from his own residence... no one had found any traces of his departure, and he hadn't told anyone either. Moreover, he had never disappeared for such a long stretch in the past...

On top of that, Jun Mo Xie had disappeared right after the Solitary Falcon had departed the Jun residence. What did this indicate? Could anyone imagine that, ah?

The entire Jun household was in a chaos, and everybody was in a hurry. Something big had happened!

It was outrageous!

The Third Young Master of the Jun Family! Their only surviving scion!

Chapter 303: The Dispute Over the Medicinal Dans, and Guan Qing Han's Breakthrough



Grandpa Jun wasn't worried on the first day. Jun Mo Xie's strength wasn't weak, and he had full confidence in his own abilities. In fact, he had stated that he could defend himself against a Great Master if need be. Could anything be more dangerous than that? Grandpa Jun had no idea where Jun Mo Xie had gone off to, but he was more focused on planning a Great-Grandson for himself...

However, Grandpa Jun and Jun Wu Yi couldn't help but get worried on the next day. [He hasn't come home for two days and two nights. What's the matter? This has never happened before! Could it be that he is busy indulging himself in pleasures and has forgotten about his duties towards the Family?]

Finally, they lost their cool on the third day. After all, his claims of being able to defend himself against a Great Master hadn't been confirmed...

Grandpa Jun became extremely anxious, and ordered an emergency throughout the capital. He also dispersed his troops everywhere. The Jun Family's secret force was dispatched, and they searched every corner of the city. Then, the Jun family dispatched more troops in disarray since they couldn't find him. Hai Chen Feng and the Jin Yan Gang also initiated a comprehensive search. The gangsters and the soldiers had taken initiative to work hand in hand in this instance! Grandpa Jun and Third Uncle personally led the search, and were thorough like a sieve. They searched each shady area in the city — multiple times.

Third Uncle's complexion was extremely unsightly. He was extremely vicious during this search. Each word that came out of his mouth was unsuited for a cultured man's speed. He would first strike a person, and then... he'd abuse. Grandpa Jun's speech was also very fierce. [Damn it! I will carry out a detailed search... even if the sky falls! And, I'll kill anyone who doesn't cooperate!]

[I'll break your legs if you dare to utter a word! You dare to slack-off after I broke your legs? Should I go for your skull as well?]

The brothels were shut down and raided. The same was especially true for the wretched Spirit Fog Lake's most infamous establishment: Ni Chang 'Rainbow' Pavilion[1]. That was certainly on top of the list.

They further went on to take the Madame and the pimps of the 'Rainbow Pavilion' into custody. They even intercepted and arrested Lady Yue'er. Apparently, Lady Yue'er had been touring every influential family's residence in order to show-case her skills. Every brothel was falling-over itself in an attempt to

hire her. But, she had planned a big tour. And, she was barely done with half of it when she was intercepted by the soldiers led by Jun Wu Yi, and was then taken into custody...

But why?

What reason could they have to capture a prostitute?

Everyone knew the relationship between the Second Prince and the 'Rainbow Pavilion'. But, this incident marked the first time when the Second Prince sent his own 'Mastermind' — Fang Bo Wen — to intercede on his behalf. He had counted on the Jun Family's honor. He was ordered to return only after they had released Lady Yue'er. But, Jun Wu Yi's face was extremely cold when he passed his judgement, "Get lost!"

It was said that the venerable Mr. Fang flew into an epileptic rage on the spot.

Then suddenly, the Third Young Master Jun re-appeared... in the midst of all that chaos.

The beggar-looking Young Master Jun appeared in his courtyard like a starving re-incarnation of a stray dog. He sped to Jun Family's Kitchen like a fish that had just escaped its net the moment he appeared.

Little Ke had bathed her face with tears. She jumped in fear at his arrival. Though, she couldn't even see his shadow when she turned her head to look at him.

Little Ke then hurriedly went and informed Guan Qing Han. In-turn, she informed Jun Wu Yi that the Third Young Master Jun had returned safe and sound.

After that, the two females proceeded towards the direction Jun Mo Xie had disappeared in. They were extremely shocked when they reached the kitchen.

Jun Mo Xie's dress was ragged, and his hair was disheveled. His face was pale, and there were two pouches beneath his eyes. He looked like a wretched animal. His hands were skinny and black like a chicken's claw, and his boots had holes which revealed his toes. He'd grabbed a fish with his left hand,

and put it into his mouth. He then pulled hard in the opposite direction; only the fish's skull and bones came out of his mouth.

He held a lump of beef in his right hand. He didn't even seem to chew it as he stuffed it down his throat. A bowl full of soup was placed in front of him. He'd occasionally choke and let out a strange cry. Then, he'd lowered his head, and smashed it in the bowl. He'd ignore the strange sounds of his actions as he'd empty half-the-bowl in one go.

Beneath him... was a pile of bones, fish bones, and bits-and-pieces of meat...

The chubby chefs in the kitchen were behaving as if they had been struck by lightning. They stared foolishly at the famished incarnation of the Young Master. Their faces twitched. He was eating too much.

[Crap! Even a pig... no... even a wild boar can't eat so much at such an unbelievable speed!] They felt dizzy as they witnessed that spectacle.

Guan Qing Han and Little Ke rushed over and caught up. They were very indignant. [You little debauchee! You disappeared to god-knows where. You left home for three days without even leaving a message! Could you at least think about how worried everyone else is?] The sister-in-law wanted to teach her brother-in-law a lesson. After all, she was an elder relative. But, she was dumbstruck by this sight, and was unable to say anything.

[These kind of table manners?!] The eyes of the eldest daughter of the Guan Family opened wide. And, she covered her small mouth as her expression turned to that of shock. The generally cold and beautiful face of the young woman had revealed this look for the first time...

Little Ke's delicate and small mouth opened-wide as she stared startled; one could stuff two duck-eggs in her mouth.

Eventually, Jun Mo Xie sighed with satisfaction. Then, his head went down again to finish the last bits in the soup bowl, and raised it back once its white base was visible.

Then, he raised one leg and kicked at the pile of bones... which had nearly reached his ankles. The Young Master then hiccupped in satisfaction. After that, he took-out his throwing knife, and calmly started to pick his teeth. He then saw everyone's expression... the one that had surfaced on their faces after witnessing such a strange event. He couldn't help but ask in bewilderment, "Is my face flowering?"

Everyone was speechless.

They were speechless for a long time. They wondered if anyone could say anything after witnessing something so shameless.

"What have you been doing these past days?" His sister-in-law, Guan Qing Han, asked in a dignified and interrogative manner once she came back to her senses.

"Me? In the past few days? Hah..." Jun Mo Xie immediately guessed what had happened. He then sighed as he shook his head, "I was extremely busy these past few days; extremely busy! Unlike you all — who slept till they were hungry, and ate till they were satisfied. You had nothing to do... except for taking care of your physiological needs."

[What did he say?] Guan Qing Han bristled as she spoke fiercely, "What did you say?"

"What did I say? He He... I said that sister-in-law and Little Ke look increasingly beautiful every time I see you. Especially sister-in-law! Not only do you look very attractive, but you also look younger. I believe that people who don't know that you're my sister-in-law will think that you're my younger sister if you carry-on at this rate!" Jun Mo Xie honeyed his words as he uttered this nonsense.

Guan Qing Han and Little Ke were stunned. They knew that his words were an overstatement, and were aware that he was only trying to flatter them. But, they still felt delighted at being praised. Their mood changed, and a funny expression surfaced on their faces as they started at him speechless. Guan Qing Han's face became taut after some time, "Third Uncle has returned. He'll make you feel better." She finished and pulled Little Ke away with her.

Qing Han had been right. Moreover, she hadn't exaggerated one bit.

The Grandpa Jun and Third Uncle rushed back to Jun Mo Xie the moment they heard of his return, and burst-in furiously like a storm. The Young Master Jun's hair turned white at the sight of this, and he started to splutter...

The Young Master Jun was barely able to withstand the concentrated thunderstorm of the berating. But, he wanted to show-off his achievements. So, he then cleared his throat and took out the Mysterious Yang Dan, the Devil's Heart Dan and the 'Ten Years' Dan. But, the two big shots continued to scold him violently.

Erm... these Dans were very good. Though, they couldn't be taken in concentrated doses. The Mysterious Yang Dan could be taken once every ten days. And, it would be fine to take a regular dose for health purposes. But, the 'Ten Years' Dan was a one-time affair; it would be useless to have it regularly... in fact, it would be a complete waste.

Grandpa Jun and the Third Uncle picked the Dans with their fingertips. But, judging by their facial expressions... they didn't look very convinced. After all, the Young Master Jun had said that the efficacy of these Dans were miraculous. They looked at Jun Mo Xie with doubtful expressions. [You cheating demon! This little Dan can increase cultivation by ten years? That's rubbish!] The same thought emerged in both men's brain.

However, they felt their cultivation shoot-up frantically after they took the pills under Jun Mo Xie's administration. They felt their skills had risen to a level of ten years or more. Their expressions turned green as the Young Master's. They stared at the Young Master Jun like a pack of... hungry wolves!

"This is such an amazing thing! How many of these are there? Hand them over to this Old Man! I'm happy again. So, don't make trouble for me! I'll have none of your nonsense, you little brat!"

This was Grandpa Jun's roar. His face had flooded with excitement. He grabbed the front of Jun Mo Xie's gown, raised him in the air, and shook him like he was drying a dead fish in the wind.

The Old Man greedily opened his mouth wide as he spoke those words in a tyrannical manner.

"Since your grandfather has opened his mouth first... you must serve his needs before anything else. I'm not that important. You come round to me as you wish. Just hand over a hundred dozen bottles to me.

You must give the remaining to your grandfather; no matter how many you have in total." That's what Jun Wu Yi had said. He wanted more than a hundred-dozen bottles of these Dans.

[This father-and-son duo thinks that these Dans have fallen from the sky? And, one can just pick them from the ground? These are medicinal dans with genuine efficacies!]

Jun Mo Xie groaned. He had been dizzied by the shock...

[Even if I could merely pluck them from the ground... I'd still need to work my back! These medicines are amazing supplements... But, these two think that they are like cabbages...? How can they demand such a large amount...]

Could these two men kill Jun Mo Xie over these pills? They had conveniently forgotten about their grandson/ nephew / and their Family's sole heir in the lure of these Dans! Grandpa Jun was pulling Jun Mo Xie's cheek in hostility, and had nearly transformed his appearance into that of a pig's. Jun Wu Yi was slightly gentler in his approach. He was only addressing to Jun Mo Xie's logical sensibility. Else, Jun Mo Xie's face would've turned purple from all the 'pulling'.

[Did he faint in front of us? We have misjudged this brat's intentions. We have erred and counted our chickens before they hatched!]

The Young Master Jun let out a blood curdling cry. He wanted to burst into tears, but couldn't find any tears to shed. "I can't do it anymore... I will faint... I can't do it anymore... you two... please let me off!"

"You cheating devil! I just saw that you took out several bottles of those! Now calmly hand them over to me. Are you looking for trouble?" Grandpa Jun caught Jun Mo Xie by the ankles, and pulled him up. Then, he started to wave him around ferociously. It appeared as if an urchin was hanging from date tree's branch. But, the only difference was... he was upside-down...

Jun Mo Xie couldn't bear this treatment anymore, "Let go... I'm dying! I'm feeling very dizzy! I'll give... I'll give... isn't that enough?"

Grandpa Jun put his grandson down, and stared at him like a tiger looking at his prey. He didn't even blink.

Jun Mo Xie crawled away and slapped his face. [You really had to show off, didn't you?! Didn't you know that you'd be inviting trouble? You're well aware that this stuff can sway people's hearts. You knew that your grandfather and Third Uncle will lose all sense of relations when lured by the desire of such amazing Dans!]

He still felt this was wrong. [I anyway refined the Dans to increase the Jun Family's strength. So, why am I getting the miserable treatment that is meted out to rebels?! So many different kinds of torture! It's like they are forcing chili water down my throat!]

He moved slowly and took out one bottle of the Mysterious Yang Dan, Devil's Heart Dan, Multi-Cure Dan and Ten Years Dan each. He then kept them on top of the table for display. "That's all I have!"

"I don't believe it! Take out more!" the two older men roared in unison.

"That's really all I have!" Young Master Jun's face revealed a sincere expression. "These will be enough for hundreds of people. My master gave these many to me..." he thought; [You want them all for yourself? I made them to upgrade the strength of the troops under my command... but, I won't give to the unreliable ones. So, I'll keep the remaining with myself.]

"These bottles have enough for a hundred people?" the two older men were full of disbelief. Such precious medicines were extremely rare. The Third Uncle had asked for over a hundred-dozen of these bottles, but was he was merely joking.

It would've been enough if one bottle could provide for 3-5 people. So, how could they not be flabbergasted to hear the Young Master Jun speak that these tiny bottles could provide for hundreds of people?

"That's right. My master has used all his strength to refine these medicines. Why else would I have asked for those herbal ingredients? But, my master suffered a serious injury in refining these medicines. He may take up to 3-5 months to recover. Moreover, he may not be able to refine such Dans for a very long period of time. So, we need to be careful with the usage of these medicines." Jun Mo Xie was naturally exaggerating a few things. But, if the two men came to know that these Dans could be refined repeatedly... wouldn't they force him to refine those Dans every day for the rest of his life?

The two men thought this to be reasonable. It was reasonable if Jun Mo Xie's master couldn't refine these 'divine medicines' again and again. After all, wouldn't it be too much of a child's play if such medicines could be mass-produced?

The two older men extended their hands pushed Jun Mo Xie aside. Then, the two of them pulled at each other as they tried to grab...

"Mine!"

"Mine!"

"Bang! Slam! Thump!" it was quite obvious that the two men had reached out for the Dans...

Jun Mo Xie disappeared from the hall like a wisp of smoke. He paid no attention to those shameless 'good for nothing' men. In any case, there wouldn't be a mishap... no matter how much they tussled. But, they had sent the ground rumbling. [I better make a run for it...]

Intentionally or otherwise, Jun Mo Xie wobbled into Guan Qing Han's courtyard. She was quietly sitting under the blossoming tree. The young woman was calmly looking at the tree with a calm and content face. She had obviously heard Jun Mo Xie's footsteps, but she had remained as before; in fact, she didn't even turn around to face him.

"What's the matter?" she asked unenthusiastically.

"Nothing major. I just brought a few medications. You should try tasting them, but they're not too delicious. Ha Ha..." Jun Mo Xie gave a hollow laugh.

"Oh?" Guan Qing Han slowly turned her cold and beautiful face to look at him. "What kind of medication?"

"I've refined many kinds of medications. Their effects are pretty good too. Would you dare to try it?" Jun Mo Xie yawned these words. But, there was only one word in his mind — aphrodisiac. Though, he didn't dare say it out loud.



"What dare? You think I'm scared that you'll poison me?" Then, Guan Qing Han went beyond Jun Mo Xie's expectations and... she actually smiled. Jun Mo Xie temporarily forgot about moral integrity when he saw that stunning beauty smile... it was stunning... shocking... absolutely unexpected...

"Jun Mo Xie, I can't stand you at times, but I've come to realize that you're not the type of person who'd always use despicable means. And anyway, I'll always be your sister-in-law." She stretched her hands to receive the pills from Jun Mo Xie. Three pills; woman's quota. The Missing Yin Dan, Devil's Heart Dan, and the Ten Years Dan. She looked at Jun Mo Xie indifferently. Then, she raised her head and without any hesitation, and swallowed the medication.

Jun Mo Xie opened his eyes wide. He was about to tell her to wait till she had started to cultivate. But, she had already opened her mouth, and had taken the medication by then. This really amazed him.

A bubble of regret emerged inside Jun Mo Xie when he realized that Guan Qing Han trust him so much that she took the medication without a second thought. [I would've refined that aphrodisiac if I had known that she trusted me so much. This is a huge blunder! Bah! This must be that old Mo Xie's spirit haunting me and causing mischief. I'm so pure... how can I be that kind of a person...?]

Guan Qing Han was about to ask about the Dan and its effects when she felt a warm sensation well up in her dantian. Suddenly, her body felt warm and comfortable. It was an indescribably comfortable sensation. Then, the Xuan Qi started to move through her meridians on its own accord. It moved like a strong tide of a flooding river. Her dantian became increasingly warmer as the Xuan Qi continued to move through her meridians. In fact, it was getting converted into an exceptionally pure variant of Xuan Qi...

Jun Mo Xie's mysterious Dans promoted a person's abilities in a miraculous manner!

Guan Qing Han was shocked to discover this. She felt a little regret at doubting him. However, her cultivation was presently at the Silver Xuan realm's peak. In fact, she was about to break through to the Gold Xuan realm. But, she could feel that her breakthrough to the Gold Xuan realm was imminent since a lot of power had started to rush through her body after taking the Dans.

However, this was also a very frightening moment. And, there was no one there to guide her at such a crucial time... besides her brother-in-law...

[Why didn't that little brat explain this? How could he be so careless? I thought that it was a candy!]

However, there wasn't enough time for her to think these things. The extremely powerful and pure energy from the Dan was surging through her limbs. She was resolutely stepping into the Gold Xuan Realm. But, she suddenly started to feel ill all over. Her consciousness also became somewhat fuzzy.

Guan Qing Han's cultivation level was very low. It was merely at the Silver Xuan Realm. In fact, her cultivation level was even inferior to the Young Master Jun. Jun Wu Yi and Grandpa had been able to ingest the Ten Years Dan without any scruples since they were Sky Xuan experts. They had been able to control themselves with ease through the enhancement process. In fact, they could've even made a breakthrough without any issues if the moment had demanded it; without any issues.

This was because they had a strong foundation.

However, Guan Qing Han was on the verge of death. The difference between her cultivation, and that of the other two, was over ten levels! She had only been cultivating for ten years. And now, she was experiencing the enhancement process of ten years in one go. This was nearly the sum-total of her cultivation before she had taken the medication. Moreover, the Qi flowing inside her at this moment was much purer than ever before. On top of that, she had never been put through Jun Mo Xie's cruel training methods... so, how could she persist? Fortunately, she had also taken the Devil's Heart Dan... else, she would've burst into flames by now.

Guan Qing Han felt as if she was about to burst. Her consciousness had become fuzzy. She felt despaired; [will my life end due to such a mysterious reason?]

Her brother-in-law had changed for the better with such difficulty. He had used 'Art of Unlocking the Heaven's Fortune', and had come up with such divine medications. Moreover, he hadn't forgotten to include her needs amidst all this. This showed how much he had improved! But, he hadn't considered that her ability to control Xuan Qi was lacking by a fair margin. The divine medication was unexpectedly going to kill her by force.

Guan Qing Han felt somewhat ridiculous. In fact, she was somewhat reluctant to let-go. If this had happened a few months ago — she wouldn't have felt anything similar. In fact, she would've actually felt free. But, why was she reluctant to give up?

She smiled happily as she thought; [see you again.] Then, she closed her eyes. But, she quickly opened them the moment she closed them... she was in utter shock.

Guan Qing Han recalled she hadn't said, "I have come," in the face of death. Instead, she said, "See you again." [Why did I say "see you again?" Who am I reluctant to leave behind?]

Guan Qing Han realized that she didn't have time to think about this.

Then suddenly, she felt a cool palm touch the center of her back. She then felt a warm energy penetrate her body. This warm energy cleared her spiritual consciousness. It was like she had become very dizzy due to the extremity of the summer heat. But then, she had suddenly dived into a pool of cool water. She felt elated to her very bones...

Then, she felt as if pure strength had emanated from that palm, and had started to flow into her meridians. She could sense it methodically guide that frantic flow of Qi through her meridians...

The flow of Qi had been extremely frantic a moment ago. But, it became very obedient since the arrival of that warm strength. It had started to flow wherever that strength directed it to...

There was a loud noise inside Guan Qing Han's mind. And then, she became aware of the incomparable sensation of her meridians opening wider. Even her spiritual consciousness entered into a new heavenly realm.

Guan Qing Han had broken into the Gold Xuan realm with the help of that hand at her back!

This timely help was rendered by none other than the Jun Family's Young Master — Jun Mo Xie.

Guan Qing Han had panicked; it could be said that she was inexperienced in such matters. But, Jun Mo Xie was aware that the Dans he had refined were strong; not overbearing. He had also given her the Devil's Heart Pill to assist in this enhancement. So, there was no way that she'd suffer a Devil's Bite and die. Her consciousness may have faded away for a few days, but her skills would've continued to surge ahead. But, this was a golden opportunity, and Jun Mo Xie was no gentleman. So, how could he let it pass? After all, there should be some pleasure in helping others!

He had placed his hand on her back. His hand was only separated from her skin by a mere two layers of clothing even though it was late autumn season at present. Guan Qing Han was a Silver Xuan expert. Therefore, she had a decent resistance to heat and cold. Hence, she obviously wouldn't put-on too many layers of clothing. That is why, she had felt a burst of tenderness when Jun Mo Xie had put his hand against her back. She felt so comfortable that she nearly wanted to shout and call that individual...

#### Chapter 304: Ballad of the 'Real Man'

The Young Master Jun's head was initially filled with many muddled thoughts. Then, he remembered to lend a helping hand...

Guan Qing Han slowly woke up. She felt her body relax. The Young Lady felt like soaring high in the sky, and couldn't help but feel a sense of exultation. She had broken through to the Gold Xuan realm! This meant that she had attained considerable strength. She didn't need anyone's protection anymore. It was useless now.

Guan Qing Han suppressed that rising feeling of joy with great difficulty. She realized that the palm which was placed on her back, and had earlier transferred that warm strength to her — had stopped doing so. Yet... she could still feel that warm palm on her back.

It was a good, big and warm hand!

[Who helped me? That Jun Mo Xie doesn't have enough cultivation to help me.]

She curiously turned her head to look. Surprisingly, she found that Jun Mo Xie was sitting cross-legged behind her... with his eyes closed. His hand was extended outwards; his palm was still placed on her back...

[How is this possible?]

[It really was him!]

Suddenly, she felt a burst of dizziness. [Since when did this little brat have such a high cultivation? Is it possible that...?]

[But he's motionless... He must've expended a lot of strength to assist in increasing my power, right? No wonder he can't open his eyes. It must've been unbearably tiring.]

Just when she was thinking this — she felt the hand placed on her back move. Then, she felt the five fingers squirm about. Suddenly, she started to feel ticklish. [Is this little brat kneading my back?!] His fingers moved again... [This, this... this... Isn't he fondling my back?]

Guan Qing Han's body stiffened as she turned her head to look. The wretched little brat's eyes were still closed. But, he had a happy expression on his face. The corners of his mouth were bent-crooked in an extremely vulgar smile. It seemed that his face was revealing the lustfulness of his soul...

[This is the same vulgar side of the Brother-in-Law. But... wasn't he only pretending to be a vile character?]

[How...]

That palm started to move again. This time... in a downward direction...

Could Guan Qing Han allow her devilish brother-in-law to take advantage of her?

"Ah!" she exclaimed. "Bang!" she instinctively slapped him. Then, she resolutely stamped her feet, and let her kick loose. Her face turned red with shame. She couldn't show her face anymore. So, she clutched her face and ran away.

The Young Lady's speed had increased drastically along with her cultivation. Her silhouette disappeared into her room. Her heartbeat sounded like loud drums. She was angry and ashamed; ashamed yet bashful. Guan Qing Han's expression was one of hatred. She stamped her feet on the ground. She couldn't prevent tears from flowing down her eyes as she sat in daze for some time. Then, she suddenly fell on her bed and covered her head; sobs escaped her lips even though she tried hard to stifle them.

Jun Mo Xie had been able to feel her soft and satin skin even though his palm was separated from it by a layer of clothing. His mind had been intoxicated by this sensation. In fact, he felt as if his mouth had run dry. His palm seemed to have grown a mind of its own. It was seemingly moving around on its own...

[It's so smooth, ah... what is that...?]

His mind was star-struck with admiration. He was completely oblivious about his bodily actions. He felt as if he was slowly floating in the breeze. In fact, he felt as if he had become an immortal...

Then, Jun Mo Xie was startled by a sudden cry of fear. He had just opened his eyes when — "Bang!" he felt a palm slap his face. The slap had given rise to a crisp sound. He was obviously angered by this; [what's the matter?]

He was about to retort when he suddenly felt a violent sensation surge in his abdomen. He didn't get enough time to feel the pain since he was sent flying like the misty clouds. He drifted for ten meters and crashed onto a flowerbed.

A full ten meters ah! The Young Master Jun hadn't been born as big person in this reincarnation. He wasn't even close to six feet in height; nor was his figure bulky or brawny. His body was that of an average man. So was his weight. That is why one kick from a pretty girl was enough to send his body flying!

[Did she become this powerful by taking the medicine?]

[This medicine... you can't eat it indiscriminately ah...]

As fate would have it... there were many sharp thorns in that flowerbed. Several thorns pricked into the Young Master Jun's posterior. He started to hurt everywhere, and all thoughts instantly disappeared from his skulls. The tent which had previously been raised in the crotch of his pants — had dispiritedly collapsed...

He crawled out of the flowerbed in a daze. There wasn't a soul in sight. The Young Master Jun tried to recall the sequence of events. He couldn't help become frantic; [I understand that my hands moved in

an immoral manner... and my thoughts were immoral as well... but, I had only intended to help you! However, the outcome of that...]

[What can I say? Couldn't you have objected before you struck me? This is unreasonable! Although, I certainly acted immorally first, ah...] The more Young Master Jun thought about this incident — the more he realized that he was in the wrong... and that the slap and the kick were fitting punishments...

[I can't even absolve my actions in this incident! Isn't that depressing?]

Young Master Jun remained silent for some time. He had given some of the Dans to his grandfather and his third uncle — only to have them rip him apart. Jun Mo Xie then gave a dosage to Guan Qing Han, and also helped increase her cultivation. He thought that his beautiful sister-in-law would commend him for it... or would at least behave gently with him thereafter. Who would've imagined that she would instead kick his abdomen...?

It was still fortunate that she had kicked his abdomen. What if her kick had landed a bit lower? Wouldn't she have broken his eggs?

Jun Mo Xie wiped his cold sweat and fled with his tail tucked between his legs. He realized that he wouldn't have been able to go to the Tian Fa if that kick had smashed his eggs. So, he quickly concealed his crotch with his hands, and frog-jumped out of her courtyard. [My legendary reputation would've been crushed...]

The Young Master Jun issued an order. 254 strong guards had been training intensely in the Jun Family's grounds. It didn't matter if they were in 'honing their skills' training, or were in 'resistance' training, or they were soaking in the hot pool — everyone immediately put their tasks on hold. They quickly divided into two groups, and stationed themselves in an orderly manner in front of Jun Mo Xie.

Every man in the two formations appeared to be in high spirits.

"Remember when I started your training — I told you that I want two teams out of you. Those two teams would be the strongest. One would be the 'Heaven Destroyer Team', and the other would be the 'Spirit Devourer Team'. And, not only would those two teams be the strongest — they would also make the backbone of my fighting force! These two — the 'Heavens Destroyer' and 'Spirit Devourer' teams would assist me in moving through the continent unhindered. And, the members of these two teams

would be selected from the best amongst you! And, those chosen men would be 'nightmare' for the rest of the world! They would be this continent's foremost warriors! They would be without equal!"

Jun Mo Xie leisurely paced in front of the assembled warriors. There was a sharp look in his eyes. His gaze swept across each and every soldier's face.

Each and every man's breathing was coarse and heavy. Every man's eyes were brimming with longing.

To become the strongest warrior! To become the nightmare of all foes! This was their greatest desire.

This is what they had craved their entire lives!

"I had also said that whether you deserve it or not... depends on you! On whether you'd qualify! I don't know any of your names up till this point! Firstly, because I'm not interested in knowing them! Secondly... because you don't deserve my recognition!" Jun Mo Xie slowly stated. His slow manner of speech had a bizarre tempo to it. It was like an overbearing power that was pressurizing the entire land. It seemed that time itself had slowed down.

"I will send you on your first mission after four days. And, those who survive it will become the members of my 'Heavens Destroyer' and 'Spirit Devourer' teams! From then on, they shall step onto the path of power, and the path of slaughter! Their very-name would make the entire continent shiver with fear!"

Jun Mo Xie stared at them. Then, he continued in a low tone, "But, this mission is different from the previous ones. I want only the strongest warriors. So, this mission will be extremely deadly. I will tell you that this mission is extremely dangerous! The mortality rate will be 90 percent. And, that is only a conservative estimate. Therefore, anyone who doesn't wish to proceed... can take a step back. My Family and I won't force anyone to go through with this. So, you can withdraw if you wish. There's no shame in thinking about your own safety."

The autumn wind whistled. Not a single man amongst the 254 moved. In fact, no one even batted an eyelid.



"This is the last opportunity to withdraw; you won't be able to look back later. It is entirely possible that ten out of every ten may die. They'll be gone forever! This is the final opportunity!" Jun Mo Xie proclaimed coldly.

Nobody moved an inch — same as before.

Jun Mo Xie nodded softly. Then, he spoke sternly, "Those who want to join — step forward."

"Boom!"

Two-hundred-and-fifty-four men took a step forward. They had exerted themselves as they had taken this step forward. Their orderly, yet powerful, step had sent the entire ground trembling.

"Very Good! Nine-out-of-ten may not survive this mission. But, you can't have any regrets now. They say that a man who pushes forward despite the troubles — is an iron-blooded man! Let me tell you something..."

Jun Mo Xie irresolutely muttered a few words. Then, he suddenly looked up with a thunderous expression in his eyes. Everyone became alert, and straightened their backs. They wanted to listen to Jun Mo Xie's words very carefully.

"A real man's journey has only one direction. Glory and splendor in life or death... but no retreat!

"A real man's blood is made of iron. He shall never sway in the face of danger!

"A real man's tears are the most expensive. He doesn't retreat even when he faces many enemies alone!

"His bones may break. His blood may flow like a river. But, a real man stands firm — he doesn't look back!"

"This 'ballad of the real man' can only be recited by 'real men'. Those who aren't 'real men'... can't even understand it." Jun Mo Xie put his hands behind his back. "I hope that each-and-every one of my brothers becomes a 'real man'. Gentlemen, take the first step to become a real man! Accompany me as we proudly take-over the entire world!"

There was complete silence.

Everyone's expression was extremely fierce. That heroic ballad had boiled everyone's blood. It seemed that each-and-every pore in their body had erupted with impassioned strength; their eyes emitted scorching brilliance.

It was an excellent ballad!

A real man's journey has only one direction. Glory and splendor in life or death... but no retreat! A man could only move in one direction if his goal was clear. And, he'd continue to move in the same direction his entire life. Such a man could never have regrets.

A real man's blood is made of iron. He shall never sway in the face of danger! This was an inherent quality of a 'real man'.

A real man's tears are the most expensive. He doesn't retreat even when he faces many enemies alone! The Sun may set when the battlefield has been riddled with corpses and drained with blood. The allies may have left, and the 'real man' would have to confront his many-enemies despite the scars on his body. It would be a very tragic scene. But, how could a 'real man' retreat?

His bones may break. His blood may flow like a river. But, a real man stands firm — he doesn't look back! Such was a 'real man'!

The two team leaders led the two-hundred-and-fifty-four-men to pass from in front of Jun Mo Xie. They took their Dans, closed the palm of their hands, and strode away.

The two-hundred-and-fifty-four men had collected their Dans in a jiffy. Then, they neatly organized themselves in two groups without falling into disarray.

"These medicines are rare and legendary! This Young Master had to face many twist and turns, and had to spend a lot of money to refine these Dans. And now, each one of you has one ration of these medicines in your hand. These Dans will increase your Xuan Qi's ability by ten years. Gentlemen, do not fail to live up to my expectations!" Jun Mo Xie spoke this in a stern manner as he placed his hands behind his back.

Everyone was shocked. People had heard about various kinds of rare and precious medicines across the entire Xuan Xuan continent. Such as... ginseng, thousand years' mushrooms, knotweed etc... these medicines could foster an individual's progress. But, there had never been any news of medicines which could increase Xuan Qi cultivation by this much. And, this Young Master hadn't only refined these priceless Dans... but he was also handing them over to others!

Everyone was extremely touched by this.

A man lays-down his life for his close friends!

And, he does it without saying a word...

The two captains issued an order, and the two-hundred-and-fifty-four started to march about. They arranged themselves in a manner that each man was separated from his adjacent-comrade by a distance of three meters. Then, he looked upwards, and swallowed those three precious pills down. After that, they sat down cross-legged and solemnly focused their attention on their respective Dantians to absorb the Xuan Qi from the Dans.

Jun Mo Xie stood in front of them in an outwardly-light and easy manner. However, he had concealed throwing knives in his hands as a precaution. He was in his own home at the moment, but he couldn't dare to show the slightest of negligence at this juncture.

Over two hundred men would promote their cultivation altogether. Such a thing was unprecedented!

Therefore, Jun Mo Xie had taken extreme precautions.

A tower was located some distance away from the training area. Jun Wu Yi had been watching the show from the sidelines. He grinned and murmured, "I knew that this brat had kept a lot to himself; and I was right! Upgrading the two-hundred-and-fifty-four of them together... this is amazing..."

Grandpa Jun snorted, "Mo Xie should use those medicines, but he shouldn't use them indiscriminately. Dangerous situations can arise if the news of this matter were to spread out. An ordinary man doesn't need to hide behind a wall. But, these medicines are capable of causing mishaps that can doom my Jun Family to eternal damnation in an instant. Wu Yi, we must be extremely careful! It is better to bury these medicines into the ground if their source was threatened with exposure! I won't let anything happen to Mo Xie! Do you understand?"

"I understand." Jun Wu Yi gave a profound nod and said, "The lure of these medicines can bring about the Jun Family's doom. We shouldn't take risks if there's any scope of problems. It's better to miss this opportunity than to take the risk involved."

"Good!" Grandpa Jun then looked at his grandson. A look of love and affection emerged on his face as he continued, "The timing of these medications' consumption should also be precise. And, the beneficiary shouldn't know that his enhancement has taken place because of the Dans. Do you know how to go about it?"

Jun Wu Yi gave a slight nod, "My body had been crippled for ten years, but my mind hadn't gone to waste. I coincidentally developed a method to enhance my cultivation. I'll simply ask people to use the same method. That's all."

Jun Zhan Tian narrowed his gaze, "Then, you're putting yourself at risk?"

The Third Master Jun smiled in a calm and tranquil manner, "Be at ease, Father. I know what's going to happen. But, no one is likely to search for Mo Xie in regards to this matter."

"You'll have to be extra-careful!" Grandpa Jun nodded, and didn't say anything for a while. Then, his eyes shone with a cold light. After that, he spoke in a dignified manner, "I want every intel on these two-hundred-and-fifty-four! I want to know about their experiences, and their connections. I want to know about their friends, their families, and anyone else they may've come into contact with. Even neighbors... or perhaps even lovers... even the prostitu\*es they may be intimate with! You will eliminate anyone who turns up suspicious in the investigation. Even if our actions appear baseless or unjust... do you understand?"

"Yes!" Jun Zhan Tian had given the order in a resolute and firm manner. Moreover, it was spoken like a military order. Especially when he had spoken those last words, "Even our actions appear baseless or unjust," — he had decidedly ordered to kill. So, Jun Wu Yi had given a solemn reply like a subordinate would upon receiving such orders. Jun Wu Yi had only said one word in reply. But, the two people had understood that this command was tantamount to a 'military order'!

Jun Zhan Tian was aware that there would be movement the moment the news of Jun Mo Xie's medicines would surface. He was aware that it would cause a sensation, and would lead to problems. So, Grandpa Jun was merely taking precautions against any eventuality.

He was acting reckless for his grandson's safety!

Similarly, the Third Master Jun had bet everything in order to keep his nephew safe. He had even bet his own life.

The soldiers who had taken the pills were already experiencing a reaction.

A few of them were already at the Gold Xuan realm. These few men were finding it relatively easier to absorb the pure Xuan Qi. And, were able absorb it properly. But, more than 95% of the men were facing extreme pain. They had no other option since their Silver Xuan cultivation wasn't enough to withstand the effects of these Dans. The muscles and meridians over their entire body had started to become taut. Their skin had started to flicker with a silvery radiance since the Silver Xuan Xuan Qi was frantically flowing through them. These men were at the Silver Xuan realm, but their foundation wasn't strong. Therefore, they had no option but to endure the extreme pain that was being caused by this burst of pure Xuan Qi.

However, they had to support themselves through this ordeal. They would learn a lot of things if they were able to do this on their own. This would help them greatly during their future breakthroughs. Moreover, they would gain experience, and would get to hone their self-discipline.

There were a few men whose cultivation was weaker than the rest. Their faces were full of sweat. The color of their skin had started to resemble that of blood. In fact, it seemed as if their blood was aching to burst-out on to the surface. Their expressions were dark and contorted; that was enough to describe the tremendous amount of pain they were enduring.

Xuan cultivation had various stages. And, people had to break through the previous stages to move up. For example, a Silver Xuan expert would break through to Gold Xuan, and a Gold Xuan expert would break through to Jade Xuan etc. Such a breakthrough was qualitative in nature. However, there could be a difference in the strengths of two individuals even if they were at the same level. For example, most of these soldiers were at Silver Xuan realm at the moment. But, their cultivation wasn't very profound. So, majority of these men weren't at par with Guan Qing Han.

Guan Qing Han's family wasn't that powerful, but she had been taught the 'proper' practices since childhood. Hence, she had been able to make a breakthrough after taking those three dans. In fact, she could've done it without Jun Mo Xie's assistance. She would've fainted at the most; nothing more.

However, these brawny soldiers were different from her. Their Xuan Cultivation wasn't sufficient. It was difficult for them to control this ten years' worth of cultivation since they weren't like Guan Qing Han. In fact, it was quite possible that they wouldn't see any advancement throughout their life if they failed to absorb this ten years' worth of cultivation properly.

Fortunately, they had gone through Jun Mo Xie's hellish training. And, their resolve was far superior to that of a normal person's. So, they could endure this pain even though it was unbearable. In fact, not one of them screamed... or issued a single sound from their throats. But, they gnashed their teeth, and the loud sounds of their teeth's 'clattering' resounded uninterrupted.

There wasn't even a single groan of pain — only the sound of grinding of teeth.

Grandpa Jun's voice became dignified as he watched at the scene below, "Unexpectedly, these two-fifty-four men are 'real men of blood and iron'. Their bones are good and strong. They've made this old man's pulse race!"

Jun Wu Yi smiled. His eyes were full of praise.

Eventually... the silver light around one man started to condense. Then, it faintly transformed into a light-golden one. The golden light didn't dazzle, but it was exceptionally stable. He had passed that ordeal, and had broken through to the Gold Xuan realm.

A second man followed... then the third...

The golden lights flickered endlessly as ten men successively attained the Gold Xuan level. They were extremely pleased after having passed through that painful transition. However, these men didn't rise to their feet immediately-after. They kept their eyes shut, and continued to breathe slowly. They had started to sense the huge changes they had gone through; they had never felt so much strength in their body. They started to circulate the Qi-flow through their meridians slowly and unhurriedly so that their bodies could adapt to these changes as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, the silver lights continued to flicker brightly. In fact, their radiance increased as time passed. The entire training ground of the Jun Family had started to bathe in this resplendent silver color since over 200 men had simultaneously shone bright with that color. These brilliant flashes of light nearly blinded the father-son duo on the tower.

"The weakest of them are Silver Xuan experts; the majority of them are Silver Xuan Peak experts! A few of them have made it to the Gold Xuan, and the strongest-four are at the peak of the Gold Xuan realm!" Grandpa Jun gasped, "If these troops are sent to the battlefield..."

"They won't be sent to the battlefield. They aren't ordinary soldiers anymore," Jun Wu Yi spoke unenthusiastically. "They will only fight for Mo Xie now. And, sending them to a battlefield would be a waste. I won't permit such a waste..."

"Mo Xie had once said that the weakest of these men would be Earth Xuan peak. I thought that he was just talking big... But now, I don't think that's impossible... Three months ago, the strongest of them was merely a level-eight expert. This is absolutely astonishing. It is against the will of the heavens!" Jun Wu Yi spoke slowly. A divine light of excitement flashed in his eyes.

"The weakest of them would be an Earth Xuan Peak expert...? Wouldn't that mean... that we would have around two hundred Sky Xuan experts...? Even the Silver Blizzard City and the Xue Hun Manor wouldn't be able to resist me... even if they were to combine their strengths... my god..."

Grandpa Jun had remained silent. He had been stroking his beard, and had unconsciously strengthened his grip on it when he heard this proclamation. In fact, he had accidentally pulled out a few strands of hair from his beard... and was completely unaware of it.

This was shocking!

## Chapter 305: The Undercurrents before the Battle

All two-hundred-and-fifty-four soldiers had a breakthrough; not a single one of them failed. Then, they got up from the ground, and quickly organized themselves in their previous formation. They were looking at Jun Mo Xie with eyes full of gratitude... and... franticness...

"Bang!"

Two-hundred-and-fifty-four people kneeled to the ground, and knocked their heads against it. The sound produced by their act of gratitude was so loud that it echoed in all directions.

"Thank you, Young Master!" over two-hundred men roared in unison.

"I will give you two days. Use the usual training to adapt to the changes in your body. I want everyone to coordinate their style with the changes in their Xuan Qi. And, on morning of the third day — you will go to the weapons arsenal and receive your weapons!"

Then, Jun Mo Xie nodded coldly and continued, "Moreover, 'this matter' is classified as 'top secret'. No one is allowed to divulge it to anyone. All of you will be implicated — without exception — if anyone leaks this information!"

"Yes! Your subordinates would rather die than divulge!"

Grandpa Jun was still atop the tower. There was a sense of anxiety in his gratified eyes, "Mo Xie's finesse is enough to make a coherent and charismatic leader. He has the prestige. And, he certainly has the required genius. But, I don't think he's fit to lead the troops."

"Why? Father, Mo Xie leads his troops by demanding exact compliance with regard to instructions. His strict discipline has produced such great results. His leadership has transformed these troops into an elite force... So, why isn't he suitable to lead the troops?" Jun Wu Yi was puzzled.



"He has a very fierce mind!" Grandpa Jun snorted. He then sighed. It seemed as if he was looking at something which was perfect... except for one defect. "He's a suitable leader for 'special' troops, but not for regular soldiers. The words he just spoke were the only the usual threat, but pay mind to his last words, 'All of you will be implicated — without exception — if anyone leaks this information!'"

Grandpa Jun sighed again, "Mo Xie didn't hesitate as he stated his fearful doctrine; there wasn't a strand of emotion in his tone. When I heard his words... I realized that Mo Xie will stay true to his threat even if one of those men steps out of line and divulges the secret. And, he would actually implicate each one of them..."

"That doesn't mean anything, does it? If he can train this batch... he can also train another." Jun Wu Yi disagreed, "Father, you and I are well aware that discipline is important. And, things can get very harsh and cruel at times, but it's of utmost importance to maintain order. How can we be soft-hearted under such circumstances? This is the right thing to do."

"That's why you will only be a commander. But, you can't become a commander-in-chief," Jun Zhan Tian sighed, "A commander will only have a few troops under his command. And, you can deploy them as per the war's situation. These handfuls of troops can follow you to the letter since they are well-trained and understand things. So, they won't be able a problem. Your personal troops and Mo Xie's platoon are an example of that. But, these handfuls of troops only make a small portion on an actual army... There are likely to be hundreds-of-thousands of troops under a commander-in-chief's command. And, it is vital for a commander-in-chief to control the overall situation. But... if you were to act this harshly with all of them... I'm afraid you will bring about the doom of your own army."

"Frictions and contradictions are inevitable when many platoons are stationed together since armies are full of hot-blooded men. You can have hundreds of dispute within a night of them being garrisoned together. Now, if we followed yours and Mo Xie's approach... you would have all of them beheaded." Jun Zhan Tian sighed, "A commander needs to be strict and impartial, but a commander-in-chief needs to be tolerant. Being a commander and being a commander-in-chief isn't the same thing."

"You're too unyielding, and Mo Xie is too fierce. These are your strong points... but, also your shortcomings." Jun Zhan Tian spoke in a profound manner, "Mo Xie is too ruthless, but that is sufficient to protect himself. However, you can still suffer a loss since you act so unyieldingly. That is the primary difference between the two of you."

Jun Wu Yi stood calmly. He pondered over his father's words, and remained motionless for a long while.

The harsh training had begun on the training-ground. But, the intensity of the training was ten-times higher than before.

Jun Mo Xie returned to his courtyard, and drew a long breath. He had enhanced everyone's skills. Now, the only person who was left was he-himself. He had refined those Dans, but hadn't yet tried them himself.

[I've recently reached the middle level of the Jade Xuan Realm. So, would the Dans produce good effects?]

Jun Mo Xie wasn't sure. But, he also knew that any positive effects would only tantamount to extra benefits.

Therefore, he didn't hesitate as he swallowed a 'Ten Years Dan'.

However, Jun Mo Xie didn't take the 'Devil's Heart Dan'.

The 'Devil's Heart Dan' was certainly very dependable, but this was an opportunity to practice self-discipline. Moreover, this Dan had a very negative impact on the promotion of the spiritual realms.

Jun Mo Xie felt an abundance of Qi-flow in his dantian. He was very delighted by this. [This is really useful...]

As his mind settled down — he realized that... [I forgot something]. He initiated the 'Art of Unlocking the Heaven's Fortune', and his meridians were flooded with powerful waves of Qi-flow.

The Imperial Edict was issued the next day. As expected, it appointed Jun Wu Yi as the commander of the army that was to leave for the Tian Fa forest. He would command an army of 20,000. The army would be deployed in the next couple of days to follow. It would depart south towards the Tian Fa forest. Every major family would provide assistance to deal with the 'Xuan Beast Uprising'.

Apart from Jun Wu Yi... the Emperor had mentioned the names of several other people from the major families on that list. Jun Mo Xie's name was impressively high on that list. A few people from the Meng Family were mentioned as well. The Murong Family was to send Murong Qian Jun and Murong Qian Li. The Dugu Family was to send three of the "Heroes and Legends". And, even the Song Family was to send some people.

However, against Jun Mo Xie's expectations... Li You Ran's name wasn't mentioned on that list. In other words, Li You Ran wouldn't be heading to the Tian Fa forest.

[How could His Majesty retain such a dangerous person in this hollow capital?] Li You Ran was ambitious, and Jun Mo Xie couldn't be convinced that the Emperor hadn't realized it. But, it was problem for Jun Mo Xie since the Emperor had decided to keep Li You Ran behind... despite knowing about his ambitions.

That list contained the name of one-or-the-other youngster from each major family. Therefore, these families were bound to send some experts to protect their heirs. The Emperor's Imperial Edict hadn't explicitly stated this, but each powerful family would virtually end-up dispatching a major subset of their strengths.

Jun Wu Yi rushed to the Ministry of Defense to finish-up with the formalities the moment he received the Imperial Decree. The Emperor wanted the army to move within two days, but how could it be done on such a short notice? It would require at least five days' time to make the preparations.

The army hadn't moved, yet the supplies had already advanced.

Jun Zhan Tian — the Supreme Commander of the military — blew along the province like a storm to make the arrangements, and everyone was set to work. The Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Revenue, and the Ministry Defense joined hands. They acted swiftly and everything necessary to supplement the march of the army was readied in less than one day's time.

Such efficiency could leave anyone flabbergasted.

Armies had gone to war before as well. But, who had run around to make such preparation without a trace of dawdle in their efforts? In fact, the army would set out, but the army's supplies would never be

in position. The army's ration supplies would always be delayed. It was hard to draw this nuisance's comparison with anything...

However, no one refused to comply this time.

Who was Jun Wu Yi? Jun Wu Yi had retired some time ago, but he was still considered a legendary general in the Tian Xiang Empire. It had been ten years, but this iron-blooded general was still a famous legend.

And, he was coming out of retirement for this battle. So, the entire military was in celebration. His old comrades-in-arms and his subordinates were particularly excited. It didn't matter whether a particular organization was under the Dugu or the Jun Family's military control... Jun Wu Yi got a green light from everywhere. No one dared to raise any objections... whether it was a civil division, or a military division!

The soldiers and the officers in the military had started to pray. They wanted to be a part of the army this legendary general would lead into battle. They hoped that he would point in the direction of their battalion, and select them as a part of his army.

The army hadn't started its march yet, but everyone was in high-spirits.

~Inside the Palace~

"You think it's strange that I've dispatched Jun Mo Xie, but retained Li You Ran?" The Emperor wasn't playing chess this time. He was sipping tea, while his face was covered with a smile.

"Yes. Especially since Jun Mo Xie doesn't have any ambitions, while Li You Ran's careerism is pretty obvious. So, I can't understand why His Majesty would send Jun Mo Xie and retain Li You Ran." Mr. Wen sat across from him. He asked in a puzzled manner.

"Li You Ran has some weaknesses. He's easy to control. He can't do anything when he is under my eyes. And, I want to see if this person can be of any use to me. So, I've kept him behind to observe him more carefully," The Emperor smiled lightly. "As for Jun Mo Xie... he doesn't have any desires. He'll go if you ask him to go, and he'll stay if you ask him to stay. He's like a floating cloud. But, he can't be controlled. So, I'm sending him to the Xuan Beast uprising. Whether he lives, or he dies... is up to him."

"I'm still not clear. If he's like a floating cloud... then why must..." Mr. Wen frowned.

"A floating cloud is of no concern when it's alone. But, a floating cloud can wreak havoc if it has a strong support behind it." A cold light passed through His Majesty's eyes as he sighed, "Great merits can shake the world, but great power can also attract trouble."

Mr. Wen sighed in silence.

"Has there been any activity around my second son?" the Emperor smiled rather eccentrically.

"Yes, the crossbows will arrive in the southern suburbs of the capital on the morning of the fourth day." Mr. Wen gave a sly sigh as he spoke.

"Very good; I won't have the crossbows stranded outside," The Emperor gently kept his palms on the table. His fingers were spread out. His Majesty concentrated his gaze on his fingers; as if admiring how perfect they were.

"Be at ease, Your Majesty," Mr. Wen replied. "And with that being the case... why didn't Your Majesty issue an imperial edict."

"If it is my second son's doing — I'll have no choice but to destroy him," The Emperor smiled bitterly. He looked in the distance for some time. Then, he finally muttered, "It wouldn't matter if someone were sitting in a hall, in the harem chambers, or anywhere else on this land... this activity could shake everyone. A strong undercurrent is surging in all directions. We can't afford this vibration."

Mr. Wen lowered his gaze, and remained silent.

He had never thought the Emperor would do something like this since his fatherly emotions would intervene. But, he had come to realize that he had been mistaken; gravely mistaken. He laughed at himself, [the Emperor's thought-process is far worse than I imagined...]

"Send a letter. Convey an order to the Blood Sword Hall... and whether it is the southern Zhao Family or the southern trade unions... and also my Second Son's men — no one is to be let-off. Make sure that this matter is handled cleanly."

The Emperor exhaled in a profound manner, "My second son had no means to acquire these terrible weapons. The Blood Sword Hall took the initiative on its own. And yet, my second son hasn't suspected anything fishy... I've lost hope in my second son's intelligence."

Mr. Wen continued to remain silent.

[I wouldn't have suspected it. Rather... who could possibly suspect that you — the Emperor of the four seas — would still secretly be in control of such an assassination team in the dark?]

[In fact, I'm convinced that most people wouldn't believe this matter even if it came to light...]

Mr. Wen looked at the Emperor. A question rose in his heart, but he was too scared to bring it to his mouth. [How many trump cards does this Emperor hold in his hands?]