

E Monarch 381

Chapter 381: A Trace of Guilt

"Your elder sister is having it..." the Solitary Falcon couldn't help but laugh. But, he felt that this little girl was very bold and adorable.

Dugu Xiao Yi was dumbfounded. It may be assumed that she gave the matter some thought before she asked, "Elder Sister Guan... that can't be... is cooking rice the same as undressing?"

The men were left to stagger. [This girl is too naïve! She still doesn't understand it!]

"Young Lady! How is undressing not the same as cooking rice?" Dongfang Wen Dao stared back. It seemed as if he wanted to impart some education to her. After all, she wanted to cook with his nephew. So, he couldn't help but worry since he was the youngster's uncle. [I'm only trying to enlighten you so that you can 'cook' with my nephew properly the next time.]

However, he hadn't said much when Dongfang Wen Qing kicked him into the distance and said, "Get lost! Such an old man talking like this... don't you know that those words are taboo? Don't corrupt a child!"

However, Dugu Xiao Yi still stood there dumbfounded. Two tears streamed down her cheeks after a while. She then sat down on the ground on her haunches, and burst out crying since she was broken-hearted, "Boo hoo...! I don't want to live... boo hoo... I spent so much effort! But, it's those two who are cooking rice! Boo hoo..."

Everyone burst into laughter once again...

The sun was setting in the west, but no one had come out of the tent yet. Moreover, the faint sounds were still emanating from it. The five people had slowly started becoming worried with the passage of time. Dugu Xiao Yi had spent her strength in crying, and was sitting there with a blank expression on her face.

"Still not done...?" Solitary Falcon looked at the sun impatiently. "Those sounds are proof that the two of them are still at it. But, hasn't it been too long? Isn't this too much?"

Dongfang Wen Qing smiled in an awkward manner, but remained silent.

Dongfang Wen Jian didn't cross his limits either, and remained silent as well. No one said anything...

Dingfang Wen Dao smacked his lips. His face twitched as he muttered, "He's too fierce... even for someone who has eaten that medicine. I feel a bit inferior now..."

...

A long time had passed. The moon was high in the sky...

The sounds of activity inside the tent eventually came to a stop. Those five great experts stood outside like clay models, but remained at a distance. Their bodies were drenched in sweat, and their foreheads had a weary color...

[It's been so long... this Young Master Jun... he has persisted for too long even if he has taken that medicine... good stamina... ah!]

Jun Wu Yi looked anxious. He was anticipating that the two people would quickly come out of the tent. But, he didn't know how he would deal with them once they had made their way out. Moreover, he was afraid about what he would be able to do if those two couldn't bear the shame...

After all, this was unfortunate coincidence, and a freak accident. And, no one had been prepared for it. It was true that Guan Qing Han had suffered as an innocent victim. But, Jun Mo Xie hadn't been at fault either. He too had suffered as another victim. And, the fact that was most unbelievable was that... Dugu Xiao Yi had been the culprit behind the entire incident.

This had left everyone speechless...

Even the wise and far-sighted Jun Wu Yi couldn't help his head go around in circles at the thought of such a complicated matter.

[But... who can I blame for this? Can I blame Dugu Xiao Yi?]

[That's right. She is the main cause for this evil. So, she is the main culprit. But, she did this out of love for that brat. Moreover, she didn't realize or understand what she did. And, the little girl has also realized that she has run into a disaster, and her tears haven't stopped since then. Do I have the heart to scold her?]

[Moreover, Qing Han... that poor girl! She couldn't have done anything to resist Jun Mo Xie if he had forced her after having lost his mind. But, she didn't even call for help. What does that mean? She must have understood that something was wrong with Jun Mo Xie. In fact, she might've realized that an aphrodisiac was at play. So, she must've wanted to save Jun Mo Xie. That may be reason why she has endured everything in silence...]

[I don't know what those excessive toxins would've done to Mo Xie's body if it weren't for Qing Han's sacrifice. This means that Qing Han has sacrificed her virtue to save Mo Xie, and has done a huge act of kindness towards the entire Jun Family!]

[So, how should the Jun Family reciprocate? After all, her identity is very ambiguous. Perhaps the more appropriate question is... how do we treat her?]

[This issue is giving me a headache!]

[Qing Han's status must be announced to the entire world without delay!]

The Third Master Jun's mind was in chaos. It could be said that he was finding it very difficult to make a decision. But, how could the others share his thought process? For example, the Dongfang brothers would only be concerned with Jun Mo Xie. And, they wouldn't have a problem as long as their nephew was alright. Why would they care about their nephew's wife? [We're a wealthy family. Can't we afford to raise another person? We can even afford to raise a hundred children without any problems!]

[Moreover, having a multi-talented daughter-in-law is always a good thing since it means better qualities in the future generations. This Guan girl is obviously very good for us in that respect. She is beautiful. She is courageous, and daring. Plus, she can also take responsibility for her actions. We know Mo Xie's paternal uncle well. Wouldn't he consider these points in a good light?]

It was hard to say how much had passed...

Jun Mo Xie finally woke up in a leisurely manner. He felt very comfortable. A pleasant aftertaste still lingered inside his head from the events of the past. He looked around with a distracted look on his face, and it took him a moment to sober-up.

The Young Master Jun swayed, and shook his head. Then, he slowly remembered what had happened, and couldn't help but groan. He sat up. But, he heard a pained and frail moan the moment he moved. And, this sound had come from beside him.

Jun Mo Xie turned to look, and couldn't help but become startled.

There was an elegant and divine beauty next to him. But, her pretty face seemed to be in profound pain. Her breathing was labored. He leaned over, and saw that her delicate skin didn't appear white anymore. It was green and purple... as a result of the havoc he had inflicted on her.

However, the Young Master Jun wouldn't have been so startled because of this fact alone. His astonishment was more strongly attributed to the fact that the said-woman was...

[Guan Qing Han!]

Jun Mo Xie got goosebumps due to the shock.

[What's going on?]

[I clearly remember drinking the wine which Dugu Xiao Yi had brought me. And then, I had realized that she had put aphrodisiac in it. After that, she had said I would cook rice with me. Then, I felt a burning desire, and I soon turned into a ravaging wolf. After that... after that... I don't remember what happened after that...]

[But, how come I find Guan Qing Han next to me now that I've woken up?]

[This is a strange mystery!]

However, Jun Mo Xie then saw the bruises on Guan Qing Han's body, her pained expression, and her faint breathing. And, he couldn't help as the strand of a strange feeling emerged from his heart.

[The little girl had given me a very powerful aphrodisiac. Even my special physique couldn't resist it, and I had lost my mind. Heavens know how much pain Guan Qing Han was forced to endure!] He looked up to the sky to figure the time, and was left shocked once again.

[It's this late at night?!]

[I remember drinking wine from that bottle. But, that had happened in the morning. So, did I torment Guan Qing Han the entire day? How could her delicate and soft body endure so much of it...?!]

"I'm genuinely wretched!" Jun Mo Xie let out a long sighed. His mind was in chaos. Jun Mo Xie wouldn't have felt this way if he had found Dugu Xiao Yi there. After all, it was her medicine that had done this. And, she had also talked about "cooking rice". So, that would've been natural and logical. But, it was Guan Qing Han instead... Jun Mo Xie felt extremely guilty...

He wouldn't have felt any remorse if he had killed someone... or if he had committed arson.

But, this was a woman's innocence!

Moreover, it had to be said that Guan Qing Han was completely innocent.

Jun Mo Xie hurriedly got up, and started to look for his clothes in confusion. He found them under his and her bodies. A few scraps of green and white clothing were also present there. And, there were also a few blotches of bloodstains on them...

Jun Mo Xie was vexed. And, he hammered his head with his fist. The light green clothes belonged to the little girl. But, where was Dugu Xiao Yi?

Jun Mo Xie tried hard to recall everything, but he could only remember bits and pieces. However, this situation was enough to allow him to guess that Guan Qing Han must've arrived to save Dugu Xiao Yi. However, he had lost his mind under his urges, and must've held Guan Qing Han there by force...

Jun Mo Xie sighed and walked over to the table. He then picked up the water bag, and drank some water from it. His footsteps felt light. In fact, he felt like he was floating. But, he still needed support for his tired body. Then, the Young Master Jun carefully picked up Guan Qing Han, and gently put her down on the bed.

His body had undergone a great change, and his physique was unusually strong as well. Moreover, his physical ability to withstand powerful toxins was also quite strong. Any other individual would've died due to excess release of the aphrodisiac... even before the drug had managed to reach their belly. The man would've at least been gravely injured if not dead. And, the possibility of permanent impotence couldn't be discarded either...

Jun Mo Xie looked at the painful scars on Guan Qing Han's body... even her lips had been bitten, and left behind in a bloody and injured state. He felt extreme tenderness as he looked at her. The Young Master Jun hadn't felt this way in either of his lives. It would've been okay if Guan Qing Han had merely saved Dugu Xiao Yi and left. But, she didn't leave. [She must've seen my condition. And, she must've figured out that I was affected by a heavy toxin. So, she must've figured that the consequences would've been dire if I didn't give vent to them. And so, she must've sacrificed herself...]

How could Guan Qing Han not have anticipated the things she would have to bear... especially given her sensitive identity as a woman?! It had to be understood that this world's society deemed a woman's chastity to be more important than her life. And, losing it in such a manner was worse than dead to a woman...

And, Jun Mo Xie felt guilty because he had wanted to take it.

He had felt so much guilt for the first time in either of his lives. In fact, the guilt pierced the very bottom of his heart.

For the first time... he felt as if he owed someone...!

Jun Mo Xie looked at the staunch woman who had nearly died while saving his life. But, he couldn't understand what he felt in his heart. He felt pained. This feeling was complicated and painful. And, it was something he couldn't put into words. This was the first time that he had developed such a large soft-spot for a woman in his heart.

Jun Mo Xie gently covered Guan Qing Han with a quilt. Then, he took the water bag, and softly moved it to her lips in order to make her drink the water. But, she had been devastated, and had lost her consciousness long back. So, the water from the bag refused to go down her throat since she was unable to take it in.

Jun Mo Xie hesitated a bit. Then, he finally made a firm decision. He faced up, and took a mouthful of water in his mouth. Then, he looked down, and lowered his lips to hers. He then transferred one gulp of water... then another... then another...

He had transferred a lot of it before he finally felt her heartbeat stabilize. He stopped after that happened, and gently held her hand. And then, he started to transfer his extremely exquisite and pure innate aura into her body.

Guan Qing Han's breathing eventually stabilized to a normal level after a long time passed. Even a bit of color had been restored to her face. She soon slipped into deep slumber. Jun Mo Xie stopped transferring his aura once he felt reassured. He then saw Guan Qing Han slender face. Her face was usually cold and aloof, but it appeared like a thing of unmatched beauty at this time. Suddenly, a trace of tenderness welled-up in his heart.

Tender feelings!

This was a new and different feeling for Jun Mo Xie!

Chapter 382: The Responsibility and Farce

Jun Mo Xie had never had time for genuine emotions in his previous life since he had been a hit-man. So, he had never experienced romance. He would merely spend silver and gold to buy a good time if he wanted to satisfy his physiological needs.

And, that was because he couldn't afford to love...

He couldn't afford it despite being the King of Assassins.

One's heart is bound to fester if one falls in love. And, having a family can be of grave disadvantage against any opponent since the enemy can easily make the said-family a target. Jun Mo Xie had been an assassin. So, it was hard to tell how many families he had seen fall to tragedies by the hands of assassins...

He wasn't afraid that his family would harm him. Rather, he was afraid that he would cause harm to his family!

The pain of losing one's loved ones... whether oneself or close relatives... is extremely painful torment.

Therefore, he didn't dare to do it. He genuinely couldn't dare to do it.

He had run into many beautiful women ever since he had come to this world. Guan Qing Han, Dugu Xiao Yi, Princess Ling Meng, or even that Silver Blizzard City's Princess Han Yan Meng — each one of these women were one amongst many. And, it was very rare to find such peerless beauties. They may have been cold and aloof, lovable and cute, graceful, or even very intelligent... but, each one would be the considered the finest woman around...

Jun Mo Xie admired their beauty. In fact, he had a very favorable impression of them. But, he had always ensured that he never crossed the line with them. He was fully aware that Dugu Xiao Yi liked him to the bone. But, Jun Mo Xie still wavered, and found it difficult to decide...

It wasn't that he was 'wavering' when one comes to think of it... it was more like he was considering different aspects...

He had a special feeling for Guan Qing Han in his heart. But, Jun Mo Xie had never revealed it.

This was because Jun Mo Xie hadn't yet realized that he could start a family now... Perhaps he wasn't prepared for it in his heart.

However, he would never have thought that he would lose his mind due to some unfortunate circumstances and freak accidents... And, he would then forcefully snatch-away Guan Qing Han's virtue. And thus making her his first woman!

...

Jun Mo Xie wouldn't pay much attention to a woman who was very pretty... or even visually captivating. He may have enjoyed himself by means of flirtation, but he would forget her once he had turned his head away. But, he could never do the same to Guan Qing Han. Jun Mo Xie had opened his eyes, and had seen her besides him. He had then tried to assess the cause-and-effect of that incident. And, his heart had filled to the brim with an acute feeling of responsibility and tenderness once he had realized the matter...

[Responsibility! Responsibility towards a woman!]

Jun Mo Xie clearly understood that this feeling wasn't something he was going to reject... even if he couldn't understand it properly. In fact, this emotion felt particularly warm on the contrary.

He was unaware of Guan Qing Han's opinion on the subject. But, Jun Mo Xie had already decided that this woman would be 'his woman' from this day onwards! The first woman the Evil Monarch had accepted!

Jun Mo Xie gently caressed the soft and long hair that covered the pillow her head rested upon. And, he felt a touch of tranquility inside his heart. [I've finally found a companion in this world. And, it feels like I don't have to worry about getting separated from her...]

[This is a very wonderful feeling.]

[These fetters... these feeling of tenderness... aren't as awful as I thought they would be.] The corners of Jun Mo Xie's mouth drew back into a smile as he looked at Guan Qing Han's face. He then drooped down her face, and gently snuggled her forehead as he said softly, "I'm sorry... and thank you."

After that, he got up and decided to leave. He went out without saying anything. His body's innate quality was genuinely amazing. He had been in an extremely fatigued state a while ago. But, things had improved very significantly in a short while. He had recuperated to a considerable extent, and his aura had also been reinstated. His spirit sense had detected five or six people outside. And, he could tell that they were standing there with a foolish expression on their faces. Jun Mo Xie knew who they were... and why they were there...

[The sounds of activity in my tent mustn't have been faint. Moreover, it had lasted for a very long period of time...]

[Therefore, it would've been very strange if the Third Uncle and the others hadn't taken any measures.] Jun Mo Xie smiled bitterly. He had already guessed the dangers he would face once he'd leave his tent...

[After all, the fact that Third Uncle had freed Guan Qing Han from her matrimonial ties to the Jun Family hasn't been made known to the world. So, everyone must've thought that Guan Qing Han was still my sister-in-law. So, my actions tantamount to forcing myself on my sister-in-law...]

However, Jun Mo Xie didn't wish to escape from this situation. In fact, he wouldn't escape. If he had done the deed... then, he had done it! What was the worst that could happen? A real man would admit his fault. And, how could he not support his woman's happiness? How could he be called a 'man' if he didn't?

[I will face it. It may be a raging storm, but I will face it! In fact, only I can face it!]

Guan Qing Han's eyelids softly blinked at first. Then, they slowly opened as Jun Mo Xie walked out. Two lines of tears flowed from the corner of her eyes. However, her face had a faintly satisfied smile on it...

[Is this what having a 'family' feels like?]

[Is this what having a 'husband' feels like...?]

[This feeling... is amazing. And, it's something I don't wish to let go of.]

She had suffered a lot. And, she had lost face. But, she didn't have any regret in her heart. She hadn't been able to stop herself once she had guessed Jun Mo Xie's circumstances. It could be said that she had a choice in this matter at first. And, she could've left in the beginning if she had wanted to. Therefore, it could be said that she had voluntarily opted for this...

Then, Jun Mo Xie had been very gentle and considerate a moment ago since he thought that she hadn't woken up yet. And, that had made her feel happy... very happy. And, that's because he had done that whilst believing that she hadn't woken-up yet. This indicated that those gentle feelings had genuinely emerged from his heart. That was tenderness from a real man. And, this had raised huge waves of chaos in Guan Qing Han's heart.

This was a feeling of being taken care of by someone.

[This felt genuinely nice and warm... so warm... I think I'll cry...]

Tears streamed down Guan Qing Han's face as she smiled. Her face resembled a rosy flower that had been moistened with the early-morning dew. Her smiling face was like a beautiful blossom. It was a very touching moment. But then, she recalled her embarrassing identity, and suddenly became sad...

[What should I do? This is... a sin...]

Jun Mo Xie was covered in cold sweat as he walked out.

This cold sweat hadn't arisen from the physical exercise he had done with Guan Qing Han. Jun Mo Xie admittedly felt uncomfortable on a physical level, but he was more worried about Guan Qing Han's suffering. [I have a robust physique, and that wretched medicine had a huge effect on me. I had lost consciousness due to that drug, and those movements had continued for the entire day. How could Guan Qing Han endure all that?]

[I don't even know how berserk I had gone!]

He had later noticed that Guan Qing Han had nearly died. So, it was rather fortunate that he hadn't continued any longer. In fact, Guan Qing Han's fragrant and delicate body would've been vanquished if he had continued for even a quarter of a day more...

[That was a close call!]

[It was quite risky!]

[Dugu Xiao Yi's medicine was indeed fierce, but it fortunately wasn't too excessive. Moreover, Guan Qing Han's body isn't too feeble either. Her physique has always been good since she has been trained to fight since early childhood. So, her physique is much better than normal women. And, that's why she was able to endure that frantic torment. Otherwise, the situation could have taken a turn for the worst...]

However, Jun Mo Xie was completely unaware that the drug which the little girl had given him wasn't too excessive — it was far beyond the realms of excessive! Dugu Xiao Yi had feared that her rice won't be properly 'cooked'. Therefore, she had gone all-out when she had added the medicine to the wine, and she had thus emptied the entire packet.

Jun Mo Xie had a special innate physique, and Hong Jun Pagoda's aura had also nourished his corporeal body. These factors had neutralized a part of the medicine's effect. Otherwise, it was quite possible that he would've been engaged with Guan Qing Han still...

The Young Master Jun smiled bitterly as he went out. His body had recovered to some extent, but it still felt empty under his feet. In fact, he felt like he was walking on cotton-like mist. He could feel that his feet were still weak as he walked...

[Damn! This is so exhausting! I was feeling so good a moment ago...]

Jun Mo Xie hadn't realized that he had been working non-stop for the past ten hours. And, the fact that he was able to stand and walk after that intense high-rate and continuous exercise... was a huge miracle in-itself.

This may be hard to imagine for some. But, the said-individual may try doing push-ups for ten hours without a break. It could be guaranteed that the said-individual wouldn't even be able to get up after that...

Jun Wu Yi and the others appeared to be gloomy... and at a loss. Then, they looked at Jun Mo Xie as he staggered out owing to the weakness he felt in his legs. Consequently, they didn't know whether to laugh or cry, and their expressions became strange. The little girl was seated on the ground with a blank expression on her face. And, she started to tremble when she saw Jun Mo Xie. She then burst out crying with sorrow and regret...

Jun Mo Xie was startled at this. [You gave me that medicine, and started the fire. Then, you ran away. And now you're crying? You are the one to feel wronged here...?]

He was unaware that Dugu Xiao Yi felt as if she had 'come-off worse while trying to gain an advantage'. She had tried to do a skillful maneuver, but had been clumsy and had dropped the stone on her own foot instead. She was scared because of the reversal of fortunes. And thus, her heart was full of complex feelings she couldn't endure...

She had originally planned to 'cook rice', and monopolize him. Consequently, the rice had been cooked thoroughly. In fact, it was boiling. But, she didn't like it because it was scalding hot. Therefore, she didn't eat it, and was unable to take advantage of her plan... how could she not be depressed?

And then, she saw Jun Mo Xie emerge from the tent, and recalled that Guan Qing Han had been taking "advantage of her plan" this entire time. This made her feel wronged and angry. In fact, she wanted to say something, but was unable to. She wanted to shout at first, but she started to cry instead...

Jun Mo Xie had barely moved out of the tent when he saw the Solitary Falcon give him a 'thumbs up'. And then, his three Dongfang uncles gave him a very strange stare that reeked of innuendos... which were very meaningful indeed...

However, Jun Wu Yi didn't know whether to laugh or cry as he saw his nephew come out. He looked at Jun Mo Xie through the dark circles that surrounded his eyes, and asked, "You've come out? How are you? And, how is Qing Han?"

The Third Master Jun wasn't worried about his nephew in reality. The Young Master Jun looked weak and unstable. In fact, his face even seemed a bit lean. But, he was still safe. So, Jun Wu Yi was actually worried about his adopted daughter — Guan Qing Han. The Third Master Jun had figured that Qing Han would've wanted to help Jun Mo Xie since was suffering from that unbearable toxin, and may have decided to staunchly endure him. However, it would a horrifying scenario if she became depressed over losing her virtue, and decided to end her life because of it...

"Uh... I... am fine... my legs are a bit sore... uh... and, sister-in-law... uh... Qing Han is still sleeping... she's also fine..." Jun Mo Xie scratched his head. He felt extremely embarrassed as he answered. The Young Master Jun had called Qing Han 'sister-in-law' out of habit. But, he had immediately realized that she wasn't his 'sister-in-law' anymore since he had decided to acknowledge her as his 'woman'. [How can I still call her 'sister-in-law'? That felt very strange...]

Jun Mo Xie wasn't met with a scolding the moment he came out. And, this was rather strange and rare of his uncle's nature. He had expected his uncle to hurl abuses at him... In fact, he wouldn't have been very surprised if his uncle had broken his legs. Therefore, Jun Mo Xie couldn't grasp the reason behind his uncle's current reactions...

[Could Third Uncle be confused because of his anger?]

"Even the feet the mightiest of men would've become weak after such a long time..." The Solitary Falcon rolled his eyes, "But, this brat can still walk. His endurance is amazing."

"Great, my nephew! Simply amazing! Ten hours! Ten full hours! This Third Uncle of yours admires your lower back's strength, and prostrates himself! It's genuinely exceptional!"

Dongfang Wen Dao grinned as he patted Jun Mo Xie's shoulder. He then smiled while his eyebrows shot up, "You have proven yourself to be the son of the White Commander! You will have many children in the future. The future of the Jun Family is indeed bright and glorious! Your uncle has high hopes from you!"

Jun Mo Xie was feeling very weak at the moment. So, he was nearly slapped to the ground by his uncle's hand. And then, his face became dark when he heard those words.

[What? What are you saying Uncle...? How is today's matter related to being the son of the White Commander?]

Dongfang Wen Qing obviously got agitated at this remark, and spoke, "Third, you will be disciplined after we return! You're his uncle! How can you say such things?! Do you have no shame? You are a very filthy creature!"

"Brother Mo Xie..." Dugu Xiao Yi rushed over, and hugged him tightly as she continued to cry, "I'm sorry... I didn't know... I, I, I shouldn't have left..." Dugu Xiao Yi was feeling extremely sad. [I prepared the rice, but someone else ate it...]

However, the Little Girl was unaware that the dose she had given Jun Mo Xie was far too strong for her own good. Guan Qing Han's body was stronger than her own. But, even Guan Qing Han had barely been able to endure the medicine's effect. So, it could be reckoned that a tragedy would've struck if Dugu Xiao Yi had replaced Guan Qing Han...

And, it would've been a great tragedy at that! In fact, it could've changed a lot of things... One could try to imagine if Grandfather Dugu were to find out that his precious granddaughter had survived the battle... but had later died... in bed... The consequences would've been unimaginable!

Jun Mo Xie's body felt very weak at this time. Therefore, he hadn't been able to dodge her. Consequently, he had first felt the soft body of a maiden in his embrace. And then, he saw Dugu Xiao Yi's tears fall like raindrops. In fact, she had cried herself breathless. Jun Mo Xie couldn't help but feel his heart softening...

"Sigh... I have already learnt the cause and effect of this incident. And, I'm aware that you didn't do this on your own free will... So, first of all..." Jun Wu Yi moved his lips for a long time, but couldn't add anything to it. He eventually waved his sleeves and spoke, "Never mind. I will write a letter and inform your grandfather of the matter. And, I will also put my suggestions in that letter. However, your grandfather will decide on how you should be dealt with in the light of this incident..."

He finished and turned around to walk away. He walked a few steps, and suddenly turned his neck around. After that, he gnashed his teeth and spoke, "You little beast... You better behave in the days to follow! Your Daddy will break your legs if there's even one trivial incident! Do you hear your Daddy clearly?"

The Third Master Jun had actually referred to himself as "Daddy", and had rained down a mouthful of curses. The severity of his anger was rather evident from his words... especially in those last words. Moreover, the tone of his voice had been extremely strict. After that, his face turned ashen as he walked away.

Jun Mo Xie repeatedly promised in reply. And, his embarrassment was visible on his face...

[Ah! So, Dugu Xiao Yi has already confessed everything. No wonder I didn't get any scolding. But, this is extremely absurd...]

There was a whooshing sound besides him as Solitary Falcon and his three Dongfang uncles disappeared into the shadows. However, they parted with a few words — 'Recuperate properly. Don't lose your kidney.'

"Brother Mo Xie..." Dugu Xiao Yi was still hugging him tightly. She looked up miserably and asked, "You... you're not mad at me, right?"

[Mad?]

He was mad when it comes to it. In fact, he was very mad. He had never been so miserable in either of his lives since he had never fallen for an amateur's trick like this one. Moreover, he had fallen for a trick that had been planned by someone like that little girl... this was extremely humiliating for him!

However, he couldn't deny that he was somewhat delighted in the secrecy of his heart.

[I'm very popular! This little girl even went to the lengths of drugging me to get me...?]

[Besides, I would've never done that with Guan Qing Han if it weren't for this...]

[Wouldn't this be considered a lucky stroke? Didn't I end up profiting from a disaster?]

Guan Qing Han would turn twenty-one years old that year. That would make her four-and-a-half years older than Jun Mo Xie. And, Jun Wu Yi had already annulled her marriage to their house. So, the two would have to worry about her marriage now. After all, a twenty-one year old unmarried woman was considered quite old for a marriage in this era. So, how could he not be anxious?

In any case, Jun Mo Xie felt that the opportunity to nominate him-self for marrying her didn't exist. This was because she had once been his sister-in-law. Her marriage may have been annulled, but no one

could deny the fact that it had once happened. Therefore, their union by marriage was impossible to happen given his grandfather's antiquated opinion, and that of the public around the world...

The society would attack and break such a scandalous relationship up. And, what would they say if they got to know such a couple existed? "That brother and sister-in-law were having an affair this entire time. They're so indecent!" and so on...

He had no choice but to think about such matters. Jun Mo Xie obviously didn't care about such things. But, would the two great families not care about this? Would Guan Qing Han not care about this?

Therefore, it could be said that those two individuals had no hope left. It was a case of *fait accompli* at this time. However, they didn't know how many difficulties they would have to face.

Guan Qing Han had been subjected to this because of the curious coincidence Dugu Xiao Yi's actions had evolved into. How could this woman run away from it?

[We shouldn't think of ways to evade this matter. Instead, we should consider methods to get through it... one aspect is positive, while the other is negative. There is a different of heaven and earth between these two aspects. They can't be compared on any level.]

This event has been an unfortunate accident, but it had reduced the future variables very considerably.

[Fu*k that! I will continue to do what I want to! Who will dare to gossip like that? Who can control who or what I wish to love? Other people's views and society's opinions are nothing in my eyes!]

Something odd had come to happen...

Therefore, Jun Mo Xie was a bit depressed, but he also felt a little invigorated. In fact, he didn't feel very angry either. Besides, Dugu Xiao Yi had only intended to strengthen her hold on him by the means of this plan. She didn't want someone to snatch him away from her. She was young and ignorant. Sometimes kind-hearted intentions can develop into bad things... and, that was acceptable as long as nothing overly harmful came of it.

Jun Mo Xie was resigned to not regard the little girl angrily. He didn't wish to scold or hit her either. But, he wasn't going to let her off very easily either. Ignorance isn't a sin. But, it can become a sin if it results in grave consequences. What would he do if he didn't teach her a lesson and she decided to act willfully in the future as well?

It was important to understand that this incident had packed-off two people to hell...

"Not mad...?! You think I won't be mad after what you've done?" Jun Mo Xie thought for a while, and replied slowly.

"But, I... boo hoo... ummm... I made a mistake..." Dugu Xiao Yi sobbed and wiped her tears as she continued to cry out, "I should've eaten my... boo hoo..."

"I'm very disappointed with this matter!" Jun Mo Xie snorted and continued coldly, "I don't wish for something like this to happen again!"

"Yes... Yes... I won't dare to... I really won't dare to... I will change..." Dugu Xiao Yi nodded like pounded garlic. It was like she had been relieved of a huge burden. But, it also felt that her heart was somewhat sore from the pain. The little girl had seemingly grown up a lot post this incident...

"Uh... I'll go back and learn about this carefully... by asking my mother... I'm very sorry!" The little girl started rubbing the lapel of her dress.

Jun Mo Xie staggered, and nearly fell down. It had suddenly gotten rather hard to breathe. In fact, things had almost reached the point of suffocation for him. [You want to learn about this thing by asking your mother?]

"Since you're not mad about... the cooked rice you ate with sister Guan... do you want to have some with me also?" the little girl's eyes opened round and wide as she persevered and asked.

"Uh... we'll discuss this issue later..." Jun Mo Xie's forehead was riddled with drops of sweat.

"I don't care! You and I are going to cook properly!" The little girl pouted, "Elder Sister Guan ate what I had prepared and took advantage of me... my mother didn't tell me about this properly... I don't know what "cooking rice" is..."

Jun Mo Xie was dripping with sweat at that time. The angry thoughts had disappeared from his mind, and the only thoughts he had... were those of getting away quickly. [Initiating the young to such a thing is... overwhelming...]

Dugu Xiao Yi was made to leave after endless persuasion and her inevitable weeping. Jun Mo Xie was physically and emotionally tired as he initiated the Art of Unlocking the Heaven's Fortune, and staggered back to his tent.

"This is farce!" There was silence for some time. Then, a low voice emanated from the tree where the five great experts had earlier taken a rest. The voice was soft and cold in tenor. Yet, it was supple as well. It was like the icy summit of a mountain top... aloof and haughty, unrestrained but naturally graceful...

Anyone who had listened to that voice could've guessed that the speaker was an apex personality of the entire world.

"Yes. This is bullsh*t. The only one benefitting is that Jun brat!" another sharp yet tactful voice chimed-in.

It was unknown when two people had stationed themselves on top of that big tree. The five experts had been below it only moment ago. However, they hadn't become aware of this. This clearly showed how formidable the cultivation of those two people was...

"It might not necessarily be a benefit. The information we have collected suggested that the little bastard shouldn't even have been able walk together with that Guan Qing Han... But, he has slept with her now! This is a different variable. In fact, this will be a very embarrassing variable for the Jun Family. Let's see how the Jun Family deals with this," the first voice replied in a long drawn out manner.

"However, the effects of this matter won't be small for the Jun Family... no matter how they handle it," the sharp voice somewhat took pleasure in others' misfortune. It then quickly added, "Eldest Sister, you

want to make that brat your disciple. So, why don't you make a move at this time? Let's just grab him and walk away in silence."

"Make him my disciple? I just want to torture him!" it seemed that the owner of the first voice was gnashing their teeth, "That shameless bastard! I would've torn him to a thousand shreds if it weren't for that...!"

"Ah... what could that little brat with such an insignificant cultivation do to offend you, Eldest Sister?" the sharp voice asked in a confused-sounding tone.

Chapter 383: I'm a Selfish Man!

"Offend me? How could a brat with such low skill levels offend me? I just don't like him; that's all!"

The first voice became somewhat embarrassed for a second. Then, it quickly reinstating its composure, and said, "Don't ever think that I will have any affection for such a lecherous face! I only faked those feelings! I wish to beat him up and teach him a proper lesson. And, I will feel very happy once I've taught him a lesson that my heart desires!"

The other voice fell silent. It was clearly shocked. [What happened to the eldest's voice-tone when she was speaking that sentence...?]

A long time passed before the second voice spoke again, "Then... what are you going to do, Eldest Sister?"

"The aim of our trip is to travel the world. So, we can follow these people for now. And, didn't you hear Dongfang Wen Qing? He said that they might take that brat to hide with the Dongfang Family... This means that these people might part ways with the Jun Family's troops later. You see how I handle that brat when that time comes! I'll give him worse than death!" the first voice snorted.

"So, why didn't Eldest Sister intervene when Dugu Xiao Yi had given him that ridiculous medicine?" the sharp voice sounded confused, "He wouldn't have been able to do anything if we had stepped-in at that time. We would've gotten to see him choke on his urine. In fact, it would've been one of the worst ways of torture. Wouldn't that have been an interesting thing...?"

Watching him choke on his urine would've been one of the worst ways of torture... Wouldn't that have been an interesting thing...? These two women who were speaking these words seemed more ruthless than the other...

The strength of these two mysterious women was extremely high; they were exceptionally formidable!

"Intervene? Why would you wish to intervene then?" the first voice again seemed to have a strain of embarrassment in its usually cold texture, "Green Hunter... you and I have taken this form... we are in the form of women at the moment. So, we couldn't have stopped him from doing that... scandal! We could've killed him with ease... but, stopping him... we couldn't have done that!"

"Eldest Sister is right! We shouldn't have intervened since we couldn't have stopped him..." the second voice turned out to be that of Green Hunter's. She had given this angle some thought, and couldn't help but become a bit embarrassed as a result...

"That man is despicable, and he's in need of a lesson. But, he still has some importance, and he doesn't really need to die." The first voice snorted and said, "Moreover, the pills involved in the transaction with the Sacred Fruit might come via him. Didn't you hear the Solitary Falcon speak that the mysterious man is that brat's master? And, didn't you report that the mysterious person has made a solemn vow to give us those efficacious pills in exchange for the Sacred Fruit?"

"That's right! I had almost forgotten..." The Snake King's eyes shone, "Things change a lot if we consider that! That mysterious person's power is amazing and mystical! I still feel a bit traumatic at the thought of that previous experience! I feel that even elder sister might have a tough time in competing with that towering strength!"

"My meeting with that mysterious man was short. Moreover, he didn't fight for real. He merely moved and killed Li Jue Tian in the most deceptive of ways. Yes, I can't compare with such skills. I can't even figure out what technique that man had used. I think it was something like the 'Flame of Enlightenment'... or some other form of 'Pure Fire'. It will be good if such a skilled person doesn't have any hatred for us. And, we can ensure that this person gives us more pills if we control his young disciple. We will at least have some cards in our hands in that case!" the person speaking these words was the Lord of Tian Fa — Venerable Mei.

"Therefore, we can't afford to be careless with this matter! We heard them say that he might go to the Dongfang Family. But, there are many issues relating to that as well. And, one of them is the oath that family had to take. He he... Our departure from the Tian Fa Forest has already completed half of their oath. The remaining part relates to the crumbling of the Snow Sword Mountain in those Snowy Peaks. That would need some planning. In any case, this is a very interesting matter."

"So that's how it is! You have already thought of so much, eldest...! The Eldest genuinely deserves to be called the Lord!" the Snake King said cheerfully, "So, we just watch the fun now...?"

"Watch the fun? Not necessarily. Perhaps we might have the opportunity to join-in on the fun!" Venerable Mei smiled lightly.

Everything became quiet. The two didn't speak any longer. Suddenly, it seemed as if they had never existed.

Anyone looking at the tree from the side would've been amazed to notice that their shadows hadn't been visible this entire time... even though there were sounds coming from the tree. In fact, not a single twig on the branches of that tree had shaken this entire time...

Jun Mo Xie was in a difficult situation at the moment. In fact, he was in a very difficult situation.

He had just entered his tent when he had seen an elegant figure standing in front of his bed. It seemed like a beautiful and graceful figurine.

Guan Qing Han!

Her face was expressionless. It was as cold as it had been in the past. She was staring at the bed in a daze. And, she held her tattered clothes in her hand. The sign of her chastity had been smeared on them...

She was dressed in white clothes. Her current dressing had belonged to Jun Mo Xie. So, they were quite wide for her. However, they clung to her slender waist even better, and made it look even lovelier. Her expression was complicated and somewhat sorrowful... somewhat shy... a little distracted... and even a little disappointed...

Guan Qing Han's body trembled slightly as she heard Jun Mo Xie enter. Her face had become red, but she didn't turn around. However, her face soon became pale again.

Jun Mo Xie stationed himself behind her. Neither of the two spoke for a while. They merely listened to each other breathe, and remained silent.

They were only a short distant apart from each other. But, it seemed that they were at the opposite ends of the world. The two of them had been involved in that intimate act a while ago. But, it still seemed if they were strangers. The atmosphere in the tent had become stifling as a result; it had become exceptionally stifling...

Jun Mo Xie smiled in a gentle manner after a while. And then, he suddenly sat down on the wooden chair behind her.

Jun Mo Xie looked at Guan Qing Han's back, but it seemed as if he was talking to himself, "I know that the feelings in your heart must be complicated. In fact, you must be at a loss. You must be confused about what is to be done from this point onwards. In fact, you must even be confused about what's to be done at this moment..."

Guan Qing Han's body trembled.

"Actually, even I don't know what's to be done. I'm confused as well!" Jun Mo Xie said slowly. Guan Qing Han's delicate body trembled and she couldn't help but turn her head. She wanted to turn around at first, but she forced her head back instead. [You don't know what's to be done? You don't know what's to be done with a girl next?]

She realized the entire matter as she listened to Jun Mo Xie's slow voice. Guan Qing Han had finally understood Dugu Xiao Yi's strange behavior of the past two days. She couldn't help but sigh.

[This matter... is a result of an unfortunate accident... it was a great coincidence.... it's just that I have been entrapped in this calamity.]

Jun Mo Xie took a deep breath, and spoke with determination, "I know that this matter is an unfortunate accident. It was a freak coincidence. However, you are my woman from now on — whether you wish for it or not... Your previous status is of no relevance anymore. You are my woman... whether you admit it or not. And, that is an unchangeable fact.

"This will never change. This will never change... no matter the time and place," Jun Mo Xie spoke these words slowly and carefully. And yet, he also seemed very dominating.

However, his unusually dominating mannerism didn't create a sense of antipathy in Guan Qing Han's heart. Instead, her heart felt an indescribable feeling of commitment.

Jun Mo Xie's voice strengthened as he continued to speak, "Being called my woman may not be easy. But, I will spare no effort to cherish and protect you as long as you're my woman. And, I'll ensure that you never suffer any grievance.

"Perhaps I can give you time to think it over if you're not ready yet."

Jun Mo Xie's tone was unhurried, "We know that your engagement with my brother was worthless. It was worse than worthless. And, you're no longer my brother's wife. You're Third Uncle's adopted daughter now. I hope you remember that. There will be many complications if we get together, and there will be many slanderous rumors. But, you needn't worry about any of that!"

Jun Mo Xie then smiled and said, "These are matters of men. There will be a lot of rumors, but I will ensure that none of them reach your ears. Not a single word! Do you understand? So, the thing you're worried about... doesn't really exist!"

Guan Qing Han's shoulder moved a bit... and she suddenly seemed to relax.

"I believed that you must understand my temperament properly. I am not a great hero... or very heroic. I'm a very selfish man. There aren't many things I care about in this world. But, I've always cared about my loved ones — my family, my woman, and my brothers. Nothing else matters as long as they're safe and happy. And, I — Jun Mo Xie — have nothing to do with the other people around the world. I'm not a noble man!"

Jun Mo Xie smiled mischievously, and spoke frankly with an aura of assurance, "I'm afraid that I will disappoint you if you expect great achievement from me. Because... I'm not a hero. I am a selfish man. I'm so selfish that if any man says that he wishes to bully my people... or embarrass my woman — that person will suffer the cruelest form of revenge from me! And, that includes your Guan Family... because they aren't one of the people I care about!"

Guan Qing Han was unable to remain calm because she suddenly had a flash of realization. So, she turned around while biting her lips. Her expression was extremely complicated as she looked at Jun Mo Xie's calm face. Her mouth opened and closed for a bit, but she still didn't say a word.

She didn't know how her family would regard her once this matter became public. She didn't know how she would have to suffer at their hands. And, the thought of this had sent her heart in a frenzied state of panic. And, she simply couldn't think of what to do anymore...

Those flat-sounding words from Jun Mo Xie had suddenly left Guan Qing Han to feel a chill inside her heart. And, she had started to worry about them instead of being concerned about herself at this time....

She tried to imagine what Jun Mo Xie's reaction would be if someone from the Guan Family disrespected her. Moreover, the Guan Family's impression on Jun Mo Xie was very poor since they had tried to force her to marry into the Xue Hun Manor.

[Jun Mo Xie is unlikely to let them off easily.]

Chapter 384: The Undercurrent in the Capital

Jun Mo Xie would rarely ever be serious. But, anything he'd ever say in a serious manner would stand to represent a commitment. And, Guan Qing Han had understood this fact clearly by this time. However, it was the understanding of this point that had left her to feel increasingly scared.

Someone would've spat out a mouthful of saliva in contempt if he hadn't spoken those words with a serious look. However, no one could've done that in this instance!

[No one can ever change his decision. He had similarly vowed to protect me when faced with the Xue Hun Manor's threat. So, I'm sure he means it this time as well.]

"Everyone has always called me a licentious debauchee... they've said that I'm ignorant and useless..." Jun Mo Xie smiled bitterly. "However, I don't understand a woman's mind in reality... Nor do I know how to talk of love. Maybe I should carefully cajole you at this time... or convey gentle feelings with honey-laced words. You have done a lot for me. And, I'm not a heartless man. But, I can... I can... I genuinely don't know how to say these things..."

"I have never talked about love! I have genuinely never talked about it! Yesterday's matter... ahem... it was my first time in this life. And, it was painful for me as well. I'm not lying to you. You weren't the only one who felt pain. I felt it too. In fact, I feel a little dizzy at this time. I can tell you this, but I felt very embarrassed at the thought of mentioning this to the others..." Jun Mo Xie's face seemed pained, and a little embarrassed.

Guan Qing Han had wanted to laugh out for a brief second. She had been a maiden woman until then. So, this instance had been her first time as well. And, she too had felt a lot of pain. So, how could she have felt like laughing at this time? It was because she had heard these words from Jun Mo Xie's mouth...

It was very hard to believe these words since they were coming from the mouth of a Young Master with such an ill and loathsome reputation. But, Guan Qing Han didn't laugh since she saw the expression on Jun Mo Xie's face. Jun Mo Xie's expression was strange and awkward, but Guan Qing Han could tell that those words weren't lies. In fact, they had seemingly come straight from his heart...

[Is possible that this is true?!]

[The legendary tyrant... the greatest debauchee of Tian Xiang is a first-time in reality? It can't be, right? There would still be a little credibility to the words of a man who says that a few women in the Spirit Fog Lake are virgins. But, Jun Mo Xie...]

However, Guan Qing Han hadn't listened properly. Jun Mo Xie had specifically said in "this life." Or maybe she had heard him clearly. However, she was unable to understand the meaning contained in those two specific words.

Guan Qing Han's eyebrows skewed, and her face became cold once again.

Jun Mo Xie waited for a moment. He noticed that Guan Qing Han's lustrous mouth had opened for a moment, but her complexion had eased to some extent. So, he couldn't help relax as he said, "In fact, last night... I had the medicine and my mind had spiraled into a chaos... I know that I had exerted the entire of my strength, but I didn't feel a thing... it's indeed a huge pity..."

Guan Qing Han hadn't expected that the little brat would speak such words right when he was being serious. Consequently, her face became red with embarrassment.

Jun Mo Xie's intention was to use those words to probe the situation. He had always noticed that Guan Qing Han would get enraged whenever he would say or do something foul and bold. In fact, he couldn't help but gather the courage to get up in order to hold her in his arms...

However, Guan Qing Han was startled by this, and hastily took two steps back. She wiped the tears from her cheeks. And, her face became cold as she said, "We were helpless in today's matter. But, it was a mistake. I wanted to save you. I didn't do it for you alone, but also for the Jun Family's sole heir! We have made that mistake, but it doesn't mean that you can recklessly disrespect me! Jun Mo Xie, we can't make that mistake again! A mistake only adds to a mistake! You... are acting willful again!"

Jun Mo Xie stopped his hand midair. His complexion changed a few times in a short while. Then, he eventually retracted his hand, and spoke-up, "You can't accept something at one moment, and... say something else later... you said... you are my woman! So, why would you run away now? Your status in the family will change after we return, and Third Uncle will take you as his adopted daughter. We'll have a huge banquet. And, all the respected individuals of the world will come to attend... So, I believe that things will slowly simmer down. And then, I can take you through the doorway of marriage."

"Who... who said that I'll marry you?!" Guan Qing Han was embarrassed and angry. [I've never seen such a tyrant! He has spoken no sweet words to me yet, and he still wants to marry me...?

"Whether you get married or not... is your business. And, me taking a wife or not... is my thing." Jun Mo Xie's eyebrows rose as he gave a nefarious smile and said, "Come, beautiful... you've had an exhausting day. I know you're tired. Hurry up, and I'll send to you to take rest..."

Guan Qing Han's face instantly became red. And then, it became as white as ice. She looked at Jun Mo Xie, and enunciated every word she spoke, "You rest, Jun Mo Xie. Don't try those methods with me! Don't make me look down on you again! And, you can forget about what happened today. You go back to your grandfather, and tell him everything. He will settle the accounts. And, I will never stay here with you for the life of me..."

Jun Mo Xie smiled and replied, "I said that I'll send you off to rest. I never said that I'll make you stay here. Elder Sister seems to be thinking crooked things..."

Guan Qing Han's eyes opened wide as she pointed a shaky finger at him, "You... you lecher! You hoodlum! I will be your Elder Sister?!"

Jun Mo Xie laughed out loud, "Let's look at this. You are Third Uncle's adopted daughter. So, does means you're my elder sister, right?"

Guan Qing Han got extremely mad. She swung her sleeves, and turned to go. But, she suddenly felt a sharp pain in her lower body the moment she took a step. Her forehead got covered with beads of cold sweat since she couldn't take another step!

Guan Qing Han had just lost her virtue. In fact, she had endured hardships for the entire day. That had already been too much for her delicate body. And, adding oil to fire... Jun Mo Xie had been very rough.

Jun Mo Xie saw this, and rushed forward. He stooped down, and his left hand went under her neck, while his right hand curved under her legs. He held her like one holds a baby, and brought her body up towards his chest. The Young Master then stood up, smiled, and walked outside while carrying her in his arms. He smiled as he said in a lowered tone, "Don't worry. I'll take you back."

Guan Qing Han was alarmed and ashamed by this. How could she live with pride if she was carried back by him in this manner? Therefore, she couldn't help but struggle in a vigorous manner.

Jun Mo Xie controlled her body in a firm manner, and didn't allow her move. He then steadily walked out. Guan Qing Han felt so embarrassed and ashamed at this that she hid her head in his arms. The Young Lady didn't wish for anyone to see her, and didn't wish to see anyone herself either...

However, they didn't hear even the slightest of sounds once they walked out. Not a single soul was in sight since it was already late at night by now. This made Guan Qing Han relax somewhat. But then, her shame and embarrassment welled-up again since she was being carried by Jun Mo Xie. Her ear was stuck to his chest. So, she could listen to his heartbeat. And, she couldn't help but become confused at hearing his palpitating heartbeat...

Jun Mo Xie dropped her back, and was driven out of her tent after that. He smiled bitterly as he returned to his tent. Then, he started to circulate his aura through his body in order to recover his strength as quickly as possible. However, his skills had evolved, and his aura had become purer. Thus, he had managed to recover his strength in less than one hour...

The Young Master stood up, and moved about a bit. He then stretched his limbs a bit, and murmured, "Today's events seem like a dream. I can't tell if this was a traceless illusion..." His body then suddenly disappeared from the tent.

Jun Mo Xie hadn't forgotten that he still had a promise to fulfill.

[One should never break a promise. And, one should never commit to a promise they will break!]

[The Bear King — Big Bear, and Crane King — Long Crane did everything in their power to help deal with the Xue Hun Manor. So, I still have to complete my end of the agreement! And, tonight is my last chance to settle my debt!]

Naturally, this was also an opportunity to enhance his personal influence as well!

Jun Mo Xie didn't like owing a debt to anyone — irrespective of whether it was an emotional debt or a monetary one. And, he particularly didn't like being indebted to someone who had acted first and had done their best to accomplish their part.

The matter had developed into a big one. In fact, it had gone beyond everyone's control. However, they had done this because they had made a commitment. So, Jun Mo Xie couldn't break his promise either.

Moreover, the elimination of the Xue Hun Manor had come as the removal of a huge threat.

Guan Qing Han was his woman now, and the Xue Hun Manor had been destroyed. This had obviously led Jun Mo Xie to feel more refreshed.

[You dare try to snatch my woman?! You're fu*king dead!]

Therefore, he had recovered his strength with full speed, and had then unleashed the Yin-Yang Escape to its full capacity to rush towards Tian Fa.

An alarmed voice sounded around one-hundred-and-fifty meters away as his shadow disappeared, "What's going on? How did that brat disappear so suddenly? His speed is so astonishingly quick that it surpassed my perception!"

Then, another person spoke-up, "Why does Elder Sister care about it? So what if that brat's speed is exceedingly fast? Everyone from the Jun Family is still here. The monk can't run away from the temple. So, why fear that he will run away...?"

The two voices chuckled for a while, and became quiet again...

The Capital — Tian Xiang City...

There had been many big changes since Jun Wu Yi had led his army away. And, small changes had been pouring-in in a continuous and never-ending stream. There would be a conflict between two powerful families on one day. And, the Emperor would have to mediate matters. Then, there would be mediation between two families who were at loggerheads the next day. An announcement of an Imperial family suit would follow the day after...

In short, the Imperial troops were being dispatched in an increasing frequency. Moreover, there had been changes in the official appointments, and his Majesty had been vigorously appointing many young scholars. However, these smaller changes had mostly gone unnoticed since he was using exquisite means to lubricate the entire structure, and had made the changes without making any noise in broad daylight. Consequently, no one had noticed the manner in which he had quietly infiltrated these young scholars into various departments through ordinary means. And then, some rotten officials... or elderly members of some powerful families who weren't at a very senior position were sent away... perhaps with the excuse that they could go back home and enjoy the rest of their years in peace...

Not a drop of water had been spilled from this air-tight mechanism. It was a seamless and clever method.

The number of people affected on an immediate basis weren't a lot. So, not a lot of people seemed to care about it. Three to five people were thrown out one day... then, five or six people would leave the next day... and the next... And, this had continued for the entirety of those two months. Thus, the Imperial polity had been turned on its head, and there had been massive changes...

The higher positions of powers were originally held by members of the powerful families. And, most of them had still retained their positions. However, many of the people under their command had been replaced with new recruits... or members of other families.

This entire thing happened in a very smooth manner. So, the powerful families were caught unaware. They may have wanted to take some countermeasures once they had realized this. However, it was already too late. Therefore, they had been rendered helpless in the face of it.

They had been overwhelmed!

Moreover, the internal conditions of the powerful families weren't that great either. And, that was because there were undercurrents surging inside these families. No one knew who had spread the rumor... but, it was said that the young masters who had been sent with Jun Wu Yi to the battlefield had been handpicked to gain experience. And, it was further said that these young masters would become the choice for successors for their respective families' head-post as long as they would return safe and sound...

This rumor had quickly given rise to huge waves!

Chapter 385: Tang Yuan's Strategies

Each powerful family had its own method of dealing with that rumor. The other candidates for the position of the family's lord were quite confident in their abilities. However, this rumor had still left them worried a bit. This rumor had faded away quite quickly, but it had done its job by creating mistrust. Consequently, many people had moved into action. And, the frequency of their campaigns had been increasing at a steady rate...

Some people knew that the rumor was probably false. But, they still intended to take advantage of that opportunity to place their sons... or maybe their fathers on top. Therefore, they began to scheme in secret as well.

These families seemed peaceful on the surface, but violent storms were raging in the dark of secrecy. Everyone was in a hurry. They'd move like the wind in a messy manner. Yet, they were also very cautious for the fear that they'd act carelessly and create a mess...

The only families which managed to remain aloof to this situation were the Jun and the Dugu Families. The later generations of these two military families weren't present there. Therefore, the existence or absence of such rumors didn't have any effect on them. These families were like a solid block on the inside. Water may be present there, but the container was water-tight.

The two families weren't affected by these rumors. Therefore, they had maintained their internal stability. However, the same couldn't be said for their military might. And, that was because their most trusted military subordinates had been dispersed along with other old officers. Plus, the followers of these two families had also started receiving a treatment that was different from the one that was dished-out to the followers of the other families. This was conclusive proof of what was coming. And, the two families couldn't get any opportunity to reverse the situation. They had been rendered defenseless as a result. It was almost as if they had been banished.

The Murong Family, the Meng Family, and the Tang Family were "great" families of Tian Xiang. And, the elderly of these families were obviously the same as well. However, they'd seem idle and bedridden in the face of this chaos. In fact, the juniors of these families were very respectful and dutiful on the surface. But, they were similar to a double-edged sword in secret. Thus, these families had caused a lot of blood-shed.

There was another family that had remained considerably calm. And, that family was the Li Family. But, they had the great genius Li You Ran as their Eldest Young Master. So, the other youngsters of the family didn't dare to compete against him. He had used very heavy methods to suppress them early on. Therefore, the rumor of this battle for an heir was the least effective in the Li Family.

It was only obvious that some major forces had remained unaffected by this gust of wind.

For example...

The Proprietor of the Aristocratic Hall — Tang Yuan — had ignored these foreign affairs. He had only cared about the advancement of his establishment... and earning profits. So, it was becoming increasingly prosperous with every passing day. He had held several auctions, and had earned huge pots

of gold every time. Jun Mo Xie had given many effective medicine bottles to Fatty Tang before he had left. And, Fatty's method of conducting business was exceptional. He had auctioned the first batch of those medicines, and their results had caused a huge sensation in the Capital City.

After that, Fatty had started to limit and control the sales. He would only sell 20 pellets of each medicine in one batch. And, one individual could only buy a maximum of 5 pellets. Moreover, the reserve price of the auctioned items had continued to increase. However, the number of people who would arrive for these auctions had also continued to increase.

The prices of these goods had soon started to reach frighteningly high levels because of their sensational popularity. But, the line of people of coming to buy these products was still endless. In fact, the customers would be willing to spend to any extent inside the Aristocratic Hall. And, the ones who didn't have hundreds of thousands... or millions... were only left to face embarrassment, and would remain tight-lipped as a result.

Fatty Tang gave the medicines very pleasant and trendy descriptions as he gave them out. He gave the Mysterious Yang Dan a very glorified description, "Even the impotent men would have the sturdy strength of 500kg with the help of this thunderous Mysterious Yang Dan!" It had almost sounded as if he was offering impotent men an aphrodisiac. In fact, he had said that it would give them much more than that...

There was this so-called 'poem' — The young buy wine and romance. The fifty-year-olds settle into their marriage. But, even the eighty-year-olds' crotches would still seek more.

And, he gave the Missing Yin Pill an even more enchanting name; "It improves one's appearance and makes the skin like that of a divine beauty that has maintained the countenance of a flower. Even a little amount of this will change an ugly woman into a beauty who can reverse the flow of a mighty river and move the stars — the Missing Yin Pill!"

Tang Yuan had seemed like a travelling performer who was selling sham when he had given such descriptions to these two medicines.

These two extremely trendy, awkward and vulgar sounding medicines had soon come to be known as the Divine Pills of the Tian Xiang City.

The descriptions didn't exactly roll off one's tongues. In fact, they were unreasonable. Most people would stutter at first. However, people soon started to recite these descriptions in a fluent manner. And, this was the effect that had been created on the people who hadn't even consumed these medicines. Who knows what would've happened if they had actually consumed these 'Divine Pills'?

Later, Tang Yuan cited that the establishment lacked sufficient manpower. He then used his official authority for private interests, and arranged for his fiancée Sun Xiao Mei to lend him a hand at the Aristocratic hall. This left Hai Chen Feng and Song Shang — the two Sky Xuan experts — to complain endlessly.

The two experts had revolted against Fatty's display of authority several times from the start. [Your entire Tang Family doesn't have a single Sky Xuan expert. Yet, you dare to incite us like this. Who do you think you are?]

However, Tang Yuan gradually figured a way out. He was dealing with Hai Chen Feng one day, and he simply spoke this line, "Third Young Master said that you'd be the most suitable person for this job." Hai Chen Feng got to work the moment those words exited Tang Yuan's mouth. Moreover, he was sharp, swift, and decisive in his actions. In fact, he seemed afraid of being slow.

This left Fatty to reconsider his approach. He was in a similar situation with Song Shang the other day. And, he applied the same method with him as well. And, the result was the same. Therefore, Tang Yuan assumed authority without proper pretext from that day onwards, and started to act in a tyrannical manner — [I don't think anything of who I am. I'm only Elder Brother Mo Xie's spokesperson in Tian Xiang. I merely handle Elder Brother Mo Xie's affairs. You obey whatever I'm telling you. Otherwise, I'll tell Elder Brother Mo Xie about you!]

This resulted in one thing — the two Sky Xuan experts fled whenever they saw the Fatty. They'd never come face to face with him. [I can't refuse him. But, that doesn't mean that I can't avoid him, right?]

However, Fatty Tang had a strategy to deal with this as well. He stipulated that they must come to the Aristocratic Hall once a day. And, he assigned them an office each. He would stick a three-meter-wide paper sign on the entrance in case he wanted to assign them some task. And, that paper would inevitably start in the following manner, "The Third Young Master has said..."

And, then there was the young prince — Yang Mo. Tang Yuan obviously wouldn't allow him to sit idle either. The Little Prince had given them a huge amount of money when the establishment had opened.

And, this had left the money-strapped Tang Yuan to pile praises on Jun Mo Xie for garnering such valuable support. After all, that money had arrived in a very timely fashion.

However, the Aristocratic Hall was trying to make more gold at this time. But, the Prince's mansion had merely stretched its hand in wait for their share of the money. Tang Yuan had obviously been left to feel seething pain because of this. So, he started to cuss about it every day, "I run, and deal with everything until I run myself ragged every day... like a monkey... only to provide for these freeloaders."

Tang Yuan had obviously forgotten his roots by now. Moreover, he had forgotten the challenges they had faced in the beginning... and the family which had financially supported his organization when he had needed it the most. So, he could only see his hard-earned money flowing-out like gurgling like a stream at this time. And, he'd feel as if he were losing a part of his flesh...

Tang Yuan's hand would tremble every month when he'd gave-out the shares in profits. In fact, his eyes would become red, and his flesh would start to twist. [The Third Young Master has done all this. So, this belongs to him. You just come here to rest and have sweets, you brat! Yet, you also get the money. And, so much of it at that! Why?]

Thus, Fatty Tang's mind was in a complete disequilibrium!

Moreover, Tang Yuan was determined to deal with all troubles even if Jun Mo Xie hadn't specifically asked him to. However, Little Yang Mo had several aunts and uncles. And, they were obviously princesses and princes. Some of them arrived one day by a matter of chance. Tang Yuan had obviously rolled his eyes at this. However, Little Yang Mo wasn't able to do much when Tang Yuan rolled his eyes at their arrival during the auctions, [Ah, more members of the Royal Family! This business is only meant to benefit them! Who doesn't want more of them here?]

The little boy didn't seem to have any feeling of self-respect in the beginning. So, he obviously suffered many losses. Moreover, Tang Yuan wouldn't divide the shares in a proper manner. He'd calculate the share in profits. Then, he'd deduct any losses the Aristocratic Hall would suffer due to the Royal Family from the Prince's share. [You have to pay on behalf of the Royal Family! In any case, your self-respect isn't worth the money!]

And then, finally...

That shy little boy eventually started to become anxious for the sake of his own interests.

The little boy would look at the daily transactions of the Aristocratic Hall. The money was crashing-in through the door. In fact, that pile of paper-money had soared to the sky. However, he could only stare blankly at it since none of it belonged to him. Sometimes he'd even do some accounting. But, he'd come to realize that he was losing money instead of making it... who could ever bear such an intolerable thing?

Therefore, the little boy became clever and alert. He wouldn't yield even a little money. In fact, he had soon started to haggle over every coin. He almost resembled a little rooster from a cock-fighting match at times. In fact, he soon started pulling an occasional trick or two of his own... [I could get some extra rewards if an elder from the Royal Family visits the Hall. I'm only a child. So, making them get me something small wouldn't be out of the question, right?]

However, the royal intermediaries were good at sweet talking as well. So, it was only natural that contradictions would occur. But, the little boy would remain strict and impartial. He would give priority to the money above everything else. In fact, even the boy's father would've collapsed on the spot if he had seen the manner in which his little son had started to talk...

The Princes... the members of the Royal Harem... and their intermediaries soon started to find it increasingly difficult to take advantage of the Aristocratic Hall upon their visits. In fact, members of the three Princes' factions were the worst off. Consequently, the three Princes got extremely angry, and decided to visit the establishment themselves. They had obviously arrived with the intent of inflicting losses to the little boy. And, the little boy ended-up suffering losses after losses... How could a small arm ever twist a big leg...? Moreover, three pairs of fully-grown legs...?

Then, Tang Yuan and Song Shang made an evil plan one day. And, they filled the little boy's cup with wine at the evening banquet. The young boy was very striking to the eye, but his capacity to drink wasn't striking to say the least. Moreover, he was very anxious at that time. He was pained, and couldn't help but recall what his Elder Brother Jun Mo Xie had said to him in this moment of helplessness, "Your father isn't the Emperor. How can I help you? Helping you will mean going against the Emperor's son. And, that's the same as going against the Future Emperor. Will I be allowed to live if I did that?"

There's a so-called saying 'wine won't get the anxious drunk', but it got him drunk. Moreover, the young boy had gotten completely drunk. In fact, he was sloshed! And, he started to chant in his drunken stupor. He wine obviously didn't suit him. In fact, it nearly made him crazy. Moreover, the intoxication didn't allow him to sleep properly. So, he got out of the bed at night, and shouted loudly in his childish

voice, "I want to become the Emperor! Fu*k! I fu*king want to become the Emperor! I will revolt! I want to be an Emperor so that my children don't have to get bullied!"

He was a young boy at this time. However, he had already figured that his son would have to face bullying someday. One could say that the boy had surpassed Dugu Xiao Yi's levels...

That shouting in the middle of the night scared Tang Yuan. So much so that he soiled his pants. However, he didn't dare to intervene for the fear that some outsider could've been listening to this in the middle of the night. In fact, Tang Yuan had been terrified to such an extent that he was more likely to forget his own surname than this night...

[This is a crime worthy of a family's extermination!]

Tang Yuan suddenly decided that he would never get that little boy drunk. [I will get others drunk. Maybe I'll get drunk myself. But, getting this kid drunk can put my life at risk as well! It's too damn risky!]