

E Monarch 331

Chapter 331: Jun Mo Xie's Doubts

"I won't ever dare to do that! I was merely advising the venerable Mei to consider what I'm saying..." Li Jue Tian was calm, "The heaven and the earth must not be disgraced. You mustn't mention the Holy Lands. I'm afraid that you may have committed a taboo."

"He he... consider? To consider...? One shouldn't overestimate oneself. But, when has this matter ever been worthy in my eyes? And, what can you do even if the Elusive World of Immortals, the Supreme Golden City, and the Illusionary Blood Sea unleash their full wrath at my Tian Fa?"

Then, that individual continued in an arrogant manner, "Even Yun Bie Chen hasn't dared to show himself in this world since eight years on my word. I'm confident that I can kick out the three great entities from my Tian Fa as well."

"I'll wait and see if the venerable Mei says so!" Li Jue Tian finished speaking, and his figure started to float down from the rooftop. This indicated that the conversation was over.

Then, another screech arose from a faraway spot in the forest.

Then, an earth-shattering rumble started to echo. East, west, north... all three directions reverberated with a loud howl. Dust rose up, and coerced the entire sky.

Innumerable Xuan Beasts rushed out of the woods and the mountains. They charged in orderly formations. These Xuan Beasts rushed from the outer regions of the city... in one direction — south.

It seemed as if the Tian Fa's Lord had commanded his troops...

However, the strength of the troops in these three directions had left every head in the Southern Heaven City to explode.

There were around ten golden-crowned Xuan Tigers on the eastern side. They had a sole silver horn on their heads. These Xuan Tiger moved in formation. They were being led by a white Xuan Tiger King. However, its crown was also golden in color. They moved at extreme speeds. Soon, all kinds of Xuan Beasts rushed out from the surroundings in neat and orderly formations. Their movements and formations didn't seem any different from that of a military parade. And, they continued to charge at lightening speeds. Their skills didn't seem beneath a Spirit Xuan expert.

"Ninth level Xuan Tigers!" Solitary Falcon gazed and exclaimed; he stood behind Li Jue Tian. "There are so many of them! And, they're led by a Xuan Tiger King! And, he might even be at the peak of the ninth level!"

And then, a similarly sized squad of White Jade Xuan Lions was spotted in the west.

"There are White Jade Xuan Lions in the west!" Dongfang Wen Qing spoke in a serious manner. These two men were aware that Jun Mo Xie was young and inexperienced. So, he was unlikely to recognize high-level Xuan Beasts. So, they were deliberately trying to explain what they were witnessing since they were aware that he was beside them, and would be able to hear their words.

Then, the sounds of a heavy stampede-like sound arose from the north. A huge bear led scores of giant bears and charged past.

"The Mountain Splitting Bear! It's also a level-nine Xuan Beast! The Tian Fa forest is so strong!"

These troops had barely covered half of the distance. Then, multitudes of shadows flew out from the rivers and mountains, and soared into the sky. They were seemingly of various magnificent colors in make. They circled disorderly in the sky for a while. But then, they assembled together, and organized themselves in a neat formation. They seemingly took the shape of a cloud, and skimmed over the Southern Heaven City.

"There are too many of these flying Xuan Beasts... just too many!" Dongfang Wen Dao wrinkled his nose, and bared his teeth as he stared. "Each one of them is at least at level eight! My good mother! How did you provoke such a powerful reaction? How on earth did we land such a battle on our hands?"

A head-exploding sound echoed through the valleys and mountains. This was the sound produced by the Xuan Beasts' stampeding feet against the ground. It sounded like an incessant torrential rain to anybody who listened to it. One could not image the sheer number of these beasts...

Everyone had unknowingly stationed themselves at a high altitude. All color had left their faces as they looked at the incomparably formidable sight. The sight in front of their eyes could only result in such a feeling. There were tens of thousands of powerful Xuan Beasts in front of them at present.

[Good heavens! This world has gone crazy!]

Tens of thousands of Xuan Beasts had bubbled up. Moreover, not a single one of these beasts was lower than level six.

Almost everyone's mouths opened wide in an "O" shape.

However, there was one exception to all that gaping. It was Jun Mo Xie. He could see all of this like the rest of the people. However, no one could know what he was thinking...

He had countless questions in his mind...

Everyone knew that there were two major powers on the Xuan Xuan Continent — the Silver Blizzard City and the Xue Hun Manor. No one could deny that the strength of these two clans was unsurpassable.

Then, a few additional names had emerged from the mouth of this mysterious Lord of the Tian Fa forest.

Elusive World of the Immortals, Supreme Golden City, and the Illusionary Blood Sea...

[What do those names represent? What do they signify? Where are these three Holy Lands? What's the extent of the tyranny of the people from these places? Why have I never heard any of these names?]

He then recalled the words that Li Jue Tian had just spoken — [‘the heaven and the earth must not be disgraced. You mustn’t mention the Holy Lands!’ Why does this Li Jue Tian place these three Holy Lands at the level of the Heaven and the Earth?]

[What did this mean?]

[The entire world recognizes the ten peak experts. Eight of them are the Great Masters. Then, there’s Feng Juan Yun, and the supreme assassin — Chu Qi Hun. But, why does it sound like this Lord of Tian Fa doesn’t hold them in a high regard? What does this mean?]

[From what I’ve heard and seen so far... I’m convinced that this Lord of Tian Fa has abundance of strength.]

["Even Yun Bie Chen hasn’t dared to show himself in this world since eight years on my word. I’m confident that I can kick out the three great entities from my Tian Fa as well."]

These words were still ringing in his ears.

[A mere few words had compelled the Greatest Master — Yun Bie Chen — to not show himself for so many years...]

[What kind of strength would be needed for that?]

The others had a look of horror on their faces. However, Jun Mo Xie had a tranquil expression on his face... unlike the others. But, innumerable waves were raging inside in his consciousness since many problematic questions had started to arise in his mind. [This Lord of Tian Fa seemingly has such strength... Moreover, he has decided to show him-self in public... So, why didn’t he wait a bit longer? He could’ve easily waited a bit longer until the war broke out on a full scale... and he could’ve easily inflicted a very heavy damage onto this coalition in that case...?]

[This coalition would’ve surely suffered a terrible blow in that case... In fact, this fight between men and Xuan Beasts would’ve been over once-and-for-all if that had been the case...]

[Moreover, this dispute arose two months ago. But, he didn't appear once. So, why is he showing himself now? He has already waited for two months; couldn't he have waited a few more days?]

[It can't be denied that his appearance would've overawed his enemies. His extreme strength is like that of a god. It would hit the morale of the experts. And, the morale of the force will be invariably destroyed!]

[But, this issue shouldn't be on his mind given his true strength. So, what's he worried about? The method of the coalition's attack shouldn't be an issue either. He could've easily changed the tide of the battle... and everything else with mere one appearance of his' ...!]

[What's the purpose of all this?]

These series of questions made Jun Mo Xie's head spin. He rubbed his eyes... only to find another unusual thing when he opened them.

Everyone had moved to the same higher area ever since the Xuan Beasts had started to stampede towards the south. However, there was one exception. A lofty and solitary figure stood motionless.

A young man stood alone and unafraid under the Baili Family's banner... His face exuded calmness and indifference. His bright expression clearly portrayed, "These events are of no interest to me. None of these things have anything to do with me."

He stood indifferently. Moreover, it seemed like he was almost lifeless. It seemed as if no one in the world held any importance in his eyes.

A sudden interest in the youngster was suddenly kindled in Jun Mo Xie's heart; a very strong interest.

Not for anything else... but the fact that this solitary figure had reminded him of his own aloofness and indifference to society at-large in his previous life. [Wasn't I like this once?]

Jun Mo Xie was undeniably an oddball himself. Therefore, he had never taken interest in showing goodwill to others. And, this is the reason why he had always taken keen note of the solitary people on his vicinity.

Dongfang Wen Qing finally collected himself, and noticed that Jun Mo Xie wasn't beside him anymore. He immediately looked away from the waves of the Xuan Beasts, and frantically started to look for his nephew.

Jun Mo Xie was obviously an 'apple' of the three Dongfang brothers' eyes. They had come to treasure him very deep. The three brothers had even dreamt of taking him back to the Dongfang Family for a while. After all, how could their mother not be happy at the sight of such a capable grandson? In fact, they had even hoped that the connection between a child and a mother might help awaken their sister who had lain unconscious for the past ten years...

Therefore, the three men behaved like 'hens with a newly hatched chick' around him. They didn't intend to let their nephew out of their sight for even a bit. There was no denying that his miraculous agility techniques made for a great defense. However, that still didn't bring any relief to them. The people from the Silver Blizzard City and the Xue Hun Manor had gathered there. Which one of their people would ever act with nobility?

And, these men would cry rivers if anything bad ever happened to him...

Therefore, they immediately tailed him and stationed themselves beside him once they realized that Jun Mo Xie wasn't at their side anymore. Even that spectacular scene couldn't take precedence over the issue of his safety...

"Do you know who that person is?" Jun Mo Xie pointed at the solitary youngster.

"He's someone from the Baili Family. And... also someone who that family is bound to abandon. Why do you ask?" Dongfang Wen Dao tilted his head and stole a glance. He then replied with a disdain-filled voice.

"Why? Why are they bound to abandon him? Why would they do that?" Jun Mo Xie asked in a confused tone.

"Look at these people... who amongst these guys from the big families seems like a fool to you? Who doesn't understand the severity of this uprising? These people were pressured by the Xue Hun Manor and Li Xue Tian to send help. So, they had no choice but to come and fight. But, has any family sent the entirety of their strength? Moreover, all these men are peak Sky Xuan experts. Do you see any weak men amongst them? In other words, these men have adequate strength to have a chance of saving their lives and fleeing away if this coalition doesn't prove to be enough to deal with this threat. And, these families have less chance of suffering a great fall in their strengths in that case. However, have you seen any of the other families send their Young Masters?" Dongfang Wen Qing asked in a ridiculing manner.

"So, they're throwing his life away? He's just cannon fodder?" Jun Mo Xie seemed somewhat shocked.

Chapter 332: Baili Luo Yun

"Exactly! Any youngster with such cultivation who comes here to fight the Xuan Beasts is basically throwing away their life. Insignificant jade Xuan experts don't have any chance at survival when faced with so many high-level Xuan Beasts. What else could it be if it isn't throwing away one's life? However, to say that they are 'meat for slaughter' isn't exactly very pleasant to hear," Dongfang Wen Jian gave a ruthless smile.

"Mo Xie, don't start to believe that your agility skill set is too exquisite. You will find it difficult to escape if you're thrown to the enemy. Even your marvelous skill set won't help if you're surrounded by them. Therefore, you mustn't act recklessly. And, you must never leave our sight!"

"But, that youngster is only twenty-five or twenty-six years old. And, it's quite clear that he's already at the peak of the Jade Xuan realm. I believe he's just a step away from reaching the Earth Xuan. So, he's a very rare talent if he has reached such a level at this age. Why wouldn't his family keep such a talent close to them? Why would the Baili Family allow this youngster to throw away his life? Isn't this pitiful?" Jun Mo Xie asked in a confused manner.

"The reason for that isn't very difficult to understand. In fact, it's rather simple. This youngster wasn't born from a legitimate wife of the family! His mother was a concubine!" Dongfang Wen Qing seemed sorry as he smiled.

"That youngster is named Baili Luo Yun. He's one of the rarest talents to be ever born into the Baili Family. Families that practice Xuan Qi usually have a member with a high cultivation comb-out the meridians of a new born baby. This is done in order to reduce the chances of illness in the infant. Moreover, this helps to lay down the foundation for the infant's future cultivation.

"However, no one combed Baili Luo Yun's meridians when he was born. But, it didn't matter since he had already started to cultivate at the age of three. And, he had broken through to the Ninth Xuan Level when he was ten. In fact, he had already reached the peak of Silver Xuan realm by the time he turned fifteen, and then broke through to the Gold Xuan soon-after. Thereafter, he broke through from the Gold Xuan Realm to Jade Xuan realm by the time he turned twenty. And, he has now reached the peak of the Jade Xuan realm. He can easily be called the foremost in the younger generation after one looks at his cultivation. Not many people can compare with this man. However, it's true that you can't be considered in the same category since you can fight a Spirit Xuan with your moves even though you are only a Jade Xuan expert. In fact, you may even win with those moves of yours. You truly are a devilish talent!"

"But, this guy is a rare and exceptional talent. He may not be a legitimate son, but he still shouldn't have been treated in such a way, right? He's still of their blood even if he's illegitimate. So, what difference does it make if he isn't the heir to the family? He's still a rare and talented expert of their younger generation! In fact, it's easy to imagine that he may reach the Sky Xuan level in ten years given the speed of his current advancement, and the achievements he had already made at such a young age. Moreover, he may even reach the Spirit Xuan in thirty! Are you telling me that they're abandoning such a talent because he isn't a legitimate son? Isn't the Baili Family being very unwise?" Jun Mo Xie was shocked at what he had heard. He found it very difficult to understand such a matter.

It was important to know that such a talented youngster was extremely uncommon. And, this fact didn't hold for the powerful families of the world alone... Even the Silver Blizzard City and the Xue Hun Manor witnessed such a talent once in a lifetime. In fact, one would be hard-pressed to find many of them even if they searched the entire Xuan Xuan continent. Any other family would've treated such a talented person as its 'gem', and would've guarded them very closely. In fact, such a person would receive the same care that the three Dongfang brothers divulged towards Jun Mo Xie's safety. So, one could only image the importance of such youngsters.

"That's not all; there's more to it. His father is the main reason behind all this. His grandfather is his real father. He had gotten drunk, and had raped a maid; he had thereafter formed a relationship with her. And, Luo Yan was born as a result of that relationship; and, that too as the eldest son of the family. However, the Baili Family has never acknowledged his status. Moreover, they went ahead and mistreated the youngster. His innate talent obviously alienated him even further. And, the treatment became worse as his Xuan cultivation bettered due to his outstanding talent. Therefore, his dishonored identity inside the family meant that he was treated like a servant. In fact, even servants received better

treatment at times. This obviously led to several resentments in his heart, and he naturally wanted to take revenge. This sense of revenge became even more prominent once he broke into the Jade Xuan realm. And then, an unfortunate incident happened..."

Dongfang Wen Qing's face was full of pity as he continued, "But, the thing is... he didn't even initiate that incident. In fact, this matter is quite straightforward. He had just gone to his home, and the legitimate Young Masters tried to stir trouble with him. He started to taunt him, and received a very severe retaliation from him. The reasons behind his anger are easy to understand. He didn't have any status in the family even though his cultivation was far ahead of the others who took help from outside and had received the 'cleansing meridians' treatment at a young age."

"However, he still belongs to their family's bloodline. And, bloodline matters a lot. That was one of the main reasons he wasn't killed on the scene. But, some people in the Baili Family weren't willing to let him off the hook. And, this journey to Tian Fa provided them with a golden opportunity to get rid of him."

"So... that's what it is!" Jun Mo Xie let out a long sigh. He then murmured, "Baili... Luo Yun..." a cold light flashed in his eyes. No one could guess his thoughts.

"However, we also feel that the Baili Family has caused a great harm to themselves with these actions. It's like what you had just spoken... this youngster has outstanding innate talent! He's only marginally behind you in that respect. We believe that he could become a new Great Master in thirty-to-fifty years!"

"It's important to know that a family's strength and prestige increases if they have someone as strong as a Great Master. This is especially true for powerful families. In fact, they leave behind their former peers in one giant leap!

"The Silver Blizzard City and the Xue Hun Manor are no different. The chance for such a man to be born in any family comes in hundreds of years... once in several generations. So, I don't understand why the Baili Family would let go of such an opportunity... This makes me regret their decision somewhat. I mean... how could the Baili Family be so short-sighted? Perhaps they fear that he'll take revenge upon them once he's strong enough...? Maybe there's another reason...?"

Dongfang Wen Qing shook his head, and chuckled gently, "But, we aren't related to them in anyway. In fact, it's better for us that a potential Great Master will be done away so soon. Moreover, it gives us a reason to celebrate. After all, a rising hero tramples on others' bones. And, every strong person who

ascends to the top has blood in his hands. We nine families certainly aren't enemies. But, we are potential competitors."

The leaders of every powerful faction had remained standing at a high altitude this entire time. But, they finally started to come down. They then decided to proceed to the hall in order to discuss the prevalent matters. Dongfang Wen Qing stole a glance into the distance, and said, "I will accompany your Third Uncle to the meeting since those dregs from the Silver Blizzard City won't abstain from mockery. But, they won't be too reckless if I'm around." Then, he chuckled softly and left. He was gently pushing Jun Wu Yi's wheelchair towards the hall a moment later.

Jun Mo Xie looked at his Third Uncle sitting in the wheelchair, and thought... [Third Uncle's legs are fine now. But, I don't know when he can stand up properly... When will the Blood General truly stand tall-and-proud, and show the majesty of his defiance to the entire world?]

[However, everything depends on strength. Incomparable strength...!]

[And, strength is equal to... talent...]

Then, Jun Mo Xie suddenly took long strides after he had pondered a bit. And, he started to walk towards Baili Luo Yun.

The others from the Baili Family had started to head back at this time. Three men laughed and chatted freely as they entered their tent. They didn't even spare a glance at Baili Luo Yun who stood at the entrance. In fact, Baili Xiong Feng — the leader of the Family's contingent — gazed straight ahead as he calmly entered the hall to discuss the crisis.

Baili Luo Yun lifelessly gazed at the smoky sky. He was bitter inside, but he managed to force a smile. [How many days will I last in such a chaotic situation? Will these thousands of Xuan Beasts make a corpse out of me? Will this be my end?]

Baili Luo Yun clearly knew what his family had done to his fate.

"The Baili family won't rest until Luo Yun dies," this was the comment the Baili Family's Young Master had made to Baili Lou Yun's father when he had broken through to the ninth Xuan layer at the age of ten. And, Baili Luo Yun had been living in the shadow of these words ever since.

[I wonder at the irony sometimes. A child with any potential gets full support from their family. And, any man can see my talent. So, why does the Baili Family treat me in this way?]

[This matter has gone too far... In fact, that man is afraid that I might run away. And so, he threatened me with my father's life if I didn't come south to this place. What did he do that for? And, father also dodges this topic whenever I try to talk about it. The only valuable words he has ever spoken to me were "Alas, Luo Yun, your wish for revenge is too strong! It's better if you don't meddle in this matter too much..."]

["Desire for revenge?" When did I ever wish to stir-up trouble? Would I have taken any action for the fear of the consequences if those people hadn't crossed their limits? How could a man not resist the intolerable behavior I suffered that day in front of everyone? Or could it be...? Is there another reason that I don't know of?]

[I'll return and solve all the mysteries if I'm lucky enough to survive this place...]

Baili Luo Yun had an indifferent expression of his face as he turned around to enter the tent.

[They've never attached any importance to me. But then again... when did they ever consider me as 'family'? The sooner I die — the better it is for them... But, why isn't it the same for me?!]

It was right then that he saw a youngster approach him.

He wasn't familiar with this youngster, but he knew that this youth was called 'Jun Mo Xie'. He had heard a lot about this youngster. Therefore, he was aware that this youth was a bigger debauchee than his second grandfather and some of the other people in his family.

He didn't need to look twice to be sure that Jun Mo Xie was in fact approaching him. The youngster's path was clear-cut, and there was no variation in it. Moreover, he had a very unusual expression on his face as he looked at Baili Luo Yun.

"Baili Luo Yun?" Jun Mo Xie tilted his head, and sized him up.

"Jun Mo Xie? The Third Young Master of the Jun Family...?" Baili Luo Yun's face was indifferent. He felt neither alarm, nor happiness upon the realization that this youth had come to look for him. In fact, he didn't even try to guess the reason he was being sought for...

"Do you wish to find a place to chit-chat? Follow me," Jun Mo Xie invited. It was 'technically' a 'request'. But, the tone of Jun Mo Xie's voice made it seem like an 'order' of sorts.

He had been an aloof assassin in his previous life. So, he knew the methods one must use to deal with such a socially reclusive personality even though his own nature had changed rather considerably in his present life.

One must never hope for such people to take the initiative. Such would keep their mouth shut even if they really wanted to say something. Jun Mo Xie was well aware of it because he used to be like this once...

The only method to deal with such people was to take control the situation by taking the 'absolute' initiative. The counterpart would then unconsciously move according to one's plan. In fact, they would try to match the rhythm of your movement even if they didn't wish to... even if they were unconvinced... or even if they were unwilling to accept it... This was because they wouldn't wish to seem inferior, and would try to talk to you on equal footing; or... they would at least look for an opportunity for equal footing...

"I don't talk to strangers," Baili Luo Yun indifferently turned his head, and started to enter the tent.

That very same tent which he loathed from the bottom of his heart...

"I've heard that you're one of the rarest Xuan Qi talents of the present age. So, you wouldn't be afraid of me, right?" Jun Mo Xie stepped forward.

Baili Luo Yun's straight and towering figure suddenly came to a stop.

"The rumors state that you're twenty-six years old. They also state that you have already reached the peak of the Jade Xuan realm. But, you won't dare to talk to me...? Are you afraid that I'm plotting something against you?" Jun Mo Xie smiled mischievously.

Baili Luo Yun suddenly turned around. His face was still expressionless. And, his eyes were still tranquil as he looked at the Young Master Jun.

"It seems that the rumors were mistaken. And, it's not surprising... since nine out of ten rumors can't be trusted." Jun Mo Xie turned around to leave. But, not before leaving a few words, "And, I was too bold. I really shouldn't have come here," he started to walk away after he had said that. However, he didn't walk towards his tent. Instead, he walked towards the periphery.

The sound of another person's footsteps trailed him. Baili Luo Yun was calmly following after him. He stayed neither too close... nor too far.

A proud expression flashed in Jun Mo Xie's eyes.

[Talk to me, will you? Why aren't you saying anything?] Baili Luo Yun would've returned to his tent for a nap if these doubts wouldn't have arisen in his mind. And, he certainly wouldn't have followed after Jun Mo Xie like this...

Jun Mo Xie didn't even turn around the entire time. In fact, his body started to move more rapidly, and the speed of his walk increased to a shocking level. Baili Luo Yun didn't utter a word either. However, he continued to follow Jun Mo Xie. He didn't come too close, but he didn't lag far behind either. The two outstanding Jade Xuan peak youngsters moved one after the other... as if they were in a chase. However, no one noticed these talented young men since everyone's attention was fixed at the discussions that were taking place in the hall.

The Young Master Jun gradually began to speed up. His movements became increasingly faster. It soon started to seem that he would leave the ground and soar into the sky. And, the distance between the two youths began to increase...

Baili Luo Yun had always maintained his indifference towards the world. However, his eyes had started to belie his astonishment. [This ill-reputed Young Master is faster than me?] But, he didn't concede, and

started to exerted himself. Yet, he still couldn't catch up with the other party. In fact, he couldn't even reduce the distance between them by an inch. And, the distance that separated them continued to increase gradually...

[I have failed in this contest of speed.] Baili Luo Yun wouldn't have admitted it openly. But, he had clearly understood that the other person had managed to outstrip him even though he was younger in age.

At least in speed...

Jun Mo Xie led the way to a small hidden slope about five kilometers away. He quickly climbed it, and sat down in a flash. Then, he took the initiative as he patted to the grassy spot besides him and said, "Come sit."

There was no answer. Baili Luo Yun stood as straight as a javelin; just like before. He was used to staying alert for long durations of time without giving himself a single moment to relax. This was because everyone in his family was quite eager to kill him whenever they got the chance...

Therefore, he had become accustomed to remaining on perpetual guard long ago...

However, a trace of admiration had already started to take birth in the depths of his eyes.

"What do you want?" Baili Luo Yun finally asked. He was miserly with his words. He seemed to cherish them like they were made of gold. This young man wasn't accustomed to long conversations. He had always held his thoughts close to his heart. Baili Luo Yun had only asked this question because he was led to do so by Jun Mo Xie's skillful manipulation. [He's much younger than me. But, his cultivation still doesn't seem to fall short in any way...]

"You've come here to throw your life away, right?" Jun Mo Xie still hadn't turned around. In fact, he hadn't done it even once during their entire journey from the field to this place. The Young Master Jun had been very confident that Baili Luo Yun would follow him. And, not only would he follow him... he would even try to catch up.

This had obviously hit the most uncomfortable spot in Baili Luo Yun's heart.

"What's that got to do with you?" Baili Luo Yun asked in an apathetic manner.

"This truly has nothing to do with me. In fact, you won't be a threat to my family if you were to die." Jun Mo Xie smiled and continued, "But, there's something that I find very strange. Why have you come here if you know you'll die?"

"That's none of your business!" Baili Luo Yun said somewhat angrily. [This brat is spewing nonsense in front of me! What does he know of the words he speaks?]

"I guess someone threatened you to come here, right?" Jun Mo Xie muttered. "Moreover, they threatened the life of someone you care for the most...? Otherwise, why would you come here if you already knew that you will die? You don't seem like a fool from whatever I've seen so far..."

Baili Luo Yun fell silent.

The other person had guessed correctly. Moreover, they had also grasped his nature rather accurately. He hadn't spoken a word, but the opposite party had seen right through him.

This was quite surprising for someone as young as his counterpart.

"You want to be the head of the Baili Family. Is that it?" Jun Mo Xie had stuck a half-dried grass stem between his teeth. It seemed like he was speaking to the white clouds above, "You are very calm, callous, cruel and daring; and, you won't stop at anything. Moreover, your desire for revenge is very strong. And, your lust for power is substantially massive as well. You wish to take revenge, but you don't have enough strength for it. You don't have a future at the Baili Family. So, you yearn for the greatest power in the family since you can't take your revenge without it. Am I right?"

"Again, what do these things have to do with you? I can't understand what you're trying to say!"

Baili Luo Yun's voice was impolite, sickened and full of loathing. However, Jun Mo Xie knew that his words had struck this youngster's heart. Otherwise, such a recluse wouldn't have spoken so many words.

"Indeed, this has nothing to do with me. But, your desires will remain unfulfilled if you remain in the Baili Family," Jun Mo Xie suddenly stood up and turned around. He looked directly into Baili Luo Yun's eyes and stated, "However, I will ensure that they become a reality if you join me!"

"You?" Baili Luo Yun coldly sized-up the opposite party. "Why would I do that? The Jun Family's situation isn't that great either. And, the Baili Family is one of the great nine families. So, I too know what's going on with the Jun Family. Your Family simply can't compare to the Baili Family at present!"

"You're mistaken. And, my Jun Family has nothing to do with you. So, all you need to answer is — whether you'll join me or not?" Jun Mo Xie smiled, "Let's talk about your situation. You must know that you don't have the slightest bit of hope in the Baili Family. You could die ten times on this expedition for a million different reasons. So, I'm convinced that this is your last chance to avoid death. And, perhaps I may be deceiving you... But, you have to admit that you'll probably die in the upcoming battle at the Tian Fa forest if you don't grasp this final straw of a chance. In fact, I presume that even your bones will become a sumptuous cuisine for the Xuan Beasts!"

Baili Luo Yun silently gazed at Jun Mo Xie. And, Jun Mo Xie returned that gaze with a smile. It remained like this for some time. Then, the former tilted his head before he finally broke the silence, "How does it matter if I live or die? Life and death don't mean much to me. My life in this world hasn't been a happy one. And, death would certainly mean freedom. In fact, it would actually mean a much needed freedom for someone like me."

"Freedom? But, I'm different. If I were to die... I would choose to die after I had taken my revenge," Jun Mo Xie calmly replied.

"Revenge..." it seemed like there had been a sudden explosion within Baili Luo Yun's eyes. This word had spoken to his heart. So, he turned to look directly at Jun Mo Xie and said, "I have two conditions. I promise to join you after the conclusion of this matter with Tian Fa if you agree to them."

"First — you must defeat me. You must defeat me with your own strength! I know you're quite strong, but I still need to confirm. After all, I will only join the top talent of this generation."

"And second — a total of five people from the Baili Family have come here to the Southern Heaven City; four Sky Xuan experts and me. I want the four of them to die."

"I will follow you for ten years if you fulfill these two conditions. And, I will leave if you can't ensure the fulfillment of my true desire by the end of those ten years. However, you won't just have my life at your service if you manage to fulfill them — but, also that of the entire Baili Family!"

Jun Mo Xie heard those two conditions. Then, he straightened up and looked at Baili Luo Yun with a faint smile as he backed-up a step in order to leave. He didn't even turn his head until he had disappeared out of sight.

[These conditions are not a problem for me! I can easily deal with you right now. And, I can take care of those small fries from the Baili Family in a cinch! Couldn't you have come up with more challenging conditions?]

[Boy, wait till I gain control over you!]

Jun Mo Xie used his exquisite martial arts, and returned to the campsite in secret. However, he was surprised to see that the twenty-thousand forces had already pitched their tents. They had also started to secure their camp by the time he got there. These camps were inside the city. But, they were still set-up against the walls. And, they had barriers on both their sides. Ditches and traps had been dug, and the archers had been placed in wait for an ambush. Moreover, the guards at the entrances were alert. Each man was doing his duty diligently. The boundary of the camp was regularly being patrolled by crisscrossing platoons.

The shifts were divided between four teams. Two teams would simultaneously remain on one duty. One team would take charge, while the other would remain on standby. This ensured a perpetual state of preparedness.

This tight command of the forces ensured that no troops would ever have to worry about a sneak attack. And, the regular change in shifts ensured that the soldiers got ample rest.

It was a pity that they were sent to face the Xuan Beast uprising. Therefore, these ordinary soldiers had no chance of survival. Jun Mo Xie had realized this after he had seen the organization of the Xuan Beasts. [These twenty-thousand people... with their soldiers, high ranking officers, the experts and Young Masters from various families... were merely like flies. They've all been sent here to die.]

[These guys are a hundred-percent cannon fodder!]

Jun Mo Xie sighed softly before he made his way towards his own encampment.

He had barely entered when he felt something unusual in the atmosphere.

Guan Qing Han was consoling Dugu Xiao Yi for some reason. The Young Lady Dugu's beautiful face was tear-stained. It appeared that she had suffered some grievous wrong.

"What's going on?"

"Boo hoo... brother Mo Xie... Little White... has disappeared..." Dugu Xiao Yi looked up at him. Then, she rushed towards him, and burst into tears.

"Oh, so he disappeared when I wasn't here?" Jun Mo Xie smiled bitterly inside. [You brought that nuisance here. And, now it's gone. The Xuan Beast King had issued an order for all Xuan Beasts to assemble. So, Little White obviously couldn't be an exception to his command, could he? Little White is still here... and, that's a real problem!]

"Boo hoo... no... I must find him... he still hasn't had lunch..." Dugu Xiao Yi was distressed and desperate. Little White was the apple of her eye.

"We will properly... look for him... maybe... he has gone out to... play for a while and will return soon..." Jun Mo Xie consoled her weakly.

In the depths of the Tian Fa forest...

Long Crane and Big Bear were standing straight in deference. They had two others standing behind them. The level-nine Beast Kings from every race were present as well. Then, they all squatted down on the ground in a well-behaved manner. The beasts would sweep the floor with their tails from time to time. And, they didn't allow a single speck of dust to settle in that small area.

The person in front of them was mysteriously shrouded in a black cloak. His hairs, face, body and legs... all were shrouded beneath it. Even his eyes couldn't be seen.

Even the make of this person's figure wasn't clear. So, one could forget about his facial features...

"Tell me, what's all this about? I go off to seclusion for only two years, and you create such a big mess? You have such courage now that all the great experts have assembled? Huh?" the mysterious person spoke-up. He was actually the Lord of the Tian Fa forest; the same person who had earlier spoken to Li Jue Tian.

"Eldest brother... this... this..." Big Bear and Long Crane gave a cry, and then looked at each other. They then became speechless.

"Over three million of our people had rushed out of Tian Fa, and these people were all level six or above... the full strength of our Tian Fa has been laid bare." The shrouded person sneered, "Does that mere Li Jue Tian really require such a large assembly of force to be dealt with?"

"Eldest brother, things aren't that straight with this matter..." Long Crane spoke... Then, he smacked his lips and swallowed the words he was about to say.

"What's going on?!" the person shrouded in black suddenly released his Qi in an unrestrained manner, "I want to know the full story! Tell me, Fourth Brother Bear!"

"M... me... me... me..." Big Bear trembled as he replied in a stutter.

The silhouette of a person flashed, and Big Bear howled in pain. Then, his body was sent rolling like a ball. A burst of noise was produced as he rolled for a distance. His arms tried to hug three different trees to stop his momentum, and all three of those trees snapped before he finally came to a stop.

"Come back!" Big Bear supported his lower back with one hand when he heard those words. He then grimaced, ran back, and stationed himself in an obedient stance.

"Speak!"

Then, Big Bear pulled a pained face as he recalled how they had stolen the Level Nine Xuan Beast Core in the Tian Xiang City. He told everything in detail about what came to happen after he and Long Crane had stolen that core.

"You're telling me... that this person can make it easier for us to advance? Are you sure about this?" The Xuan Beast King also started to tremble; his shroud rippled with him.

Chapter 333: Tian Fa's Fury

"Yes!" Long Crane answered confidently. Then, he continued, "I'm absolutely convinced of this. He used his Qi technique on the fourth brother and me. His special method resulted in the strength in our bodies to increase by ten times! And, even the bottleneck that had been constraining us started to loosen. Therefore, we acted like this since he would help in our advancement. I can assure you that all this is true. So, you needn't have any doubts," Long Crane answered solemnly.

"So... that's how it is..." The shrouded person mumbled in a faint voice, "It's understandable if that's the case. But, why didn't you and Fourth try to capture him? You could've been done with everything if you were to control him. It may be assumed that this person's strength is high. But, he won't be able to contend with Li Jue Tian! How many experts of such strength do you think exist in this society? You and Fourth wouldn't be considered weaker than Li Jue Tian if you were to combine your attacks! Therefore, the two of you should've at least attempted to capture the man in question!"

Long Crane smiled bitterly, "You think we didn't wish to, Elder Brother? We had proposed a competition with this very thought in our mind!"

"However, you don't know how much he pressurized us! The pressure of his aura was even greater than yours, Elder Brother. Moreover, we will have the means to promote our strengths if things go well. In fact, we will have never-ending advancements after this matter ends. And, we can bid goodbye to the word 'bottleneck'..."

"Fourth and I were forced to step-down with grace after the third match ended since we were no match for the opposite party..."

"You don't understand the temptation this matter posed for us. Fourth and I have been stuck at our levels for forty years! We haven't seen second brother for many years, but we can't be sure if he has made advancement either. He must've remained stuck as well! Plus, that man's conditions didn't seem very difficult. We only had to stop the Xue Hun Manor from going north, and we had to beat-up Li Jue Tian's son to a state where he'd have to remain bed-ridden for a couple of months. How difficult could it really be? Therefore, Fourth and I decided to act without consulting you."

"Indeed, this is reasonable... and not very difficult. We can take advantage of this. But, why has everything turned out like this? We've got over half of the world's Xuan experts assembled at our gates!" The shrouded person tilted his body slightly sideways.

"I had originally planned to light a fire at the Xue Hun Manor in the cover of darkness. I had planned to use that chaos as a cover to attack Li Teng Yun in order to break his legs. But then... Big Bear...he suddenly burst into the Xue Hun Manor in bright daylight, and created a clamor. Then, he began to howl about breaking Li Teng Yun's legs, and arrogantly declared to the opposite party that they must take the initiative and break Li Teng Yun's legs on their own. Even I wouldn't have been to do... so, forget about Li Jue Tian doing such a thing..."

"Third Brother Crane... why did you sell me out?! Did I not intend to finish the matter quickly? And, how much delay would we have seen if we followed your plan? Moreover, such a sneaky method isn't gratifying. Does it matter how we complete the task as long as we do it...?" Big Bear's face reddened as he shouted. He hadn't finished speaking yet, but he had started to tremble all over; he didn't dare to utter a single word thereafter.

"It's needless to say that the Xue Hun Manor didn't comply with Big Bear's threat. So, we attacked them very resolutely on the same day. We had a significant advantage. So, we managed to injure several people. But, Li Teng Yun remained hidden. So, we returned the next day to do the same. But, we then found out that the Great Master Shi Chang Xiao had suddenly appeared at the Xue Hun Manor. And, it was naturally a bit difficult to maintain our advantage once he was there. So, this continued for a few days. However, it still wasn't a problem because the Xue Hun Manor was more or less destroyed even if Li Teng Yun hadn't yet showed his face. But then, we found out that Li Jue Tian... that dog... had also returned to the Xue Hun Manor out of the blue..." Long Crane squirmed and pursed his lips.

"You go someone's doorstep and cause trouble. And then, you ask them to hand-over their Young Master so you can break his legs? And then... you're surprised that they didn't cooperate? Then, you use your logic and you get angry... So, you go on a rampage! Then, Li Jue Tian comes and gets infuriated

when he looks at his big Xue Hun Manor — the work of his lifetime's blood and sweat — has almost ceased to exist. Which family would endure to be ashamed by this?"

The man shrouded in black sneered, "Do you two really think nothing of the people in this world? This is hilarious! First... you didn't complete this task in secrecy. Then, you actually went about it so boldly in broad daylight... And, Big Bear, you really have some big guts. I genuinely wish to tear up open so I can see just how big your guts are..."

Big Bear stared gaping. Then, he hiccupped and shut his mouth.

"What happened after that?" the black cloaked man asked.

"After that... we attacked again. Then, I found out that Li Jue Tian's body had an extremely fluctuating Xuan Beast Core inside it. It seemed that he had taken a core which was at least at the ninth level. In fact, the Qi was similar to that of the Panther King's. But, it didn't seem like it was moving to separate away from his body. So, I immediately started to feel suspicious..."

Long Crane's face flared up with anger. "The Panther King had disappeared two years ago. Big Bear and I had searched for him for a long time, but we couldn't find a single clue. Then, there was the case of the level nine Xuan Core in the Tian Xiang City. So, we didn't think much on our search for a little time. But then, we came here to stir trouble on orders from that mysterious person... only to find that Li Jue Tian's body possessed the fluctuating energy of the Xuan Panther King's core!"

"The Panther King!" the shrouded man's voice tensed up. "Was it genuinely the Panther King? What the hell is going on? Are you sure about what you said?"

Then, his voice became very cold, "I was just thinking that I haven't even seen the shadow of the Panther King. So, it seems that someone has killed and consumed him... even his core has become a part of someone's energy... huh... third brother, fourth brother... the two of you have managed Tian Fa very well in my absence... Panther King is dead... talk about mysterious disappearances... huh... good... good!"

The complexion on Long Crane and Big Bear's faces suddenly changed. They immediately knelt with a "Bang!" and, their foreheads were sweaty enough to resemble a broth. Their elder brother's intermitted

words and manner of speech was enough to express his rage. It seemed that these two brothers were in for a tragedy...

"There used to be ten Beast Kings at the time of our King. They could overlook the entire world with arrogance. Even the three Holy Lands didn't have the courage to look them in the eye! The Tian Fa was the fiercest force in the entire universe! It was a scene to remember! However, the King then ascended to the heavens. And, the nine elder brothers became disheartened and went away to live in seclusion. This allowed us to rise and advance... and new Beast Kings were born in less than a century's time... and a total of twelve at that... So, I thought that this would at least be enough for us to retain our position even if we weren't able to build on it!"

"But, so much has happened in this brief period... The Second Brother — Eagle King — had been cheated by Yun Bie Chen in a gamble. He was then forced to become that old man's mount. This has become a cause of great shame for our Tian Fa. The youngest brother hasn't appeared for a long time. The Sixth Brother — Lion King — and the Seventh Brother — Monkey King — had fought with the Great Eight Masters sixty years ago. They lost that battle, the nothing has ever been the same in these past sixty years..."

His voice was desolate. The two Xuan Beast Kings — the white Lion King, and the golden-haired Monkey King — were standing behind Big Bear. They hung their heads sadly. These were the two Xuan Beast Kings he had spoken about.

"The fifth used to manage Tian Fa until thirty years ago... but then... nine unknown and powerful Spirit Xuan experts besieged and killed our brother King Beast. Even the location of his core is unknown. That entire matter is still shrouded in endless mystery. Then, the eleventh — Panther King — died, and his core is inside Li Jue Tian's belly...? Now... only a few of us are left out of the original twelve kings... crane, bear, snake, tiger and eagle."

The shrouded man tried hard to restrain his voice as he got angrier, "This is Tian Fa, right? Tian Fa is fierce, right? Couldn't you seven Beast Kings have gone together as brothers to wreak havoc on that insignificant Xue Hun Manor? Huh...?"

He dispersed Qi around. And, his Qi went away from his body like a bomb that has just exploded. But, the surrounding Beast Kings didn't resist one bit. They didn't dare to resist, and were sent flying out by the explosion. In fact, the center of the forest was blown clear for around ninety kilometers with that blast. The trees were snapped clean from the ground. And, the air was full of wood-shavings.

That huge area on the ground was completely barren now; not a blade of grass could be seen growing on it.

The power of the angered Lord of Tian Fa had unexpectedly reached such heights.

"Eldest Brother, you can't be so angry at such a critical time," the seven Xuan beast Kings knelt and implored their Lord.

One could've caught a glimpse of the black-cloaked person from underneath his shroud as he raised his head to the moon and sighed.

"Snake King, Tiger King, Eagle King... you three are at peak level?" the shrouded person asked. He had apparently calmed down.

A golden-clothed man, a black-clothed man, and a green-garbed young lady... bowed in unison, "Yes!" These three were also in attendance beside Long Crane and Big Bear. However, these three were in their human forms.

The White Lion King and the Golden Monkey King were also present there. However, they had a mixture of admiration and indignation in their eyes.

These two had reached that level and form sixty years ago. But, they had been reduced to their original forms due to the fight that had happened sixty years ago. And, no amount of bitter cultivation had helped them regain their peak form...

"It's finally time for the breakthrough. But, where on earth will we find so many of the Tian Fa's Sacred Fruits...?" the person shrouded in black sighed. Everyone around him became silent, and the forest became still.

"There's no going back now that the war has started! Now, the direr the situation... the better it is for us! I wish to reinstate Tian Fa's place to the foremost in the universe. The three Hold Lands may not acknowledge that, but I at least wish to ensure that Li Jue Tian and Yun Bie Chen don't just dare to stroll into Tian Fa whenever they please...!"

"Tian Fa's prestige will be re-established in this war!" the black-cloaked person stated in a grave manner, "But, you all must know the consequences... if we were to lose this war!"

Chapter 334: To Have the Heart of a Bear, And the Guts of a Panther

"Tian Fa's power is incomparable! Tian Fa's power is the fiercest in the entire universe!" Long Crane shouted as he waved his arm. White Lion King and Golden Monkey King stood behind him. They also looked towards the sky and roared as they let-out their thoughts in their own manner.

"Tian Fa won't invade the lands on the interior since we don't wish to trouble the common people. This has always been our custom, and we won't break it. Big Bear — you will command the ground forces with Tiger King, Lion King, Monkey King and Snake King. And, you will attack the resistance in the Southern Heaven City. Long Crane — you will lead the aerial forces with Eagle King, and be ready to coordinate at any time. We hit them first; we hit them fast, and we hit them hard. They will be badly hurt. Then, we will decide if we should go ahead with a full scale battle. But, the final decision will always be to allow them come to me! Do you understand?"

"Yes!" the two men replied in unison.

"Fourth Brother, how's your injury?" the shrouded person inquired.

"It's fine. It was healed when Eldest Brother transferred his efficacy," Big Bear replied gratefully. "That Elusive Heart and Vein Splitting Sword Attack might have killed me if it weren't for Eldest Brother."

"Eldest Brother, there's one more thing... I think that Big Bear has been Li Jue Tian's main target this entire time," Long Crane spoke-up in a cautionary manner.

"Oh? And, why is that? Li Jue Tian isn't an unwise man. He must know that brazenly killing the Fourth would tantamount to a never-ending enmity and hatred from this Lord of Tian Fa. Yet, he still dares to?" The shrouded person snorted.

Long Crane replied in a dispirited manner, "Or maybe... it's because the others don't know what we do. The world uses the so-called phrase 'To have the heart of a bear, and the guts of a panther' to describe the might of a person's courage. We know that such is not the case... But, maybe Li Jue Tian had brazenly killed the Panther King and taken his core with that mindset..."

"And so... he wants to take Big Bear heart as well?" The shrouded man snorted in rage.

"Yes. A man's cultivation increases considerably if he takes a Xuan Core. But, one can't absorb it properly, and Li Jue Tian would have faced this problem as well. But, if he takes Big Bear's heart along with Panther King's... he wouldn't only be able to absorb the Xuan Core... but his Xuan cultivation would also double. And, his strength would double-up again if he were to ingest Big Bear's core as well. This would lead to four-fold increase in his present efficacy. And, who in this world would be able to rival Li Jue Tian if that were to happen? So, why would he consider the enmity from the Tian Fa in the lure of such strength?"

Long Crane's face was full of loathing, "Li Jue Tian ignored me throughout the fight. And, he continued to target Big Bear. And, each of his attacks was meant to kill. So, his intention was clearly malicious! This was the main reason why Fourth Brother and I instigated this uprising!"

"Li Jue Tian!" The shrouded person trembled with anger. It seemed like he had forced those words from the space between his teeth. "No wonder he surrendered his pride and issued the supreme summon! No wonder he didn't hesitate to use that Elusive Heart and Vein Splitting Sword Attack to kill the Fourth! He had intended to kill him with one strike! That man intends to use the strength of the half of the continent's Xuan experts to achieve his ill-intended and malicious ambitions. But, he has counted his chickens before they've hatched by using that attack!"

"You all must leave for now, and prepare for the attacks. Send the beasts of level seven or below to the Tian Fa forest. We won't use them for now. I will put them on a single-minded training schedule for now." The individual gowned in a black robe continued, "Green Hunter Snake King, your speed is comparatively slower. So, pay attention. Only level five and above Flying Thread Snakes, Golden Centipede and Seven Star snakes shall participate. The others don't need to get involved for now."

He was talking about Flying Thread, Golden Centipede and Seven Star Snakes. These three were the fastest, the most poisonous, and the most ferocious snakes in all of Tian Fa. In fact, these snakes were so quick that an average person couldn't even track their shadows.

The green-clad young lady — the Snake King — bowed respectfully, and acknowledged the order.

"Third and Fourth... you had said that that this mysterious man was very strong. That... he might even be more powerful than me. How would you judge his cultivation compared to mine? And, be honest!" the shrouded person's voice was somewhat hoarse.

"That man's cultivation is very high. I figure it wouldn't be less than yours. His cultivation would be more or less at par with you," Long Crane replied in a careful manner after he had considered it for a while.

However, Big Bear's head was perhaps stuffed with melon seeds. So, he didn't understand the meaning behind Long Crane's roundabout reply. And, he opened his big mouth, and spoke, "Third Brother, you need to open your eyes before you speak such blind nonsense. That person's cultivation was profound mystery. Eldest Brother is indeed very strong, but let's be honest... he could easily beat-up several people like you to dust... uh... in fact, I think that he could easily destroy two such people with ease... I... uh... damn it... I... uh... damn it... I didn't mean that uh... I didn't say that damn it... You're the strongest there is Eldest Brother... damn it... I didn't mean that... damn it... I was just saying that the Eldest Brother could easily beat-up ten people like him... damn it..." lung-splitting screams were heard soon after...

He hadn't finished speaking when his entire body had started to tremble. He had then opened his eyes, and had returned to his senses. But, it was already too late. "Bang!" his entire body was hurled upside-down into the ground under the shrouded person's leg. Soon, only a faint snapping sound could be heard. And, this was because he had hit a few subterranean tree-roots... and had broken them...

"So, form your words... I can gather that this man's strength is much stronger than mine? Is that what you mean...? There's no need to mince your words; speak in a straightforward manner, and don't waste my time!" the shrouded man sounded somewhat gloomy as he nonchalantly clapped his hands, and moved his leg. One could see the two soles of Big Bear's legs jutting-out of the spot in the ground where he had been hurled into. And, the fading sounds of Big Bear's painful groans could also be heard...

"Even the three Holy Lands and those reckless old men outside it can't match my cultivation. So what's the deal with this man? How can he have such high cultivation?" The shrouded man moved his legs to and fro for a while. He was somewhat perplexed. And, a mournful groan was heard every time his steps fell on the ground...

"This man's origin is quite mysterious. And, his strength is profound. But, I can assure you that he's in no way a mediator from the Three Holy Lands!" Long Crane replied solemnly. His back was as straight as a

ramrod, and his expression was also very serious. He had learned from the mistake Big Bear had just made, and had deliberated every word of his speech.

He had done this since he feared that the same thing might happen to him.

"How can you be sure?" The shrouded person continued to move his feet up and down. But, his movements didn't even raise the dust. The power of his feet was being transferred to the ground. But, the pitiful Big Bear wasn't injured or in pain because of this — only his head continued to get pushed deeper into the ground because of this stomping...

Big Bear's skin was rough. So, he wouldn't have gotten hurt anyway. He continued to stomp till his feet stepped on empty space. The shrouded man was satisfied only when the whole of Big Bear's body had gone into the second layer of soil underneath.

"Eldest Brother, you know that those old men from the three Holy Lands have a despicable aura...? And, it's something which we can easily sense. Well... this man's aura isn't only despicable, but it's also quite a delight. I don't know why... but it also makes one wish to get friendlier with him..."

"Ahm... so... I clearly understand that this merely your intuition! " The person shrouded in black cut him off with a wave of his hand.

"Intuition...?" Long Crane's expression was unusual as he looked on. Then, he secretly mumbled a few word to himself.

"What are you looking at? What are you thinking? Is my analysis wrong?" the shrouded man asked fiercely as he let his aura loose in anger. He then used his formless aura to bind Long Crane in a tight grip.

"You genuinely deserve to be the Eldest Brother... Eldest Brother is the wisest... haha ack..." Long Crane was extremely scared. He hurriedly spoke those words, and forced a laugh before his throat started to make those chocking noises.

"Long Crane... you're quite skillful, Third Brother," the shrouded man said in a gloomy tone.

"Eldest Brother... spare me..." Long Crane begged for mercy. But, he was flung away. He then landed on the ground, and his crash created a deep trench.

Then, suddenly a little bit of dirt was thrown-up, and a huge whole appeared on the ground beside him. And, Big Bear appeared out of it; he was covered in yellow mud. But, he became extremely cheerful at the sight of Long Crane's misery. He quickly spat out some mud and spoke in a merry tone, "Third Brother Crane, you too got your share, ha ha ha....!"

Long Crane's head was covered in mud. He crawled twenty to twenty-five meters before he snorted and replied, "At least I don't look like someone who was smashed headfirst into the ground... and had then gone over ten meters underground. Your body looks like it is covered in manure and you still look pleased with yourself... Your face is covered with that manure! In fact, you had even spat some of it out a moment ago!"

Big Bear couldn't speak anymore. He knew that his Third Brother was disgusted with the stench that was coming from his body, but he himself had started to feel nauseated by it now...

"I would like to meet this mysterious man if I have time. Then, we'll see who's stronger and who's weaker," the shrouded man stated in an ice-cold voice as the other two's quarrel started to die out.

"It's a pity that it's been over a month since we made that agreement. The job wasn't that difficult, but we've crossed the time limit. Humph! That old bastard Li Jue Tian has ruined things!" Big Bear angrily stamped his feet. And, the mud that had stuck onto his body started to come off.

"However, that man had also said that we have to look for Jun Family's Jun Wu Yi after we finish the job." Long Crane suddenly thought and said, "So, we can't... and mustn't let him escape since he has said so... So, we'll find him if we continue to follow our actions. And as far as we know... the Empire has sent him in as the commander of the forces that were dispatched to deal with this uprising. Therefore, he's inside the Southern Heaven City at the moment..."

"We will plan cautiously, and look for Jun Wu Yi if that's the case. And, we will use him to get information about this mysterious man in a very discreet manner," the shrouded man's robe fluttered as the tone of his voice changed a bit.

Long Crane and Big Bear didn't find anything fishy about it. They were already quite used to strange things.

"Eldest Brother, we must still be careful regarding this matter with Jun Wu Yi. We might anger the mysterious man if we cross a certain line. And, the losses will outweigh the gain in such a case..." Long Crane suggested in a caution manner.

Chapter 335: Tian Fa is Shocked

"That is only natural!" The black clad person said, "Since this man can help you advance, I also... how can I act rashly when this man is so important to us? Do you need to remind me of something so trivial...?"

"You have spoken very wisely, Eldest Brother," Long Crane and Big Bear nodded. They were quite embarrassed. They had previously boasted a lot, but the deadline of one month to complete their task had already passed. And, this fact had left them to feel very ashamed of themselves.

[What should I say in case I end-up facing him again?]

The task of preventing the Xue Hun Manor from going north had been completed very effectively. Moreover, even the Silver Blizzard City had been forced to come south to deal with this matter...

However, there was the other task — to break Li Teng Yun's legs. And, this task hadn't been completed yet. In fact, even Li Teng Yun's face hadn't appeared in the midst of this chaos. This had confused everyone, and had lit a fire inside Long Crane and Big Bear. However, they most probably wouldn't stop at breaking his legs if they came face to face with him. In fact, they might even finish him.

Li Teng Yun wouldn't only die if this were to happen... he would die a miserable death... after suffering unspeakable pain.

They had previously been wary of Li Jue Tian. Therefore, they hadn't dared to consider the thought of killing the boy since that would create a mess which could never be cleaned up. But then, Li Jue Tian had

deliberated to kill their Fourth Brother. And, this had removed any space for the two sides to mediate. Therefore, these two Xuan Beast Kings were now ferociously stirred. So, how could they let Li Teng Yun off so easily?

In fact, they were eager waiting to confront Li Jue Tian again. And, they were looking forward to using this opportunity to crack-down that old bastard...

The three individuals glanced at each other, and inferred that no other matter was left to debate upon. Therefore, they figured that it was time to go their separate ways, and start their respective preparations.

Then, a clamor suddenly rose in the distance. Big Bear frowned and spoke-up, "That's the panther group over there! They seem to have some trouble again... these folks will never leave me in peace!"

"The panther group?" The other two individuals also frowned and looked into the distance.

Two vigorous figures were quickly making their way towards them. These two figures were snow-white in color. But, their eyes flashed with a golden light; they both were Eighth Level Peak Golden-Eyed Xuan Snow Panthers. They were extremely fast, and managed to arrive at the spot in an instant.

"What's the matter?" Big Bear felt humiliated. He had been responsible for the panthers ever since the death of their King. And, he had just witnessed two of them rush-in without any semblance of discipline. So, he couldn't help but feel angry.

The two Golden-Eyed Xuan Snow Panthers whined a bit. They then prostrated themselves on the ground, and remained motionless for a bit. Then, one turned his head, and retrieved a small white creature — holding the scruff of its neck in his mouth — from his back. He put the creature on the ground. However, it seemed as if the panther still couldn't control the trembles that had overtaken its body.

The two panthers prostrated even lower, and their heads dropped further as they "whined" a bit more. Then, they quickly withdrew, and vanished into the forest.

"This is just a small Iron Winged Panther cub... It looks like it's barely over a month old. It's such an adorable little thing..." the man shrouded in black had barely spoken these words when his entire body started to shiver in shock. Then, his body suddenly became extremely stiff.

Long Crane and Big Bear also became still at the same time. In fact, their eyes almost popped-out as they stared unwaveringly at the thing that was huddled on the ground. It seemed as if they were looking at a rare treasure of their era...

That little creature was Little White...

Little White had heard the summons of the Lord of Tian Fa, and had recklessly rushed towards the forest. This was his hidden and innate nature. So, he could've never gone against it.

He had only wished to pay his obeisance to the Lord of Tian Fa, and then return. But, he had barely gotten to the panther group, and they noticed that something was wrong. So, they delivered him here. Then, he came to see the three Xuan Beast Kings so close to himself, and his natural instinct as a lower leveled Xuan Beast kicked-in. Therefore, the adorable little thing huddled and started to tremble...

"Eldest Brother! Eldest Brother! This one is just a child! Yet, he's an un-weaned Level Eight Iron-Winged Panther! Level eight! Level eight, f*ck me! How's this possible?! I must be dreaming dammit! Third Brother, quickly slap me! I must be dreaming! This is unbelievable! My holy uncle...! This is really... ah!" Big Bear was shouting and making a commotion. In fact, he had completely neglected how he'd appear while doing so...

Long Crane's face had a hint of darkness on it.

Everyone else was completely silent.

In fact, it was almost a deathly silence.

The six pairs of eyes of the three Xuan Beast Kings were opened round. Long Crane's lamp-like eyes were flickering like a light-bulb. Big Bear's eyes were still full of disbelief; in fact, it seemed that they were just about to pop-out from their sockets. The shrouded person's eyes were covered by the black cloth. But, his sharp eyes had started to shine through it, and had begun to glisten. Moreover, Big Bear's

words were quite deplorable, and the Lord of Tian Fa would've gotten angry a long time ago under any other circumstances. But, even he didn't utter a single word at this moment...

[This is very shocking! It's unbelievably shocking!]

The Lord of the Xuan Beasts bent down. Then, he nimbly and cautiously grabbed the little creature, and held him to his bosom... like a cherished treasure that was rather brittle in make...

Little White was terrified. So, he rolled his eyes as he whimpered in fear. He could sense the opposite party's kindness, but still couldn't dare to move.

The Lord of Tian Fa held Little White's soft body in his palm. Then, he exhaled after a long time and said, "This little thing is genuinely at the eighth level! He's unexpectedly at level eight! Genuinely at level eight...! This is a miracle...! A genuine miracle...!"

These three Xuan Beast Kings could easily determine the level, rank, and strength of a newly met Xuan Beast as long as they concentrated. This was a benefit of the highest of their level. However, the lord of Tian Fa had personally and closely inspected this unprecedented little Xuan Beast with his own hands...

Perhaps it was the shock that had caused the Lord of Tian Fa's speech to be slightly odd at first. However, his speech had turned a shade of surety once that initial sense of astonishment came to pass. But, his speech had become slightly incoherent soon-after.

However, the other two Xuan Beast Kings — Long Crane and Big Bear — didn't think that his words were strange. They became quite dignified on the contrary, and surveyed the little creature properly. Then, their mouths fell wide open, and they became speechless...

They could still feel that sense of shock in their hearts. They shouldn't have been this shocked under normal circumstances since their perception abilities had assessed the level of this little creature a long time ago. Moreover, this sense of shock should've been removed from their psyche once they had verified this fact. However, they had remained stunned to their very core even now...

And, the cause for their astonishment wasn't baseless either. This fact was too unfathomable and extremely shocking...

"The Iron-Winged Panthers usually live for around two hundred years. They start their advance in ten years, and start their progress to the seventh layer's basic level. And, it takes about seventy years for them to reach the seventh Xuan level's peak. And, the promising ones break through the seventh Xuan level if they reach its peak within those seventy years. Then, they reach the eighth level. But, that's the limit of the levels they can achieve. They have no choice but to stop there!" the black shrouded person spoke these strange words with a sense of urgency in his tone. However, his voice was somewhat sharp and somewhat intermittently gloomy as well...

This information wasn't very valuable under the usual pretext. Forget these three Xuan Beast Kings — even regular Xuan Beasts would find it common knowledge. However, this longstanding common knowledge had been 'completely and thoroughly' toppled...

"However, we have a level eight Iron-Winged Panther cub in front of us...! A mere cub!" the black shrouded man spoke with a sense of urgency, and then panted a little. His robe fluttered and swept about. He had seemingly let go of the entirety of his repressed emotions in that moment. "Third, Fourth, is it possible that we are dreaming?"

"How's this thing even possible?" The black-cloaked man trembled, "From what we can infer... this is an Iron-Winged Panther's cub. It is barely a few months old, and it hasn't even been weaned yet. But, he has still advanced under these conditions... And not only that — he has advanced to such a high level! This is unbelievable! Unfathomable! I would've killed anyone who had told me that such a thing had happened, but I wouldn't have believed a word of it. But now... I see this thing right in front of us! Can anyone tell me how such a thing is possible?"

The Lord of the Xuan Beasts shook his head again. In fact, he had exerted the entirety of his strength to shake his head. Then, he rashly spun around twice, and looked at the little white creature again. Then, his gaze didn't move away again...

This fact was genuinely incomprehensible. It was extremely strange; so strange that the cloaked man couldn't understand it...

Long Crane and Big Bear stood astonished besides the Lord of the Xuan Beasts. Their minds had become numb, and saliva had started to drip from their gaping mouths without them even being aware of it. Then, Big Bear's majestic body suddenly started to sway after a long time, and he tumbled onto the ground. He then started to howl. He clutched the hair on his head, and pounded the ground before mournfully shouted, "Good gods! This world is genuinely crazy!"

"Could it be?" Long Crane thought of a possibility, and smacked his lips, "Elder Brother, is it possible that the Panther King had raped a level seven Iron-Winged Panther?" he spoke those words... but then, he abruptly came to a stop, and slapped himself...

The other two — including Big Bear — looked at him as if he was an idiot...

"Idiot! How's that possible? You two act like you have garbage inside your head! Do you think I'm amazed at its level alone? The astonishing facts about this little thing aren't limited to its strength alone...!"

The Lord of the Xuan Beasts then paused a moment and said, "I've inspected it very carefully. This little thing's genes are purely those of an Iron-Winged Panther... and no other high-level Xuan Beasts! Therefore, I can confirm that this little thing's advancement is entirely acquired in its nature. In other words... someone has used a strong and miraculous method to promote its advancement!"

"And, this is still not as surprising! What is really surprising is that... this little thing's innate characteristics have been completely transformed as well! So, it will surely advance to the ninth level within thirty years... and even the ninth level won't be the limit of its potential achievements..."

The man shrouded in black finished speaking in a solemn manner. Then, he recalled what Long Crane had spoken a moment ago. And, he let his leg fly. He kicked Long Crane before he started to scold him, "Would you — a majestic Xuan Crane Beast King — be ready to rape a level seven Xuan Crane Beast? What does that pointy head of yours think the entire day? Can't you think of something decent and useful for once?"

His voice contained a destitute trace of embarrassment in it...