

## E Monarch 71

### Chapter 71

#### Heart of The Emperor

As Princess Ling Meng started describing what happened, His Majesty's face slowly became more serious, a chilling coldness accumulating within his eyes. His Majesty's head was lowered as he listened quietly without making even the slightest movement.

This matter involved the safety of His Majesty's own daughter. In addition it had also dragged in another 'crucial' person. This person had often remained indifferent to political affairs, but his influence and the consequences that would result from his actions were simply too huge, so much so that the Emperor himself may not be able to bear it. It could even be said that the Emperor was unwilling to face it!

As an Emperor, at a time when His Majesty's own daughter had suffered from an assassination attempt, His Majesty would instead have to be concerned about a playboy debauchee. Could there be no love amongst the royal bloodlines? How sorrowful!

Finally...

"According to your story, Jun Moxie had went to deliver a warning to you before the assassination attempt occurred?" The Emperor pondered.

"Yes. Although I cannot be certain, I believe that there should not be any suspicions regarding Jun Moxie's movements. Maybe he found some clues regarding this incident," Princess Ling Meng firmly said in a low tone.

"Clues... Considering Jun Moxie's worthless character, how could he have any ability to find any clues... Never mind, these are all minor details now. At any rate, another master appeared and saved Jun Moxie before taking him away. In other words, Jun Moxie did not die, correct?" The Emperor's eyes turned mysteriously profound.

"That is so, Imperial Father," Princess Ling Meng knew that His Majesty had purposely avoided speaking about Ye Guhan even though he knew of his existence. She herself chose not to mention his name.

"If that is the case... then why is Jun Zhantian losing his mind? He even chose to disregard the consequences of drumming the Generals Summoning Drum!" The Emperor pondered about it. "His grandson is still alive and the Jun Family had yet to fall to the point of having no descendants. Why then would he act this way? This action of his is simply..."

His Majesty stood up and slowly stepped forward two paces, his fingers gently tapping on his forehead. His Majesty slowly continued. "His grandson is not dead, but Jun Zhantian inexplicably went mad, en... One thing is clear, Jun Moxie has yet to reach home. Hmm, I believe that Jun Zhantian must have received news that his grandson was in danger, but after Jun Moxie did not return for so long, he became mad. Hehe, it seems I have underestimated them. This stone... how many birds will it hit?" His Majesty gave a cold smile.

Princess Ling Meng suddenly remembered something, her beautiful face turning pale. If it was truly as she had imagined, then the consequences resulting from this misunderstanding would be something beyond her ability to bear!

"Since Jun Moxie's life was no longer in danger back then, why did you not send a message to the Jun Family? Meng'er, you were too careless this time... Meng'er, did you remember something else?" Seeing Princess Ling Meng's face turning pale, the Emperor smiled as he tried to suppress his anger. However, his eyebrows and eyes have already started showing some signs of his fury. His daughter had always maintained herself in both manner and conduct, why would she suddenly make this mistake today. Could it be that the assassination attempt had shaken her heart that badly?

"Imperial Father, before Jun Moxie's corpse was found... ah, I meant during the time when we were unable to find his body, I had... I had sent someone to inform the matter to Senior Duke Jun. It was only after the messenger had left that the old man appeared and carried away the injured Jun Moxie," Princess Ling Meng stammered in an awkward manner, seemingly having difficulty speaking.

"And then? The message has been sent. But since Jun Moxie was found to be alive, did you not take any steps to remedy the situation?" The Emperor looked at his daughter with a look of disappointment. At the same time, his heart was shaken: Old man? Could it be that there are others protecting my daughter besides that Ye Guhan? If that is the case...

His Majesty, the Emperor contemplated about it, his face remained passive.

“Considering how much impact this news has, steps must naturally be taken to rectify this misinformation. However, all my bodyguards were injured back then. Thus, I had entrusted this matter to Murong Qianjun to send a message to Senior Duke Jun to inform him that Jun Moxie is still alive. If the Senior Duke have yet to receive the news that Jun Moxie is still alive, then the only possibility...”

“That is not a possibility, but clearly, Murong Qianjun did not send any messenger to report this matter to the Jun Family. Otherwise, this would not...” His Majesty let out a sigh. Traces of savagery suddenly appeared on his clear face before disappearing instantly. “I have no more questions, you should go take some rest.” After saying that, he stroked Ling Meng’s hair. A pair of empty eyes gazed over the Imperial Palace. His Majesty suddenly felt that this bright yellow colour that represented nobility was an eyesore and discomforting for the heart.

This time’s assassination attempt was strange, hehe... how unexpected. His Majesty slowly deliberated, his eyes suddenly turning sharp!

En, I supposed the time has come to ‘wash’ the palace.

I wonder, after using human blood to wash it, will it become even brighter?

In the distance, the pounding sound of the drums of war went silent. The entire world was flooded by a suffocating sense of foreboding.

Jun Zhantian, I hope that you do not make things too difficult for me...

A complicated expression flickered across the Emperor’s eyes and disappeared almost instantly.

Watching the back of his departing daughter, His Majesty crossed his arms and pondered for a moment. Suddenly, he spoke. “Shadow, go and have a look. Do not interfere unless it is necessary and tell Jun Zhantian that his grandson is still alive. If he wants to throw a fit, that is fine, but he must not cross the line! Hmm, while you are at it, help me pass something to him. En, things have been too peaceful since this old soldier was holding it in all these years...”

After saying that, His Majesty picked up a writing instrument and wrote a few words. Rolling up the note, he turned around and said. “Go.”

A gust of wind blew and a figure, which seemed imaginary, floated out into existence. In just a moment, the slip of paper that the Emperor was holding had disappeared while a faint shadow could be glimpsed shooting out of the Imperial Palace.

“I will allow you to be presumptuous. However, in return, I will be borrowing your sword!” The Emperor whispered softly, a meaningful smile spreading out upon His Majesty’s face.

The Emperor had always been thorough in his plans. However, he had underestimated the extent of Jun Zhantian’s fury! In addition, this message of his was somewhat late...

“Men, send in the Great General Dugu Wudi,” The Emperor sighed loudly: En, for now, I will let things remain in a state of chaos. Hopefully, there will be those who understand and choose to restrain themselves. As for those who cannot understand, then there would be no reason to keep them. Rather, they have no qualifications to be kept.

It is not that your father is not allowing you to duke it out. Rather, only those that could emerge victorious could be considered a capable person! However, you must toe the line! Those that cross this line will be inviting a calamity upon themselves...

...

After Princess Ling Meng left the Emperor, she returned to her own bedchambers. It was only then did she realize that the only things that her Imperial Father had questioned were all regarding the Jun Family. All of them were questions pertaining to Jun Moxie. Instead, not a single question was spared for His Majesty’s own beloved daughter who had been the main target of the assassination attempt!

Why?

This assassination attempt had simply too many suspicions within it. This assassination attempt had involved herself, an Imperial Princess and was possibly a sinister product of the other Princes. Could it be that in Imperial Father’s heart, this attempt was no less important than the Jun Family?

Otherwise, was Imperial Father avoiding something?

Or...

Recalling the mysterious look in her Imperial Father's eyes, Princess Ling Meng could not help but tremble for a moment. Thankfully, Uncle Ye and that mysterious expert are protecting me...

As she was feeling distressed, Princess Ling Meng reached into her bosom and retrieved the three small and exquisite flying daggers. Handling it with her hands, she observed that the flying daggers are only as big as her palms; they are slightly curved in a beautiful manner and as thin as a layer of onion. Even when all three were stacked together, their added thickness remained thin. Princess Ling Meng felt curious. How could this little flying dagger radiate such a powerful presence, to the extent of forcing a group of murderous assassins to retreat without a fight!

The flying dagger laid in silence, its body reflecting the light of her lamp, emitting a crystalline radiance, colourful and dazzling to the extreme. If one were to see such a flying dagger, they would naturally assume that this was a toy belonging to one of the kids hailing from rich families. Who could have imagined that this was a weapon used by an absolute master?

However, I would definitely recognize this unique flying dagger if it should appear before me again! Princess Ling Meng thought happily to herself, her heart filled with a sense of longing: This absolute master is one that even Uncle Ye respects. What kind of person could he be?

## Chapter 72 Dugu Family

The great general Dugu Wudi headed back home, his heart feeling suffocated and his mind confused. When Dugu Wudi who was at the military barracks outside the city heard the sound of the war drums, he quickly brought a group of soldiers with him and rode towards the city. The first thing he did after entering the city was to go to the Imperial Palace and request an audience with the Emperor.

He had already issued the command for his soldiers to make preparations for war. If Jun Zhantian were to rebel, then his Dugu Family's military forces would be the only one in the city capable of protecting the Emperor. They were also the only ones capable of going against Jun Zhantian's forces!

However, His Majesty had maintained his normal, secretive attitude regarding this matter. This caused Dugu Wudi to become perplexed.

The current situation had escalated into a very serious level. A drastic change may happen to Tianxiang Kingdom's ruling power at any moment, the Imperial Palace itself may end up being occupied. But His Majesty only said four words to him: Do not be impatient! After which, His Majesty sent him home to find his old man. His Majesty did not allow him to return to his barracks and even obstructed his attempt to organize the defences for the Imperial Palace. All of these events were simply too inconceivable.

Dugu Wudi felt himself going dizzy...

A dispirited Dugu Wudi finally reached his home. Before returning to his own courtyard, he immediately went to find his father, Dugu Zongheng. The end result however, left this great general in command of hundreds of thousands of soldiers extremely embarrassed...

"You PIG! Damaged goods! You dragged this senior out from my bed all for the sake of this little problem? You unfilial son! Disobedient animal! How could I have brought up such a worthless thing like you? Next time you leave the house, don't you dare claim that you are my son! I cannot afford to lose so much face!"

Grandfather Dugu was extremely furious, his voice rose to the point where everyone in the residence could hear him. His spittle was sprayed all over his son's face while his finger harshly nudged Dugu Wudi's head, each nudge pushing his head backwards. "Can't you use that pig head of yours to think? Or is it filled with dog poop? Rebel?! Your mother's fart! Let this senior enlighten you, even if our Dugu Family were to rebel, Jun Zhantian would never rebel! Even if the Emperor himself wants to rebel against himself, Jun Zhantian would also never rebel! Get your sorry ass back to bed and sleep! I don't even have the strength to deal with you anymore, you downright pig! Idiotic pig! Son of a bitch!"

In the end, the great general Dugu Wudi was kicked out. Grandfather Dugu angrily turned around and went back to bed, but a fierce voice instantly spoke out. "You old thing! What did you say just now? Son of a bitch? Who is Wudi's mother? If Wudi is a pig, then what kind of animal are you?! Is there nothing in your head but dog poop?! You pig! You utter, downright pig!" Following that, the sound of several forceful slaps could be heard.

The great general Dugu Wudi massaged his buttocks, his face filled with resentment. He shouted inwardly: Give him a vicious beating! Serves him right!

Still feeling confused, Dugu Wudi returned to his own courtyard only to find it filled with noise and brightly lit. His wife and his third lesser concubine were still awake. Seeing him return, they quickly went up to him. After asking about it, he was informed that his daughter had ran back home while crying, her tears gushing down like a waterfall, and no amount of cheering her up was effective. After that, she locked herself up in her room, not stepping out at all until now. From the looks of it, someone must have bullied her.

Dugu Wudi who was feeling highly dispirited suddenly turned furious. Why is everything going awry today? In addition, who in Tianxiang City could have the guts to bully my baby girl? Watch as I mobilize my army to exterminate you! Accompanied by his wives, he broke into his daughter's room and started to coax her. After coaxing her for a long time, she finally stopped crying. After drinking a bowl of soup, she finally calmed down.

"Who exactly was it that dared to bully my daughter? Tell me their names! This senior will wipe them all out!" A ferocious expression could be seen on Dugu Wudi's face. Watching his dear daughter cry to the point where her eyes had become swollen, he could not help but feel his heart aching. A sound roared within him: I want to vent this fury!

"Father," Dugu Xiaoyi stared at her father and continued. "You must help get justice for me."

Dugu Wudi was suddenly beset by a sense of foreboding: Could it be that my daughter was... He could not help but become nervous. "Who is it?"

"Who else if not that stinking brat, Jun Moxie from the Jun Family! Today, he provoked me to the point of death! Father, you must help me exact justice!" Dugu Xiaoyi pouted and said in an aggrieved manner.

Holding it in for a whole day, Dugu Xiaoyi had been waiting for her father to come back so that she could complain to him. After that, she would ask her father to bring her brothers together to beat up Jun Moxie and take back the Meteoric Iron while they were at it. She knew that asking these of her mother was pointless, as her mother would not agree. Thus, she did not.

After hearing Dugu Xiaoyi's words, Dugu Wudi gave out a sigh of relief: It turned out that I was worried for nothing. Ah, I feel much better knowing that did not happen. After that, he frowned and said. "Hehe, my good daughter. if it was someone else, this senior would have no fear at all. Even if it were one of the Princes, I would still go catch him and give him a beating for your sake. But if it is Jun Moxie, that would be rather difficult considering the current situation." Of course it would be difficult. As of right now, not even Jun Zhantian could tell the whereabouts of his grandson. How could Dugu Wudi locate

him? Even if he successfully manage to locate him, he may not have the courage to lay his hands on him! That old thing had thoroughly lost it this time...

"Could it be that father is afraid of the Juns? My life is so bitter! Argh, I am so angry I could die!" Dugu Xiaoyi started crying again. She turned her body and turned her face the other way. For some unknown reason, whenever she recalled Jun Moxie's face, she felt an urge to beat him up. An inexplicable fury would rise up from within her heart, giving birth to the desire to beat away that detestable smile off his face.

"Sigh! That is not the case," Watching his daughter cry out again, Dugu Wudi felt helpless and quickly tried to explain. "The truth is, this brat... Sigh, we do not even know if he is still alive or not. We cannot even find him. Let's wait until he is found before we proceed. Later on, father will definitely help my dear daughter get her revenge! We will take good 'care' of that brat!"

"Ah? You do not know whether he is alive or not? What happened to him?" For some unknown reason, Dugu Xiaoyi felt a stabbing pain in her heart. She turned around, her wide-open tear filled eyes gazed at her father. At the same time, a sense of fear welled up within her... What am I feeling fearful for?

"I heard that Princess Ling Meng had suffered from an assassination attempt tonight. That bastard who does not know his own limits tried to send a message to the Princess. In the end, the Princess was saved but that debauchee ended up becoming the scapegoat."

Dugu Wudi's face was a mask of exultation. He did not take note of the pale face on his daughter's face after she heard his words, her small hands clutched tightly together. Dugu Wudi continued. "... His chest was stabbed once. After that, a Silver Xuan assassin kicked his chest several times. In the end, someone took him away. As of now, we do not even know where he is. The way I see it, that brat's life is hanging by a thread."

Dugu Xiaoyi gave a light moan as she became petrified. She suddenly felt as though her heart had turned into a void of nothingness. Her mind became a complete mess; not a single word from Dugu Wudi's mouth registered within her mind. Even his voice had seemingly become distant and unclear...

"There is no need to worry! If that brat is still alive, father will catch him and bring him here for you to personally beat his buttocks! Beat it till it is broken, hahaha..." Dugu Wudi laughed happily. It was then that he realized something was wrong with his daughter's expression. He extended his hands before her and waved about. "Xiaoyi? Xiaoyi!"



"Ah? Oh!" Dugu Xiaoyi became startled, as though she had just been awakened from her dream. Her face became calm as she slowly lied down upon her bed. "Father, I feel tired. I want to sleep..."

"Very well, have a good sleep. Once you wake up, everything would be all right. Father needs to go drink some wine to wash off this unpleasant feeling. Today has been a very bad day..." Dugu Wudi shook his head and exited, absolutely oblivious to the fact that something was very wrong with his daughter...

Dugu Xiaoyi pulled up her blanket, keeping her entire body concealed beneath it as she lay motionless. Her mother and some of her concerned aunts softly spoke a few words to her. However, Dugu Xiaoyi was not able to hear what they said at all. Her heart was in a state of chaos. She could not understand what was going through her mind, nor could she understand the reason for her inexplicable desire to cry. Her nose felt sour and her heart was throbbing irregularly. Tears flowed out silently from her eyes until the bed covers turned wet. She did not even realize when her mother and aunts left the room...

Could he be, Could he actually be... dead? But... But I, but I have yet to...

## Chapter 73

### Massacre In All Directions

Jun Zhantian's face was set with iron-like resolution, his entire being radiating killing intent. He left the military stage and went to his horse. There were a few places that he intended to personally see through. He must personally see it burn to ashes; only then could he comfort his grandson's 'soul in Heaven'!

Suddenly, a part of the dark night seemingly moved, and a figure that appeared to be even darker than the night appeared mysteriously. Even though this person was standing before them, everyone was unable to discern the features on his face.

"Shadow? Why are you here? Did His Majesty send you?" Jun Zhantian turned and asked.

"This is a present from His Majesty," Shadow raised his hand and a piece of white paper floated towards Jun Zhantian's hand. A smile seemed to appear on his blurry looking face and he spoke out in a peculiar and terrifying voice. The voice transformed into an invisible thread, which then entered Jun Zhantian's

ears. "His Majesty said that your grandson should still be alive! His Majesty also told me to give you this word: Moderation!"

His voice placed a certain emphasis on the word "moderation". His voice was dry and seemingly laced with a sense of unwillingness, as though he was not accustomed to talking this much.

"Moxie is alive?" Jun Zhantian became ecstatic as he suddenly recalled that person he entrusted Moxie with: Could it be that he was the one who had saved my grandson? Jun Zhantian stepped forward and asked anxiously. "Shadow, how is my grandson's injury?"

Shadow had already turned around and was about to leave, seemingly unwilling to stay. Even if the person before him is the most powerful general within the military forces, he had no interest in staying. However, after hearing Jun Zhantian's question, he reluctantly answered. "Still alive, heavily injured!" After saying that, he shook his head. He then stopped to gaze at Jun Wuyi who was beside Jun Zhantian. Giving out a "heng", he then disappeared without a trace.

The spark of hope that had ignited within Jun Zhantian was suddenly extinguished by a pot of cold water! Jun Zhantian felt himself shocked senseless. The gaze that Shadow had used when looking at Jun Wuyi had seemed as though he was trying to send a message: Even though Jun Moxie would not die from his injuries, his condition would not be any better than Jun Wuyi.

Jun Zhantian's heart, which had been rendered lifeless, had just turned warm, but was now frozen solid! Could it be that the only heir of my Jun Family would end up being a cripple? With these thoughts swirling within his mind, Grandpa Jun's heart exploded with raging fury!

If he was not mistaken, the ones who would always go against his grandson back then were the Meng and Li Families!

Screw your granny! I do not care if today's matter have anything to do with you people, I will just throw all of you onto the chopping board! Consider this your unlucky day!

Jun Zhantian cursed loudly within his heart. He jumped up his horse, gritted his teeth and shouted. "Soldiers, follow me! We are going on a raid!"

... .. The reason Shadow glanced at Jun Wuyi was not for the sake of giving Grandpa Jun any 'message'. He simply had a different reason...

This night was destined to become a bloody one!

Jun Zhantian's sky piercing rage would encase the entirety of the capital city in a rain of blood!

Within the capital city, warhorses galloped back and forth. One after another, the residences of many high-ranking officials were set on fire. The sounds of weapons clashing and miserable screams filled the air.

Before Shadow had appeared, countless men in black had started moving about in the darkness. Like ghosts, they infiltrated the residences of court officials one after another...

Some of the residences had no opportunity to resist at all and the officials fell before their swords, blood splattering all over...

Two Assistant Ministers of Justice, Meng Zhiyu and Li Qiao are both members of the Meng and Li factions respectively. They are also supporters of the Eldest Prince. They were usually very unfriendly towards the Jun Family. However, tonight, their two families had to suffer greatly.

As the war drums were still resounding, several men in black leaped into the residences of these two court officials. Beginning with the gatekeepers, these men left a trail of blood as they made their way into the main hall before breaking into their target's bedrooms. The two pitiful court officials did not even get the chance to say a word before having their heads lopped off. Thankfully, their family members were spared. Soon after, their residences were set on fire, their flames burning brilliantly in the night...

One of the current Imperial Censor, Tie Yan had always been at odds with Jun Zhantian. His son had followed Jun Zhantian to war but ended up breaking military laws and was beheaded. This incident caused him to become outraged for years. Hearing the sound of the war drums, he thought that he finally had the chance at striking down Jun Zhantian. Quickly getting out of bed, he got dressed and started working on an impeachment petition. Halfway through, his window was suddenly broken as several masked men in black charged in like ghosts. They snatched up the unfinished impeachment

petition, glanced through it and sneered. Rolling up the petition, they brutally forced it down this old man's throat before cutting off his neck, the petition also cut in half in the process!

Another Imperial Censor Zhou Mengcheng had come forth after Jun Wuyi lost the war and ended up becoming a cripple. Back then, he had charged Jun Wuyi with the accusation of being an inept commander, leading to Jun Wuyi's dismissal from military duties. Tonight, he had drunk some wine and was sleeping together with one of his concubines. Unexpectedly, he would end up being snatched up in his birthday suit. Next, his prized possession between his two legs was cut off before being stabbed in the heart. After which he was hung naked from one of the great trees within his residence. His eyes, which had remained open onto death, stared silently at the flames devouring his residence...

Another two families which had once been part of the Jun Family's faction but had turned coat and joined the Second Prince's faction felt a sense of foreboding after hearing the sound of the Generals Summoning Drum. Qian Wanguan and Wu Yun, these two men were well aware of how Grandpa Jun usually acts. Even though their residences were slightly far from the city gates, they made a wise decision: Leave the city immediately! They quickly tidied up some of their belongings and proceeded towards the city gates, planning to escape in the middle of the night and lay low. However, when they arrived at the city gates, they found themselves surrounded by an army!

The officer leading the soldiers shouted out orders to catch assassins, signalling for the archers to let loose their barrage. He did not give anyone the chance to explain themselves! At the South Gate, over a hundred members of the Qian Family were transformed into 'porcupines', their faces becoming unrecognizable...

At the West Gate, the nearly sixty members of the Wu Family were all killed, their corpses rendered into a bloody pulp. After which, their bodies were doused with oil and burned. The stench of burning corpses immediately rose up to the Nine Heavens...

Beside the corpses of the two families, two tall wooden signs were constructed: Assassin's retribution!

An unfortunate Imperial Censor had woken up in the middle of the night and entered the toilet. The next day, he was found with his bare buttocks hanging in the air, his head shoved deep into the excrement pit. One could only guess how long he had to suffocate before dying...

These officials who held high positions had at this moment in time turned into a flock of lambs surrounded by a horde of ravenous wolves!

On this night, it seemed as though the end of days had descended upon the entire capital! The raging flames of Grandpa Jun's fury completely engulfed the capital! The extent of what transpired had gone beyond what His Majesty expected. When His Majesty received the report, he immediately became furious to the point of smashing anything he could lay his hands upon...

The Jun Family's secret forces rampaged about just like a pack of bloodthirsty ghosts. Under the chaotic night and the unbelievable amount of bloodshed and death, the show of force from the Jun Family's secret forces had shaken the prominent members of the capital city. Many of them were badly hurt while even more were shaking in fear! Every one of them shared one line of thought: Against such an unstoppable force, what can they do? Perhaps they should consider organizing a new group of defenders for their homes.

This was especially true for the three Princes. Each of them had summoned their allies and called for an emergency meeting. The massive power held by the Jun Family had caused the three Princes' eyes to turn blood red: If only they were able to grasp such a kind of power...

However, in the midst of their discussions, their residential palace suddenly caught on fire. Following that, countless number of decapitated heads were thrown inside, their blood staining the grounds. The three Princes were scared out of their wits and immediately ordered their palace guards to search around. However, nothing was found. In addition, when they tried to search outside, they were forced to return by the patrolling soldiers...

Naturally, there were exceptions amongst the many big families. For example, the Li Family, Meng Family and Song Family. Their foundations were deep and strong. When the masked men in black started their attacks, their family's experts quickly reacted to stop their attacks. However, the fire attacks on their family continued...

In the Li Family's secret chamber, there were several people who had wanted to head out after hearing the cries of battle occurring on the outside. One of them was dressed in white robes and over thirty years in age. His face was cold and prideful. Just by looking at his bearing and manner, one would be able to deduce that he was the Sky Xuan expert who had killed off Qin Hu in front of Old Master Tang Wanli.

The door of the chamber opened and the Young Master Li, Li Youran walked in.

“Youran, let me go out. Among these men, the strongest should only be at around the Jade Xuan level of cultivation, what is there to fear? Anyone of us here is enough to put a stop to them. I really cannot understand. These men’s attacks have reached your own doorstep, and yet you choose to remain indifferent about it. Since these men have a death wish, then we might as well help them fulfil it!” The white robed man frowned, his face expressing indignation. He had always been a proud and arrogant person. Since when did he become a coward that needed to hide away in a secret place?

## Chapter 74

### This Is My Explanation!

“No! Absolutely not!” At this moment, Li Youran had actually let out a calm smile. “I would rather have the Li Residence burnt to the ground than mobilize you!”

His smile contained a peculiar mix of tenderness and chilling ruthlessness. “As long as our people still lives, the Li Family will also remain. But if you were to show yourself, what the masked men in black does no longer matter. One thing I can be certain of, we will end up attracting the attention of countless eyes! Once your identities are exposed, or even if your identities do not become exposed, the Li Family would end up in hot soup! In addition, the rumours that the Xuan Core is in the hands of the Li Family would spread out in all directions. When that happens...”

“Senior brother, please remain in this secret chamber for now and not come out! Once this matter settles, I will immediately arrange for someone to send you out of the city! If there are any other matters that require your help, I will immediately notify master and fellow seniors,” Li Youran laughed lightly. “This time, not only am I not going to stop him, I will even send some more people for him to kill! I am curious to see what would happen to this Old Duke in the end!”

“His heinous actions are no different from the crime of rebellion. Even if the royal court is somehow willing to overlook it, would the Emperor tolerate it?” A rare sneer appeared on Li Youran’s face.

“Very well. If that is the case, I won’t say anything else. I will follow your wishes,” The white robed man’s face expressed dissatisfaction, but he nodded helplessly. “Junior Brother, if you have the time for it; you should go visit master. Master has been... worried about you.”

“Senior brother can be assured, I will definitely do so,” Li Youran smiled faintly and walked out.

Just then, an aerial signalling firework exploded in the skies with a “boom” sound. Its explosion created an array of colours in the sky, beautiful to the extreme.

After the firework was set off, all the masked men in black retreated immediately, just like the receding tide. They disengaged from their battles and retreated, some leaping across the walls while others rushed out through the doors. Within the matter of a few blinks, they have all disappeared into the vast expanse of the night...

Soon, the thunderous sounds of hooves resounded as thousands of cavalry reacted. In an orderly manner, the cavalry units of the military rode towards the Li Residence at best speed! In just moments, they had all arrived before the door of the Grand Preceptor Li’s Residence. A series of commands rang out and the mounted soldiers urged their horses to move, surrounding the Li Residence!

The main gate was smashed open with a “boom” and Grandpa Jun Zhantian stepped inside, his body exuding killing intent!

His body was covered with a sky blue glow, a result of channelling the Sky Xuan qi within his body. Although it was likely that the Li Family would not dare to do anything against him due to his identity, he must place considerations on ‘what if’s. After all, it is better to be safe than sorry.

On either side, two teams of elite soldiers entered the area in two rows, their swords flashing.

“All members of the Li Family, get out here! Assassins have appeared within the city and I am now conducting a search on the entire city!” Grandpa Jun roared loudly, his voice shaking the entire residence.

“Hehe, it turned out that Old Brother Jun had personally come. You honour my humble abode with your presence,” The Grand Preceptor Li Shang’s face was all smiles as he stepped out from the main hall. Step by step, he showed the eager demeanour of someone who had just been reunited with a long lost twin brother.

Jun Zhantian’s face remained passive. “Grand Preceptor Li, please keep your underlings and relatives in check. Princess Ling Meng had just suffered from an assassination attempt. Thus, I am now performing my duties in searching and capturing the assassins. If anyone here gets injured due to interfering with my military duties, I will not be responsible!” After saying that, he waved his hand. “Search!”

“Hold!” Li Shang stepped forward, his white beard flowing lightly. The gentle look on his face flickered momentarily before he said in a loud voice. “Senior Duke Jun, you are the Grand Marshall of the kingdom’s military forces, a Duke of the kingdom, a person of great authority and weight in the royal court. However, I am the Grand Preceptor, another person of great authority in the court, and also a Duke! Without His Majesty’s decree, who would dare to be presumptuous within my Li Residence?”

Jun Zhantian sneered, his eyes revealing traces of emotions. “Grand Preceptor, are you trying to imply that any high ranking official within the royal court have the right to harbour assassins within their homes? Go search! Anyone who dares obstruct, kill them without mercy!”

Suddenly, hundreds of soldiers marched in from behind, heading towards the Li Residence’s inner areas with the intention of searching. Li Shang’s body trembled in anger and he shouted. “Jun Zhantian, you are acting brazenly, overstepping the bounds of your office! Are you planning to rebel?”

Jun Zhantian laughed out loudly. “Grand Preceptor sure knows how to joke! This senior official is simply trying to root out the assassins who tried to assassinate the Imperial Princess. How is this action of mine overstepping the bounds of my office? How could this be considered brazen? How am I planning to rebel? Grand Preceptor, you have been trying to stop me from searching your residence for quite a while now. Could it be that there is a connection between you and the assassins?” After saying that, Grandpa Jun ignored him and waved his hand, signalling for the soldiers to speed up their searching speed.

It was at this moment that a white robed youngster stepped forth; it was none other than Li Youran. He gave a ceremonious salute of respect to Jun Zhantian before speaking up. “Since Senior Duke Jun wishes to conduct a search, our Li Family’s underlings would certainly not oppose you. However, without His Majesty’s decree, Senior Duke Jun’s action today would be tantamount to a wanton act of trespassing into the home of a high ranked court official. Hehe, even if Senior Duke Jun is not fearful of the consequences, our Li Family still needs to uphold some of our reputation. If this matter were to be spread out, then both our reputation would end up being smeared!”

Jun Zhantian coldly stared at the refined looking youngster standing before him. He could not help but recall his grandson, Moxie. His grandson could have ended up being even more powerful than Li Youran, but had ended up suffering from a sinister attack! When he thought about that, his fury burst out and he coldly asked. “What are you suggesting?”



“This junior only have a simple question to ask of Senior Duke Jun. Senior Duke Jun keeps reiterating that you wanted to conduct a search of my family’s residence to find assassins. It does not matter from where or how Senior Duke received the information that our Li Family is harbouring assassins. However, what will Senior Duke do if you are unable to find the assassins within my family’s residence?” Li Youran gently smiled and took another step forward. “Should that happen, Senior Duke Jun will have to give our Li Family an explanation!”

Grandpa Jun laughed out loudly. Suddenly, he took a step forward and threw out a vicious slap at Li Youran’s face. A “pa” sound rang out, followed by a kick from Grandpa Jun directed at Li Youran’s stomach. After kicking Li Youran to the ground, Grandpa Jun spoke out in anger. “This senior is in the process of searching for assassins! Not even your grandfather dared to fart in front of me, but you? What are you? You dare come out to start a debate and find faults with this senior? You want an explanation? This is my explanation!”

“Pooh!” Jun Zhantian spat out. “What a joke! If we could not find the assassins, that would naturally mean that your Li Family is innocent! If we cannot capture the assassins, then we will obviously have to continue searching! What else is there? I am more interested in asking you this. Your Li Family, from the seniors down to the juniors have been desperately trying to stop me from conducting a search for the assassins. What are you planning? Could it be that your Li Family is planning to rebel? Are you the mastermind behind the Imperial Princess’ assassination attempt? If the assassins were to successfully escape due to your actions of delaying my duties, do your Li Family have enough heads to bear this responsibility?”

These words were directed at Li Shang. Clearly, Grandpa Jun did not view Li Youran as someone with the qualifications to even talk to him.

Even in a confrontation between military forces, rank must be considered. If a bunch of rookie soldiers with no qualification were to be sent to the battlefield, they would only end up being suppressed and massacred. Naturally, Li Youran understood this logic. However, he could not stand the sight of his grandfather being humiliated so. In addition, there were indeed some people that must not be found staying inside their hidden chambers. If those people were to be found, that would be akin to having yellow mud smeared onto their underwear. Even if it is not poop, everyone will still think it is poop. Even if the Li Family is not guilty, everyone will still think the Li Family is guilty! Left with no choice, he had to step forward and hope that Jun Zhantian would consider his status as the number one person within the military forces and let this go.

How could he have guessed that the current Jun Zhantian no longer cared about his status or reputation? A slap and a kick, executed in a flash! Li Youran may be a genius, but his experience is limited. His current level of cultivation is only at the Gold Xuan, a difference of Heaven and Earth

compared to Grandpa Jun's Sky Xuan. In addition, he was caught off-guard; and thus had to endure a slap to the face and a kick to his stomach. All he could feel was his mind ringing and stars spinning before his eyes!

Even though Grandpa Jun did not utilize any xuan qi in his attacks, they were both done before the eyes of thousands. For Li Youran, this slap of his was akin to a strike to his heart!

## Chapter 75

### Search 'Viciously'

Li Youran silently got up and straightened himself, a ruthless coldness flashed across his eyes before disappearing. He maintained his courteous attitude and said with a humble smile. "Senior Duke's teachings are true. Please forgive this junior's offense."

He said those words with a smile. Looking at Jun Zhantian, his face expressed a smile of sincerity which was able to even portray him feeling a deep sense of shame. It seemed that he was truly embarrassed by the words that he had just spoken earlier.

Jun Zhantian's eyes widened as he suddenly felt an invisible pressure. Judging by his calm demeanour, this brat is no ordinary individual! He is likely the ruthless type that could toy with people to their deaths! Jun Zhantian sighed inwardly: If Moxie remains healthy, this brat would become his biggest rival amongst the younger generations!

He coldly turned around and scoffed. "The Li family line is indeed all of the sinister\* type." Grand Preceptor Li Shang's beard trembled. Jun Zhantian's words was the equivalent of cursing all their ancestors of the Li Family!

"Everyone move out of the way and let him search! Old bag Jun! If you cannot find the assassins, this senior will have a good 'discussion' with you before His Majesty tomorrow! When that happens, I will see if you can still maintain this toughness!" Li Shang coldly waved his hand, turned around and stormed out towards a flower tree. He sat down below the tree and closed his eyes, not making any more movements.

Jun Zhantian waved his hand again. "Search in detail! Do not miss out a single spot and do not leave a single stone unturned!" Nearly a thousand soldiers behind him shouted their affirmation in unison and fiercely rushed inside.

Instantly, the entirety of the Li Family was turned upside down to the point of having chickens fly and dogs jump.

On a spot situated some distance away from the Li Residence was a normal looking sedan chair. Four figures stood around the sedan chair, their faces were filled with indifference. The curtains of the sedan chair were lifted to reveal a profound set of eyes observing the situation in the Li Residence. The person's ears were focused on listening in on the conversations within. This person possess a clear face which is somewhat squarish. However, both his eyebrows are slanted upwards, just like a pair of dragons soaring to the Heavens. Even without moving or saying anything, he exuded a prestigious awe-inspiring aura.

After listening for a bit, this person closed his eyes and murmured. "The amount of stubbornness shown by Jun Zhantian against the Li Family this time is indeed a little overboard. It is only natural for the Li Family to have many secrets pertaining to the protection of their family that would prove dangerous if revealed. If these secrets were to be exposed, the Li Family would disappear. Jun Zhantian would not let them off easily, but the Kingdom still have need of the Li Family," The person frowned, seemingly having a headache. "Shadow, if anything unexpected were to happen, you will need to step forward to solve it."

Not a single sound could be heard outside, but this person knew that his command has been received. He then closed his eyes, his fingers tapping a tea table made of jade. Both his eyebrows moved, seemingly coming closer and intertwined with one another. A thought suddenly flashed through his mind: This grandson of Li Shang is not just a talent, he is a very dangerous talent...

Jun Zhantian's soldiers 'searched' all the way as they moved, turning over containers and toppling cabinets, causing things to fall and crash. It seemed as though these men were not trying to look for assassins, but were here purely to carry out acts of destructions!

"Peng!" A huge vase was thrown out and shattered into pieces. The Grand Preceptor Li Shang's face twitched violently for a moment: The number of those vases is only...

"Peng!"

“Peng!”

Grandpa Jun glanced around with a cold countenance as he held on to his horsewhip. Inhaling deeply, he shouted. “I want you to search viciously!” Even though the atmosphere was very solemn, those standing behind him all turned their heads and secretly laughed. The act of searching... could the word ‘viciously’ be used for such an act? The Senior Duke Jun’s use of words was apparently quite ‘unprofessional’.

The word vicious should be used for ‘crush’! Crush everything viciously!

“This old thing can be quite funny! It almost seemed as though he is afraid that people would not know that he is simply trying to create havoc! Let us observe for a little longer!” The man in the sedan chair could not help but let out a smile.

Hearing the word “viciously”, the soldiers proceeded to ‘search’ with even more ‘force’.

Nearly two thousand soldiers poured into the Li Residence, acting as though they had just broken through into the enemy fortress. Anything that can be thrown was thrown; anything that can be destroyed was destroyed. Every member of the Li Family stared at this spectacle from the courtyard, blood dripping out from their hearts: All that... is money ah!

After a moment, the man within the sedan chair closed his eyes slightly and whispered. “There shouldn’t be any problem here, let’s go back.” He closed the curtains and leaned upon the soft seat, before closing his eyes.

The old Jun Zhantian had already understood his intentions and had only destroyed the things that were placed conspicuously. As for the secret areas in the Li Residence, he had chosen to avoid it. It seemed that there would not be any problems here.

I would like to see if any family would still dare to pick sides again after this round of chaos! The man within the sedan chair smiled: Even if you want to fight, you must fight within certain limits. Once your actions endanger the safety of the kingdom, then what happened today would be... a warning!

The sedan chair left quietly without a trace. Jun Zhantian continued standing still, but Jun Wuyi turned his head to look for a moment after the sedan chair had left.

“Reporting to Grand Marshall, no trace of the assassin was found!” One by one, the soldiers came forth to give their report, each of them stating that the assassins were not found. Jun Zhantian turned furious and shouted. “Are you trying to say that the assassins have flown off to the skies? Hmph! They are not in the Li Residence? Then we will go to another residence to search!” Leading the soldiers, he strode out of the main gate, jumped up his horse and rode forward. The direction he took was the one leading towards the Meng Family...

The members of the Li Family stared at their compound, which had been turned into a beggars living area, tears flowing down their eyes.

The Grand Preceptor Li Shang patted his waist as he struggled to get up from the ground. Li Youran quickly came forth to help him up. Both grandfather and grandson looked at one another in the eye and saw the anger evident in them.

“Grandfather, anyone with good eyes could tell that those men in black from back then belonged to Jun Zhantian! Jun Zhantian kept touting ‘searching assassins’ as an excuse and threw false charges at others. This action is tantamount to rebelling. Since he could not find any assassins, tomorrow grandfather can get together with a group of officials and heavily step down on him.”

Li Youran considered. “Jun Zhantian is obviously showing signs of going crazy, mobilizing the military for personal reasons, trespassing into the homes of court officials and searching wantonly. Hehe, if we could bring about the demise of the Jun Family with the destruction of these properties, then that would be quite the acceptable transaction. On the contrary, if Grandfather chooses to stay your hand, others might think that you have a guilty conscience.”

Li Shang frowned and gave a deep sigh. He spoke in a deep voice. “Youran, you are a talented genius, possessing a wisdom that surpasses the masses. Even in the area of strategy, you have proven yourself to be capable of identifying the enemy’s weak points. Watching you become the number one amongst the talents of your generation, grandfather have always felt happy about it. However, you also have your weak points. One example would be the area of governance. You are still too young. As such, the things you could see is still limited!”

“Governance?” Li Youran became puzzled. “Are you saying that this amount of crime by Jun Zhantian is not enough for His Majesty to take action against the Jun Family?”

“Enough? No, it is not! It is far from enough!” Li Shang’s white eyebrows quivered, the earlier expression of anger and helplessness that he had shown before Jun Zhantian earlier had evaporated. Instead it was replaced with an expression of endless amount of shrewdness. Obviously, the expression he had shown earlier was fake. “You still do not understand just how much trust His Majesty have towards Jun Zhantian. For starters, His Majesty’s life had been saved by Jun Zhantian at least six times or more. Back then, if Jun Zhantian had wanted to rebel or if he had even the slightest bit of secret ambition, then the seat of the Emperor would have been his a long time ago! It is true that there can be no love within the royal family. However, one would never truly treat an absolute loyalist as a mortal enemy. This is also the main reason why the Jun Family which has fallen to the point of nearly losing all their successors could retain so much power over the military!”

“Simply with those few things that happened earlier, did you think it is possible to bring down Jun Zhantian?” Li Shang laughed out for a bit. “Did you really take Jun Zhantian to be such a brainless person who would offend our Li Family to a bloody end? Furthermore, based on his earlier movements, did you think that he had forced us into a road of no return?”

Li Youran was a brilliant person. In just moments, he had gained understanding of many of the points spoken. His face changed greatly and he said. “Could it be...”