

## E Monarch 436

### Chapter 436: Which Side Do You Take?

A long-unending speech followed. Wherein, the scholar listed no less than fifteen crimes that had been committed by the Old Man Jun. It would go against the natural order of things if Jun Zhan Tian wasn't punished for them. In fact, it would be a grave misfortune for the common people!

There was one particularly interesting part in the accusations. The specific content was as follows — The soldiers and guards around the Capital City's ministers are being threatened by the Jun Family. And, this has forced the guards to relocate out of fear. It seems that Jun Zhan Tian is on the verge of causing an uprising...

A total of fifteen crimes were listed. And, one of them was said to have been committed by the Old Man Jun's grandson — Jun Mo Xie. "That young and shameless brat has defiled his elder sister-in-law. He has committed an immoral act. Guan Qing Han is the Eldest Daughter-in-law of the Jun Family. However, she has seduced the Young Master with little shame. She has ruined the family values, and has lowered their morals very considerably!" This charge had seven accusations in itself.

His Majesty frowned as he looked at the old scholar in a very impatient manner.

However, Kong Ling Yang seemed very more emotional as he continued in a loud voice, "This official believes that Jun Zhan Tian is a traitorous scoundrel who is guilty of these crimes. And, he should be punished with execution without further delay. Jun Wu Yi has been shamelessly ignoring rules of the military. He should be sacked. And, an inquiry should be initiated against him. This man should be sent to prison, and he should be given a very strict punishment. Jun Mo Xie's crimes against his elder sister-in-law are filthy to the extreme. He should be given death by a thousand cuts. It shall serve as an example for future offenders. Guan Qing Han isn't a woman who defends her honor. She is extremely shameless. She is a widowed woman. However, she still shared the beddings with another man. Her crimes must be declared publicly. That shall uphold Tian Xiang's moral integrity to the world at large!"

These words were very poisonous in nature. In fact, they could taint and ruin the Jun Family.

The Dugu Family's head grinned. He hadn't heard a single word about the extermination of the entire family. But, this punishment was still as cruel. After all, all three members of the Jun Family had been nominated to the scaffold...

Jun Zhan Tian was sitting with a lowered head. However, he didn't seem to be paying attention to anything. In fact, it appeared as if he was sleeping.

"This official seconds this motion!"

"This official also supports this motion!"

....

Everyone in the hall kneeled in front of the Emperor, and requested him to punish the Jun Family.

Many people who hailed from the various powerful families hesitated to speak out. So, they merely watched as everything proceeded. However, the Emperor's brows continued to knit tighter and tighter together...

"Your Majesty, I believe that Jun Zhan Tian has lost his status of the past. He doesn't hold the same status and authority in the army anymore. It will be good for Tian Xiang if we root out the Jun Family by using this opportunity. And, it will be good from a morality standpoint as well," Even Jun Zhan Tian raised his eyebrows when he heard the voice of this man.

[I knew that someone would try to get me when I'm down. But, I had never thought that he would be the first person to do so.]

It was the Song Family's Head. He was also a General in the army. His name was Song De Hai.

"The Song Family's head has spoken correctly. This official seconds this motion!" The Meng Family's head — Meng You Wei — stood up as well. His face brimmed with grief and indignation, "Jun Zhan Tian is like a malignant disease for the Empire. It will be difficult to keep the rest of the continent calm if we don't remove him. It would be very difficult to maintain the court's discipline if we don't remove him.

And, it'll be difficult to prevent the common people from speaking about it for ages. So, I sincerely look to His Majesty to resolve this as quickly as possible!"

"We sincerely look to His Majesty to resolve this as quickly as possible!" everyone called out together as they firmly prostrated themselves.

The Seven Great Families of the Capital were present in attendance. The Murong Family had remained neutral as usual. The Tang and the Jun Family were still as thick as thieves. So, the Tang Family hadn't spoken a word. However, many others stood in opposition to the Jun Family. But, one family had acted beyond everyone's anticipation... The Li Family hadn't participated in this onslaught even though they were the Jun Family's greatest rivals!

"This matter is of utmost importance! We shall discuss this further tomorrow!" His Majesty announced in a low voice, "The officials may rise!"

The Emperor was about to flee from the court. However, this is when he heard the old scholar Kong speak-up again...

"Your Majesty mustn't leave! Your Majesty mustn't leave! You need to sort this matter out quickly! We can't delay! Anyone who hesitates can't resolve this chaos. Your Majesty is divinely wise, and he knows the military law!" Kong Ling Yang wasn't prepared to leave. So, he took the lead and started to shout these slogans. His meaning was very clear. [We won't give up unless you deal with the Jun Family today.]

The Emperor frowned in a serious manner as he got up. However, it seemed as if these words had escaped from deep within him, "I'm feeling unwell. So, I'll leave." Then, he waved his sleeves and disappeared like a wisp of smoke. [You love to kneel, don't you? I can't believe you've put me in this position. I'm going to lose my mind!]

Even the Emperor wanted to use this opportunity to deal with the Jun Family. And, anyone who'd peak into his heart would know of it. But, he couldn't dare to. He was the ruler of an Empire. So, he had obviously thought far ahead than most people would. Perhaps, those rotten scholars hadn't considered this point. Perhaps they thought that the consequences of dealing with the Jun Family wouldn't be that bad...

However, the Emperor knew that the Jun Family had a comprehensive command and influence over the military. Therefore, he was certain that there would be new of a mutiny in the morning if he were to make a move against the Jun Family. In fact, even speaking up against Jun Zhan Tian would result in the same! And then, more of such news would pour-in from at least five or six places within three days...

What would the nation of Tian Xiang do then?

[Is it that easy to deal with the Jun Family at this time? What a big joke! Would I have waited for you to submit your petition if I could've dealt with them...?]

The officials also left after the Emperor departed in violent anger. Jun Zhan Tian had seemed to be sleepy inside the hall. But, he was as lively as a dragon when he walked out. He hadn't taken the accusations of those rotten scholars seriously.

It would've been a serious matter if the Murong and the Li family had launched an attack as well. But, those small fries weren't enough to entice the Old Man Jun's fighting spirit.

"Jun Zhan Tian! You haven't educated your youngsters, and now your grandson has acted in an evil way. Yet, you dare to show your face in society! Retribution awaits you!" Kong Ling Yang trembled as he called out. An overwhelming majority of the officials were waiting at the door along with him and Mei Gao Jie. The public opinion was also in their favor. So, they were quite confident.

This information was right on the bull's eyes. Therefore, the old scholar Kong was quite certain that he could bring down the Jun Family in one swoop!

Jun Zhan Tian stopped in his tracks, and turned to look at him. Then, he snorted and said, "Hey bookworm, can't you shut your beak? This old man is very annoyed. I don't have time to deal with you. We will discuss this matter tomorrow."

Kong Ling Yang became furious when he heard this. Even his whiskers started to tremble, "You... you... you..." However, Jun Zhan Tian merely rolled his eyes, turned, and walked away.

One of the officials went closer to Kong Ling Yang's ear and said, "Master, this Old Man Jun is one of the greatest experts of the city. Moreover, he has reached the Sky Xuan peak. So, he's almost as good as the strongest expert in the city. Therefore, I beseech the Master to be cautious."

"Sky Xuan peak? The strongest expert...? What's that again?" Kong Ling Yang raised his eyes and gave a resolute look to his disciple. He then said with disdain, "He merely has martial prowess! What do you have to fear about?! There's an ancient saying — words are the law of the land. Strength can only choose sides. Haven't you heard that? The ones with talent decide the fates of empires! Do you understand? How can a mere warrior ascend to the top of an imperial court? It will be extremely hard for him to find excuses... or apologize in this situation! He can't justify anything. This matter has already been determined! How can an ordinary man like him be anything in my eyes?"

That old scholar's philosophy was as follows... [So what if you're a Sky Xuan peak, Jun Zhan Tian? You would still be a mere warrior even if you were a Spirit Xuan! And, you don't have brains since you're a warrior. So, you're useless!]

It had to be mentioned that this old man had been studying in somewhat of an ivory tower his entire life. Consequently, he had no idea how frightening a Sky Xuan or Spirit Xuan could be...

"Tomorrow! Everyone hadn't come to participate today. But, we will deal the fatal blow to the Jun Family tomorrow!" Kong Ling Yang snorted coldly and continued, "I would like to urge all officials within the borders of this nation to get involved. We must form popular public opinion inside the city. I won't allow this filthy moral debauchery to exist! Does this shameless family have the qualifications to stand above the Imperial Court?"

"Today's momentum wasn't bad... But, it still wasn't enough when it comes to the Jun Family. The Meng and the Li Family's Heads need to support this," Kong Ling Yang turned his head.

"Be at ease, Master. The Meng Family won't shirk from its duty," Meng You Wei thumped his chest in guarantee. "And, the Jun Family isn't very pleasing to the Li Family's eyes either. So, everything should go smoothly."

"Ha ha..." everyone laughed as they looked at each other.

In a distant place.

"What do you think of this?" the Head of Murong Family — Murong Feng Yun asked Dugu Zong Heng. Dugu Wu Di stood behind the two in silence. However, his rough beard was twitching again and again.

"What? Didn't you see that Jun bastard was just sitting there? He didn't even give a damn! Those annoying scholars only eat till they're about to burst. They have nothing else to do! They're foolish idiots!" Dugu Zong Heng raised his head with disdain. "Jun Zhan Tian can pinch their balls with his fingers! They won't have anything to cover their asses with if he comes for them by tomorrow!"

Murong Feng Yun frowned in indignation and said, "How can you speak like that? You're a Head of a Family! Can't you be more refined?"

"Refined? Refined, my fart! Your elegant words aren't as good as the hair in crotch!" Dugu Zong Heng rubbished and spat saliva, "I'm a military general! Have you ever seen generals fighting with elegance? It's like a hairball to me!"

"It's my fault... that I asked you to be refined... I was gravely mistaken..." Murong Feng Yun felt endless remorse. "But can I ask if you're sure about this onslaught? Jun Zhan Tian looked calm and collected, but that Kong Ling Yang seems to have a big and sharp momentum. Can that Old Man Jun stand firm in the face of it?"

"How will he not? I've already said that those rotten scholars won't be able to do it!" Dugu Zong Heng snorted as he looked disdainfully at the group of officials who had gathered at the side, "It would be a huge joke if these scholars could bring down that rascal Jun! In fact, I'll castrate myself with a sword if they succeed by using here accusations. Hell, I'll even wear a skirt, and marry a man!"

"Damn!" Murong Feng Yun burst out cursing, "I won't marry a man!"

"Fuck you, old man! Listen Old Murong, I'm asking you whether you will take a side? Or, will you sit on the fence again?" Dugu Zong Heng's wide eyes resembled those of an ox.

"Sitting safely on the fence is always a good idea! But, you're asking me... What do you plan to do?" Murong Feng Yun's narrowed eyes resembled those of an old fox.

"Can I ever lack taste and stand in the middle like you do? I'm obviously holding fast with Jun Zhan Tian. Which idiot would help those foolish and glutinous pieces of dog-shits?" Dugu Zong Heng drew back his huge mouth, "Besides... he and I are related by marriage now."

"Huh? Relatives by marriage...?" Murong Feng Yun was shocked, "When did this happen?"

"Fu\*k it! Don't mention the damned thing! My family is very unfortunate!" Dugu Zong Heng got mad at the mention of that topic. He couldn't beat-up Murong Feng Yun. So, he turned around to look for his son. But, Dugu Zong Heng had been very loud a moment ago. Therefore, the 'very obedient' Dugu Wu Di had turned tail and fled the moment he had heard the mention of that topic. Thus, there was nobody there when the old man turned back. He couldn't help but rain a mountain of curses in anger, "Bastard! You wait for me, you little cuckold! You didn't let me vent my anger?! I'll beat you up twice as bad once I return!"

Murong Feng Yun's white eyebrows sank as he frowned. It seemed that he had fallen into deep thought. [So, the Jun Family and the Dugu Family have become relatives by marriage because of this matter... this isn't right... In fact, this is big news! It seems that my Murong Family will have to reconsider. After all, it's always a good idea to choose a safer side in advance...]

#### Chapter 437: Jun Mo Xie's Weakness

Li Family.

The doddering Grand Preceptor Li Shang was seated on his official armchair. His face was covered in thick wrinkles. The old man's health had been becoming worse with each passing day.

"You Ran, do you believe that it's time for our family to make our move?" Li Shang looked at his grandson.

Li You Ran was wearing a white gown. His hair was jet-black, and his face looked very handsome. In fact, he had somehow removed the scars that had previously riddled his face. The Young Master Li smiled

faintly, "You're kidding me, Grandfather. This isn't an opportune moment for us to make a move against the Jun Family. It'd be best for us to stay out of it."

"Oh? Do you have misgivings when it comes to fighting Jun Zhan Tian?" Li Shang's eyes had a complicated light in them.

"No! I have no misgivings when it comes to fighting with Jun Zhan Tian... not even the Blood General. Instead, I have misgivings regarding the Third Young Master — Jun Mo Xie," Li You Ran sighed and continued, "Jun Zhan Tian is a fiery character. So, he's obviously difficult to deal with. But, he's a person of noble character. Jun Wu Yi is a military strategist. He wins every battle. But, he is an emotional person. Such people may have divine power, and they may possess unequalled Xuan strength. But, we know their weaknesses. So, we can entrap them while staying hidden. After all, wisdom will always win in the contest of power and wisdom!

"However, that Jun Mo Xie has left me thoroughly puzzled." Li You Ran lowered his head, and flashed a tranquil smile. However, his gaze became incisive as he hesitantly spoke-up, "I haven't been able to see what kind of a person that Jun Mo Xie is. I can't sense his weakness either...

"And, this is undoubtedly frightening. I've always been able to see that Jun Mo Xie's character was riddled weaknesses. And, this has been the same since childhood. Each of his weakness was fatal, and would've been the end of the Jun Family. But, I've come to realize that those weaknesses had merely been a ruse now that I wish to deal with him. It seems like I've overreached myself, and gotten duped as a result."

"Your analysis is very good. You must've observed that Jun Mo Xie carefully," Li Shang coughed twice. He had been listening to Li You Ran's words very calmly. Then, he spoke, "But, you must understand one thing. It's true that Jun Mo Xie hasn't exposed a weakness. But, he's still a young man!"

"A young man...? What do you mean, Grandfather?" Li You Ran was somewhat puzzled.

"A young man may be powerful, and he may be very talented. However, a young man is still full of youth and vigor. So, he's bound to be impulsive!" Li Shang chuckled. "Jun Zhan Tian was able to outdo someone as far-sighted and wise as yourself. That matter hasn't been forgotten until now! And, don't even try to deny this in front of me! And, this is your weakness!"



"Yes!" Li You Ran bowed as he listened to his instructions.

"Second; a young man may be intelligent and calm. But, he's still a mountain of passion. And, that is always a strong weapon against any youngster," Li Shang narrowed his eyes. "Jun Mo Xie has never shown it, but it can be concluded that his biggest weakness is women! He cares for women! Take Guan Qing Han for example... or maybe Dugu Xiao Yi!"

"You're right, Grandfather!" Li You Ran bowed and agreed cheerfully. [Experience does count for a lot!]

"Obviously! You regard your heart as 'unfeeling and cold'. But, you also felt dejected when you were planning to deal with Princess Ling Meng, right?" Li Shang's gaze was sharply piercing through his narrowed eyes. "Don't even try to tell me that you didn't!"

"Yes... I was... at that time... I was very irascible..." Li You Ran calmly admitted.

"And, the third place where we can attack a young man — is his close relatives! Jun Zhan Tian and Jun Wu Yi are his close relatives. His father and elder brothers had died long ago. But, he was too young at that time. So, he might not have felt the pain of losing loved ones. But, he's an adult now. So, he can understand everything. Therefore, he will treasure them twice as much. However, it'll be an incalculable blow to Jun Mo Xie if his remaining relatives were to die at this time!

"I believe that these are the three ways to deal with that unbeatable Jun Mo Xie of yours." Li Shang warned in an earnest tone, "There are no enemies who can't be deal with. And, there's no man without a weakness. You must remember this important point well."

"This You Ran will remember the Grandfather's advice forever," Li You Ran stood straight. It was evident that he was in awe of the advice he had received.

It couldn't be denied that experience does matter. Grand Preceptor Li wasn't a great scholar. He didn't command great military prowess. He didn't even possess unrivalled Xuan strength. However, he had always held a spot that could compete with Jun Zhan Tian and Dugu Zong Heng for the top-three. Jun Mo Xie and Li You Ran were gifted individuals. And, they had mastered their respective innate talents as well. However, they were still captured by this dismal side of the human nature. And, this made them slightly inferior to these older men.

"You Ran, these are the three weaknesses of Jun Mo Xie's. However, there is another aspect about Jun Mo Xie that you must take note of," Li Shang spoke very slowly.

"Is there another weak point?" Li You Ran was obviously quite interested.

"It may or may not be. But, you must keep it in mind regardless. It will prevent you from making mistakes in the future since this aspect regards to Jun Mo Xie's nature."

The Grand Preceptor Li softly flipped over the thick files of data that were present on the table in front. No less than three of them were piled up! They were named, "Jun Mo Xie one, Jun Mo Xie two, and Jun Mo Xie three." So, it was evident that these were about Jun Mo Xie.

Every move of Jun Mo Xie's was recorded inside them... everything from the time he ate food... to the time he used the toilet. Moreover, many comments analyzing the reported facts were also mentioned therein. These factors had obviously added to the size of the document...

"Jun Mo Xie's conduct?" Li You Ran raised his brows, and spoke in a pensive manner, "We didn't notice anything strange about Jun Mo Xie's conduct at first. We had started recording his information three months ago. In fact, around thirty of us had discussed the information and recorded it. But, I haven't found any weakness of his nature within these detailed reports and analysis. He he... this Li You Ran admires the Grandfather, and prostrates myself. After all, I had no clue about the weaknesses Grandfather pointed out..."

Li You Ran's smile was undoubtedly one of envy. However, that envious smile also contained a sincere trace of admiration.

"I've listed those points as Jun Mo Xie's weaknesses. However, they aren't specific to Jun Mo Xie. Instead, they are the common weaknesses of all youngsters. Therefore, you must first see if they even apply to him. Also, you must consider the manner in which we should exploit them. And, you will need to be very careful about it. Else, we will end up warning the enemy. And, we may not get a second chance given Jun Mo Xie's intelligence." Li Shang coughed.

"Grandfather mentioned that there was some aspect about Jun Mo Xie's conduct. But, you didn't explain in detail. Your grandson thirsts for your teachings," Li You Ran nodded slightly. His gaze was profound.

"How do I say this? I've been thinking over Jun Mo Xie's conduct for a while. In fact, it might not necessarily be his weaknesses either. After all, we may consider it to be his weakness. However, his weakness could also turn to his advantage."

The wrinkles on Li Shang's face got deeper, "This is very difficult to understand. Even I can't understand it at this time. Therefore, I ask you to look into this seriously, You Ran. Take some time, and think about it. You're clearly impressed by Jun Mo Xie. However, you stand against him. Do you understand his character properly?"

"Jun Mo Xie... is certainly wild, and proud. He is arrogant, bombastic, and seems to require everyone's attention. But, he does succeed in drawing people's attention very quickly. However, he makes everyone hate him. In fact, he often becomes unbearable. But, a persistent person would eventually realize that his actions had gained him many advantages."

Li You Ran then pondered, and continued, "But, this man has become extremely unbearable in the past few years. It would be an incredible feat if he had done this on purpose. Moreover, it seems that the change in this man's situation has only started to reflect in the past half-a-year. This is what I don't understand... How can he change so much in such a short a time? This is incredible and unbelievable!"

"Is it genuinely incomprehensible? Nothing would be difficult to understand if you think of it in simplistic terms. Let's assume that Jun Mo Xie was a very talented youngster. Yet, he seemed like an unambitious man. In fact, he didn't even seem to wish for anything in the past; he only wanted to live a merry life. Do things make sense if you follow this notion?" Li Shang's voice was dull, but his words contained a profound meaning.

Li You Ran's eyes sparkled, and he became calm again. He didn't say a word, but he had understood his grandfather's words.

"It seems that many things will become easier to understand if we establish this point of view. Let's assume that we hadn't decided to deal with the Jun Family. It could be said that the Jun Family's military strength would've gradually thinned out after the Old Jun had died. That's because Jun Mo Xie wouldn't have taken-over the family's responsibilities. After all, it didn't seem like his plan at first."

"Unfortunately, everything has changed for that man. And, he has transformed himself very drastically over the past half-a-year. Other people may not know about this, but I see that very clearly."

Li Shang snorted lightly, "Jun Zhan Tian had strenuously attempted to secure the Jun Family's future about six months ago. Therefore, it could be assumed that the Jun Family had reached a tipping point. Thus, Jun Mo Xie had no choice but to change.

"In fact, that Old Man Jun had proposed Jun Mo Xie's marriage to Princess Ling Meng. This was tantamount to telling to Jun Mo Xie that, 'I can't support you anymore. I can only hope to arrange a secure passage for you post my death. After all, I will pass away in time. And, you won't last a day once I'm gone'. However, the Emperor had declined this idea even though he empathized with them."

Li Shang heaved a soft sigh, "And, Jun Mo Xie underwent a thorough transformation after this event. The Emperor's attitude towards his grandfather's helplessness must've induced a change in him. Why would he decline Old Man Jun's request? It showed that the Emperor doesn't want the Jun Family to exist in his empire. This must've forced Jun Mo Xie to expose his frightening hidden talents. In fact, I feel that His Majesty would die of annoyance if he were to realize this!"

#### Chapter 438: The Thunderous News from the Southern Heaven!

Li Shang's voice was dignified, "Do you understand, You Ran? The pressure which induced this change in Jun Mo Xie was so great that he had no choice but to change himself. High pressure can sometimes force a change in a person. In fact, even the biggest cowards around can sometimes turn into heroes under pressure. You may've never experienced such pressure. But, this change in Jun Mo Xie is unexpectedly very reasonable..."

Li You Ran looked pensive as he pondered. Then, he slowly nodded.

The Grand Preceptor Li's speculation was somewhat reasonable. But, he could have never guessed the real reason. In fact, his conjectures would only continue to deviate and distance from the truth as he'd follow his logic. That's because this Jun Mo Xie wasn't the same old Jun Mo Xie. In fact, there was a difference of sky and land between the two. Therefore, the very-base of Li Shang's theories were mistaken...

"Let your grandfather give you another advice regarding Jun Mo Xie — Don't try to pressure him too much if you don't have full confidence in landing the fatal blow." Li Shang's white eyebrows trembled as he smiled and continued, "You and the Li Family only wants more power. But, Jun Mo Xie doesn't desire power. In fact, he ignores power. Therefore, Jun Mo Xie doesn't have a substantive conflict with us. This is why the rivalry between you and Jun Mo Xie is different from the one between Jun Zhan Tian and me."

"He ignores power...? How can you be sure?" Li You Ran's eyebrows shot up. [Who wouldn't want a high post, a generous salary, and authority over the Empire? Who doesn't envy the men who have power over thousands of men? Who isn't fascinated with waking up to the whole world in your hand, and an intoxicating beauty at your knee? Why does Jun Mo Xie have such an independent and unique character? Why doesn't he want this?]

He didn't believe it.

In fact, he couldn't believe a word of it!

"This is visible from every action and every move of Jun Mo Xie's. He doesn't care about anyone's opinion. Moreover, he's unlikely to care about honor or disgrace... or life or death. Thus, he doesn't care about glory or death. He has the ability to spend millions of taels by raising his hand, and he's also capable of living in unlimited luxury by merely smiling his way to wealth. He looks down on all men in the world in the true sense of it! He goes his own way, and does what he pleases. That youngster moves freely, and bodes no restrictions."

Li Shang sighed, "That's the kind of person he is! His goal is greater than yours. He is better than you. I don't wish to admit this. However, I have no choice but to do it!"

"He's better than me... better than me..." Li You Ran slowly went over those words, and suddenly became bitter. [I've done my best to pursue what I desire... But, is my effort that dismissive in others' eyes?]

This was a mocking irony for someone as proud as Li You Ran.

"Yes, he's better than you. I can see your ambitious... I can see them very clearly," Li Shang's sparse eyebrows budged lightly, "You've sought it your whole life... you want the throne of the world in the

palm of your hands. You want to rule over all men... even if it's impossible. This wonderful taste of power is your goal, but it will also be your ruin. In fact, you will sacrifice anything for that wonderful feeling!"

"Yes!" Li You Ran's eyebrows moved softly. His eyes were brimming with a bloody and murderous aura. "Everyone desires power. And, everyone must strive to improve. Emperors can change with time, and my chance can also come someday. And, I will unmask my potential if that happens. I will rise up to make my Li Family last for a thousand generations. I seek to establish the Li Dynasty the moment I see the chance!"

"However, what Jun Mo Xie pursues is detached from everything else! He wants to stand beyond imperial power... like the Silver Blizzard City, or the Xue Hun Manor... or even something higher! But, I don't know what that is..." Li Shang sighed. "And, His Majesty also sees this very clearly. Therefore, he's more tolerant than before. But, he's also thoroughly repentant," the Imperial Preceptor smiled.

"I can understand His Majesty being repentant when I listen to Grandfather's words. But, how is he much more tolerant than before? Was he that intolerant in the past?" Li You Ran was puzzled. [What's the inside story here?]

The Imperial Preceptor smiled, but didn't answer that. Instead, he merely said, "Who knows the reasons and results? Whatever is between our Li and the Jun Family... is nothing more than a grudge between Jun Zhan Tian and me. There's no cause for conflict otherwise. And, we're getting old..."

"So, what grandfather means is..." Li You Ran was somewhat puzzled. [My grandfather's tone suggests that he wishes for the deep hatred between our families to be let off even though it has been carried on for three generations?]

"You Ran, you must remember this... Dealing with the Jun Family means dealing with someone like Jun Mo Xie! Don't act unless you're sure you'll annihilate him with his entire family... And, make sure that you see Jun Mo Xie's corpse swaying before you with your own eyes..." Li Shang closed his eyes. He continued in a somewhat tired manner, "That's the only case in which you must make a move! But, don't act recklessly if you're not sure of it!"

"Then, that is when we will attack first..." Li You Ran bowed his head. His soft hair draped over his face and covered it. However, his true expression weren't visible to anyone...

Li You Ran was shocked inside. [What Grandfather said right now, and what he had said before, "Don't try to pressure him too much unless you have full confidence in landing the fatal blow..." These words have the same meaning. However, Grandfather emphasized them, and even spoke them twice!]

[What does this mean?] Li You Ran had understood it very clearly.

[This explains grandfather's feelings... He believes that I won't be able to face Jun Mo Xie's counter-attack. Moreover, it'll be the end for our Li Family if he counter-attacks.]

However, Li You Ran couldn't accept this point of view.

"Everything is still your plan. And, you should be better than me... no matter the manner in which you act. So, I can't issue my opinions. This family... relies on you! So, you do anything as long as you deem it fit. And, don't worry about my impressions."

Grand Preceptor Li tiredly closed his eyes, and waved his hand, "You only need to remember two things in the current situation — don't disobey His Majesty, and you must be very careful with Jun Mo Xie. Have full control. Don't provoke these two. And, everything should be alright. Then, your efforts will surely pay off for our Li Family. In fact, they will take us to great heights."

Then, Grand Preceptor Li became silent, and this conversation between the grandfather and grandson came to an end.

It was merely early winters at the moment. But, a brazier was still raised inside Li Shang's room. Li You Ran had always felt warm when the brazier was lifted. However, he felt cold this time... And, it was because of this conversation. In fact, he felt very cold.

This cold feeling left his usually upright figure to curl up shivering. And, he couldn't help but lean close to the brazier.

The complicated expression on his handsome face revealed that he was in deep thought. After all, he couldn't accept that he would... lose. [Could I be so much worse than him? I've been trying so hard, but it still hasn't made much of a difference?! I haven't had the time to think about this aspect much. But, how has Jun Mo Xie already surpassed me by so much?]

[Is he that fierce? Is he so hard to rival?] Li You Ran sighed deeply.

Li Shang closed his eyes, and reclined on his couch. His heart could only sigh as he wondered what his grandson might be thinking. He had obviously understood it clearly. His grandson could depend on him for aid when it came to analyzing the pros and cons. However, Li You Ran could only rely on him when it came down to it...

"I have a report for the Lord Young Master. The Head of the Meng Family — Meng You Wei wishes to meet with the Lord Master," a voice reported from outside.

"Tell him that the Grand Preceptor is unwell, and needs to rest. So, the Grand Preceptor can't meet anyone. The Young Master has gone out, and hasn't returned..." Li You Ran's replied in a weak voice.

Meng You Wei must've arrived to unite with the Li Family so that they could discuss how they should deal with the Jun Family. But, Li You Ran didn't wish to hear the words, "Jun." Therefore, everything must wait until the storm of his heart had come to pass...

He looked at the three files on Jun Mo Xie, and smiled bitterly. Then, he suddenly picked the sheets, and threw them open into the fire of the brazier. The fire roared, and the flames soared inside the room. The temperature inside the room also rose as a result.

However, Li Your Ran's face was increasingly being filled with frustration. The flame illuminated his face in a deep red color. It was a somewhat strange color...

There was a sound of flapping wings in the sky. Then, someone informed, "Young Master, the report on the army returning from Southern Heaven City is here."

Li You Ran tossed the remaining sheets into the brazier. His movements were neither too fast... nor too slow. He then dully replied, "Come in! Read it aloud!"

"Yes!" A big person cautiously entered. He did the usual ritual, and opened the letter he held, "There was an incident on the ninth day of the army's return march. They were hindered by the Silver Blizzard



City's Second Elder — Xiao Bu Yu. He had five other Spirit Xuan elders, the Seven Swords, and two Sky Xuan experts along. Furthermore, Xiao Han challenged Jun Wu Yi to a death-match."

Li Shang's eyes suddenly opened wide, and he sat up straight. Li You Ran stopped tossing the papers, and became completely still as well. The big man was shocked by this, and didn't read any further.

"Go on," Li You Ran clenched his teeth.

"Jun Wu Yi defeated Xiao Han, and the latter was crippled in the fight. The Seven Swords fought the Eight Great Master — Solitary Falcon. The Great Master went on to defeat the Seven Swords. And, Xiao Bu Yu fought Jun Mo Xie in this battle..."

"Xiao Bu Yu fought Jun Mo Xie...?" Li You Ran trembled as he raised his head to look up at that man.

"Yes. Xiao Bu Yu fought Jun Mo Xie, but he was no match for Young Master Jun. Then, Jun Mo Xie used some evil scheme, and made Xiao Bu Yu strip in public. This shamed him to an extent that he killed himself. Jun Mo Xie's sword also decapitated Xiao Feng Wu. And, he also cut the legs of the Silver City's Eighth and Ninth Elders. Moreover, Jun Mo Xie pierced the Sixth Elder's chest. Jun Mo Xie took on four of Silver City's Spirit Xuan experts by the end of it, and he came out on top. Everyone from the Silver Blizzard City..."

Li You Ran didn't hear whatever was informed after this part since his mind had spiraled into a great shock. His eyes went dark, and only that single piece of information was left to resonate in his mind, "Xiao Bu Yu fought Jun Mo Xie, but he was no match for Young Master Jun. Then, Jun Mo Xie used some evil scheme, and made Xiao Bu Yu strip in public. This shamed him to an extent that he killed himself. Jun Mo Xie's sword also decapitated Xiao Feng Wu. And, he also cut the legs of the Silver City's Eighth and Ninth Elders. Moreover, Jun Mo Xie pierced the Sixth Elder's chest. Jun Mo Xie took on four of Silver City's Spirit Xuan experts by the end of it, and he came out on top."

[Jun Mo Xie took on four of Silver City's Spirit Xuan experts, and came out on top.]

[Jun Mo Xie took on four of Silver City's Spirit Xuan experts, and came out on top.]

It seemed that his ears had been filled with the sound of a thunderclap. It was like his soul had flown out of his body, and had transcended to the clouds. Li You Ran swayed a bit, and his right hand grasped at something in order to steady himself. The thick pile of papers he held dropped from his hand, and landed into the brazier. This stack of paper landed on top of the raging flames inside the brazier. And, this gave rise to a plume of thick black smoke!

## Chapter 439: Shocked to the Core!

The dimmed and aged eyes of Li Shang also livened up. Nobody moved for a long time. However, a huge cloud of smoke had gathered inside the room.

The three individuals lifted the curtains after some time, and rushed out of the room. A massive plume of smoke soared into the sky. It was presumed as if something had been set ablaze. Consequently, the sound of alarms rang out in the household. And, the guards started to arrive with buckets of water...

Li You Ran coughed a few times before he returned to normal. However, he continued to watch the rising smoke in silence.

Li Shang took the letter which had been delivered by the eagle. He read it very carefully from the start to finish. And, his complexion became very serious as a result. Grand Preceptor Li lifted his head after a long time, and looked at that dark cloud of black smoke as it hovered above. He let out a very lengthy sigh and muttered, "I tried to overestimate him as much as possible... But, I was underestimating him very greatly this entire time. Oh Heavens... there's bound to be a change..."

Li You Ran's expression also became unsightly as he muttered, "He fought four Spirit Xuan experts... fought four Spirit Xuan experts," This usually calm Young Master You Ran had suddenly lost his mind...

...

Each powerful family also received this news from their own intelligence networks; the Royal Family was no exception either. The wordings of their respective letters were slightly different. However, the information contained was virtually the same...

Consequently, Tian Xiang City witnessed yet another earthquake!

It was earth shattering, world-shaking! In fact, it was something which could turn the world on its head!

Jun Mo Xie has caused an earthquake when that news about his affair with his elder sister-in-law had spread. And, these vibrations hadn't even settled yet. In fact, people with ambitions were still trying to spread the flames in order to increase its effect... Consequently, the response to it was also increasing. And, the voices of insult were getting increasingly loud...

Over half of the people in Tian Xiang were waiting for that shameless hoodlum to return so that they could shame him. In fact, they had planned to curse him to death. Moreover, they were certain that they would drown him in their spit if he didn't die from their cursing...

Jun Mo Xie's present reputation in the city was even worse than the one that had stained his name before he had come to this world. In fact, it had become synonymous with words like dirty, shameless, contemptible, lowly, and despicable. And, the same effect had spread to Guan Qing Han's name due to her relation with him. The talk of this adulterous couple had spread to every corner of the city... whether it was the teahouses... or the taverns. And, they were being cursed everywhere!

It had to be said that the civil officials had been able to make their campaign work in a very effective manner. After all, they knew that the common people didn't know the truth. Thus, they had found it easy to instigate the masses. It went without saying that such a thing wasn't acceptable to anyone in this era. Consequently, those scholars were successful in changing the entire city into an ocean of abuse for Jun Mo Xie.

They were sure that they would overwhelm him in a sea of clamor as long as he entered the Tian Xiang City. The Young Master could turn a deaf ear to this abuse. However, could Guan Qing Han do it as well? Could she endure such an embarrassing situation?

However, they heard the latest astonishing news now. And, it was like a bomb explosion to their ears... or maybe even like the incineration of a nuclear bomb! And so, it caused an even greater ruckus. Anyone who heard this news had the same reaction — they were stupefied and dumbstruck. In fact, it was like they had been struck by lightning... They simply couldn't believe it!

Some groups of scholars and officials weren't ready to believe it. However, there were many who felt like they had picked a boulder, and had dropped it on their own foot...

[Young Master Jun is so fierce? How can he be so fierce?]

[A lone man fought four Spirit Xuan experts.... and won an overwhelming victory?! Damn!] Everyone knew what kind of people these Spirit Xuan experts were. So, everyone felt a slight chill in their hearts. [How is one man who is able to fight four Spirit Xuans not be on the same level as the Great Masters? How could he not be unrivalled? Couldn't one say that the Jun Family has become an existence that is on par with the Silver Blizzard City...? Or maybe even higher... like an ultimate existence of some kind...?]

[Would I shame such a terrifying power? Do I not love my life?] Then, someone suddenly stood up and clarified the facts. These were the same people who had spread the rumors yesterday. But, they were the ones who were hurriedly standing up to clarify the facts today.

However, who could control the effect of the rumors once they were out? It was like an old saying, "It's much easier to put a dam on a river than to stop a person's mouth from flowing!" And, it was true! Moreover, this kind of a rumor made for a strong flavor in gossip. And, such things spread as fast as lightning...

Moreover, this wasn't merely a gossip or rumor... It was mostly true!

It could be said that the people who had only imbibed scholarly text could only know the literary differences between civil and military matters. They could advocate the pros and cons of everything, and talk about things that were better. They could talk about the Spirit Xuan experts when it came to the topic. In fact, they could even talk of higher powers. However, these Xuan experts were nothing more than a knight-errant to the eyes of these scholars...

They believed that even the legendary warriors were subject to the law of the land. After all, there would be utter chaos if there weren't any laws. Therefore, these men didn't believe that there were people who could stand beyond the imperial power, and couldn't be constrained inside this world. Consequently, the notion of someone being above the imperial power after having attained a certain level of strength seemed even more absurd to them...

After all, every piece of land and shore under the heaven belonged to the Emperor!

The news about Jun Mo Xie killing these Spirit Xuan experts reached the ears of Mei Gao Jie. However, the old man merely curled his lips and snorted as he said, "The crimes that he has committed haven't even been judged yet, and his case has also been smeared with murder now. This cruel, heartless, and pigheaded Jun Mo Xie should die to redeem for his sins. This world won't be peaceful until he dies."

Case smeared with murder...? This amazing and world-shaking event was a 'criminal case' in the words of that old man. However, the Tian Xiang City was like a brick of night-soil which was with scuttling maggots under the heavy rainfall... Everything was in utter chaos!

Inside the royal palace...

The Emperor had been bitterly complaining to the Empress and the Princess when he received this letter...

"You had said that this Jun Mo Xie would eventually calm down in time. However, he first made a huge mess in the capital. And then, he patted his buttocks and went off to the Southern Heaven City. And now, he has done such a filthy thing over there. However, this is a good thing. This would've merely been a matter for gossip if it had happened with someone else. But, this has happened to Jun Mo Xie! And, this has created a perfect opportunity to attack him. And, don't forget how Jun Mo Xie had insulted those great scholars some time ago. Moreover, he had done so in front of the Emperor, his relatives, and the court officials! Besides, that Old Man Jun also despises the government officials. Military and bureaucracy have always been at odds with each other. In fact, they probably will remain so forever. So, wouldn't those scholars take this chance to hit the Jun Family when they're down...?" The Emperor's face was riddled with grievances. In fact, it seemed that his resentments had arisen since his expectations hadn't been met.

The Empress's expression was extremely cold as she sat to the side. In fact, it seemed as if she hadn't even heard a single word. There was a chance that she may have heard some of it. However, she didn't have any expression belying it. However, the Princess had a somewhat sad and worried expression on her face. In fact, she was looking anxiously at her father — the Emperor.

These things had been happening every once in a while inside the Palace these days. And, the main reason for this was that the Emperor wanted to use these opportunities as a pretext to try and talk to the Empress. However, the thread of conversation had turned to Jun Mo Xie this time...

However, the outcome was the same as the others... The Empress would sit cold-faced. In fact, she would be as calm and quiet as an ice sculpture. And, the Emperor would eventually finish talking, sigh, and leave...

The Princess could remember her father pining after her mother like that since ever. In fact, the Princess's heart felt a lot of pity for her father. After all, this had been the case for over ten years now. [How does he get by his day? After all, Father is the ruler of an empire. However, he has been fawning in a low voice over his wife in this manner for ten years! Doesn't this infatuation prove everything?]

[However, my mother hasn't changed... even a bit.]

[Why?]

[Uncle Ye is pitiful, and Father is also very pitiful...] Princess Ling Meng's heart had deep sympathy for both these in-love men. She didn't know what she could do to make it well. Nor could she choose a side...

How long had this been going on for? The Emperor knew that it had been going on for a very long time. In fact, it had been so long that he had forgotten when it had started. But, the Empress still remembered it very clearly.

The Empress had treated her husband with the respect after their marriage ceremony. However, the birth of Princess Ling Meng had left the Emperor besides himself with joy. Consequently, he had drunk himself well, and had said something which he should've never uttered in front of the Empress...

It was about the real reason behind the extermination of Ye Gu Han's Family!

This cold wall between husband and wife had been erected as a result. And, it had continued to stand strong to this date. In fact, it hadn't even thawed ever since. And, perhaps it would never thaw in the future either...

This moment seemed no exception either. So, the Emperor finished talking, and sighed as he looked at his wife's reactionless face. In any case, it would've been strange if she had reacted to his words of complain...

However, his efforts managed to exceed his expectations this time...

And, a strange thing happened!

"You needn't speak of how everyone in the city is gossiping about Jun Mo Xie. That matter is public knowledge! You were the one who sent him to the Southern Heaven City to die. And, you're acting innocent now...? Your Revered Majesty, why do you always use such methods? Can't you change your methods?" the Empress slowly spoke-up.

The Emperor turned around like a whirlwind, "What did you say? Do you know what you're talking about?"

"Of course I know what I'm talking about. What I'm saying is... can you not be so shameless? Don't you think that this will affect your image as the ruler of this nation? A real man acts courageously, and he takes responsibility. Do you think you can be considered a real man now?" the Empress spoke-up in a slow and clear manner.

The Emperor was astonished by this. [She would never say anything when I would talk to her in the past. However, this quiet woman has suddenly started to distort the right and wrong when I brought up Jun Mo Xie. In fact, she is even cursing me so bitterly! This is the first time this has happened in more than ten years! Why?]

[Why?]

She had been feeling guilty all those years, and she had wanted to redeem herself... She would dream of going back to the days of her youth...

The Empress had always acted in a dignified and graceful manner. She had never acted out in inflamed anger. In fact, she had never spoken so sharply even when she had been unhappy. This was the first time since that 'incident of the past' that she had behaved like this.

Princess Ling Meng's expression became one of fright as she looked at her father. Then, she looked towards her mother. She had long become accustomed to that cold wall between her parents. In fact, she couldn't even imagine witnessing anything beyond that between these two. Therefore, she was at a loss for a moment...

"I'm shameless? Why do you always say that I'm shameless? Why do you call me shameless?" His Majesty spoke-up in violent rage, "I'm the Emperor! I have to look out for the whole society! I have to give thought to everyone who lives in my lands! Where have I gone wrong? I have to look after millions of people! So, I have no luxury for words like, 'a real man'!"

#### Chapter 440: Jun Family's Influence

"For the country...? For the people in your land...? That's a great argument! How pompous of you! Why don't you say you were thinking of yourself? It's all because of your selfishness! It's because you fear that someone will overthrow you. You're wary and jealous of everyone! You don't trust anyone, and you don't dare to have confidence in anyone! You lift a person high up yourself. And, you knock them down into a bottomless abyss when they reach a high position and amass considerable power. You'll never be lenient with anyone. In fact, you'll use it to declare to your council of officials that there will be clouds if you turn your hand, and there will be rain when you remove it. You'll use that to show that you're omnipotent. Moreover, you will send this message to them with the help of these things —'obey me and you'll flourish. Disobey me and you'll die!' Do you genuinely think of yourself as someone very noble? No! You'll have them obey orders, right? In fact, they won't necessarily flourish if they obey you. But, you'll surely have them killed if they don't!"

The Empress gave him a biting look. Her eyes were as icy as a mountain-lake in winter, "But you can't do anything about it anymore, can you? So, you can only get emotional about it now!"

"This is rubbish! Yours are the eyes of a woman! What would you understand?!" the Emperor roared. He felt that his aloofness and pretense had no effect over his wife. So, the man couldn't control his anger...

"I'm talking rubbish? Am I wrong? You're telling me that I've accused you wrongly?! So, let me ask you this! What was the cause of the Ye Family's extermination?!"



The Empress gave a tragic laugh. Then, she suddenly stood up and spoke, "Who was behind the evils done to Jun Wu Hui? Who was behind Jun Wu Meng's murder? Jun Mo You and Jun Mo Chou were youngsters with unlimited prospects... what caused their premature deaths? What caused these young ones to be buried with so many troops? What left Jun Wu Yi crippled for ten years? And, why couldn't anyone even find Dugu Xiong's corpse?"

"These things... these things... How much do you know? How many cases are you aware of?!" It seemed like a deeply concealed scar had suddenly been exposed. His Majesty felt enormous pain... like his lungs had been torn apart. Moreover, he had started to panic. In fact, his face had started to convulse.

He had believed that the Empress had finally opened her golden mouth to argue. So, he thought that she'd argue the next day as well. And, these instances would only increase in the future. Therefore, he believed that there was a chance that their relationship of a husband and wife could gradually become normal.

However, he was unable to control his anger now!

The Ye Family, Jun Wu Hui, Jun Wu Meng, Dugu Xiong... these names were like sharp needles pricking at his heart. And, these needles had only left his heart to bleed in time...

In fact, the pain had eventually reached his very bones!

The Emperor would've dismissed anyone with a laugh if they had asked him these questions. Perhaps he would've admitted to the inconsequential things, and would've then covered his actions with weak excuses. But, the one asking these questions was Murong Xiu Xiu...

It was the person he cared for the most... The woman he loved the most!

The woman he had yearned for... even in dreams.

He had been dreaming about her ever since he had been a young man. He had been dreaming and hoping to get that woman even when he had become the Prince. He was ready to incur any costs to obtain her. In fact, he would've stinted to institute the most disgraceful conspiracy for that woman...

Then, she had eventually become his woman.

He had spared no expense to obtain her. He had climbed to the Emperor's position to obtain her. He had even deposed his previous Empress to obtain her. And, he had endured for ten years to get her back. For her... everything had been for her!

Things went further, and she finally became his Empress and came to his palace. But, his long-longed happiness lasted only for two short years. The people had remained the same, but the conditions had changed. The only thing which had remained was their status as husband and wife. However, they didn't have any personal connection between them.

He had dreamt many dreams late at night. He had always felt extreme hatred in love. However, he had never hated her inconsistent love for him. Nor had he ever hated the fact that he wasn't able to get her heart. Instead, he hated the person who resided in her heart. Things would've been different if it weren't for him. Then, there was an assassination attempt on Princess Ling Meng, and Ye Gu Han had suffered grave injuries. This had only increased the fissure between the two of them. Therefore, he had started to harbor even more hatred...

He had then heard of the deformity that man had been rendered with. His right hand had been chopped off. Even his Xuan strength had been annihilated. So, he would never be able to fight again. In fact, this condition was even worse than that of Jun Wu Yi's...

[Ha ha ha...]

The Emperor had felt a sense of tyrannical elation when he had heard that news.

However, his expression had become somewhat twisted and convulsed at this moment...

"I don't know much. I don't need to know much. But, I know one thing. And, I already know enough! Isn't it enough?" She looked at him coldly, "You wouldn't have gotten emotional if something bad happened to the Murong Family even though they are the First Family. But, why have you forgotten yourself when there's a sudden rise in the Jun Family's power? Why? Can you give me one reason?"

"Reason...? What reason? What reason would be there? How can a woman make absurd comments about major events that concern the nation? You have your own life... And, you live a good and comfortable one. How many things have you been involved in?" the Emperor grumbled as he impatiently took large strides back and forth.

"Haha... what have I seen? Jun Wu Yi's brothers were killed, and his body was destroyed. The Jun Family continued to decline for ten years, and they had no qualified successors. But, you were very cheerful then, weren't you? After all, you didn't feel threatened anymore; am I right? Your Majesty must've felt amazing when such great men were destroyed along with their might armies! After all, that must've been a handy deal; so, you must've felt great?"

The Empress sneered as saw the Emperor looking irascible in the face of her sarcastic remarks. She even felt a small sense of elation at this sight. In fact, it was the kind of elation one feels after they've given vent to their long-standing hatred. Consequently, her words had started to sound even sharper.

"What can you understand? What do you understand? What can you comprehend?" The Emperor's face went dark, and his voice was astonishingly loud. His Majesty no longer had any misgivings about his daughter who watched from the side as he glared in a malevolent manner, "Do you realize how weak and unstable our position as royalty was at that time? Our position was jeopardized! The Tian Xiang Empire was outwardly strong, but it was weak on the inside! You, you, you... do you know how serious those conditions were? No! You don't know anything!"

He looked down his body, and waved his hand energetically in resentment. He then thundered, "You don't know! You've never known! You've only known how to criticize to no end... only to complain endlessly! You only have baseless suspicions! You don't know! You don't know anything! Do you know what cost I had to pay so that we could walk this day?"

"I don't know much about these events. But, I know one thing very clearly. The whole thing changed the moment Jun Wu Hui took command and went into battle. The Yu Tang and the Shen Ci Empire still don't dare to invade our boundaries. Isn't that because of the Jun Family's contribution? Will you deny that as well? They were brimming with talented men... they wouldn't lose any battles... they had such divine capabilities! Yet, you had them killed! You used every possible means and methods; you used everything which you shouldn't have used, and employed every method you shouldn't have... to get them killed! But, there's something that I've never understood. That is... how can you have such lack of foresight?!"

Princess Ling Meng was shocked to hear this, and her entire body had been left to tremble. Her small hands had tightly covered her mouth. In fact, she was about let out a cry of alarm at one point, but she had somehow held it back. However, her eyes were filled with terror and despair.

"Father... don't tell me... you..."

"You're right! Jun Wu Hui was indeed a divinely talented general of his generation! He made clever tactics and excellent strategies. And, no man could contend with him! I've always admitted it! I've never denied it!"

Veins had pooped-up on the Emperor's face by now. He had a fanatic and fiery expression, "The other two empires wouldn't dare to violate our borders because of Jun Wu Hui, his brothers, and Jun Zhan Tian. That's something I already know! Do you understand? I know all of that! I know it full well! I know it much better than you do!" the Emperor's voice was like a low thunder, while his expression was one of hysteria.

"Then, why did you do that if you knew everything?" The Empress stared intently. "Don't tell me that you wish to rule a vanquished nation?!"

"Do you know the inside story? Did you know that only the army in the western part was under the Dugu Family's control? Moreover, that was the weakest one! However, Jun Wu Hui had eight-hundred-thousand men under him. Eight-hundred-thousand! Do you understand what eight-hundred-thousand means? Do you understand? No, you don't!

"Jun Wu Meng had another five-hundred-thousand! And, Jun Wu Yi had two-hundred-and-fifty-thousand! Moreover, Jun Zhan Tian supervised the entire military because he was the Supreme Commander. Do you know what that number entailed? And, do you understand what that meant?

"The four Jun generals had over 1.5 million men under them put together. The entire Empire's strength was at 2.6 million at that time! The Dugu Family had only two-hundred-and-fifty-thousand men, while the Murong Family had two-hundred-thousand. Then, there was the defense army... a motley crew... the forest rangers, and the guards. However, even these factions had people from the Jun Family inside their ranks!

"Do you know what this meant? Do you understand? No, you still don't understand! I will tell you!" His Majesty's eyes were bloodshot. He lowered his head and continued resolutely, "This meant that we would've been helpless if the Jun Family had decided to rebel. And, that would've meant my head! My head..."

The Emperor pointed to his head with his finger and roared, "I've been under a sword since the beginning! And, anyone could've taken my head with that sword if they wanted to! Do you understand? Could you have allowed such a family to exist if you were me? Disgraceful!"

"But, the Jun Family never had any intention to rebel. I know this, and I'm sure that you know this as well. In fact, you always knew!" The Empress looked at him coldly. In fact, her biting-cold glare had been following him as he was walking about, "Tian Xiang would have been named for the Jun Family if they had ever thought of rising in rebellion. And, it remains the same today. Do you deny this? Can you deny this...? But, they are loyal. So, why don't you let them rest easy? Why do you insist on getting rid of them so quickly?"

"Why do I wish to get rid of them so quickly? You've already spoken the most important reason. And, I've acted for that alone!" The Emperor smiled in a cruel manner, "Do you know what it is that you've said? Tian Xiang would've already been named for the Jun Family if they had wanted to rebel! Is this not a good reason? Isn't it good enough?"