

E Monarch 326

Chapter 326: The Biggest Barrier to Xuan Cultivation's Advancement

"Of course we were hired! When has the Dongfang Family done anything without a payment?" Dongfang Wen Qing asked as he stared and chided, "This is our family's fundamental principle!"

"Oh... ha... ha..." Jun Mo Xie was dumbstruck for a while, but then he suddenly broke into laughter.

This was a genuine case of "having many common traits".

[I follow the same principle.]

"What are you smiling at?" The three men stared at Jun Mo Xie. "Your grandfather used to call us 'profiteers' in those days. Don't tell me, you also... humph!"

"I'm not smiling at anything. This is exactly how things should be done. One should earn money and avoid calamities. It is natural that you should receive remuneration if you're going to do something. How is this 'profiteering'? Do I have to do everything free of charge so I can seem honorable? That's just too..." Jun Mo Xie laughed happily, "What's the quotation for this mission?"

"A hundred-thousand silver taels. Actually... it's a hundred-thousand per person. Therefore, we're earning a total of three-hundred-thousand in silver taels!" Dongfang Wen Dao spoke with some arrogance. He stretched his fingers to demonstrate the value, "Pretty good a sum, right?"

Jun Mo Xie was stunned speechless.

"We will take this three-hundred-thousand back to the family, and it will be able to procure provisions for our family for a long time," Dongfang Wen Qing sounded content. He stroked his beard, and narrowed his eyes. It seemed that he had accomplished something great.

"Bang!" Jun Mo Xie suddenly fell down. His head hit the table the candle was set on. The candle got extinguished as a result. The small lamp jar also tumbled, and his face was splashed with the oil.

"This... what on earth is this?" the three Dongfang men cried in shock, and hurried to support the Young Master Jun. [Has hearing of such a high price for our mission shocked him that much?]

Hit-man Jun was admittedly very shocked.

However, the reasons behind that shock...

"A hundred-thousand for one person... and three-hundred-thousand for the three of you...? That's extremely cheap! I drink flagons of wine that are worth more than that! Since when did the price of Spirit Xuan experts' service become reduced to that of a daily wage worker?" Jun Mo Xie's shocking words made his three Spirit Xuan uncles feel somewhat ashamed.

The Young Master Jun hadn't spoken lies either... He had auctioned his exquisite wine at the Aristocratic Hall at very high prices. However, that wine was truly worthy of being called the 'Heavenly Grade Wine'. Everyone who had lived to taste it had gone crazy over it. On top of that, its price had sky-rocketed even further because its supply was limited, and only the people from the highest echelons of the Tian Xiang Empire — true aristocrats — could enjoy it. So, its value had obviously increased because of its rarity. Many besides those within the boundaries of Tian Xiang Empire had the good fortune to taste the wine. And, they too ended up admiring it greatly.

The highly expensive price of this wine didn't drop at all. The noise about this "one-in-a-million wine" didn't fade after the Aristocratic Hall announced that it wouldn't sell any more of it. So, some of it appeared on the black market soon after. Some magnate fortunate-enough to have purchased it at the auction had put it on the black market. And, Jun Mo Xie had found out through Fatty Tang, Hai Chen Feng and other people that the price of that wine had shot up even higher. The price of a single jar had reached over three-hundred-thousand in silver!

"Bullsh*t! Is the wine you drink fermented with gold and jade? Does your wine cost more than a hundred-thousand in silver? Does your family pay a hundred-thousand to a daily wage worker?!" Dongfang Wen Dao retorted gloomily. However, he was aware that the lifestyle at the upper echelons households in Tian Xiang City was extremely extravagant. The riches and opulence in that city was far higher than any other place on the continent. Moreover, he was aware that these words had come from

the mouth of the infamous Jun Family's debauchee of a Young Master. Therefore, he feared that the statement wasn't actually fake or exaggerated.

Speaking of the Dongfang Family... it was once considered one of the great aristocratic families. And, it was quite powerful even if it wasn't as strong as the Silver Blizzard City or the Xue Hun Manor. It merely conducted itself in a quiet and discreet manner in order to attract less attention. But, they had still possessed commendable resources at their disposal.

However, the family has been cut-off from the world for ten years because of that damned pledge! It had seemed like the entire Dongfang Family had disappeared. Everyone from this family had withdrawn from society to live in their secret holdings, and they had fully disengaged from any interaction with the outside world as well.

The many Great Masters had kept a close watch for the first few years since they had feared that the Dongfang Family wouldn't adhere to the condition. The Dongfang Family had no choice but to give in under such strong pressure. Therefore, they became completely isolated from the world. However, the family had several people, and a lot of clothing and food was required for them. They had a profound background, but they were slowly unable to make their ends meet. Many years passed, and it had started to seem that they were feeding on empty air. Soon, several major forces started to contact the Dongfang family, and expressed their desires to resume business with them.

After all, the outside world needed to maintain its livelihood even if the Dongfang Family had been banished. But, the circumstances of the three Great Masters who had witnessed their exile changed with time. Yun Bie Chen got spirited away and disappeared. Li Jue Tian began to wander the world for years on an end, and became hard to find. Soon, Han Feng Xue was the only one who remained accessible. However, he went to the Silver Blizzard City soon after. Thus, all three of the greatest Masters had become secluded from the rest of the world.

The Dongfang Family had been rendered helpless. So, they had no choice but to send small teams to maintain its business. However, their old businesses declined after some time, and the new business required a lot of man power and resources. This obviously wasn't easy to establish.

However, Li Jue Tian had personally approached the Dongfang Family with a plea for help this time. He then offered a generous hundred-thousand in silver for each person. This gesture had clearly demonstrated his approach, "I know you come out in secret, but I won't interfere with it."

It could be said that this transaction was of great importance to the Dongfang Family. So, they decided to give special attention to this job. In fact, they were now indebted to the Xue Hun Manor. Therefore, they dispatched their three strongest warriors for this task. In other words, this matter wasn't about their greed for the three-hundred-thousand silver taels alone.

"Your grandfather sends his troops to the Dongfang Family every year and every season. They deliver us with supplies in secrecy even though he shuns in front of the world. However, you grandmother still hasn't forgotten about the past," Dongfang Wen Qing smiled bitterly and sighed. Who would've thought that the once great Dongfang Family would've been forced into such a miserable state...

Jun Mo Xie remained speechless.

It's quite difficult to state who was wrong or who was right in that matter.

[How could grandfather not understand the manner in which people's minds work? He had probably evaluated the situation a long time ago... The Dongfang Family was very powerful back then, and they even had justice in their support. But, it was bound to result in widespread outrage throughout the continent if they had rashly eliminated the Tian Xiang Empire's royal family. Moreover, the Great Masters would be compelled to intervene due to their contract of alliance. In fact, even the present Eight Great Masters would rise up in revolt if the situation turned.]

[Moreover, their enemy was the Silver Blizzard City's Xiao family.]

[Therefore, the only this matter would've only concluded with the destruction of the Dongfang Family and the Jun Family.]

[This would've been the only conclusion to this matter.] He was convinced that any man would think the same way. [My grandfather spent his entire life at the battlefield. His entire would be a waste if he couldn't foresee this...]

[The weight of making a 'preferable' decision would've taken precedence in the presence of such pressure from all sides. And, the most important aspect is obviously to preserve the existence of the Dongfang and the Jun Family.]

This kind of a result was temporarily painful for everyone to bear, but it had ensured the safety of lives of people from both the families. Moreover, it ensured that the Dongfang Family survived a thorough extinction. Otherwise, how could someone with Jun Zhan Tian's temper just submit without making any attempts to take revenge?

Jun Mo Xie had always thought that it was strange that his grandfather and third uncle — two genuinely iron-blooded men — had never tried to take revenge in all this time. But, his maternal uncle's words had cleared everything, and had pointed to the real reason for behind their inaction.

Jun Zhan Tian wouldn't worry too much about his own family getting wiped out while taking revenge. But, he wouldn't stand getting the Dongfang Family involved in it... and being wiped out as well. He was a man who wouldn't flinch at the prospect of his own family's blood being spilled. But, he wouldn't allow it happen to someone else's family.

Jun Mo Xie thought that his speculation may not have been factually correct to the point. But, it was by-and-large correct...

"In fact, I think that living in seclusion for these ten years hasn't necessarily been a bad thing for the Dongfang Family," Dongfang Wen Qing saw that Jun Mo Xie looked sad after he had heard everything. So, he smiled to console him, "My Dongfang Family's assassination technique is famous throughout the world. However, the secret technique is also my family's biggest concern and flaw!"

"Why is that?" Jun Mo Xie was somewhat puzzled.

"My Dongfang Family has existed for three-hundred years. And, it has produced a number of successive experts. But, it has never had a Spirit Xuan Master in its ranks," Dongfang Wen Qing spoke bitterly.

"Oh? What kind of an answer is that? The old lady of the family fought two Spirit Xuan experts from the Xiao Family on her own. Though, she didn't win... but she could've. Such strength is nothing short of 'astonishing'! Has she still not reached the strength of the Great Masters?" the Young Master Jun was quite puzzled.

"Mother was admittedly strong-enough to singlehandedly overcome two Spirit Xuan experts. And, her strength was truly at par with the Great Masters. However, she hadn't reached the true realm of the

Great Masters! The Dongfang Family trains in 'assassination missions'. We pay careful attention to the target... we strike it, and then we escape. However, an assassin is in no way a 'warrior'."

Dongfang Wen Qing continued in a serious tone, "We have been trying to perfect the 'assassinating technique' since times-immemorial in attempts to make it perfect. The Dongfang Family's generations have focused their attention on studying agility martial arts techniques; and, we've been making it increasingly exquisite. Therefore, our skills have become nearly perfect as a result.

"However, the consequence of this is that... one enters an incorporeal form, and lands up on a devious road. And, it's very difficult to turn back from that devious road."

"A Devious road?" Jun Mo Xie looked thoughtful. His expression had gradually become pensive.

"Can you make a guess? You are extremely proficient in such martial arts. So, I presume that you'll figure this point out very quickly," Dongfang Wen Qing asked. Then, he looked at Jun Mo Xie's expression and sighed, "A Spirit Xuan expert who wishes to ascend to the level of a Great Master doesn't seek for the conditions to be appropriate. Such an expert forms their own system. They incorporate their Xuan Qi into it, and develop a unique understanding. And, thus takes place the formation of a new field; a field which they develop in their own sphere. It can even be said that each Great Master is like the creator of a particular sect!

"And, one needs to explore themselves in order reach this stage. They need to explore their skills in order to sharpen them. And, where does this exploration process take place? It takes place in real-life battles! It comes from killing! One would discover their weaknesses during combat. And then, they would put their efforts into making an improvement. After that, they would again return to combat, and then become even better. They would eventually be able to attain spiritual comprehension after hundreds and thousands of attempts. This is the initial obsession of every Great Master! How would they ever be Great Masters if they weren't obsessed with improving their Xuan efficacy?! How could they ever become a Great Master if they senselessly continued to cultivate their bodies?"

The Young Master Jun nodded in silence. He recalled that the Solitary Falcon didn't hesitate to risk a gruesome death when he scaled the perilous snowy mountain to fight with the Xuan Falcons and Eagles. The man also didn't hesitate to reduce his identity when he came out to look for a fight. [He did it all for this reason?]

"We assassins get to kill enough number of people. But, we don't have enough direct combat experience by virtue of being assassins. After all, how can we be considered 'assassins' if we start getting involved in

direct combat? It's true that we assassins get to kill many people. But, we can only use this experience to perfect and enhance our skills. And, this renders us with the inherent inability to absorb combat experience while fighting someone since an assassin must necessarily kill with one strike when he takes on a mission. So, this one strike must be very sharp and incisive. But, an assassin's weakness will only get exposed when he fails to kill his target in one strike. However, an assassin exposing his weakness in front of his opponent is like him signing his own death warrant!

"This has been the greatest flaw of our Dongfang Family! This was the reason why we couldn't do anything when faced with the three Great Masters even though our power reached the clouds and we had numerous assassins! Therefore, Mother had no choice but to accept this extremely unfair condition."

Dongfang Wen Qing's eyes shone as he looked at Jun Mo Xie, "You must've understood the reason I'm telling you all this... Your move is even stranger than ours! It's more agile! No one who can kill you when you employ your skills! However, this is also the greatest barrier to your martial advancement!

"You won't need to worry about your life once you can disregard any expert's strength and defense. You would then move throughout the world unfettered since you'd find security in this knowledge!

"But, you have these skills to rely on! So, you won't be worrying about your life. Why would you, right? However, even if you don't wish to admit it... and even if you think you won't be negligent... but... the fact is that having such skill and mindset is what makes you different from the ones who aspire to become a Great Master."

"You are already different from them because you won't tremble in fear like they do. But, one can only have a tremendous breakthrough under the pressure of death! Otherwise, you will only make a breakthrough when the conditions are right. However, you won't reap the unexpected rewards that come with the unexpected breakthroughs that one can attain under pressure. Hence, your chance of attaining the level of the Great Masters will eventually turn into a hopeless endeavor."

Jun Mo Xie was both frightened and emotionally moved.

The immense capabilities of the Hong Jun Pagoda had already guaranteed that he wouldn't die... even if the Eight Great Masters tried to kill him together.

[I was always secure in this knowledge. And, that's why I was so daring! I hadn't even reached the Silver Xuan cultivation, but I had already gathered the courage to confront Sky Xuan and Spirit Xuan experts! And... there was no pressure or fear of death in my heart at that time either!]

[But, if I ask myself — what if I didn't have the Hong Jun Pagoda with me? How many times should I have died because of my actions?]

[I was immeasurably self-satisfied. I had thought that I had no need to have any misgivings because I possess remarkable abilities. But, will I be able to make progress to that level in the future if I continue to have such an attitude?]

A drop of cold sweat slowly trickled down as Jun Mo Xie thought about this. That sweat-drop made a crystal-clear "plop" sound as it hit the table.

Dongfang Wen Qing was aware that he had given his nephew something to think about. He could see that the young man was strenuously pondering over it, and shouldn't be disturbed at any cost. Therefore, he stealthily waved to his two brothers, and the three of them quietly withdrew from the tent.

Jun Mo Xie sat motionless inside the tent; alone. His brows frowned in contemplation as the lights flickered.

[Perhaps... I should change?]

[The Hong Jun Pagoda is a treasure that goes against the heaven's will. And, its functionality is extremely formidable because of this reason... But, it won't help me much with my progress.]

Jun Mo Xie continued to ponder over this issue throughout the night... and up to the next morning. But, he hadn't figured out a solution yet.

The Young Master Jun had dark circles around his eyes as he walked out of his tent the next morning and stretched his body.

Dongfang Wen Qing had been waiting for a long time. He was calmly standing under a tree in front of the tent's entrance. The Spirit Xuan expert looked at Jun Mo Xie and asked, "What? You still haven't figured it out?"

Jun Mo Xie forced a smile, and looked up to the sky, "But you gave me such a difficult problem! I have such a wonderful skill, and yet I shouldn't use it? I should suffer even if I encounter an enemy who I know is stronger than me... but I shouldn't use my skills? ...Even as a Jade Xuan expert against a Great Master? Wouldn't it be akin to courting death?"

"You were awake the whole night and this is what you've been able to come up with?!" Dongfang Wen Qing asked somewhat rudely. He stared at his nephew for a while. Then, he started to abuse him, "Fool! Idiot! You're absolutely disgraceful! You're an idiot! A fool! How has my smart sister given birth to such an idiotic son like you? You have really rendered this old man speechless! Do you have fodder inside your head?! Or did a donkey kick your head when you were a kid?!"

"Huh?" Jun Mo Xie was confused. [There isn't a single man who hasn't praised my intelligence — whether it was in my previous life, or this one. But, he's calling me stupid?] He felt like retorting. But, he couldn't find the words, and continued to stare blankly.

"What I earlier said was that you should try as hard as possible to abstain from using your special skills to attain victory over someone at the same level as you! The harder it is to win — the better it is for your growth! You could even skip a few levels, and challenge the experts who are stronger than you. But, don't ever try to handle things that are too much for your Xuan capabilities! But, you are an idiot! When did I ever tell you to go and challenge a Sky Xuan expert with your bare strength? Or worse... a Spirit Xuan or a Great Master?! Isn't that akin to hating your life?"

"Uh..." Jun Mo Xie didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "You didn't state that very clearly!"

"This also needs to be stated clearly? Don't you understand the difference between 'hard to beat' and 'impossible to beat'? You have a wonderful skill, and your agility will naturally allow you to flee to safety... But, are you really that stupid?" Dongfang Wen Qing frowned in anger. [How could my nephew be so stupid?]

What he didn't understand was — that the cleverer the person... the more difficult it was for them to come out of a single point once they were engrossed in it.

"You're a Jade Xuan expert. So, wouldn't you die the moment a Great Master touch you? How would you surpass your skills in such a case?! Idiotic boy!" Uncle Dongfang was at a loss for words. [I had told you to use your natural surroundings to fight and absorb as much experience as you could. I had never told you to throw away your life...]

"I understand it now... it's so obvious!" Jun Mo Xie suddenly started to laugh. He then rose to the sky, and somersaulted several times as he went into the distance. He descended to the ground once he had covered a considerable distance. [God knows what else my uncle would've called me if I had stayed there!]

[He seemed so refined, elegant and graceful when I saw him yesterday. But, it seems like a huge misconception now! He was unexpectedly so fiery when he scolded me just now!]

Jun Mo Xie hadn't noted this change in his behavior. He had intentionally-or-otherwise started to consider those three men as his uncles. In fact, he had actually started to equate them to his Third Uncle — Jun Wu Yi — in stature.

...because those three men had shown genuine care and concern for his well-being!

"You stupid brat...!" Dongfang Wen Qing was still mad at him for failing to meet his expectations. So, he wanted to scold him some more. However, he couldn't even see his nephew's shadow anymore...

Three days later...

Dust rose over the great road in the distance. The mountains started to shake. Tremendous and majestic sounds heralded the arrival of Commander Jun Wu Yi's main forces.

Chapter 327: Dispelling Erstwhile Resentment

The sound of orderly marching resounded. The echoes of their vigorous rhythm shook the earth. The clouds of dust soared into the sky. These factors could only signify the arrival of elite troops. A

mushroom-like cloud of dust would've arisen due to all the confusion if it were an ordinary force. It was only because of the orderly march of properly organized troops that there was no confusion and the dust rose in the air the way it did.

That majestic sound of the army's march gave rise to a subtle yet earth-shattering feeling. The sound of this army's march was so formidable that it seemed as if no force in the world could stop it from advancing forward.

"Jun Wu Yi is genuinely worthy of the Jun Family's name. He's running a very tight force. One has no choice but to admire his work after looking at it," Dongfang Wen Qing was standing on top of a tree. He looked far into the distance and sighed.

"That youngster is quite remarkable." Dongfang Wen Jian and Dongfang Wen Dao stood beside him. They couldn't restrain their sighs either.

One could see several cavalry-units ahead of Jun Wu Yi if they'd look into the distance. These units surged ahead like a powerful current. Even the horses seemed to raise and set their hooves in unison. No matter what side one would look at this formation from... whether it was at the front, or the back or the sides... everything progressed in a straight and uniform line. Their adjustment to uniformity looked similar to a knife's cut.

However, this was just a product of firm discipline; nothing more. However, the face of each soldier in that army was filled with pride. This is what an army is characterized by. An army unit that lacked a spirit of internal cooperation would never have faces as proud as the ones in this.

Even the Young Master Jun jumped at the sight of such a grand and organized army.

One must know that only the troops under Jun Wu Yi's direct control had been properly disciplined at the time of Jun Mo Xie's departure from the main force. However, private troops from various families had also joined the ranks of this army. These private troops had been assigned as 'guards' for the many Young Masters who had enlisted in the army. However, these private troops weren't disciplined like the rest of the soldiers. In fact, they were like untamed horses. So, it was a wonder that they had been disciplined and brought in-line within a month's time.

[It seems that Third Uncle has great skills in supervising troops.]

The Young Master Jun wasn't familiar with the military affairs in the least. But, he knew that this wasn't very simple. So, the Young Master Jun was aware that he would've had a lot of trouble on his hands if his place had been exchanged with his uncle's.

Jun Mo Xie led the 250 of his men to make a welcome party. However, he was greeted by a cold face. Jun Mo Xie was a wild and untamable beast. But, he smiled at this cold face because it belonged to his Third Uncle — Jun Wu Yi.

Jun Wu Yi looked at his nephew with a solemn expression on the surface. However, his heart didn't know whether he should laugh or cry. [Has any Vanguard unit ever acted in this manner? Letting out your men wasn't very different from letting out sheep in the forest. They basically disappeared without a trace. And, no news of your advancements was relayed to us at the back. I've never heard of a Vanguard unit to operate in this manner before. In fact, this is unprecedented...]

The Young Master Jun had actually done a good job in clearing the path ahead. The army hadn't faced any inconvenience or latent problems. The Young Master Jun's approach may have been improper and insensible, but he had completed his task nonetheless. Therefore, the army hadn't faced even the slightest of problems. Jun Wu Yi was extremely satisfied with this point. Even the upper echelons of the command were quite satisfied with this since they were informed of his efforts; well... at least no one tried to nit-pick the problems.

The only problem was that he hadn't stayed in contact with the main army.

However, what about those who didn't know of his efforts? They had readily believed that the Jun Family's brat had no sense of responsibility. And, they had credited Commander Jun for the fact that they hadn't encountered any trouble throughout their journey. Even the Old Master Jun — who had stayed back in the Tian Xiang City — had somehow come to receive some of this credit.

However, the problem that seemed more serious was the fact that the count of people who were unaware of the Young Master Jun's efforts was massive in number. To quote an example... if the army had only a hundred men... ninety-nine of them would say that it was the Third Master Jun's or the Old Master Jun's handiwork.

Therefore, this naturally gave rise to the issue of convincing the majority of the population. The Young Master Jun's actions had seemed undisciplined on the face of it. So, how could the military's order be maintained unless some punishment was meted out to him?

Therefore, Commander Jun was left with no choice but to rain down a tongue-lashing on Jun Mo Xie. The Young Master played his part well — he raised his eyebrows in shame, and looked down. He acted like a 'yes-man' in a bewildered manner. The Young Master pretended that his Third Uncle was praising his efforts. In any case, Jun Mo Xie didn't listen to his uncle lecture properly, and had nearly fallen asleep by the time it ended.

The Third Master Jun was busy venting his anger on his nephew when he sensed the hint the latter's droopy eyes were giving off. So, Commander Jun had no choice but to hastily explain the camp's arrangements to the troops in a brief sentence. He then quickly ordered the troops to retire.

"Humph! Commander Jun has great authority and murderous aura! Your authority has increased many folds since I saw you ten years ago. You sent your nephew to lead the vanguard; and then, you actually gave him a tongue-lashing even though he completed the task very satisfactorily. But, I didn't hear a single word of encouragement from your mouth. That's truly a ruthless method of self-discipline. You're genuinely an iron-blooded man!" a mockery-riddled eccentric voice echoed from somewhere.

A cold light flashed in Jun Wu Yi's eyes as his sword-like eyebrows shot up, "Who is it? Come out!"

"We're coming out, we're coming out; don't tell me that the Commander is afraid?" there was a 'brushing' sound as three people came out of their tents.

"Elder Brother Dongfang?" Jun Wu Yi exclaimed in pleasant surprise before he looked further, "Second Brother Dongfang... and Third Brother! It's really you!" Jun Wu Yi's eyes filled with an immensely guilty look immediately-after that pleasant surprise. His countenance also became extremely dispirited.

"Humph! Of course it's us! You're rushing towards Tian Fa so quickly, Jun Wu Yi. Do you wish to die? Are you tired of your life?" the words that came out of Dongfang Wen Qing's mouth sounded harsh and taunting, but his expression wasn't very grave. A person would have no problems in discerning a sliver of care in that speech if they used their perception ability.

The three brothers' resentment towards the Jun Family didn't run that deep. They had only vented their anger; nothing more. Moreover, their hearts were at ease since they had seen that the rumored 'debauchee nephew' of theirs was actually a promising young man. So, they felt even less resentment towards the Juns.

Ten years had passed since that tragedy. And, Jun Wu Yi was surely the source of it all... but, wasn't he its victim as well? In fact, he was the biggest victim! He had lived the life of a cripple for ten years. And, he had lived a life of remorse for ten years. That one man was forced to bear the blame of the misery of multitudes. Worse of all... Jun Wu Yi wasn't even aware of the situation in the beginning. And, things had already gotten out of hand by the time Jun Wu Yi came to know of Han Yan Yao's identity...

They looked at Jun Wu Yi, and realized that these guilt-ridden ten years had exhausted him completely. They were suddenly overcome with guilt and shame since they realized that Jun Wu Yi had led the saddest and most difficult life over the last ten years.

They felt deeply for their sister. But, they had already given vent to their rage ten years ago by bringing about wide-spread slaughter. A long time had passed since then, and this time had long since worn-away their anger. It wasn't engraved in their hearts in the same manner that it once used to be...

However, Jun Wu Yi was different. That entire affair had happened because of him. And, that fact would always remain even if hadn't intended for it to happen...

Jun Wu Yi hadn't intended it, but he was still guilty of it. He may not have intended for it to happen, but it had become the heaviest burden of his life...

Commander Jun had felt like his heart was being devoured by small ants every night; such had been his suffering for the past ten years. [We can still get drunk and use our bodies to get into crazy fights to drive away the pain in our hearts when it gets unbearable. But, Jun Wu Yi's legs had remained disabled for so many years. So, he had no choice but to endure the pain in silence...]

The four men looked at each other, and felt a very strange feeling. It seemed as if they had been transported ten years into the past. However, they found it difficult to breathe since those memories had started to play on their minds.

The rim of Jun Wu Yi's eyes slowly turned red and moist. He then opened his arms and smiled, "I have missed you over these years, Elder Brother Dongfang! We haven't met for the past ten years, two months and seven days..."

He then looked at the color sky to figure out the time, and then spoke gloomily, "And two hours... I gave you the news of the Elder Brother's death on that day about two hours ago from now..."

Jun Wu Yi's eyes suddenly became blood red.

The four men at his side were heavily shaken.

He had been accurate to the very day and hour!

[Ten years, two months, seven days and two hours! Jun Wu Yi has actually recorded the time in such an accurate manner! What is the meaning of this?]

This showed that Jun Wu Yi hadn't forgotten that deep-running blood-feud; not even for a single day. But, he could only endure. He clearly knew who the enemy was. However, he had no choice but to endure. Moreover, he had been crippled, and had to suffer the pain of being separated from his love.

Dongfang Wen Qing and the other two realized the plight of the life Jun Wu Yi had been leading for those ten years.

This short sentence was enough to determine all this...

"You've suffered too much, Third Younger Brother." Dongfang Wen Qing took a step forward, and tightly embraced Jun Wu Yi. The two men embraced in silence. Jun Wu Yi closed his eyes since he was on the verge of welling up. However, he was already crying ardent tears in his heart. His facial muscles twitched, and his jaw was clenched; but, he didn't make any sound.

[These words which I had longed for... words of understanding and care from the Dongfang Family... have come after ten years! Ten long years! Even if it's a little late...even if it's a little late... they've finally come! Heavens know how many times I have fallen apart in all these years... How many times!]

Jun Wu Yi's face was expressionless, but a bitter pain battered his heart like a flooding river.

Dongfang Wen Jian and Wen Dao thought about Jun Wu Yi's ten years' worth of suffering. They then saw this emotional scene. They were unable to stop their eyes from becoming red at this sight; the tip of their noses became sour, and they arrived on the verge of shedding tears. However, the only thing they could do was to exert the entirety of their strength to cough a little since they were afraid that they would gush fountains and cry themselves hoarse if they didn't restrain themselves. They had managed those coughs with extreme difficulty in order to cover up. However, even these coughs had a tenor tremble to them.

[I don't know how Jun Wu Yi managed for ten years! I would've already committed suicide in order to apologize for my mistakes if I were in his place. Yet, he continued to persist through all the torment for ten years...]

Everyone's mood returned to normal after a good while.

"Do I not know that going to Tian Fa is perilous? Moreover, many other bitter enemies of our family have gathered there besides the terrible Xuan Beasts! I request that you three elders ensure that Mo Xie returns safely to Tian Xiang City if I'm unable to escape with my life! I sincerely request you!" Jun Wu Yi changed the subject after he returned to normal, and put forth this urgent request.

Chapter 328: A Grim Situation

"What is this nonsense?! Mo Xie is our nephew! We obviously won't let him get hurt! And, you're also our younger brother! So, you can't get hurt either!" Dongfang Wen Jian opened his eyes wide and replied.

"It's not that I want 'this'. However, I had received intelligence while I was on the road. We don't know the reason for the Xuan Beast's uprising yet. But, we know that the scale of their uprising is extremely huge. In fact, it has the potential to cause unimaginable damage! It is reported that Tian Fa's kings are extremely enraged, and have ordered all the level-four-plus Xuan Beasts to participate in this war."

Jun Wu Yi smiled and looked up at Dongfang Wen Qing, "Your Dongfang Family had made a baffling vow. It seems that half of that oath has already been fulfilled!"

"The Tian Fa beasts have come out. But, couldn't people interpret our oath in a different manner, and say that it would only be fulfilled when the Tian Fa beasts are dead? So, why would you say that half of our oath is already fulfilled?" Dongfang Wen Qing was quite happy a moment ago, but he suddenly asked in a doubtful manner.

"That's because it has been confirmed that this uprising has been instigated by the Third and the Fourth Xuan Beast Kings. The mysterious and strongest Xuan Beast King has yet to participate!" Jun Wu Yi took a deep breath before he continued, "This is the latest information I've received. However, I believe that many strong Xuan experts will arrive at Tian Fa because of the war. And then, the strongest Xuan Beast King would have to arrive in order to support the other Xuan Beast Kings. I'm convinced of this. Therefore, there's only one thing remaining as far as the Dongfang Family's oath is concerned. And, that is — the collapse of that snow covered peak..."

"So, that's how it is."

Jun Mo Xie's mind was set into motion — [I don't know how that mountain peak looks... But, I will go and have a look when I have free time...]

"Moreover, the Shen Ci Empire and the Yu Tang Empire have also sent armies to assist after they looked at the increase in the scale of the conflict. In fact, even the King of the Prairie has sent ten thousand elite cavalry from his side. This is the reliable intelligence that I've gathered so far. I also infer that the Three Empires will be a hindrance to each other during the course of this war since they harbor mutual sentiments of deep-seeded hatred. I've also come to know that the Xiao Family's second elder — Xiao Bu Yu — will be leading the Silver Blizzard City's troops. Moreover, these troops will mostly consist of Xiao Family's members. Our Jun Family has a deep and long-standing feud with the Xiao Family. Also, Xiao Han is my arch enemy, and we have irreconcilable hatred between us. Hence, I'm sure that something or the other will happen!

"In addition, our Jun Family and the Xue Hun Manor also have ill feelings towards each other. So, we must guard against that as well!" Jun Wu Yi spoke everything in one breath. Then, he spat and spoke, "The situation is grim. It's very grim. It's bad enough to make me dispirited."

"And, then there's the Eight Great Masters... the greatest Master Yun Bie Chen hasn't arrived. However, the third Great Master, Han Feng Xue... the Heavenly Great master Mo Wen Tian... The Great Blue Master, Meng Hong Chen have already arrived," Jun Wu Yi spoke in a heavy tone. But, his eyes were burning with an incomparably intense flame.

Jun Wu Yi was looking forward to witnessing the elegant bearings of those Great Masters from a close range.

"Perhaps there's one person you may not be aware of..." Dongfang Wen Qing spoke up, "The one who was robbed of his place by the Eighth Great Master Solitary Falcon — Feng Juan Yun. He's also on the road. And, perhaps... may have already arrived there."

"Feng Juan Yun..." Jun Mo Xie was silently sitting on the side and slightly raised his eyebrows at that name. [This shouldn't have made a breakthrough and become powerful enough to defeat the Solitary Falcon, right?]

"Many other powerful families — aside from the Silver Blizzard City and the Xue Hun Manor — have also sent their people. The most famous amongst them are — the Baili Family, Duanmu Family, Beigong Family, the Wenren Family, Sikong Family, and Zuoqiu Family, the Diwu Family, the Ouyang Family and also... the Dongfang Family; basically, the nine great families are getting together at Tian Fa! These families haven't sent out many people, but the men they have sent are powerful. Especially the Duanmu family; even their chief — Duanmu Chao Fan — will participate in this war!"

"Duanmu Chao Fan? Like... 'Chao Fan' for 'fried rice'?" Jun Mo Xie suddenly spoke up, "This name is quite memorable and profound!"

Dongfang Wen Qing laughed and explained, "The Duanmu Family's head is name Duanmu Chao Fan; Chao Fan for 'extraordinary'. However, he stutters a bit. So, whenever he pronounces his name... he elongates it since he thinks very greatly of himself. However, the more he elongated the name... the more others hear it resemble 'Chao Fan' word's 'fried rice' variant. Therefore, people have been calling him Chao Fan word's fried rice version since the first meeting of the 'Nine Great Families'. In fact, his true name has been almost been forgotten..."

"Oh okay!" Jun Mo Xie said solemnly, "So, this guy is basically slow-witted. He should be called 'Slow-witted Chao Fan'. It would sound far more appropriate!"

"Ha ha..." everyone burst out laughing. Then, Dongfang Wen Qing continued to speak.

"In addition, the Golden Flood Castle, the Seven Dragons Mountain, the Soul Severing Palace and Clear Sky City have also sent a few of their people. Moreover, there are countless powerful nomadic experts who will add to the numbers." Dongfang Wen Qing gave strenuous smile and continued, "This secret information was divulged to us by Li Jue Tian before we left. However, I don't know of any newer events that may have occurred since then."

Jun Wu Yi's frown became increasingly deeper as he heard those illustrious names. The presence of such strong reinforcements only meant that the Xuan Beast's uprising was becoming more and more intense.

"Damn! There are so many!" Jun Mo Xie couldn't help but whistle. Then, he continued to speak, "They can easily trample all over Tian Fa if such strength is being assembled. Then, each person can grab a Xuan Beast, and take it home as a 'pet'. What's the point of going to such a war? These people will just have their fill and stay idle!"

"Do you even know what you're saying?!" four mouths roared these words in unison as the eight eyeballs glared at that rude brat.

"You brat! Your experience is too shallow to know of the dangers! The Tian Fa forest spreads over tens of thousands of kilometers. And, there are multitudes of Xuan Beasts living in it! There are at least ten million of them living there... by a conservative count! And that too, these are only the level four or higher Xuan beasts we're talking about! The gathered experts won't be able to compete with the full strength of Tian Fa's beasts. This truth isn't pleasant to hear, but the mere saliva of all those Xuan Beasts is enough to drown these so-called 'experts'!"

Dongfang Wen Qing was very angry at his nephew's ignorance. So, he went ahead and dealt with that illiterate.

"You must also realize that you would require an extremely huge space to encounter all of them at once. Ten million Xuan Beasts... wouldn't they be squeezed to death even in the prairie? ...Let alone inside these mountains!"

The Young Master Jun gave a disdainful look and shook his head, "There are many strong people here and there are many strong people there. A small battle starts when these people start to fight. A military

campaign is constituted of several such battles. And, many campaigns constitute what we call a war. And after many wars... eventually comes — peace. Wow..."

Dongfang Wen Qing became enraged after he heard this. So, Jun Wu Yi had no choice but to hurry up and assuage the situation. However, he had deep creases on his forehead, "There's so much trouble because there are so many people. It wouldn't have been very difficult if it were only the three Great Empires, the Xue Hun Manor, the Silver Blizzard City and the troops from the Prairie's King. After all, these entities are aware of the general situation. They understand the military restrictions. So, there will be space for mediation if conflict arises. But, so many other forces are also coming together. So, there's bound to be deep-rooted enmities and long-standing gratitude and grudges in all this entanglement. And, it would be hard to say how many people would be there... and how many of them are wise... Who can say that a few recklessly spoken words won't give rise to a large scale conflict between two families? And, who doesn't have three or six friends behind them? Moreover, the Xuan experts who hail from the general society don't maintain order like a disciplined army."

"This problem is a genuine headache," Dongfang Wen Qing and the other two nodded in unison.

"We must have a unified command since so many people are participating. There must be a single commander-in-chief in such a situation. Otherwise, won't we just be providing 'rations' to the Xuan Beasts if everyone decides to fight as they please and charge like a swarm of bees?" Jun Mo Xie added. The four elders were quite appreciative of the first part of Jun Mo Xie's words. However, they rolled their eyes when the second part about providing 'rations' to Xuan beasts was spoken.

"This is an evident admission. However, the commander-in-chief must be one who isn't occupying that post in name alone. Moreover, he will have to do a very thankless job. Some conflicts may even get triggered between officers who occupy insignificant posts. After all, there are forces from three Empires, and there will be generals from the Prairie as well. Several of them won't bow down because they will be there representing their respective countries!

"However, this problem is a comparatively easier to resolve. The soldiers will obey the commander-in-chief because they are accustomed and in-understanding of military duties. That isn't a big problem. The real problem is the huge number of powerful experts from around the world. They're all undisciplined. Moreover, they aren't accustomed to military restrictions. Not only will they not accept each other... but also any large-scale military command. Each powerful expert will have their own prestige. So, they won't bow down to an ordinary general. This is the allied forces' greatest problem!"

Jun Wu Yi frowned deeply, "I've commanded battles for half of my life. And, I've never seen such an amazing assembly of warriors in the past. In fact, even the combined strength of my previous commands

wouldn't come close to this. Yet, I've never seen so less hope of victory in the past. In fact, this is the first time that I don't even see an opportunity for victory.

"And, our opponents are the Xuan beasts! They have an unimaginably strict hierarchy of ranks. Moreover, the Xuan Beast Kings are personally controlling them in this war. So, the Xuan Beasts would do exactly as they bid. They will attack at one whistle, and retreat at the next.

"Everything points to disaster." Jun Wu Yi and Dongfang Wen Qing looked at each other's expressions. They looked at each other's eyes, and read these words there as well.

"We've come this far. Don't tell me that you wish to back away now? We'll see how things progress at every step. It's good to save people. But, what's the point of saving someone if you end-up taking their place? I'm fine because I believe that we have enough people to safeguard our own security. As for the fate of others... are we going to get any money out of saving them?" Jun Mo Xie smiled heartlessly.

Jun Mo Xie was the most confident amongst everyone when it came to this 'Xuan Beast uprising' expedition. Jun Mo Xie could easily ensure that his army wouldn't suffer any harm if the armies were divided into different groups. Moreover, he could ensure the defeats of the others...

[This really won't do! Let's just go and pretend that this matter is already over...]

[Why are these guys making such miserable faces?]

Chapter 329: Thunderous Events in Tian Fa

"You little brat! Stop talking such nonsense! How can we selfishly look out for ourselves under such circumstances? At least ten million Xuan Beasts will spill out to the inlands if we fail in this war! How many civilians do you think will suffer? At least tens of millions of innocent lives will be lost... by a conservative count! This can turn into a huge calamity!"

Jun Wu Yi sternly chimed-in, "We need to put our personal grudges and gratitude behind us at this moment. And, we need to work together for our common good. Only then will we have any chance of hope."

"Wu Yi is absolutely correct! This battle between man and Xuan Beast will decide the fate of our continent for the next hundred years! A man of Li Jue Tian's arrogance wouldn't have made the supreme summons after letting go of his pride if the situation was a minor one! He must've been constrained by the severity of the situation to forego his ego and make the supreme summons! In fact, he would've been condemned by history if he hadn't done that!"

Dongfang Wen Qing smiled bitterly, "Several independent experts will be fighting for profits, and they will surely have a high morale at first. But, I guarantee that one-third of their numbers would sneak-off after the first defeat. After all, one has to conserve their strength for gaining superiority in society! However, we're done for if all of us hold the idea of profit in the 'supreme' position in such chaotic times!"

"The human nature is very evil... They want to fight with the wind, and attack the dogs that have fallen into the ditch. However, a majority of the people won't refrain from backing away when the winds become rough, and that dog in the ditch transforms into a tiger. Most people would wait for the others to fight, and die... they would then try to take advantage of the situation. Thereafter, they will slip away when no one is looking. These people would rather lose their face than their lives. They would say that — 'the tide's higher than I can take... I'm not the only one to lose face in this situation... so, what difference does it make...' "

Jun Mo Xie shook his head as he spoke these words in a very cynical tone. He found it a joy to speak in such a manner. However, he then saw the expressions of the other four men, and realized that they were turning increasingly darker. So, he gave a hollow laugh and spoke, "Damn! I have to take a piss! I've been holding it in with such difficulty since early morning. But, you people speak so slowly!" he said this, turned away, and escaped.

The four men looked at each other in dismay. [This mischievous brat doesn't have any shame!]

"This matter isn't looking good. We will go and meet Li Jue Tian once we reach Tian Fa. Then, we'll come to your forces and protect you. Mo Xie's ideology is indeed dependable. We will get an opportunity to survive if we stick together. As Mo Xie said... saving others is a good deed, but putting ourselves in danger for them is meaningless. We have to be pragmatic..."

Jun Wu Yi nodded. Then, he looked up into the sky and sighed, "I don't know the cause of this calamity... or where it came from... or what instigated such a huge disaster? But, it can be assumed that the Xuan Beasts wouldn't leave Tian Fa without any rhyme-or-reason. So, who instigated them? I would flay the man alive if I knew his identity! This person has taken the entire world for a joke!"

The other three men agreed.

The Young Master Jun had returned after he had initially slipped away. He was presently hiding in the corner of the tent, and was overhearing the conversation. He broke into a cold sweat after he heard their words. His heart was shouting his innocence... [My original intention was to teach the Xue Hun Manor a lesson. How did they dare to lay their eyes on the Jun Family's daughter-in-law? But, I never knew that it would turn into such a big issue!]

[I didn't deliberately bring this matter to such a state ... so, you can't blame me!]

....

The next day, Jun Wu Yi got to know that Guan Qing Han and Dugu Xiao Yi had also been travelling with his nephew in secret. Commander Jun almost went mad with anger when he saw the guilty expressions on the faces of those two women. He nearly scolded Jun Mo Xie to death. However, he didn't stop at 'just' the tongue-lashing like the previous time. In fact, he brandished a rod to beat-up Jun Mo Xie...

[This is such a dangerous place. How can these two come along?]

This resulted in a game of 'hide and seek' between Jun Mo Xie and Jun Wu Yi. The Young Master Jun would move far away from whichever place it was probable for his uncle to arrive at. He'd naturally do this in order to evade his uncle's rod. He would escape like a quick hare... so as to never come face-to-face with his uncle.

The army meandered forwards, and eventually reached the Southern Heaven City on the third day since the link-up. It had now been thirty-three days since they had left the Tian Xiang City. The army had been travelling at approximately 180kms-a-day the entire journey. This meant that they had covered over 5000kms after crossing many mountains and wading through many streams.

Everyone breathed-in the cold air after they reached the Southern Heaven City.

The area outside the Southern Heaven City was barren for almost 500kms. The Tian Fa forest was still fine, but the human habitations were all in ruins. Jun Mo Xie looked in the direction of the Southern Heaven City, and laughed at his foe's misfortune so wildly... that he pulled a muscle in his stomach.

The Xue Hun Manor's site had turned into a base camp for the Xuan Beasts' operations...

They had found large groups of Xuan Beasts on the road to the Southern Heaven City. These groups would swarm over to attack any experts they'd find in the vicinity. But, the Xuan beasts' discipline was incredible. They hadn't found any trace of a Xuan Beast in the 150km before they reached the Southern Heaven City.

Therefore, one could tell that the Xuan Beasts' temporary target was the population of the Southern Heaven City. Or perhaps... the people the Xuan Beasts harbored hatred towards. Like... the Xue Hun Manor's Li Jue Tian... or his son...

The scale of the Southern Heaven City was in no way lesser than the Tian Xiang City. It was the first southern city in the continent. However, the Xuan Beasts had already occupied the surrounding mountains, and had created a somewhat iron-bucket-like encirclement.

Jun Wu Yi's forces finally took security in their numbers, and advanced towards the Southern Heaven City. The experience was daunting even though they didn't run into any mishaps. But, they managed to enter the city.

And, the very moment they entered the city...

"ROAR!" a loud howl resounded from the northern end of Southern Heaven City. It split the air as it echoed into the distance. It seemed like it was conveying a message.

The "ROAR!" sound resonated from the north to the south, and the west to the east. It echoed in all directions, and spread its message. It transmitted throughout the city as it travelled south.

"ROAR!" a sharp howl resounded from the southern end of the city in answer, and the message again resounded back and forth.

It seemed like two people were exchanging information. One of them had seemingly said, "Here we go again. Ten-thousand troops have arrived; this time from Tian Xiang."

And, the other one replied, "I know..."

This interpretation may not be 'exact', but these howls must've meant more or less the same things.

"Wow, these Xuan Beasts are truly disciplined! They're even better than the army's troops. This is simply amazing; I love this," Jun Mo Xie praised in a heartfelt manner. He then shook his head before he continued, "The Xuan Beasts aren't that dreadful. I believe they are somewhat civilized."

The sounds of two lovely laughs resounded from his side. Jun Mo Xie had dressed Guan Qing Han and Dugu Xiao Yi as two petite soldiers before they had entered the city. In fact, no one could tell that these two slim soldiers were women at one glance. This decision had obviously been met with strong and dissatisfactory appeals from the two beautiful women. However, Jun Mo Xie had insisted on it nevertheless, and had embodied his 'iron-blooded' stance to make them comply...

Dongfang Wen Qing helplessly looked at his 'incomparably useless' nephew. [This is astounding! This brat has decided to joke at such a juncture? He is genuinely stupid if he isn't afraid of them!]

Then, he sighed and spoke-up, "The transmitting of these messages was done by Peak Eight Level Lion Beasts. The Tian Fa's Lord uses such high-level Xuan Beasts for the transmission of messages. This matter isn't a joke..."

"Damn! Wow! This is so awesome!" Jun Mo Xie smacked his lips and continued, "Why didn't we see any of the flying beasts on the road? I wish we could catch them and saddle them like horses. They'd be so useful for 'picking up girls'! Any young woman would fall for me after they took one look at them!"

Dongfang Wen Qing stared at him wide-eyed, and started gasping in anger. This brat had become so unbearable that he would soon have brain-hemorrhage due to excessive anger.

Uncle Dongfang finally realized that his nephew's 'continent-shaking' reputation as a 'debauchee' wasn't without any reason...

He also realized that no normal person was capable of having any kind of a regular exchange with this degenerate and perverted youngster... It would end-up sounding like a chicken talking to a duck... The language itself would seem foreign...

The Southern Heaven City's troops showed no resentment towards the assistance-force that had just arrived from Tian Xiang. The several high-ranking officers stationed inside the wall respectfully welcomed Jun Wu Yi's army into the city.

Jun Wu Yi had been a bit doubtful on this aspect. The Southern Heaven City was as famous as the Tian Xiang City, and occupied an extremely wide area. However, many people resided in this city. Moreover, many reinforcements from different Empires, organizations, and other places from around the world had arrived there by now. Therefore, Jun Wu Yi had anticipated that the city would be overcrowded, and wouldn't have any space left to accommodate the arrival of his troops. [But, it would be too risky to station a majority of my troops outside the city walls.] He had been very worried about this point.

However, his 20,000 troops entered the city with ease. In fact, the troops that were already stationed inside the city remained silent, and even seemed a bit embarrassed. [This is very a puzzling marvel!]

But, his doubts were resolved by the time the entire army got stationed in the city...

Experts came-and-went on both side of the city's road... Some of them were bandaged; this was indicative of the injuries they had sustained. Some had a white cloth around their injured heads. There was a lot of clamor around the city, but it didn't feel that chaotic. However, they realized that the city was missing something as they travelled down the road...

The Young Master Jun thought for a while, and realized what was wrong, "How come there aren't any local people in this city?" These words called everyone else into attention, and woke them from their reveries. However, it wasn't that there were no people there. It was just that... there were only a very small number of them. And surprisingly, the ones present... were at the prime of their lives. No one could spot any old and infirm men, or women and young children inside the city...

The highest-ranking officer in the city's garrison was a General named Wan Wu Yan. He smiled bitterly and said, "The Xuan Beast's uprising is extremely huge. So, we couldn't dare to ignore it. We've migrated the women, children, old and infirm men about a 150kms away. We did this a fortnight ago in order to save them from this calamity. We've only retained men who are at the prime of their lives, and a few necessary stores. This general will personally go and recall all of them if we are able to defeat this Xuan Beast Uprising. We may not be able to live happily and work in peace... But, we can at least defend our families and homes..."

Jun Wu Yi felt a sense of great veneration for the man.

"General Wan, this Jun admires your feelings for your people in times like these!"

Wan Wu Yan looked pained. He then smiled bitterly, "This Uprising is surely unprecedented. Powerful Xuan Beasts have infiltrated the city at least a dozen times in order to look for trouble. And, they've caused more casualties than I can count. So, why trouble the people? I've guarded this desolate post of the Southern Heaven City for the past twelve years... The people of this place aren't exactly the most civilized, but they're still like my parents, relatives, friends and younger siblings. So, I wouldn't leave this place even if I had the chance to..."

The Southern Heaven City was his homeland; he had grown up here. So, he looked at it with extreme warmth and yearning...

The atmosphere had suddenly become heavy and stifling.

"To move so many people must've required a lot of effort?" Jun Mo Xie changed the subject.

"The Southern Heaven isn't like the interiors of the continent. So, the population here isn't that large even if the city is big. We've moved around 1,543,900 or so people out of the city and its surrounding areas," Wan Wu Yan said in a somewhat gratified and proud manner. He then chuckled, "The effort it took if of no concern... This was a matter of over 1,500,000 lives! The hard work was worth it!"

"Amazing!"

Jun Wu Yi looked at the ancient Southern Heaven City and said, "General Wan, your painstaking work won't be in vain. This Jun promises that General Wan's tremendous efforts won't be wasted!"

"I hope so. I just... request Third Master Jun..." General Wan stayed quite for a while, and then stuttered those words.

They reorganized the army and made arrangements for the camp. Afterwards, they went with General Wan Wu Yan to the City Lord's official hall to discuss the pressing matters.

Jun Wu Yi suddenly jumped scared after they turned the bend.

[This is the official hall?]

[My God!]

[This discussion is at the public square?!]

The City Lord's hall had been torn down along with the other unnecessary constructions. All that was left was a large drill ground which could accommodate around ten thousand soldiers. The City Lord's original stage-platform was still present. It was around three meters in height, and was adorned with thick green cloth. Jun Mo Xie glanced at it, and felt that it looked like a stage from a drama-play.

Several luxurious tents had been set up on either side of stage. And, the grand banners fluttered in the fierce autumn wind in front of each of these luxurious tents. Around a hundred imposing banners fluttered together. They also had writings on them — "Xue Hun manor", "Silver Blizzard City", "Ouyang", "Duanmu", "Baili", "Beigong", "Wenren", "Zuoqiu", "Shen Ci", "Yu Tang", "Soul Severing Palace" and so on...

Jun Mo Xie became exhilarated. His eyebrows shot up, and his eyes shone with happiness as he laughed and said, "This is unexpected! I didn't know that this would become such a huge convention of all the great martial artists! This is fu*ing exciting! There are basically no ordinary tramps around here..."

However, the Third Master Jun Wu Yi didn't take this so lightly. He puckered his eyebrows...

It was very important to have a unified command if they were to have any chance of winning this war. Those independent tyrannical experts could perhaps lead a scuffle or a 'gang fight' with ten... or maybe a few more people. However, Jun Wu Yi knew that none of them were capable of leading a large and unified force of hundreds-of-thousands to war.

However, it was evident that the armies and troops of the Big Empires and the people from the Noble Martial Arts families were on equal-footing in the present circumstances. In fact, it could even be said that the army's status had been raised to the top.

Regular troops would never be held to any importance by powerful Xuan experts during regular times. But... were these regular times? Wouldn't it be the biggest joke in the world if these people looked through a slit in the door, and thought that they could do as they please, and fight as they liked against the terrible Xuan Beast Kings who had a unified command over the entire Xuan Beasts' uprising?

"Commander Jun, we have set-up the tent for the Tian Xiang Army's command over there," General Wan Wu Yan smiled and pointed with his finger. He had pointed to a huge tent. It was pitched in the middle of a huge space, and was covered in green cloth. Two huge and sturdy poles had been dug into that ground on either side of it. They'd roll-up the entrance screen, and would find that the tent was very neat on the inside. It was also quite spacious. So much so that the tent could easily accommodate twenty people... with some room still to spare.

A red banner flew high in front of the tent. It had "Tian Xiang — Jun" written on it. The three words fluttered as the banner flew high like a spiritual dragon, but they could easily be seen intermittently. This banner was taller than the ones of the other factions by at least three meters. It was also the only one which had the name of an individual family.

"Huh?" Jun Wu Yi looked at Wan Wu Yan with a questioning look; he was somewhat puzzled.

Wan Wu Yan laughed gently. His eyes were full of reverence. "I have always revered the four Commanders of Tian Xiang's Jun Family. The great Marshall — Jun Zhan Tian; the White Commander — Jun Wu Hui; the Devine Iron-Blooded Battle Commander — Jun Wu Meng, and the Blood General — Jun Wu Yi! I'm proud to host the Tian Xiang Empire's Jun Family. Many extreme supreme experts have gathered here in the Southern Heaven City, but this is still my territory. This matter is related to my Southern Heaven City, and I won't allow Tian Xiang's hero to be beneath anyone here! So, I request you to grace the residence... Commander Jun!"

"Many thanks!" Jun Wu Yi remained silent for a while before he managed to solemnly utter those two words.

"I've been hearing many things these days, and many people seem to have opinions about the Jun Family. You need to be careful Commander Jun," Wan Wu Yan lowered his voice as he cautioned. Jun Wu Yi nodded slowly as his eyes filled with unwavering determination. However, Jun Mo Xie's eyes flashed with a cold light.

Jun Mo Xie slowly pushed the wheelchair forward. Four deputy generals of the Tian Xiang Army followed him in formation. Their eyes were alert, and their hands were on the hilt of their swords. And, the three fearless Dongfang swords walked beside him.

People from every faction leisurely started to enter the wide space at once. If they paid attention... they would notice that Jun Mo Xie was pushing the wheelchair in the center of the field. He was neither an inch to the left of the field's center... nor to the right.

This was an extremely aggressive approach.

[This is my land! It's my territory! I'll do as I please! And, I'll move the way I want to!]

Their route was such that people from several factions were able to inspect them from both sides of the field. And, everyone shot arrows from their eyes!

The atmosphere had suddenly become very oppressive. It seemed that Jun Mo Xie and Jun Wu Yi had brought heavy weather and high pressure with them.

The six men moved calmly forward. But, the people on the sides could only feel as if these men were a powerful and invincible current of steel that was silently marching forward. Most people couldn't sigh as they watched these men walk forward in their firm and resolute stance.

The biting-cold wind suddenly started to whistle over the Southern Heaven City. The dark clouds of thunder started to rumble in the heavens above the city, and slowly started to converge over the field. A gale whistled in the field, and the dust started to roll. The numerous banners started to flutter in the

wind, and started to make rustling sounds. However, even the rustling sounds of the banners seemed neatly organized in this moment.

The dust blew into their faces. This made the four deputy generals and the three Dongfang men squint, and their movements became a bit sluggish. However, Jun Wu Yi remained calm and tranquil. His expression was still stern; even his eyebrows didn't flinch.

Jun Mo Xie pushed the wheelchair easily and indifferently behind him. His eyebrows rested like vigorous dragons... dragons which would break out and fly into the air at any time. His elegant, desolate and demon-like face was completely still. It seemed like he hadn't even noticed the changes in the sky, or the multitudes of burning gazes around him. The speed of his movements was neither too fast, nor too slow. And, they remained unaffected still...

This uncle-nephew duo seemed a flashing divine sword that was freely cleaving through the storm to the eyes of the onlookers.

A long strip was cloven in the crowd by the two men as they moved forward.

This area was within the Tian Xiang Empire's limits. And, the Tian Xiang City was also the closest amongst the ones that had sent reinforcements. Therefore, everyone was resentful over the fact that the troops from Tian Xiang had arrived last. They believed that Tian Xiang had set the timing of the arrival of its troops very precisely in order to embarrass them. This was one of the major reasons why the people from the various factions hadn't come out to greet the Tian Xiang Army at the time of their arrival.

However, they didn't even speak of the thought of censure as they saw the uncle-nephew duo gradually make their way forward. None of them could recall the things they had discussed earlier. Everyone was in a dignified mood. And, everyone was respectful.

Even Xiao Han — who was the most jealous of Jun Wu Yi, and had wanted him dead — couldn't help a look of envy and inferiority overtake his eyes.

[Is it... is it possible that I'm genuinely not his equal?]

Jun Wu Yi didn't have 'Spirit Xuan' cultivation; nor did he have moves as strong as those of the Great Masters. However, he had become a true hero around the world ever since he had commanded those millions in that decisive battle; he had indeed earned himself the place of a famous General. Countless Sky Xuan experts, Spirit Xuan experts... and even the Great Masters thought of him as an incomparably apt General. He had distinguished his name as a commander since that moment onwards.

His demeanor was such that it felt as if he grasped the fate of millions of soldiers in his palms. It felt that a snap of his fingers to light a beacon of war a thousand miles away, and scorch the lands with the slaughter of a thousand generals. He was the strongest general there had ever been. Any strategy that ever came out of his command tent could only bring victory. Even the strongest of Xuan experts couldn't boast of such an unbeatable strategic mind.

This tyrant had the fate of nations in his palms! He disdained the commoners, and rebuked their lowly mettle!

They were only two men, but they had enough strength to send cold shivers down everyone else's spine. This seemingly calm duo emitted an aura which made people look up and take notice.

[I will tread the land ahead... even if it is a mountain of knives, a forest of swords, or even a river of hellfire! I... will tread it flat!]

The soldiers from the Shen Ci and Yu Tang Empires also stood up. They couldn't help but straighten their backs at the sight of their once-enemy General. They looked at him with fervent gazes as if he were a divine idol of the military.

This was a warriors' freemasonry!

The party of nine men rhythmically moved in silence, and entered their tent.

The weather had changed very suddenly. The sky had gotten covered with clouds, and had darkened.

Then, a loud voice suddenly boomed from somewhere, "You're truly worthy of being called the 'Great Earth-Shaking Blood General! You possess the awe-inspiring bearing of a true 'Commander'! I'm

convinced of it! I — Sikong An Ye — truly admire you! And, I apologize for not coming to greet you at the gate! This Sikong would like to have a few drinks with Commander Jun if he has any free time!"

The bold and booming voice shook the ground as its source walked out from the tent beneath the Sikong banner. He was a tall and strong-looking person. His built was tough, stocky and exceptionally majestic. However, his rough looks gave-off a harmonizing and comfortable feeling. He was dressed in green, and both the sides of his face had cuts. One could see the growth of a stubble of whiskers as thick as a young dragon's on his face.

Jun Mo Xie shot a cursory glance at the person. He must've been at least two meters tall. The man seemed like a majestic iron tower as he stationed himself in front of their tent.

This person was the Sikong Family's foremost expert — Sikong An Ye.

"Elder Brother Sikong seriously embarrasses me! This little brother is your host, and he truly apologizes to the numerous seniors present for reaching here so late! And, the elder brother and I can have a chat over some wine any time it interests the elder brother!" Jun Wu Yi's clear and sonorous voice echoed for a while.

"Good! Good!" Sikong An Ye laughed heartily.

"Ha ha... this... this head... of the family... wanted to talk to you. But, this... this person... comes before... Third General Jun... I... I'm the Duanmu Family's head... Duanmu Chao... Chao Fao... greetings..."

This man's delayed speech had a strong stutter to it. However, the expression on his face, and the tone of his speech were enough to ascertain that this man thought too highly of himself.

Jun Mo Xie burst into giggles. Merely listening to this speech was enough to determine that he was 'the' "Duanu Chao Fan" his uncle Dongfang had told him about; it could be no other.

It wasn't certain whether he was 'out of the ordinary' as his name suggested. But, it was evident that he was 'self-important'.

"The head of the Duanmu Family is very polite. I will come and pay a call to the family-head the moment I'm free." Jun Wu Yi's voice was neither too pleased, nor angry. Yet, it made people feel comfortable; as if they had just bathed in a spring breeze.

"No... not... guest... polite..." Duanmu Chao Fan replied with a smile. He was about to speak further when a mystifying voice resounded, "Wouldn't that be too arrogant of these two men. They don't belong to the Tian Xiang Emperor's Family. Isn't that guy 'just' Jun Wu Yi?"

Jun Mo Xie looked at the source of that voice — only to find a man not older than twenty years in age. He stood in a straight posture, and was very handsome of face. However, one could see a hint of maliciousness on his brow. He stood beneath the Xue Hun Manor's banner. The man was gowned in embroidered silk, and had a long sword hung from his hip in its ornate and fragrant scabbard. He looked like a rare warrior of his generation. However, he seemed to be looking at them with disdain.

Jun Mo Xie immediately figured out the opposite party's identity. Aside from the toad who wanted to have the swan's meat... he was also Li Jue Tian's only son — Li Teng Yun. Who else could it be? [Your father has sprouted a very handsome, but vulgar son! Would we have had a war with the Xuan Beasts if it weren't for you? I will cripple you the first opportunity I get!]

Jun Mo Xie laughed as he stepped out.

How could Jun Wu Yi — the commander of all the warriors of his generation — get involved in this trivial matter? Therefore, it was only appropriate that the debauchee Young Master Jun dealt with it. He set-out light as a feather, "This man seems to have his eyes on his head since it seems like his nose is pointing skyward. It seems that the Young Master of the Xue Hun Manor likes to bully people. You are the bully of a Young Master Li — Li Teng Yun; right?"

"You! Humph! Would I require power to deal with you?" There was a hint of maliciousness in Li Teng Yun's eyes as he scoffed and spoke with disdain, "Your Jun Family has arrived so late in such circumstances. And, that too when you're the hosts! What mischief were you up to? Aren't other people even allowed to ask you this question?"

"We are obviously aware that the situation is dire. And, as for the topic of our 'late' arrival is concerned — why didn't you ask our Emperor for aid sooner? Secondly, I'd like to ask your Xue Hun Manor — why didn't you send out the summons sooner if the situation was that urgent? What were you up to?"

Jun Mo Xie snorted and continued, "Oh! That's right! The Xue Hun Manor's reputation is very important! Would this matter have come to such a point if it weren't for your arrogant, blind and inflexible behavior? How could you delay the summons till the point where the matter has become nearly impossible to salvage?"

"Aren't you ashamed at your incompetence and lack of strength to ask the help of others? And then, you have the courage to blame others? The others can ask this question. However, you and your Xue Hun Manor can't!"

Jun Mo Xie smiled, "Granted, it may be a duty of many to ask this question. But, many senior experts are present here. So, how did you get a turn before them? Don't forget, you're Li Jue Tian's son... not Li Jue Tian himself! So, who are you? And, what qualifications do you really have of your own?"

"How dare you speak to me like that? You've got some guts! Who are you?!" Li Teng Yun glared. He realized that he couldn't rival that person in this discussion. So, he changed the discussion into an interrogation of his counterpart's identity while harboring the intention of punishing him at the appropriate moment.

"This elder brother is called Jun Mo Xie!" The Young Master Jun smiled carelessly. "You must have heard the name of this famous elder brother. Isn't it quite well-known? A reputation that pierces the ears like thunder...? Like the bright moon in the sky...? Aren't I someone who lives up to such a reputation? You must admire me ah."

"So, you are 'that' Jun Mo Xie! That debauchee wastrel from the Jun Family! The famous lecher who never shies from committing any crime in the Tian Xiang City! It's quite an honor to meet you, Young Master! Your evil reputation is truly like 'thunder to the ears'! Your reputation as a 'filth' is truly justified!"

Li Teng Yun was aware that he had grasped his opponent's biggest weakness. So, he laughed loudly and continued, "The strongest experts of the age have gathered here! Yet, a ruffian like you has come along? What seniority does a hoodlum Young Master like you have here?"

Jun Mo Xie smiled mischievously, "I don't deny that I am a lecher who wouldn't shirk from any crime. However, this debauchee will still never try to grab a young woman who is already a daughter-in-law of another house. You are my senior in this matter, Young Master Li. Us debauchees should learn from your example!"

"You... Guan Qing Han is a good woman. But, your Jun Family has forcibly seized her! The two of us are meant for each other! I'm only saving her from hell. What's wrong with that? Moreover, your eldest brother died years ago. Do you wish for her to guard your dear departed brother's memory all her life? What kind of logic is this?" Li Teng Yun's face reddened. He had suddenly become very angry. He naturally couldn't allow this contempt to his name. So, he hastily quibbled those words in reply.

"You two are meant for each other? You are saving her from hell? Did you even take her consent for this?" Jun Mo Xie looked up to the sky and laughed heartily. "I never knew that someone so shameless existed in this world! I had begun to take that for granted. However, you are a master of distorting the truth, and confusing the right and the wrong. You tried to snatch a woman; that too a woman who's a daughter-in-law of another family. Moreover, you threatened the woman's family with complete destruction if they didn't hand her over to you! Is that what you mean when you speak that you two are truly meant for each other, and that you only wish to save her from hell! You genuinely stand out from the masses! Today, I — the biggest wastrel of a debauchee — have no choice but to step down in order to make place for Young Master Li. And, I shall write his name on that banner of debauchery! I sincerely admire your shamelessness; it is the greatest in the world!"

Many people from powerful families had gathered on that field, but most of them didn't know of this matter. But, they glared at Li Teng Yun with disdain after they heard those two young men talk. The Xue Hun Manor was a hegemonic family, but this was too outrageous. However, these enraged people wouldn't fear any consequences when faced with something so outrageous.

The people of this world attached a lot of importance to monastic discipline. However, Li Teng Yun had seriously offended their norms if he had genuinely done something like this.

"That's enough! We needn't discuss this further!" an angry shout resounded from a tent. It wasn't very loud, but its explosive echoes still managed to shake everyone.

A few silhouettes slowly walked out of the tent, and their majestic auras covered the entire ground.

The first person was tall. His had a dull face. Three wisps of a black beard floated in the wind, and down to his chest. His eyes radiated with power. They weren't full of arrogance or prestige. But, they radiated a natural bearing of the greatest power in the world. It made everyone feel like the person had superhuman and tyrannical strength.

He didn't mean to be arrogant. However, he made everyone feel that no man was worthy in his eyes. It felt that even the blue sky above wouldn't dare to contend with him.

It was this man who had shouted just a moment ago.

Jun Mo Xie had never seen him before. But, he knew that the man who seemed forty-or-fifty years of age... had actually been famous for the past sixty years. He was none other than the Great Master Li Jue Tian!

No one besides him could've had such a powerful and heaven-shaking demeanor!

The Great Master Li Jue Tian must've been at least a hundred years old. Yet, he still looked very young! Jun Mo Xie criticized him inwardly; [no wonder this hundred year old fart has a son of just twenty years of age. Just look at the way he looks! It won't be a surprise if he spawns a few more children.]

[He is indeed... a monster!]

Li Jue Tian was followed by the Great Master of Life and Death — Shi Chang Xiao; the Cold Blooded Master — Lei Wu Bei; the divine eagle-fighting Master — the Solitary Falcon, and another person. This person's looks were ice-cold. His face was like a black mask. The man's robes were black, and so were his boots. The scabbard of his sword that hung from his hip was also jet-black, and so was the hilt of his sword.

The person resembled a pitch-black blade. He stood in a very calm manner, but everyone still felt as if a sword-energy was pressing down upon them.

His sword-energy could dash against the ninth level of heaven! This person was none other than the one who Solitary Falcon had fought years ago... the Divine Storm Sword — Feng Juan Yun. He originally wasn't a part of the Eight Great Masters. However, his name had been recently included in the list. The man was also a peerless swordsman.

However, the Young Master Jun was very confident that the Solitary Falcon had left his old rival far behind. After all, the Solitary Falcon had made breakthroughs after he had received instructions from the Young Master Jun.

"Since everyone is here — I request the leaders of the different factions to come together and discuss the strategy to repel the enemy," Li Jue Tian unenthusiastically skimmed his gaze around the field. He didn't mention the argument between the Young Master Jun and his son.

His appearance seemed placated. However, he glanced at Jun Mo Xie, and the Young Master Jun felt that he was shooting sharp daggers at him. In fact, Jun Mo Xie felt that his gaze was so sharp that it would pierce his eyes. The Young Master Jun couldn't help but feel himself shudder from the very depths of his soul.

[I have to be wary of him from the bottom of my heart!]

[He can't be matched!]

[No one is capable-enough to match him!]

This was the first time that Jun Mo Xie had felt so dispirited in his entire life.

He had never faced such a high-level Great Master before. The Young Master Jun could've easily spoken and laughed freely if it were Shi Chang Xiao, Lei Wu Bei or the Solitary Falcon. However, he had felt a very strong and incapacitating feeling when he faced Li Jue Tian's glare.

[This must be similar to some kind of spirit attack! One wouldn't be able to move an inch forward after the seed of such fear has been implanted in their mind.]

However, Jun Mo Xie was very angry since the Great Master had tried to cover up his son's fault. In fact, the Young Master Jun was fuming with rage!

[You are the Second Great Master. Yet, you involve yourself in the quarrel of two youngsters to avenge and vent your son's anger! This is extremely disgraceful!]

[Bullsh*t Second Great Master; this guy is just a show!]

However, he had also realized that Li Jue Tian had spoiled really his son.

[He knew fully-well that his son was in the wrong in that argument. Yet, he doesn't say anything to resolve it... and then he glares his anger and prestige at the family of the victim!]

Jun Mo Xie finally understood why the two Xuan Beast Kings had only agreed to break the man's son's legs... and not take the boy's life. And, even that had elicited such a strong reaction from Li Jue Tian. He had eventually issued the Supreme Summons instead of making the compromise. The Young master Jun finally understood why the situation had been brought to such a stage.

Jun Mo Xie quickly closed his eyes. He then initiated the Art of Unlocking the Heaven's Fortune, and got rid of that dreadful feeling.

However, his heart still trembled with fear.

Li Jue Tian's strength was many levels above the Great Master Solitary Falcon and the Fifth Master Lei Wu Bei.

He was truly worthy of being called the second most powerful person of his age.

Everyone agreed with Li Jue Tian's words. And unexpectedly, no one had noticed the shady look Li Jue Tian had given Jun Mo Xie.

He was anyway convinced that he wouldn't get any justice even if people found out. After all, who would clench fists against the Second Greatest Master for a young and wastrel debauchee? He was convinced that no one would pick this choice of action...

Everyone started to appear from their respective tents. But suddenly, a faintly discernible yet long-drawn-out screech was heard from somewhere. Everyone was shocked. So, they all strained their ears to listen to it properly.

The screech then started to magnify. It seemed to have appeared right where they were. The sound also travelled between the spaces of numerous tents. It had suddenly changed from something barely audible... to a booming sound. It seemed like the heavens had been rendered apart. This screech had the capacity to tear people's eardrums.

"Puff..." many soldiers in the Southern Heaven City faced upwards, and started to spray blood from their mouths. The loud screech had shaken them on the inside, and had managed to injure them. Moreover, the entity which had issued that screech was at least five kilometers away.

Such power was extremely frightening!

Then, the mad and ferocious scream ceased it had momentarily gone berserk. In fact, it only stopped after it had made a resolute grunting sound. Suddenly, everyone realized that the sound had actually been quite melodious.

That sound had just subsided. And then, millions of Xuan beasts from the innumerable mountains, woods and streams raised their heads and screeched, roared, and howled in reply. The sound of tens-of-millions of Xuan Beasts burst forth with the power of a tsunami... or a terrible landslide...

The people present on the field started to tremble and ruffle.

The resulting screech was so loud and incisive that the clouds which had densely covered the blue sky... disappeared. They had been driven away by the power of this violent screech!

The sky had become clear and bright!

Li Jue Tian's expression became extremely solemn as he looked into the distance. He couldn't hide the shock this screech had jolted him with, "Tian... Fa's Lord... has... arrived..."

Chapter 330: The Unreasonable Lord of the Tian Fa Forest

Three unforgettable hisses resounded in the wake of that hair-raising noise. Two of these voices managed to stand out from the rest, and everyone inside the Southern Heaven City had been able to discern them.

The two sounds — one like the cry of a crane, and the other like that of a bear — had been emitted by the two Xuan Beast Kings — Long Crane and Big Bear.

Only a small number of experts were aware that those two were the instigators of the Xuan Beast Uprising.

There was a "whoosh" sound, and a giant crane suddenly flew-by from above. It passed over like lightening. Its opened-wings spanned at least fifteen-to-twenty meters in length. The crane's crown was bright red, and it glittered resplendent in the bright sunlight. Its shiny beak appeared like a sharp sword that was seemingly cutting through the sky.

Everyone could see that the crane was looking down at the residence of the city's lord with great disdain. Its wing covered the sky, and the entire world became dark in an instant. It seemed a giant cloud had suddenly appeared out of thin air, and had then disappeared in the next instant.

Then, a giant silhouette suddenly appeared from the mountains, and started to rush at lightning speed. It didn't matter whether it was going down a road or through trees; nothing could stop it. It crashed into the giant trees, and severed them from their middle. However, it had disappeared by the time the trees fell down....

Li Jue Tian suddenly flew onto the roof. No part of his body — including even his body's hair — moved an inch. He flew-up until he had station himself on the roof-top. However, his bearing had made it seem as if he had remained standing on the ground instead of flying up in the air. His movements had been very leisurely.

The lightness of his skills was closer to magic than anything else.

"Has the venerable Lord Mei arrived? Kindly excuse Li Jue Tian for not welcoming you!" Li Jue Tian had amassed the entirety of his Xuan Qi, and had used it to transmit his dignified voice loud and far. He had climbed on top of the roof, and had emitted a roar worth-witnessing. He was afraid of losing his face in

front of this Devine Dragon of a Tian Fa Lord. Moreover, he wasn't willing to resign himself to start with a disadvantage.

That voice rose up to the sky, and slowly and gravely started to transmit towards the south. It seemed quite gentle to those who heard it on the ground. But, it seemed like a resounding thunder amongst the innumerable mountains and streams after it reached there. It flowed with great momentum and exceptional prestige.

It echoed amongst the mountains and the woods for a long time before its effect finally came to halt.

"...excuse ...for not welcoming you..."

"...not welcoming..."

"...welcoming..."

"...welcome..."

"...elcome..."

That earth-shaking shout by Li Jue Tian left the low-level Xuan Beasts tremble with fear in the mountains and the woods. So much so, that it even induced a few panic stricken riots.

It had to be admitted that Li Jue Tian's shout was on the same level as the earlier screech of those Xuan beast Kings. Its effect was quite different, but it certainly didn't fall short in terms of its level.

A long while passed...

Then, they heard a clear and long-drawn-out voice. Everyone could tell that this person had spoken from a distance of at least five kilometers. However, that individual's voice made it seem as if he was standing right in front of them.

This person's voice was quite strange. It was fair, honest and mild. None could discern whether it was a male or a female from the voice itself.

"Li Jue Tian... it's really you...? You've reached a profound cultivation level! Ha ha...! No wonder my younger brothers were so angry! How could an ordinary man cause them to have such a look in their eyes? And, to have even defeated them...? Good! Good! You have progressed Li Jue Tian! You have really progressed!"

Everyone looked at each other in dismay. They felt like their heads would explode. Li Jue Tian was a top expert. He was the Second Great Master amongst all the Great Masters. He was no ordinary man!

However, this person wasn't even talking to him at a level of equality. He had even complemented that the Great Master had "progressed"...

Those words of praise were like those spoken by a teacher to their very young and obedient pupil...
"Child, you have progressed so much! You're such a good child!"

Li Jue Tian's voice was unrivalled; the might of its prestige had been unbounded. But, the opposite party's voice was dull and effortless. However, who amongst the listeners wasn't an expert? How could they not tell that this individual's cultivation was higher than Li Jue Tian's after they had listened to that exchange? Maybe even higher by an entire realm...? Or perhaps they were at the same realm...
However, the difference between them must be at least as much as the one that separated the Solitary Falcon and Li Jue Tian.

They were separated by a long distance. Li Jue Tian's voice had managed to stir bursts of echoes. But, this other entity's voice had made it seem as if he had been standing right next to them. In fact, it hadn't even echoed. This area was surrounded by mountains. So, even the loud cough of an ordinary person would tend to resound in this vicinity. However, his individual's voice hadn't... even though he had spoken from a distance of over 5kms...

[What kind of control is this? This control can easily be said to have reached perfection. It has genuinely reached the greatest of heights!]

Then, Li Jue Tian raised his voice, "This matter has arisen because your two younger brothers have provoked my Xue Hun Manor without any reason. I — Li Jue Tian — merely struck back in the given

situation. Tell me... was that really wrong of me? And, as for suffering a loss... could it be that the venerable Mei can't see who has suffered the genuine loss here...? Its no other than my Xue Hun Manor... my life's work has been reduced to ashes! I'd like to ask what the venerable Mei has to say on this matter...?"

Li Jue Tian's tone was full of condemnation. He was aware of the difference in strength between him and the opposite party. However, he couldn't be outdone or be seen to shy away in the capacity of the Second Great Master.

The distant voice then became sharp, "Li Jue Tian! Are you telling me that you fought my brothers and were unsuccessful? So, why are you painting me as a 'bully'? Li Jue Tian! Are you sure that you're not dreaming?"

Everyone's hearts shook. [This man had just covered-up his son's extreme wrong doing, and had acted without any reason. And now, his eyes have been opened. He had shielded his son, and had avoided an uncomfortable topic. But now, he's arguing with someone who's even more unreasonable. I don't know if it's karma or divine retribution...]

Jun Mo Xie lifted his chin as he felt inwardly appreciative. [Very good! This person's temperament is quite similar to mine! I can certainly take advantage of this guy's power later!]

"How could you dare?!" Li Jue Tian snorted, "As the saying goes... Justice is the free will of the people... everything must have a reason behind it. You can't act brashly even if you're the greatest under heaven!"

The other person then laughed, "What are you saying? This joke of yours isn't pleasant to hear, Li Jue Tian. Have you really adhered to this saying throughout your life? How come you're the one to preach now that the matter has gone above you, and your opponent is stronger than you...? Justice is the free will of the people... you've have just spoken these words, Great Master Li Jue Tian... but, does your distinguished self actually believe in them?!"

Those were very pinching words. The law of the world was only binding to ordinary people; it had no effect on the strongest in the world.

The talk of 'justice and free will of the people' were mere empty words for the powerful.

Only those whose fists were strong could decide "justice" in that world.

Those words by the opposite party were an unreasonable rhetoric, but they were also a fact. That pinching mockery of Li Jue Tian made Jun Mo Xie feel very satisfied in his heart. He almost felt like pointing his finger at the Great Master and saying, "Scoundrel! You keep preaching about justice and free will. But, is that reasonable? Is it reasonable that your son wants to forcibly snatch away a family's daughter-in-law? How can you call that 'just'?"

[The evil indeed fall into their own traps!]

Li Jue Tian snorted and replied sharply, "Venerable Mei, shall I assume by these words that you won't distinguish between right and wrong, and will continue to shield the miscreants?"

Li Jue Tian was the second of the Eight Great Masters. And, his conscious wouldn't allow him to discuss such matter. So, he avoided this uncomfortable topic once again. Moreover, he had more-than-half of the world's experts gathered beside him. So, even the venerable Mei would find it difficult to face-off against such a force... even if his strength transcended the heavens.

The other person's voice became sharper and colder, "Li Jue Tian, you Eight Great Masters are renowned for your strength. But, you still aren't much in my eyes. Kindly think over what you've just said, and remember who you're talking to!"

The opposite party had stopped. It seemed as if something had come up. Then, he burst out again in severe rage, "Li Jue Tian, when did you decide to go to the Elusive World of Immortals? You have caused a huge injury to my fourth younger brother with your sword! You certainly do have guts!"

This roar's power was world-shaking. It had nearly stirred a storm in the sky above. It was evident that the Lord of Tian Fa was very enraged. It appeared that Big Bear had made it to him, and had shown him the injuries on his body.

Jun Mo Xie thought; [The Elusive World of Immortals ...? Why haven't I ever heard of it?] He looked at the faces of others around him. They too had a perplexed expression on their faces. Those people obviously didn't know about this place either.

Everyone else doubted what they heard, but Jun Mo Xie pondered deeply. He may certainly not know anything about the Elusive World of Immortals ... However, the fact that Li Jue Tian had seriously injured a Xuan Beast King's body was quite shocking. It was important to know that Big Bear's physique was amazing, and had transcended any human abilities. Big Bear was a formidable Xuan Beast. Moreover, he had once laughingly faced-off against the Solitary Falcon and Shi Chang Xiao. Yet, he hadn't suffered from the slightest of injuries at that time. And, he had retreated with his body completely unharmed. So, one could imagine his body's defensive capabilities.

However, Li Jue Tian had used his "Elusive Heart and Vein Splitting Sword Attack" to inflict such injuries to him. Therefore, one could easily imagine the might of his strength...

"There are some things one mustn't discuss. Venerable Mei mustn't try to attract the heavenly calamity upon himself in a fit of rage." Li Jue Tian's tone of speech has a flavor of caution to it, "You may attract the dissatisfaction of the Holy Land if you create too much noise. I presume the 'all-knowing' venerable Mei will consider this?"

He had unexpectedly suggested the other party to avoid discussing this topic of entering the "The Elusive World of Immortals".

"Ha ha ha..." The bone chilling laughter rose up to the sky, and continued to resound for some time. Then, the opposite party replied, "Are you trying to threaten me with the Holy Land, Li Jue Tian?"