

E Monarch 461

Chapter 461: What is True, and What is Not

The Third Elder was awfully broken-hearted. He was also quite mad and puzzled.

The Seven Swords and the Third Elder had covered their long and arduous journey in that grim mood, and had finally returned to the Snowy Peaks. And, they went to the Silver Blizzard City the moment they returned to the Snowy Peaks.

The entire sky had been enveloped in a blizzard. And, it was extremely cold.

However, the Silver City's people were obviously accustomed to that cold. So, they didn't care about it. In fact, they were habituated to such a nasty weather. After all, they had grown up in such conditions. These people were obviously unafraid of the cold, but the same couldn't be said for the injured ones. However, they didn't need to worry in reality. They had surely been branded as traitors by the Silver City. However, their companions had still looked after them after being angry at them for a few days in the beginning. Therefore, their injuries hadn't worsened.

After all, humans are emotional beings at the end of the day...

Mu Xue Tong had inquired whether they should send an eagle to notify the Silver City's higher ups of their arrival in advance. However, the Third Elder had resolutely shot down that idea after giving it some thought.

And, he hadn't said no without reason either. After all, the Silver City was controlled by the Xiao Family regardless of how things seemed from the outside. This had been particularly the case ever since the birth of Little Princess Han Yan Meng.

[I had always believed that the Han and Xiao Families were one family. Who could've said that we weren't the same? We hadn't even thought about this matter. But, it suddenly seems that the Xiao Family had been obsessed with this the entire time. The thought that I had never even considered has suddenly left my blood to run cold!]

[The letter would surely fall into the hands of a Xiao Family member first if we sent an eagle ahead of us. And, our Han Family would be pacified if that happened.]

Therefore, the wise Third Elder took the safer option, and decided to travel overnight to the Silver City. After all, the Lord of the City and the Old Master of the City would spot their arrival as long as they were to appear at the gates of the city.

However, he had never expected to be intercepted by the Great Elder Xiao Xing Yun at the base of the peak. Moreover, the Great Elder was also leading a team of powerful experts.

[How did he get the news to block me off like this?]

"Elder Brother? How come you're here?" The Third Elder looked at Xiao Xing Yun in astonishment. It wasn't that he was prepared to blindly trust a poisonous snake. After all, he knew that his Elder Brother had sinister motives. However, that man had still been his 'Elder Brother' for eighty years. So, he couldn't change the usual term of address when that man suddenly appeared in front of him.

The Third Elder had cursed him a million times over the course of the journey. But, he still found it difficult accept such a cruel reality when he was confronted with that familiar and amiable face.

"Elder Brother...? Ha ha ha... you still dare to call me 'Elder Brother'?" Xiao Xing Yun's face darkened as he gave him a deep look. In fact, it seemed like he would swallow him whole, "Two of my younger brothers are dead because of you. My grandson is half-dead because of you. My great-grandson is dead because of you. Moreover, two more of my brothers have been rendered crippled for life because of you! You..."

"Do you think you can still call me 'Elder Brother' after everything that has happened? How did you even dare to voice the words 'Elder Brother' in flattery? I won't allow you to address me like that!" Xiao Xing Yun sneered. His glare was as sharp as a knife, "Han Fei Yun, you've boldly created strife within the Silver City by having them killed. You've committed the greatest sin. And, the heavens won't tolerate this! However, you're still standing instead of kneeling and admitting your guilt!"

"Ha ha ha... Xiao Xing Yun, I won't call you 'Elder Brother' if you don't want! Anyway, why are you distorting the truth when everyone here is well aware of it? I'd like you to ask your conscience... do you still think that you're even worthy of being called 'Elder Brother'?"

The Third Elder's beard trembled as he gave a mournful laugh. He then slowly looked up, "Xiao Xing Yun, I had never thought that you would instigate this betrayal! You've betrayed the Silver City. But, you're too arrogant if you think that you can take the Lord's place. The heavens will not abide by such vile ambitions!"

"Instigate betrayal? Ha ha ha..." Xiao Xing Yun laughed insolently, "You say that I seek to betray? Everyone knows who the first true Lord of the Silver City was, right? So, let me remind you why my Xiao Family's ancestor died — it was for your Han Family's sake! My deceased ancestor had set up the Silver City, and he had advanced it step by step. And, he eventually died for it. However, the next generations of the Xiao Family had already been born by that time..."

"It is undeniable that the son inherits the father's mantle. So, tell me something Han Fei Yun — shouldn't Han Zhang Meng have succeeded the deceased Old Lord at that time?" Xiao Xing Yun had spoken in a very dark tone.

The Third Elder had been rendered speechless. These arguments sounded and seemed in proper accordance. In fact, it was reasonable to argue that the Han Family's ascension to the Lord's position had been inappropriate.

However, the Han Family had never let the Xiao Family down in any way. They had even been aware that the Xiao Family had been doing many injustices in the name of the city. However, they had ignored it. In fact, their guilty conscience had encouraged the rising flame of the Xiao Family's arrogance in the past centuries. Moreover, the Han Family's children had been taught to have tolerance for the Xiao Family from the start. And, that's why Xiao Han was able to cause such a huge disturbance in those days...

"What? You've got nothing to say now? The Han Family should've supported the Xiao Family's younger generation for the Lord's position if they had genuinely felt gratitude and brotherly love towards their benefactor! They should've tried their hardest to help. After all, this is the best action one can take after someone does them a huge favor. But, your Han Family had usurped the Lord's position in the sly of that nonsensical oath. In fact, they had shamelessly done this in front of the entire world!"

"The true Young Lord of the City became a follower of the Silver City as a result. And, the Han Family went from being the follower to the Lord! There's an old saying for this —'give a few drops of water, and they'll thirst for a whole river'! The Han Family usurped the city's command from the descendants of their very savior! Ha ha ha...! Moreover, the Han Family even managed to act with such self-righteousness after they had usurped those descendants' position! In fact, they were even praised by the entire world for their actions! This world is ridiculous! Don't you find it ridiculous, Han Fei Yun? Why don't you speak now?" Xiao Xing Yun became even more aggressive after he saw that Han Fei Yun had remained quiet.

"You're talking nonsense! Many parties were vying with each other after the defeat of the Great Alliance. The Silver Blizzard City had run into a lot of trouble, and was facing crisis as a result. The rest of the world would've swallowed us whole if order wasn't brought back by such extreme means! Therefore, the Han Family's chief had bravely gone forward. And, he had taken over the city. Moreover, he had step-by-step formed its base during unsure times! The Han Family had fought every battle from the forefront in order to protect your Xiao Family! Your Xiao Family was always in safe positions, and your sacrifices had also been the least! Can you deny that?

"Moreover, the Silver Blizzard City was only a medium-sized force in society in those days. But, it's now a world-renowned superpower that can crush anyone. Our Old Lord had taken-on a huge problem at that time. And, he had worked his entire life to bring the Silver City to its current status! It can be said that the Silver City has reached its present glory because of the Old Lord's efforts! Can you deny this? Why can't your Xiao Family speak to its conscience? It's very interesting to twist the truth. Isn't it?"

The Third Elder laughed loudly. His face was full of hatred, "Han Family has dealt out too many reparations for your Xiao Family over these centuries! We have cleaned our guilt too many times! Moreover, it wasn't for that oath alone! However, that oath has still allowed you to pressurize the Han Family for so many centuries! So, what grievances do you have?"

Both sides had shed all pretenses, and were in open conflict now. In fact, everything was out in the open now.

"Bullshit! The Silver City was the Han Family's home! So, why wouldn't he do his utmost for it? He obviously wanted to build a foundation for himself! So, he stole it from someone else! Ha ha... the Xiao Family's position was stolen by the Han Family, and you still have the nerve to speak with such a pompous attitude? In fact, you even have the nerve to involve the critical situation our city had faced at that time! But, why did the Han Family retain its control over the Silver City once that crisis had passed?"

Xiao Xing Yun roared angrily.

"Wouldn't the Silver City's prestige have remained the same if the Xiao Family had resumed control over the Lord's position? Would our city's power have weakened? What nonsensical argument is this? Are you telling me that the Han Family wouldn't have done their best for the Silver City if they hadn't been allowed to take over?"

Xiao Xing Yun snorted and continued, "Your words are truly shameful! You have been shamelessly using that excuse to cover your vile actions! You've been using that excuse to shove your argument down people's throats! Your family has been unbelievably vile! What shamelessness do you speak of? Your Han Family has been wearing the hat of shameless this entire time!"

"You are twisting words and forcing logic!" The Third Elder's eyes were misty and red. His finger trembled, "A leader's strength and courage relates directly to the power of the city he controls! Don't you understand such a simple thing? The next generation was young and cowardly at that time. So, how could they have supported our city during those turbulent times? How were those descendants better than the Old Lord's skill in strategy? You only wish to add more guilt by using those words. Moreover, you are even trying to use the memory of your ancestor's sacrifice in your selfish struggle for the city's control! Don't you think that you're being too despicable?"

Xiao Xing Yun sneered aloof and unconcerned, "Don't speak nonsense! And, there's no need to stall for time either, Han Fei Yun! Do you know why this old man is wasting so much time in arguing with you? It's because no one from the Han Family will ever come here from the Silver City's peak! In fact, I'm sure that no one will pass from here for two months! So, I've nothing to worry about! Ha ha ha... I've been holding these words in my heart for so many years! But, I've finally spoke them to my heart's content! I believe that I can speak these words squarely and uprightly to the whole world! And, I'm sure the whole world will be convinced by them!"

Xiao Xing Yun had roared those words out. But, he spoke with an extremely sad and hollow voice afterwards, "My second brother and I had planned this over our entire lives! And, our desires are within reach now. However, he won't be able to witness it! He will never be able to see it!"

"My second brother... he'll never see it!" he roared as his body trembled and eyes watered.

The Xiao Family's powerful and mighty Xing Yun and Bu Yu had never been separated since childhood. However, they had been broken apart forever when they had reached such an old age...

It was impossible to describe the pain of Xiao Xing Yun's heart...

Consequently, he had come to hate the Han Family's members even more... especially the ones who stood in front of him at this time.

"Xiao Bu Yu is to blame for courting disaster for himself and Xiao Han! What does the Silver City have to do with it? What did we have to do with it? But, you still wish to take it out on us? That's ridiculous!" Han Fei Yun gave a sharp glare as he secretly grasped his sword, "This is rebellion, Xiao Xing Yun! This is a rebellion against the Silver City!"

There was a flash as a sword was unsheathed with a "whoosh", and a piece of clothing fell to the ground.

"I break my ties with you from this moment forth! I discard the friendship we have shared!"

Chapter 462: A Battle of Certain Death

"Ha ha ha... good! Good! Good! End the ties! Break it clean!" Xiao Xing Yun laughed heartily. A light flashed in his eyes, and an increasingly murderous desire flashed in them. He then shouted after waving his hand, "Come everyone! Kill these rebels! Don't let anyone live! Kill without quarter!"

A circle of white-clothed men with swords appeared behind him with an explosion.

Han Fei Yun's body had flown backwards the moment he had spoken of breaking the relationship. He then quickly arrived in front of Mu Xue Tong, and spoke-up in an urgent and low voice, "Things don't bode well. I fear that there's a traitor amongst the Seven Swords. So, it won't end well here. You must protect the little princess. Escape the first chance you get. The Silver City seems close, but it still isn't within reachable distance. So, you must turn around and rush to Tian Xiang City. Then, you look for Jun Wu Yi and Jun Mo Xie! They're the only ones who can help us now! Remember this when we go all out and hold these people off! You must remember this! This concerns the Silver City and Little Princess's future. You mustn't fail!"

He quickly finished speaking those words while he was surrounded by silver-robed swordsmen. Each of them had a gloomy expression in their eyes, and a savage look on their faces. They had greeted him with respect by calling him an 'Elder' in the past. However, they showed no quarter as they unsheathed their swords towards him.

Xiao Xing Yun whistled, and five white-bearded men rushed out with drawn swords. The surface of their swords had two colors. And, they seemed to be oozing the anger of a dragon!

"Spirit Xuan second rank! The Doubled Snow Swordsmen!" the Third Elder — Han Fei Yun — cried out in alarm.

These were five gifted experts of the Silver City. These five men had suffered a devil's bite during cultivation in the past. But, these five men were very tenacious by nature. So, they had found another method so practice cultivation. And, this strange cultivation method had opened a different channel of meridians inside their bodies. Their meridians had been sealed off during the devil's bite. However, those sealed meridian had also opened up as a result of their successful endeavor.

Each of these five men possessed the strength of a second grade Spirit Xuan expert. However, this strange cultivation method had made each of them twice as strong as a regular Spirit Xuan Expert. Moreover, half of their composition was cold, while the other half was warm. And, they were capable of making these two sides intersect!

[But, these men had gone to the desert fifteen years ago to deal with their defects. And, there hasn't been any news of them since then! Everyone in the Silver City thinks that they've died there, and have gotten buried in the sand. But, they've suddenly appeared here like this!]

"What?!" The Third Elder quickly jumped back in shock. His expression in his eyes was one of extreme alarm, "How are you here? Didn't you people die in the desert fifteen years ago?"

The five men were expressionless. It seemed that they had no idea what this man in front of them was talking about. Their swords formed a colorful net of sword-attacks, and a biting cold murderous aura plummeted downwards with an explosive sound.

The Seven Swords screamed in unison as their glittering swords intertwined. Then, they charged straight ahead. They had done this to create a time window for the task the Third Elder had previously spoken about.

The Fifth Elder's beard fluttered, while his sword appeared like a dragon as he charged towards Xiao Xing Yun. His target had been his revered elder brother until recently. Therefore, he had tears in his eyes even though he had brandished his swords.

However, Xiao Xing Yun's eyes were full of cruelty and venom. He quickly raised his sword, and a cold light emanated from it as he attacked without mercy.

Xiao Xing Yun had brought a lot of people with him. In fact, there were no less than a hundred men there. Moreover, most of them were Earth and Sky Xuan level fighters. In addition, he also the his own might to rely on apart from the Spirit Xuan strengths of those five Doubled Snow Swordsmen. This setup had clearly indicated that he had intended to kill the Third Elder.

However, the Third Elder had taken little rest on his long and arduous journey to the Silver City in contrast. Moreover, he only had the Fifth Elder and himself. And, both of them were at the Spirit Xuan level only. The Seven Swords' strength was formidable, but they too would struggle while facing those five Doubled Snow Swords. However, the opposition had too many in numbers. So, they managed to turn the tide against them in the wink of an eye.

Mu Xue Tong was holding his sword. He had also pulled the little princess towards him. He was concentrated on using all kinds of tricks while looking for even the smallest of opportunities to escape. In fact, the lives of the others didn't matter to him anymore.

After all, the Silver City's safety was more important!

The Silver City would one day know of this truth if he and Han Yan Meng were able to escape.

[Xiao Family's conspiracy mustn't prevail.]

Even Mu Xue Tong believed that he was the best person for Princess Yan Meng to escape with under these circumstances. The Third Elder obviously had more of a chance to break the siege and escape with

the princess. But, he would continuously be hindered by the enemy the entire way. Moreover, Xiao Xing Yun was bound to keep his eyes on the Third Elder. It was possible that the Third Elder could still break away with some luck. However, he wouldn't have been able to escape far since he'd be burdened with the princess.

Therefore, the strong could only sacrifice themselves and delay the pursuers as much as they could in order for him to escape with the little princess.

However, this wasn't time for any courtesy. So, Mu Xue Tong understood what the Third Elder had said, and agreed to it in a tacit manner.

Han Yan Meng felt despair when she saw that group of people fighting to death around her. She was familiar with most of those people. They had regarded her as a treasured gem, and had carried her around in childhood. They were like close relatives to the little girl.

However, a few of her relatives had suddenly rebelled, and were attacking to kill the people who were trying to defend her...

[All of us are born from the same source. Yet, we're fighting to kill each other!]

Han Yan Meng started crying, and her vision became blurry. After all, she was pure-hearted, and didn't understand why this was happening... She only knew that the heavens had changed their colors...

The Third Elder had a sudden idea while fighting. And, he quickly drew back while the Fifth Elder and the Seven Swords took-on most of the fighting. He then suddenly issued a very violent and powerful sword light.

It seemed as if a sun had risen to the sky in the pitch dark of night!

Ten-thousand sword-lights rushed down... And, it seemed as if the galaxy itself was falling. The Third Elder had exhausted his strength with this sword attack.

This was a fight between life and death!

Mu Xue Tong silently grabbed the little princess, and dashed away like a whirlwind in accordance with his instructions when the Third Elder unleashed these sword-lights.

Xiao Xing Yun suddenly sensed that things were amiss. So, he roared, "Stop them! Capture that little wench!"

He then suddenly turned to the other side, and roared, "Do it!" And, things changed very suddenly with that order. One of the Seven Swords' sword-light changed directions, and attacked the limbs of his own brothers.

It was unknown how many years of brotherhood they had shared...

This attack drew out many screams. Three of the Seven Swords stared wide-eyed as blood flowed from their chests. They slowly turned to look mournfully at their younger brother. Their eyes were full of sadness, confusion, and anger....

That man's eyes were full of guilt. Then, a complicated expression bubbled up in his eyes as he confessed in a low voice, "I'm sorry. I'm a man of the Xiao Family."

The eyes of the three people filled with a sense of realization. Then, they fell to the ground with a serene expression in their eyes.

They hadn't had the slightest trace of resentment on their faces till the moment they died. Perhaps it could be said that they had regarded him as their brother until the moment they had died.

However, the last expression in the eyes of those three men had been one of endless pain...

"Ah..."

The Third Elder roared when he saw this frightening scene. He had already guessed that something like this would happen. He had already anticipated this misfortune, but still found it hard to endure the sight of it. He sprayed blood from his mouth and painted his beard red. The Elder waved his sword once, and

two perfectly round sword-lights were shot from it. These sword-light made many people scream, and their blood splashed onto his body. However, the two escaping individuals had been intercepted by now.

Han Fei Yun roared when he saw this. His body got enveloped in a sword-light as he dashed towards Mu Xue Tong and the little princess like the wind.

Han Fei Yun entered into their encirclement, and quickly moved Mu Xue Tong and Han Yan Meng behind his own body. Then, the old man acted like an un-crossable mountain, and shouted as his hair and beard flared open, "Who dares to come and fight me to the death?!"

Mu Xue Tong carried Han Yan Meng away without looking back in the backdrop of the mountainous blockade of his body. He had slipped away into the distance like smoke. However, Han Yan Meng's voice could still be heard from far off. In fact, her delicate and anxious voice continued to echo, "Third Grandpa..."

But, the Third Elder wasn't able to hear that anymore.

His glare was unwavering as he looked at the youngest of the Seven Swords. His eyes were filled with so much hatred that it seemed as if he would eat him alive. If eyes could kill... then the youngest of the Seven Swords would've been delivered to the doors of death after slashing with a thousand cuts!

"Why?" The Third Elder trembled as his eyes filled with tears. He slowly took a step, and asked with childish innocence, "Why? Wan Cheng Guang! Why? Why did you do such a thing? You were freezing in the snow when the Old Lord had brought you into the city out of compassion. He raised you with great care, and you even became one of the Seven Swords! So, why did you do such a thing?"

This nearly hundred-years-old man had been shedding tears for the past few days. It was visible how violently vicious these repeated mental blow had been for his psyche. The Third Elder had cultivated his mind to for nearly a hundred year. However, he still couldn't bear these blows...

Wan Cheng Guang's face had become somewhat pale under the Third Elder's hateful glare. He couldn't help but take a step back. His eyes brimmed with guilt as he murmured, "I... I also didn't... want to do this... Third Elder... But, I'm from the Xiao Family... My real name is Xiao Jian Meng! In those days... I..."

"Ha ha... didn't you think it was strange how I got this information, Han Fei Yun?! Do you realize the answer now? This is only one of the many great secrets of the Xiao Family! In fact, this only one of our many trump cards! Your Han Family is as good as destroyed, Han Fei Yun. And, it will be forgotten soon enough. But, I will leave your corpse intact for the sake of our previous mutual affection."

"Ha ha... Do you genuinely believe that this will happen, Xiao Xing Yun?" The Third Elder had deliberately chosen the narrowest part of a ravine to make his stand. He was only one man and one sword. So, he knew that he was going to die...

"Kill him! Kill him quickly! We can't let those two fishes escape our net! The consequences will be unbearable if that happens!" Xiao Xing Yun waved his hand as his face filled with a murderous intention.

The remaining three people of the Seven Swords and the Fifth Elder had been bathed in blood by now owing to the many rounds of skirmishes. However, they stumbled to the Third Elder despite the exhaustion, and made a stand next to him. Their glare was one of determination. And, their expression was one of indifference.

They wouldn't even look at the traitor anymore.

[He's unworthy of our gaze!]

The Third Elder roared as the crowd of enemies swarmed-in, "Stop them at all cost! They mustn't take a single step forward from here!" The other four replied their assentation. Their eyes were brimming with determination, and their swords were like silver-ice as their sheen filled the sky with a bloody light.

They were destined to be unlucky today.

But, they'd never allow themselves to be sacrificed like an ordinary beast.

[We will strive to give the little princess more time as long we draw breath!]

[Each moment adds a little more hope!]

[For the Silver City's future!]

[For the Silver City's tomorrow!]

The two sides clashed like bloody tornados. The ground was slowly dyed the color of cherries. The blood slowly started to collect together, and started to form small streams soon after...

The cold wind screamed. The snow fell like leaves in autumn...

Chapter 463: Three Assassins

Mu Xue Tong pulled the Silver City's Han Yan Meng tightly to him with one hand, and gave everything he had as he dashed through the snow. He didn't even dare to glance back. And, that's because he knew that his speed would slow down if he were to glance back for even a second. And, there was a chance that he would get caught if he was slowed down even momentarily. However, that would mean that the sacrifice of the Third Elder and the others would go in vain.

Therefore, he lowered his head, and escaped in grief and indignation with every ounce of strength he could muster.

He could hear those resounding and landslide-like explosions in the distance behind him. It seemed like a Spirit Xuan expert was giving everything he had. In fact, it seemed that he was even depleting his hidden tricks while doing his best to attack the enemy. Mu Xue Tong was only at Sky Xuan, but he had been considered a prodigy. There were many Spirit Xuan experts in the Silver City. So, he could recognize the meaning of such explosions very clearly.

The Third Elder was laughing shrilly in the distance, "Are you enjoying this, Xiao Xing Yun? Ha ha ha..."

Xiao Xing Yun sounded furious, "So, you're going all out? Everyone, use everything you've got, and cut that bastard up with your swords!"

After that, there was a sound denoting the clash of several weapons. However, a weak sounding mournful cry arose in the distance soon after. It was then that the Third Elder spoke in a resolute manner, "Come! Accompany me! Ha ha ha..."

"Bang!"

There was a violent explosion accompanied by a succession of blood-curdling screams...

A drop of tear flowed out from Mu Xue Tong's eyes.

He knew what this meant...

Han Fei Yun had sacrificed his life in that explosion.

[The Third Elder hasn't even left his body intact to stall time for us... to stall for only a little more time...]

Mu Xue Tong rushed through the dense and snowy pine forest with a 'whooshing' sound along with Han Yan Meng. He left faint footprints that lead to three directions. Then, he took a deep breath and used his entire strength to fly high. He flew for over two-fifty meters as a result. He looked around for a second. Then, he descended downwards behind a cliff that lay ahead. They then disappeared behind the cliff....

This diversion was the best way to escape.

Xiao Xing Yun arrived in extreme hurry after a while. He looked around very carefully at first. Then, he waved his hand in anger, "Search very carefully! The snow has footprints on it! So, they couldn't have gone far! Divide the teams, and carefully follow the three tracks! That little traitor is all that's left now, and he hasn't suffered enough! Look everywhere! Search every bit of land! Dig out three feet of snow if necessary! They don't need to be left alive if found they're found! Kill them without mercy!"

...

The Young Master Jun lay down to sleep. He had a good nap, and slept through till the next day. He felt like he hadn't had such a satisfying sleep in a good while.

Little Ke kept guard at his door. However, the little girl acted very diligently and responsibly. So, no one went inside to disturb his sleep.

It wasn't until noon the next day that someone came-in with news. It was about Baili Luo Yun. He had returned to meet the Young Master. Jun Mo Xie stretched his body for a moment, and sat up. He then muttered, "He has arrived three days earlier than I had expected!" he stood up after he had spoken those words. Then, he spoke, "I'll meet the youngster myself!"

Baili Luo Yun's entire body was dusty. So, the talented youngster looked travel-worn when Jun Mo Xie went to meet him. His face looked wind-beaten and exhausted. But, his expression had still remained resolute. In fact, it was as sharp as a spear's tip. Moreover, his body had a somewhat ruthless aura about it.

The young expert emanated a very cold, dense, and awe-inspiring aura as he stood there. And, the Jun Household's guards felt great unease because of it. In fact, they couldn't help but be vigilant against it. The guards who kept watch at the Jun Household's doors were merely ordinary soldiers. However, they were still veterans of numerous battles. So, one could well-imagine the grandeur and tyranny of an aura that could make them feel so uneasy...

A thin line of light flashed in Baili Luo Yun's eyes when he saw that Jun Mo Xie had come to meet him in person. So, he solemnly cupped his fist and said, "I'm back Young Master!"

"Welcome back!" Jun Mo Xie gave a faint smile, and asked, "How're things going?"

"I've killed those fifty people. There was no trace left in those places... except for those verses you had mentioned," Baili Luo Yun had spoken with a trace of indifference. But, even that indifference had contained incomparable confidence and pride.

"You did great! Thanks for the hard work!" Jun Mo Xie patted his shoulder, "I've set aside a place for you. Go and rest. Other matters can wait!" Jun Mo Xie frowned since Baili Luo Yun's disposition hadn't been rectified. And, the Young Master had clearly sensed the pride he had given his report with.

[This is unacceptable... An assassin with such pride...? How is that a good thing?]

"Young Master... What about my... my father... he..." Baili Luo Yun's head sank as he spoke-up with some hesitation.

"I said that the other things can wait. Didn't you hear?" Jun Mo Xie's expression was profound. His eyes then looked meaningfully at Baili Luo Yun while emanating absolute authority.

Baili Luo Yun understood the meaning of this. His complexion became green as he said respectfully, "This Luo Yun will do as you bid!"

Jun Mo Xie laughed windily, "I know that you ask this out of filial piety towards your father. But, this is the only time I'll allow it. This mustn't happen again!"

Baili Luo Yun's expression turned extremely respectful as he said, "Many thanks, Young Master!"

"An Emperor is never short of hungry soldiers. I promised you something, and I've obviously fulfilled it... They entered Tian Xiang City three days ago. Moreover, I've made residential arrangements for your esteemed father. You don't need to worry about your father. In fact, you might as well take a look. Follow me!" Jun Mo Xie walked forth, and led him to the back door.

Baili Luo Yun was a smart man. He only needed to be given an indication, and that was enough for him to understand. There was no need to explain any further. He'd understand everything well-enough.

There was an impressive house not far from the Jun Manor.

"The Luo Yun House!"

Those big and golden characters hung glittering in the sunshine. They appeared glorious in gold.

There were many guards at the gate. They were full of vigor, and had doughty statures.

Baili Luo Yun's father sat on a chair at the center of the courtyard. He wore a luxurious black leather gown, and his face was brimming with satisfaction and happiness. There was a pretty young maid behind him, and she was massaging his shoulders in a diligent manner. Several servants were busy cleaning the courtyard.

Baili Luo Yun was pleasantly surprised to find his father's complexion much better than before. His complexion was robust and rosy. And, each bit of him had a healthy luster to it. In fact, it seemed like the man had been reborn. He seemed to have become younger by a few years. Even the wrinkles on his face had receded by a fair margin.

"This is your home — Baili Luo Yun's home," Jun Mo Xie smiled as he spoke softly.

"My home..." Baili Luo Yun was astonished.

He had a home and a family in the past. But, that 'home' of the Baili Family was a place of bitter memories for him. It had been a cage which was hard to escape from. He had never harbored a sense of home towards it.

[How could I ever have thought that I would have a home here? A brand new home at that! A home only for my father and me...]

Baili Luo Yun's heart felt warm as he looked at the flowers and trees in the courtyard. It was a wintry November at this time, but the young man still felt warm.

His previously ice-cold heart had suddenly warmed up!

Jun Mo Xie smiled faintly, and walked out in a calm manner. He had left Baili Luo Yun to experience the new-found gifts of having his own home.

The Young Master obviously understood such a feeling. Therefore, he didn't disturb the youngster.

Baili Luo Yun became emotional, and rushed out after a moment. His expression became solemn, and his body straightened as he saw Jun Mo Xie. Then, he kneeled in a serious manner.

Jun Mo Xie used his left hand to support Baili Luo Yun. He had obviously realized that Baili Luo Yun had intended to kneel and bow in patronage. So, he spoke-up in a melodious voice, "What are you doing? I'll obviously make proper arrangements for you since you're working for me. I've done this so that you don't have to worry. This is the natural order of things. So, don't do this. I want a reliable subordinate. But, I don't want you to kowtow like an insect!" He then stiffly pulled him up.

"Maybe the Young Master feels he ought to do it. But, this is like a heaven-sent favor for me," Baili Luo Yun spoke solemnly as he stared at Jun Mo Xie. His gaze had filled with reverence for the first time aside from when he had awed at Jun Mo Xie's strength.

"But, you needn't do this! Please understand one thing, Luo Yun. You don't need to say much. You also understand matters. So, we might as well speak openly about this. I won't reward you if you become useless to me. And, you must realize that your value isn't limited to a house! We still have to rampage over the entire world! And, I need your skills for that! Remember what I had said earlier — that was the only time. This shouldn't happen again!" Jun Mo Xie spoke slowly.

His words had been blunt. Perhaps a bit unpleasant as well...

But, Baili Luo Yun knew that it was genuine truth. And, that had made these words pleasant to hear.

Everyone dreams about good things falling in their laps from the heavens. But, no one ever think about why it should happen. Why would good things ever fall in one's laps? Why would anyone reward oneself if they don't have any skill or haven't done anything of significance?

This is exactly the reason why one gives presents to the government official, and not a farmer. After all, an official can do the work which a farmer can't. Obviously, it'll be a different matter if one looks at his flower of a daughter...

However, understanding is truth one thing. And, being able to state it so frankly is another. Moreover, doing what one has said was a different matter altogether. [Don't the big families have hundreds of talented fighters in their ranks? Even the richest man in the world may die while paying for their subordinates' expenses of each talented individual was assigned a house full of servants...]

[The Jun Family has many peerless experts. So, why is the Young Master taking care of me in this manner? Don't tell me that I'm more useful than those old foxes... or even a Sky Xuan expert?] Baili Luo Yun lacked the self-confidence when it came to this matter.

Therefore, Baili Luo Yun nodded in a solemn manner, and didn't show how moved he was again. Instead, he spoke-up firmly, "I understand."

"Ah... excellent! It seems that you've forged ahead in your Xuan strength's ranks as well! You were at Jade Xuan Peak the last time I saw you. But, you're at the peak of Earth Xuan's lower level now! You will be at the middle rank of Earth Xuan after one more step! This rate of progress is quite fast. It's indeed lightning fast!" Jun Mo Xie looked over, and spoke-up somewhat flabbergasted.

"This is thanks to those divine pills from the Young Master. I had broken through the blocked of Jade Xuan after I took that pill. And, I was able to advance to the Earth Xuan Realm. I continued to absorb the strength of the medicine for some time. And, even I found it difficult to believe that taking a pill could make me advance so greatly. It's genuinely a heavenly pill!"

Baili Luo Yun again looked emotional the moment that topic was brought up. His limbs trembled in excitement as he recalled the moment when that earthen color had dazzled on his body for the first time. He couldn't help but become red.

[My divine pill should increase a person's cultivation by ten years, right? However, his breakthrough goes against the usual norm!]

Jun Mo Xie stared wide eyed. He gaped, but remained silent. [What kind of person is he? Many of men had taken that pill before. But, no one had advanced levels in such a terrifying manner. Yet, this guy has advanced so much with only one pill? He made it to the breakthrough. That's possible. But, he went even forward until he reached the peak of the next sub-level?]

[This speed is amazing!]

This advancement was still far short of the seven-eight levels Jun Mo Xie could advance in a single time. But, Jun Mo Xie understood the difference well.

[I can jump more than ten levels in one go. But, that's because I have the ultimate cheat-tool — the Hong Jun Pagoda! So, my body's aura can be replenished anytime and everywhere. But, this Baili Luo Yun has nothing. He only has innate skill. But, this kind of innate skill is not normal!]

[It is worth it to invest a lot in such an innate talent. The only bad thing about this youngster is that he still can't follow strict orders. But, this important rule can be established slowly and steadily.]

[After all, the canal is formed when the water flows.]

"There's a new task for you. You will be responsible for training your body's overall development this time." Jun Mo Xie handed Baili Luo Yun some loose papers. These papers had a few body poses along with some notes on them. Each posture was extremely odd... almost exceeding the limits of the human body's ability to adapt.

Baili Luo Yun took a quick glimpse of the paper. And, he couldn't help his eyes from flashing. An average person would look at these postures, and would find them outlandish and undoable. However, Baili Luo Yun was a genius at martial arts. Moreover, he possessed excellent comprehension ability. So, even a quick glance was enough for him to assess that these postures contained endless potential.

Baili Luo Yun genuinely thirsted to improve his strength. So, this was the best and biggest rewards for him.

Baili Luo Yun had been slaughtering people the entire journey here. And, he had gradually started to enjoy it as well. Therefore, he was quite satisfied with things. However, he had always enjoyed the process of increasing his strength in a gradual and procedural manner.

Therefore, Baili Luo Yun didn't hesitate, and agreed to it without a thought.

"Here is a list of names. I want you to memorize them. You must kill one of these people after every three days you spend in training." The glint of a cruel light flashed in Jun Mo Xie's eyes, "You decide who you'll kill first. These men are our enemies! However, there isn't much of a hurry when it comes to dealing with them. So, we can clean them up slowly. There is no urgency. Do you understand?" Jun Mo Xie said slowly.

Baili Luo Yun nodded slowly while taking the precious papers into his possession.

"I want you to reach the Earth Xuan Peak in three months," Jun Mo Xie moved his hands behind his back as he said these words lightly. "I will help you break through from Earth Xuan Level when the time comes. I will get you to the first ranks of the Sky Xuan Realm... maybe even higher!"

Baili Luo Yun trembled. But, there was a fiery light in his eyes.

Jun Mo Xie returned to his courtyard, and heard Guan Qing Han play her flute in her area next doors. The music was mournful. It still emanated a heavy pressure. In fact, it emanated an unbearably heavy pressure....

Jun Mo Xie sighed and shook his head. His gaze then fixated on the two crazed figures that were inside his courtyard at this time. They were the two young kids who had previously nipped at their fingers to write their blood oaths.

Those two kids didn't have a tongue, and one of them didn't even have an arm. Moreover, it was the right arm.

He had given them a training manual before he had gone to the Southern Heaven City. The level of training was three to four times of what children their age could endure. Moreover, the foundation of their bones weren't good. So, their prospects weren't good even if they trained with everything they had.

However, Jun Mo Xie was surprised to find that these two children had somehow persisted even though they appeared so thin that they would get blown away by a gust of wind. In fact, they had somehow increased their capacity to train by three to four times.

It could be said that the Spirit Devourers and Heaven Destroyers were training to their limits. However, these two kids were training themselves to the edge of their lives by the same analogy. They would train four times a day, and they wouldn't stop unless they felt that they would die. Moreover, they would resume training the moment they felt that even a little strength had return to their bodies.

And, they had been doing this for the last three months!

They had already broken the wooden pikes that Jun Mo Xie had grounded for them. In fact, they had done so several times.

Jun Mo Xie felt a cool feeling in his heart when he saw the two going ahead with his training.

It had surprisingly come as a surprise to Jun Mo Xie. After all, the Young Master was also a human at the end of the day. He had experienced two lives, and he had a cheat-tool like the Hong Jun Pagoda. But, he still nurtured the same expectations another person would. Therefore, he would also be amazed by things that were beyond his expectations.

Those two eleven and twelve year old kids were very weak, but they seemed like wolves when they fought.

Two very hungry wolves at that!

There was no hesitation from their part. And, they showed no mercy either. Every punch and every kick could be called fatal. One of them would often get kicked down, and would be left to struggle on the ground for a while as a result. However, the other would only look-on with a cold and unflinching glare. There was no scope for helping the other in getting back to their feet. In fact, the fallen kid would be given a few more kicks.

And, the fallen kid would also get up to fight back the moment his opponent eased up. The two would continue to batter each other every day in this manner. They wouldn't even spare each other's throats; nor the solar plexus... They would even batter the area between each other's legs.

Attacking that area without any misgivings could genuinely kill a person...

The two knew that should've been helping each other. But, now wasn't the time to do so. Instead, now was the time to fight a decisive battle. After all, they would be killed by others in the future if they couldn't endure this training now. And, wasn't it better to die by one's brother's hand...

The training undertaken by those two was simply shocking.

These two kids' innate talents differed very greatly from that of Baili Luo Yun's. However, the same couldn't be said for the murderous aura these two kids exuded from their bodies. In fact, their ruthlessness was even more prominent in comparison.

Those three had an assassin's disposition, and Jun Mo Xie had discovered this. In fact, they'd make for the three great assassins!

Old Man Jun had visited these kids once. However, he hadn't been able to forget their frightening nature and training even after he had returned to his study...

In fact, Old Man Jun had said that those two kids weren't even human. A General who had waged battles his entire life had been left this shocked by their training. This showed how fierce their training was...

Jun Mo Xie's courtyard had been clean before he had left. In fact, the ground had become as strong as steel after the ferocious spiritual strength he had unleashed some time ago. But, he found the ground was full of potholes now. The magnitude of change wasn't very great. But, it was still damaged.

Moreover, that damage had been done by the bodies of those two kids.

Even heavy iron hammers may fail to do this kind of damage. However, the bodies of these two kids had managed to do this over the course of their training in the last three months. So, it could be seen what condition their training had reached by now...

Jun Mo Xie sighed at first. Then, he clapped his hands and said, "Come here, you two."

Jun Mo Xie was surprised when the two came over. They had grown a bit taller. Their muscles had also hardened. However, they had an expression in their eyes which belied their indifference towards life. And, this had surprised Jun Mo Xie more than anything else.

The two kneeled in unison, and lowered their heads in respect. This was their set-greetings to Jun Mo Xie. The Young Master had told them not to do this. But, they never changed, and had continued to do this. The Young Master also knew their stubborn personalities. So, he had let it slide...

"Get up. I want to see how far your bodies have been trained," Jun Mo Xie extended his hand. Then, he released his spiritual sense, and checked their meridians. He sighed lightly at his observation.

The two kids were training extremely hard. No one could deny that. Their bodily strength and coordination had made great progress.

However, the two kids' innate restrictions were still there.

The innate talent of those two was much lower than that of Baili Luo Yun's. In fact, the difference was that of the sky and the ground... or the heaven and earth...

Jun Mo Xie felt that he would need to refine a different kind of medicine for them.

He fished out two 'Ten Years Dan' from his chest pockets, "Take these! Then, practice your Xuan cultivation practice accordingly."

Their innate talents were meagre. And, they only had three months of foundation in their support. So, these two would suffer immense pain if they were to take these pills so rashly. In fact, the pain would be tenfold of what an average person would suffer. But, Jun Mo Xie had realized that these two kids' nature was quite fierce after he had seen their training.

[Others wouldn't be able to endure it. But, those two little kids certainly would.]

It could be said that these two kids would see very quickly results once they had ingested these Ten Years Dans. However, these had begun their Xuan cultivation only three months ago. Therefore, their cultivation was only the beginning of the starting stages. In fact, they had only reached the third level of Xuan Cultivation at this time. However, these Ten Years Dan pills were in defiance of the natural order of things. And, the absorption of their efficacy would prove to be an uncomfortable experience even for a Silver Xuan expert...

However, their meridians would expand to an extreme degree if they willed through it. The more one bears, the more one gains. For example, it would make no difference to a Spirit Xuan expert if they took

those pills. There wouldn't be much of a reaction. They would only absorb ten years' worth of pure aura after ingesting the pills. That's all.

But, these two kids had weak meridians. Therefore, using these pills would give them a great start. In fact, it could even compensate for their lack of innate talent.

The muscles of their bodies underwent a painful expansion as Jun Mo Xie looked-on. Their gnashed teeth made loud 'buzzing' sounds. However, they still pushed through it, and didn't issue a single groan of pain. They blindly and silently endured it. Even an adult wouldn't have been able to endure one-tenth of that pain...

They were sweating bullets!

Jun Mo Xie watched as their weak bodies shudder. However, Jun Mo Xie suddenly remembered a knife-wielding technique when he saw that trembling stump of arm — left-handed blade technique! Moreover, it was one-armed blade-wielding technique!

This blade-wielding technique was extremely severe. In fact, it was a killer technique!

This blade-based technique had been designed by a senior in his previous life. That man's swordsmanship was world-famous. His strength was even more renowned. Unfortunately, his enemies had managed to ambush him one day. And, they had chopped off his right hand at that time. But, they deliberately didn't kill him. After all, his skillset would be useless since his right hand had been chopped off. So, he wouldn't be able to use it anymore. His enemies had obviously planned to cripple him so that they could shame him in front of the entire world.

However, that man wasn't discouraged. He took immense amounts of pain to contemplate matters. And, he created an extremely powerful left-handed blade-based technique after ten years of hard work. He then went back, and killed his enemies after his blade-based technique was ready.

That man had been no match for his enemies even when he had been at the peak of his prowess. However, his enemies weren't even able to fight back once he had designed and completed his new blade technique. And, this was enough to assess the true hegemony of that technique.

However, that blade-technique was extremely dangerous. It was an extremely strange method as well. It could cut the user's body if they weren't careful. And, that's because every chop against the enemy would come from a very unexpected angle. This obviously made it very difficult for the enemy to guard against the strikes. But, it was also quite dangerous to practice as well.

However, this was the only method that kid with only one arm could use.

The other kid's limbs were still intact. However, Jun Mo Xie had planned to teach that other kid a very strange sword technique as well. The two of them would form a very deadly force after they had combined their blade-techniques in a harmonious manner.

The two kids had suffered the pain for an hour. They had lain twitching on the ground during the later part of it. Even their sweat wasn't visible. In fact, they had clenched their teeth so hard that even the root of their teeth had started to bleed!

The veins of their body had pulsated to their skin.

The two of them were still gnashing their teeth even though the severe pain had ended by now. In fact, their muscles had become so taut that they couldn't even open their mouths...

The Young Master's formidable spiritual power surged forth, and loosened them up. The two finally opened their mouths, and saw each other's pained expression. They were covered in wisps of blood. But, their eyes were filled with an expression of non-acceptance.

"This is a set of blade-wielding moves." Jun Mo Xie conveniently grabbed a blade. He held it in his left hand, and raised it as he said, "This will suit you!"

The face of the one-armed kid became fervent as he heard this. And, he watched Jun Mo Xie's every move with careful attention. His eyes were opened wide. He didn't even dare to blink in fear of missing some minute detail...

Jun Mo Xie moved slowly. His Xuan strength circulated under his feet as he moved, and left shallow footprints on the hard ground. He then moved into the same track marks as he demonstrated that technique for a second time, "Did you understand?"

The one-armed child nodded twice. His talent was very limited. He wouldn't have understood much of them technique even if it had been displayed once again. In fact, he wouldn't even have remembered many of the strokes.

However, he had clearly understood Jun Mo Xie's intentions — he could practice this technique by re-tracing Jun Mo Xie's footprints.

Then, Jun Mo Xie taught the other kid a different sword technique, and told the two of them to practice. Suddenly, the guards came-in and announced, "The Dugu Family has sent an invitation. They've invited the Young Master for dinner today."

Jun Mo Xie was stumped by this. [What? I'm invited for dinner? What's this?]

Chapter 464: The Consequences of Being Forced to Loose Weight

[Is the Dugu Family is looking for me to talk about Dugu Xiao Yi's marriage?] This was the only possibility that came into Jun Mo Xie's mind. [How will I face it if they raise the issue of an engagement?]

The invitation card spoke very clearly. It was quite concise and comprehensive. It only had one sentence, "The Jun Family's Mo Xie is requested to come to the Dugu Family's Manor for a visit," The inscription unexpectedly bore Dugu Zong Heng's name.

The handwriting was very clumsy. In fact, it was almost unsightly. But, the tip of the writing brush seemed to have been full of hostility. It was bold and uncouth. So, it was evident that Dugu Zong Heng had personally written it.

This was an exceptionally simple invitation card. But, it portrayed the importance the Dugu Family had attached this meeting. It also depicted their resentment...

Old Man Dugu Zong Heng had written it himself. And, this was enough to tell the importance they attached to it. But, the concise wordings pointed straight to the heart of the matter. So, that one sentence belied their helplessness and unwillingness regarding the meeting.

The Young Master secretly made his calculations. [The Dugu Family would also wish to re-establish the little girl's reputation apart from talking about my marriage to her, right?] After all, that girl had returned in front of everyone with a big belly. It was one thing to joke about it. However, wouldn't any resolute person find it odd that her belly had become that big in only three or four months? But, the fact remained that the little girl's reputation had been ruined. And, this point had also touched Jun Mo Xie.

The Jun and the Dugu Family could be considered well-matched as far as the facts were concerned. In fact, there were no others who were better matched. But, the Dugu Family would never allow their only granddaughter to be a concubine. In fact, it wouldn't matter to them even if they knew that Dugu Xiao had still retained her chastity. Moreover, they wouldn't understand that Jun Mo Xie only cared about Guan Qing Han.

It was extremely necessary for them to establish the little girl as the first woman. Guan Qing Han had sacrificed her virtue to save the Young Master. And, it was pleasant to say this... But, she had been the Young Master's elder sister-in-law at one point of time. Therefore, there would always be some social trouble in the name of Jun Mo Xie's elder brother even if he were to undertake the wedding ceremonies with her. After all, Guan Qing Han's past status would never allow her to become his true wife. However, the little girl had great relations with Guan Qing Han. So, it would make for a good arrangement if the little girl was the first wife, and Guan Qing Han was the concubine.

Jun Mo Xie frowned. [This must be why the Dugu Family is looking for me so urgently.]

However, wasn't Old Man Dugu looking for the wrong person? Shouldn't he have been looking for Jun Zhan Tian instead of Jun Mo Xie? After all, Jun Zhan Tian was the figurehead of the Jun Family. Moreover, the matter of a youngster's marriage must be brought to their parents and grandparents first...

Moreover, Jun Mo Xie wasn't someone who could face Dugu Zong Heng this directly.

After all, his status wasn't sufficient.

Jun Mo Xie was currently covered in fame, and had experienced rampant military success. However, this wasn't good enough.

This aspect of status has nothing to do with one's personal strength. Instead, it was the natural order of respect amongst men. The Young Master was a youngster even if he had become wise during his two lives. Moreover, marriage was a major turning point in one's life, and Jun Mo Xie had no experience in this matter.

Jun Mo Xie folded the invitation card. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Jun Zhan Tian confronted Jun Mo Xie's misgivings after he heard about this. However, the Old Man only curled his lips as he disdainfully spoke, "What's so strange about this, Dear Little Grandson? It seems that Old Dugu Zong Heng had no choice but to come to this after he heard the roars of that tigress at his home. I reckon that it's that tigress who intends to see you in person. That old fool Zong Heng wouldn't have called you in any other scenario. I assume that he's still unwilling to invite you on his own... That's all there is to it... Anyway, aren't you usually very bold and daring? So, why are you acting so timid and fearful now? Get lost, and don't trouble this old man's training!"

It had to be said that the two old men had been interacting their whole lives. So, they had developed a good understanding of each other's thought processes. And, Old Man Jun could speculate the truth by merely giving it a second's thought.

Moreover, his speculation wasn't even close to the facts — it was exactly the same as the facts!

The old man heartlessly expelled the overly-suspicious youngster with his final words. He then continued with his cultivation and training. After all, the opportunity to make such a breakthrough was rare to come by. So, wouldn't he wish to stabilize his newly attained realm as soon as possible?

Jun Mo Xie smiled bitterly, and suddenly discovered a thick stack of papers on the old man's desk. They were folded open. And, it was evident that these were the secret reports that had been brought by the messenger eagles.

The one on the top read, "The western province's magistrate has been killed at his home. It is suspected that he was killed by the assassin — 'Drifting Cloud'. This assassin has been recently wreaking havoc. The

assassin only left behind a verse of a poem, 'Good and evil will eventually be distinguished. Heaven's justice can't be escaped'. So, it seems like the work of that 'Drifting Cloud' only..."

Below that was a short reply in Jun Zhan Tian's handwriting...

"Investigate quickly!"

The next one was mostly similar. Jun Mo Xie counted. There were fifty of them. Not a single extra. And, each of them was regarding the fifty people Baili Luo Yun had killed.

Jun Mo Xie could only sigh. [Such an efficient intelligence system is remarkably desirable. Baili Luo Yun has barely arrived in Tian Xiang City. But, a summary of his actions are compiled here. Moreover, the Old Man has already read everything. This shows that the information had arrived before Baili Luo Yun.]

The Jun Family controlled this intelligence network. However, it was a pity that its real master was the Imperial Family of Tian Xiang Empire. In fact, it wasn't under the Jun Family's influence by any means. This meant that this network would become useless in case of a feud. Moreover, it would also become a huge problem.

Jun Mo Xie frowned. He put the sheets back to their original place, and slowly walked out. He had barely exited when a guard hurried over. The guard was followed by a grotesque-looking fat individual.

Jun Mo Xie was shocked at first. He was almost unable to recognize Tang Yuan. He hadn't seen the Fatty for three months. But, he had become even fatter now. Moreover, it wasn't like he had become a little fatter — he had accumulated several more layers of fat around him!

Tang Yuan was merely round in the past. But, he looked like a triangle now. His huge head appeared like a sharp point while the rest of his body spread out to the sides.

"Third Young..." Tang Yuan became excited and emotional when he saw him. He pounced as he came over while panting. It seemed that the Fatty wanted to give him a bear-hug.

"Stop!" Jun Mo Xie jumped in fright. "What are you doing these days? And, how did you become so fat?" He looked his counterpart over, and frowned. "You could at least see the back of your legs earlier. But, even that isn't possible anymore!"

"Ah... Don't you say...!" Tang Yuan put-on an expression of misery, "Your brother has been suffering this entire time. I was forced to lose weight over these months..."

"What? Forced to lose weight...? Bullshit!" Jun Mo Xie exclaimed, "Did forcing you to lose weight result in you reducing it from one-fifty kilos to two-hundred?"

"Wrong!" Tang Yuan addressed Jun Mo Xie's mistake in a serious manner. "I wouldn't have been so depressed if it had been two-hundred. It has reduced to two-hundred-and-sixty from one-eighty..."

"I... fu*k!" Jun Mo Xie couldn't close his gaping mouth. A long while passed before he shouted, "You went from one-eighty to two-hundred-and-sixty in only three months... that's over eighty kilos! Damn! Even a pig won't gain so much after eating itself fat for three months!"

"Pig...?" Tang Yuan spoke with annoyance. "I have a special reason for this!"

"What special reason? Don't tell me..." Jun Mo Xie blinked. It had to be said that Fatty Tang's body type couldn't be described as "fat" anymore. The word appropriate would be "horrifying" now...

"That vile woman Sun Xiao Mei has been forcing me to lose weight every day!" Tang Yuan wanted to cry, but no tears came out, "She whips me every morning, and shouts at me to run! She chases me, and makes me work out every day when I have nothing to do. And, not one person takes my side at home! In fact, everyone chases me along with that vile woman! How did my life become so hard? Someone even follows me to the Aristocratic Hall to supervise me!"

"I still don't understand. After all, everyone is trying to get you to lose weight. Moreover, these are very effective and regular methods to lose weight. So, how are you still like this?" Jun Mo Xie became even more puzzled.

"Exercise is exercise, Brother. But, I get hungry after I exercise! In fact, very hungry... I almost starve!" Tang Yuan gnashed his teeth and shouted, "I get hungry after every work out! I used to have three meals

a day before I started this weight-loss thing. And, one meal used to contain six steamed buns back in the day. But, I have nine meals a day nowadays! And, one meal has ten steamed buns! And, that doesn't include the midnight snacks..."

Jun Mo Xie nearly fell down. A black line appeared across his face. [This man... must be a legend, right?]

"Of course... getting fatter makes sense!" Jun Mo Xie nodded repeatedly. His face was full of amazement, "No wonder you've become so wondrously huge in this short period of three months! It is very... reasonable. After all, you have such a strong justification for it. In fact, it would've been bewildering if you hadn't gotten fatter..."

"Exactly!" Tang Yuan sighed as he comforted his belly, "I could at least hold my belly in my arms in the past. But, I can't even do that now..."

"It seems that we still need some tougher exercise..." Jun Mo Xie's face was full of regret.

"You still want to toughen the exercises? I'll break through three-hundred kilos if you make them any tougher..." Tang Yuan looked unhappy. He gave a lowly look to Jun Mo Xie. Then, he again became very excited, "Anyway, we've created a miracle, Third Young Master! Your pills have sold for extremely high prices in these past three months! Moreover, it's unceasingly breaking records these days! The bottles you had left behind have turned into a treasure trove! We've made about nine-hundred-million shining-white silvers! And, this is only Aristocratic Hall's share! The Little Prince's share isn't included in this! His share has already been delivered to him..."

"What the...? Nine-hundred-million? Nine-hundred-million...?" Jun Mo Xie was thoroughly shocked by the immensity of this number. It's not that he had never seen money before. In fact, he had expected that those medicines would sell for a lot. But, he had never expected them to be so popular...

[I can conveniently prepare eight to ten bottles of those medicines. But, wouldn't I be able to make hundreds of million with my fingertips if genuinely got down to business? Has this world lost its mind? Isn't this too much of an exaggeration...?]

"Moreover, I haven't even auctioned the medicines you sent recently — the Bone Tempering Pills." Tang Yuan mysteriously raised a finger. "Would it work out, Young Master? Are you sure that it's fine to auction it?"

Chapter 465: Tang Yuan's Agony

"It's only a medicine, isn't it? We have plenty of it!" Jun Mo Xie's lips curled in disdain, "Sell it off! The more popular — the better!"

"I feel relieved since you've said this. I'm describing this Bone Tempering Pill as a dream medicinal supplement that 'remodels one's entire bone structure, restructures one's entire muscles and meridians to give them a stronger body, and advances their Xuan Levels very quickly!' How about this? Isn't it trendy? Our medicine can be described in big words on paper now! Your medicine is magically effective my brother. Us two brothers will work together. We'll work our hearts out. And, we will provide the public with a divine medicine they had dreamed of!"

Tang Yuan laughed and slapped his belly with a 'bang'. He then spoke with joy, "I have made up another tag line for this medicine. You listen to this, 'Are you worried about your mediocre aptitude? Are you worried that you can't match up to your peers despite your great efforts? Are you worried that you can't advance? Are you worried that you can't become strong? Come take this pill. It 'remodels one's entire bone structure, restructures one's entire muscles and meridians to give them a stronger body, and advances their Xuan Levels very quickly!' It'll have the desired effect! You will become a talented genius! Silver and gold will rain from the sky. Take it now! Come! What are you waiting for? There's no time to lose! Or, the opportunity will be lost! The divine medicine has arrived! It'll be on auction for only seven days! You simply can't be late! Don't miss this and regret it your entire life!' How is it? Isn't it good?"

Tang Yuan seemed very satisfied as he finished speaking. He then saw that Jun Mo Xie's frozen eyes were looking at him.

"Fatty Tang... you, you, you... you've come from planet Earth, haven't you?! Damn! Why didn't you tell me?" Jun Mo Xie grabbed his shoulders. His eyes were brimming with tears now.

"What? What... planet Earth?" Tang Yuan was stumped. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "You are a planet! You think I want to be fat...? I don't want to be fat!"

"Ah...? So, you're not?" Jun Mo Xie sighed with disappointment, "It's just you have immense talent...! You can come up with such great advertisements. You'd have great prospects in advertising if you went to Earth!"

"Advertising...? Right... We will only be able to sell these things if we spread the word far and wide!" Tang Yuan suddenly realized the meaning of those words. However, he didn't stop looking reverently at Jun Mo Xie, "Third Young Master, you're the one with the greatest talent in reality. That one line embodied everything! This brother's admiration for you is as endlessly as the water of a large river. My mind moves like a violently surging gale on the ocean when my eyes behold the sight of you!"

"Bullshit! Stop talking nonsense! How do you plan to sell these? What minimum price do you estimate for them?" The Young Master didn't know whether to laugh or cry as he waved his hand.

"The efficacy of these pills is likely to be the same as those previous ones. And, they had sold for a base price of around half-a-million silver for two pills at the auctions," Tang Yuan flashed a ruthless smile. He had extended five of his fingers, "My initial estimates suggest that the price can also go over five-million for two pills. It's important to know that the invitation cards should be addressed to the Xuan-based families of the society. After all, these medicines are what they need the most!"

"..." Jun Mo Xie was rendered speechless. He had suddenly realized that the person facing him was an out-and-out business man. [This chap is asking an exorbitant price of five-million for two small pills! Moreover, this is for two pills which aren't even important to me...] It must be mentioned that only ten silver taels could treat an average household of three to a comfortable lifestyle for half-a-year!

"This is going to be so much fun! This fu*king fun!" Tang Yuan was excited. His eyes were filled with the gleams of glittering silver, "I had always dreamt of such a day... when I would sit comfortably and count the money. Damn! But, I had never expected that I would get to count silver notes instead of silver coins! In fact, I sometimes even pull a muscle in my hand while counting the money. This is so much fun! I count it every evening myself, and the counting continues to till midnight! This is great..."

"You... are too great!" Jun Mo Xie felt defeated. He had never imagined that he would ever be left so speechless. [The entire wealth of the Aristocratic Hall couldn't even be replaced for silver coins. In fact, it can be estimated that even one-tenth of our money would be enough to fill a room. And, Fatty Tang would probably lose a good amount of weight over one night's counting session. In fact, he would tire himself several times in one night since that much silver would cover the entire room. I guess he'd lose about ten kilos of weight in one night. Even the food he'd eat wouldn't affect his weight...]

[Hang on?] Jun Mo Xie was thinking along these lines when he suddenly hit upon an exceptional idea that could make Tang Yuan lose weight. And, he couldn't help the corners of his mouth curling into a slight but extremely sinister smirk.

Tang Yuan was struck dumb when he saw this, and stood shivering at this side, "Is someone scheming against me? Do people still wish to scheme against me? I have Song Shang to protect me. Should I still worry about someone scheming against me?" Fatty muttered to himself in a low voice.

"Ah, Fatty... Tell the buyers that the transactions in the coming auctions will be done in either gold or silver coin. We won't be accepting silver notes anymore! Moreover, the auction will be postponed by ten days so that everyone gets enough time to mobilize the funds," Jun Mo Xie suddenly remembered his 'golden' technique. He figured that he could use the metal from those coins to temper and improve his Blood of Yellow Flame sword.

Moreover, this would also make Fatty Tang lose weight.

"Huh? We're transacting in silver and gold coins from now on?" Tang Yuan was confused, "What do you want with those, Third Young Master? We'd end up with a lot of coins!"

"I have a lot of use for them! Just do what I've said!" Jun Mo Xie replied in a serious manner.

"Okay. You must have your reasons. I'll go and get it done..." Fatty Tang was somewhat puzzled, but he still agreed to it. "But, I ask the Third Young Master to do me a favor first."

"What happened?"

"It's still that vile woman — Sun Xiao Mei. Ah, you don't know... This about that bottle of pills you had given me to give to that woman. Sun Xiao Mei took half of it. But, a problem arose when she finished it," Tang Yuan issued a prolonged sigh.

"What happened? Were there any side effects?" Jun Mo Xie's interests were suddenly raised. [Tang Yuan's appearance makes it seem that something must've gone wrong.]

"Ah, the medicine is very effective! That vile woman has become slim now. She can nearly be compared to Princess Ling Meng in that regard! But, the problem is that... her face looks even uglier now!"

Tang Yuan tried to cough up tears he said, "Third Young Master... you see... Sun Xiao Mei can make anyone lose their wits if you look at her from behind. But, she can scare away a million men once she turns to face you! This kind of a contrast makes me crumble. And, this is particularly true when I think that she's going to be my wife in the future..."

"The face...? How is it ugly?" Jun Mo Xie became very puzzled. That pills he had supplied should've helped in getting and maintaining a nourished and youthful appearance. So, how could her face become ugly? This obviously defied the common logic.

"Xiao Mei had eaten some unknown thing when she was a child. Then, she suddenly started to become ugly, and also started to lose shape. That's why that woman wasn't easy on the eyes. But, her body started to change after she took your medicine. In fact, it seemed that even her bones were slimming down. Ah, she became increasingly slimmer... I looked at her, and used my position to give her another half-a-bottle from the hall's quota..."

Tang Yuan embarrassingly scratched his head as he looked at Jun Mo Xie, "I saw her again after a few days. And, her rear-profile had started to look even more fascinating! In fact, it had become far more elegant! But, her face... had become even uglier! Moreover, there were many kinds of swellings, lumps, and warts! Ah, Third Young Master! You don't know of the pain in my heart! It's such a good figure... it is a pity that..."

Jun Mo Xie understood the matter when he heard this. It seemed that Sun Xiao Mei's huge built wasn't her natural one. That unknown thing she had eaten had somehow wrought damage to the hormonal balance within her body. Consequently, her constitution had started to lean to a more manly form. But, the Young Master's pill had become an antigen to that. Therefore, Tang Yuan had unintentionally forced that poison out of Sun Xiao Mei's body by giving her more of the medicine. However, this had resulted in a drug-abuse. And, that poison had moved towards her face, and had left it to look horrible. This had then resulted in the current scenario where 'one would harbor nefarious thoughts when they'd see the rear, but retreat in fear and self-defense when they'd see the face'. It was a subtle situation...

"It's not that serious; I'll go and take a look. I don't think it's that big a deal. I'll return you an undeniably beautiful wife. But, you must be careful, Fatty. Sun Xiao Mei will trample you if she becomes beautiful..."

"Huh?" Tang Yuan said shocked, "Don't mention about. It's not that I don't know. That woman has a fierce character. And, she'll probably get worse if she looks better. But, it wouldn't kill me, right?" He thought for a moment, and became distressed. He then said in agony, "But, her face will kill my desires at this rate if she doesn't..."

"Ah, I've got to admit that you've got a point..." Jun Mo Xie consoled. Then, he rolled his eyes and said, "But, my dearest brother Fatty... let's be honest for a second... I understand that your wife has this peculiar condition. But, wouldn't it be considered cheating since you had misused your position at the Aristocratic Hall to get those medicines?"

"Uh..." Tang Yuan rolled his eyes.

"You also know the strict rules of our Aristocratic Hall. We sell our items many after increasing their prices by many times of the highest market price. And, we'll deduct the cost of those pills from your shares," Jun Mo Xie showed no quarter, "And, I'll confiscate your shares if these things happen again."

"Don't... No. No. Don't do it Third Young Master! That's only shining money! But, that shining money is my life! You plan to take your brother's life?! I'm your brother..." Tang Yuan let out a miserable and mournful shout. It was like the man's heart had been ripped out. He teared up, and his nose ran as he retorted, "You can't do this! You're very cruel, boo hoo..."

[I had never imaged that this would happen to me. I've been robbing the whole world with my tricks. But, I never thought that Jun Mo Xie would rob me upon his return! Is it karma...?]

"Then, you take your pick — do you want a pretty wife or do you want money?" Jun Mo Xie held his hands behind his back as he ignored Fatty's pleading.

"This... this... money is my life... But, a wife is like a lifeline. A lifeline is more important... Of course, I want the wife..." Tang Yuan grunted and grumbled as he rolled his eyes at first. Then, he finally made a determined decision.