

E Monarch 76

Chapter 76 Change

Li Shang Smiled wryly. "Heng! If His Majesty was not behind what happened today, then our Li Family would be nothing but a land of corpses by now. Not a single one of us would be left alive! That should have been Jun Zhantian's original intention. If that were not the case, he would not have gone to the extent of mobilizing the army! Somewhere in between, something must have happened to change his mind. As for the one who could cause Jun Zhantian to change his mind, there is only one such person in all of Tianxiang, the Emperor! Oh, there is another: his grandson, Jun Moxie. Earlier, you told me that the debauchee had already died. It seems that may not be the case. If Jun Moxie had truly died, then even His Majesty may not be capable of holding Jun Zhantian back. Thus, I conclude that Jun Moxie should still be alive. In addition, Jun Zhantian should have only received this information just now."

"Thus, Jun Zhantian actually had very little influence about everything that had happened today. Even though we seemed to have fallen into misfortune for no reason today, I believe there would be others far worse off when compared to us." Li Shang laughed. "The assassination attempt on the Imperial Princess has provoked His Majesty. Thus, His Majesty has decided to make use of Jun Zhantian's anger to rearrange the power base of the three Princes."

"All the families or officials that had chosen to side with the Princes would receive a warning tonight. Some would even be exiled or harshly dealt with. As for those within the Imperial Palace, the 'rearrangement' has probably been finished by now. A pity, all our preparations..."

"Jun Zhantian going mad today was unexpected, but it was also an inevitable occurrence. If we had grasped onto Jun Moxie back then, this old man would probably have gone mad a long time ago! Thus, His Majesty decided to take advantage of Jun Zhantian's act of madness to... hehe... His Majesty would take this opportunity to weaken the Jun Family's military power, and then suppress the powers of the other big families like ours before suppressing this incident! The mastermind behind Jun Zhantian is none other than the Emperor himself! The Emperor is also the one with the most understanding of what had happened tonight! So then, do you think we could do anything to that Old Jun?"

Li Youran felt somewhat shocked. He could never have imagined that his grandfather's mind had already seen so far ahead. He had even clearly understood the thought process of those involved, especially the thoughts of the one standing upon the highest position within Tianxiang Kingdom!

“His Majesty, the Emperor is a man of great talent. It is only natural that he does not wish for his successor to be an incompetent person. Thus, His Majesty allowed the three Princes to compete, however, His Majesty also does not wish for matters to escalate beyond control. That is why once the three Princes’ actions went overboard, His Majesty would clear the board and restart everything again for them. This is the biggest reason why the great families with true power within the city would never join the struggle between the Princes!”

“Remember, let go of everything that had happened today. Until the situation had stabilized, never take action! Just look there,” Li Shang pointed at the heavy amount of smoke billowing up into the skies. “All those who chose to take actions in advance have all been sent on their merry way to Heaven.”

“It that is the case, does that mean that we will have to do nothing after everything that had happened today?” Li Youran asked.

“How can we simply do nothing? Even if we want to, His Majesty would not want to,” Li Shang smiled craftily. “That is why we must still lodge a complaint tomorrow. Only with that would His Majesty have a reason to suppress the great families, which is His Majesty’s true intention. If we do not go along, we would be in trouble in the future.”

Li Youran entered a state of deep contemplation. He is a smart person, a genius in both civil and military affairs. However, listening to those words, he came to realize just how lacking he was in the understanding of political affairs.

Gently stroking the part of his face that was slapped by Jun Zhantian, his eyes flashed with a chilling glint, just like that of a poisonous snake.

Jun Zhantian, I will never forget this slap of yours.

Meanwhile, the Meng Residence was currently having their ‘dogs jump and chickens fly’...

When compared with the Li Family, the Meng Family had it far worse. Their homes had been ‘searched’ to the point of being demolished. And yet, Jun Zhantian felt only depression within him. Because this was not what he had intended to do, nor was this the results he had intended to achieve.

After this incident, the capital will turn calm for a long period of time. At least, that was how it would appear externally.

Since His Majesty had said that Moxie is still alive, then this senior will become a 'spear' for His Majesty. Doing so is quite worthwhile, although the ending is somewhat anticlimactic. This senior's original intention was to kill off all these people. Although a large number of them had been finished off, the most important ones could not be killed...

At this moment, a hasty sound suddenly rang out. "Jun Zhantian, you... you ignorant old man! Stop it!"

Jun Zhantian's body suddenly shook, as though he could not believe what his ears was hearing. Slowly, he turned around, his eyes staring straight, his face revealed a mad look of joy.

A thin, withered looking old man appeared, his arms carrying someone to his chest. The old man shot out and appeared before Jun Zhantian, panting and sweating profusely. However, Jun Zhantian paid him no attention. He quickly dismounted off his horse and rushed towards the thin old man. Jun Zhantian retrieved the person being held close to the thin old man's chest and spoke in a trembling voice. "Moxie?"

Coincidentally, these two people returned just as everything was about to be wrapped up...

Jun Zhantian's expression of surprise clearly showed that he had just escaped from the clutches of absolute despair. He held onto Jun Xie as though he was holding onto the world's most precious treasure! The deep wrinkles of his face harboured the intense amount of concern he was feeling. This is the ecstatic feeling of finding something that one had thought to be lost forever. His fingers trembled in concert with his body while his eyes had turned red from excitement! Watching all this, Jun Xie felt his heart shaking...

This is a commander of a millions soldiers, a resilient iron blooded man who had returned victorious after hundreds of battles! But, seeing his own grandson alive at this moment made him surprised, his bearing suddenly transformed into that of a frail and ailing elderly person.

This is an emotion born deep within a person's flesh and blood...

At this moment, Jun Xie felt something well up from the bottom of his heart. It was a feeling, an aching feeling that gave him a sense of warmth and comfort. In addition, he felt his nose turning sour... Jun Xie suddenly felt that it had become hard to breathe, his nose had seemingly stopped working, a feeling which made him feel a desire to cry out.

Is this the affection that he had once desired in his dreams?

In both past and present, is there any who had shown so much care for him?

In both past and present, is there any who would mobilize the armies of an entire country for his sake?

In both past and present, who could throw away all their concerns for his sake?

Who would have fallen into absolute despair for his sake? Who could become so happy to the point of insanity for his sake? Who could disregard their own reputation, lives and family.... for his sake?

Watching the old man before him, Jun Xie had no doubt that for his sake, this old man would even pierce a hole through the skies! Because... he is his only hope! The only thing he could hold onto!

Beside, Jun Wuyi's crippled body had at an unknown moment descended from his horse, sitting upon the cold ground. Looking at Jun Xie, he was filled with surprise, happiness and satisfaction! His pair of tiger like eyes had unknowingly turned teary. He secretly turned his head, allowing the tears to drop down before turning back, a smile etched on his face...

This is my family!

Am I to resist all this?

No!

At this moment, Jun Xie had suddenly accepted his identity, accepted his family! Regardless of ideals or mind set, he had accepted this world!

For the sake of this old man before me, and this family!

From today onwards, I am JUN.MO.XIE! I am a member of the Jun Family! Tianxiang Kingdom, Tianxiang City, Jun Family, this is my family!

Jun Zhantian's tears almost exploded with excitement! Even though his grandson seemed grievously injured, he remained alive! In addition, a closer inspection showed that his condition was not as serious as he had been told.

Thank the Heavens!

As long as he is alive, everything will be all right! Everything will be all right! Having become so overjoyed, this old man's eyes became moist, his body trembling and swaying unsteadily. Tonight has been a trying one...

Chapter 77

Turmoil In The Imperial Court

On the next day, the Imperial Court was filled with disputes from various groups. The scene was no different than a bunch of merchants and farmers arguing at the marketplace.

After the ritualistic greeting towards His Majesty, the atmosphere turned silent. Just like the calm before the storm...

Before His Majesty was a pile of petitions calling for the impeachment of Jun Zhantian. His Majesty observed the Imperial Court and was surprised to see the numerous number of vacant positions. Even though he had already expected it, this result had greatly exceeded his expectations: This, isn't this a little too much?

Even though he had already received the report last night, whereupon he had become enraged, that was simply a report with the names written on it. However, His Majesty was now looking at the results

with his own eyes. A good chunk of the Imperial Court members had disappeared ... His Majesty was unable to get accustomed to it!

If one were to compare, this would be like a classroom with a hundred students. If someone were to receive the news in the middle of the night that thirty of those students had either transferred or dropped out, that person would not feel much. However, when that person sees the empty space within the classroom... This comparison was probably not a bad way of describing what had happened to Tianxiang Kingdom's Imperial Court.

Yesterday night, after the Imperial Princess suffered from an assassination attempt, Grandpa Jun took action, issuing a declaration that a calamity had occurred. Within Tianxiang City, flames started rising rampantly and people were murdered everywhere. More than ten high-ranking members of the Imperial Court ended up being decapitated. In addition, many among these people were once bitter enemies with the Jun Family...

Besides that, all those men also shared one other common aspect. These men had all chosen to side with one of the Imperial Princes. However, this common aspect was something that everyone had chosen to keep within their hearts. At this point in time, blurting that out would be no different than courting death!

Among the victims of last night's incident, there were twelve who had the qualifications to stand here today. Coincidentally, they were separated into fours divided equally amongst the three Princes. Amongst them was an Assistant Minister of Justice, two Assistant Minister of Personnel, three from the Minister of Rites, one from the Minister of State Revenue, three Imperial Censors and two scholars. This was only those that could be seen here. As for those who could not appear today, how many was there?

These people who had come together were those who had constantly opposed the 'rough' members of the Imperial Court and had been badly hurt during the kingdom's present crisis. However, within the mind of a certain highly positioned individual, this was simply part of his plans. Even though last night, he himself had been angered to the point of having his eyes turn blue...

As for those ministers with sharp eyes and powerful retentive memory, they realized something. Today, there was an increase in new faces within the Imperial Palace. As for those familiar faces, most of them had disappeared. One such example was the Captain of the Armed Guards, Murong Qianjun. He was a talent whose promotion speed was considered 'rare', at times getting promoted three times in a day. However, this rising star of the Murong Family had at this point in time disappeared to who knows where...

It would appear that the carnage within the Imperial Palace was no less bloody compared to the outside. A high number of people became nervous.

“What happened last night? Why did the number of people become so little today? Who can tell me?” His Majesty was indeed a master amongst masters in ‘political affairs’. Blinking his eyes, he used the peripheral side of his eyes to stare at Jun Zhantian who was dozing off. Senior Duke Jun was truly feeling sleepy thanks to yesterday’s events. This was obvious just by looking at his face. Otherwise, he would not have dozed off in the Imperial Court; he had even nearly started snoring...

His Majesty’s act of pretending to not know what had happened was the opening act for the Imperial Court members to begin their barrage of accusations! Within the Imperial Hall, a large number of people went down on their knees.

“Your Majesty, we beg you to administer justice for us,” A huge number of ministers spoke out with tears flowing down their eyes, their faces showing grief stricken expressions as they kowtowed vigorously.

“Dear Ministers, if you have anything to say, just say it out in detail. Rise up and tell me all about it,” The Emperor frowned, a puzzled look was etched on his face.

Once His Majesty finished his sentence, tens of ministers all turned on Senior Duke Jun, Jun Zhantian. They started their barrage of accusations: Even though he is someone who had accomplished great merit for the kingdom, he disregarded military laws of the kingdom. He mobilized the kingdom’s military forces for personal reasons. He disdained the laws of the kingdom. He viewed the powers of the Imperial Family with contempt. He had acted with wanton abandon. He trespassed the residences of ministers. He allowed his subordinates to wreak havoc and act lawlessly. There were even some heavyweight accusations: He had amassed his own personal army. He has the intention of rebelling... In short, there were innumerable accusations aimed at him, all supposedly backed with conclusive evidence!

Later on, the accusations escalated to an even greater level, where it was recommended that Jun Zhantian be dismissed and his entire family decapitated, going so far as exterminating his nine kindred... In just a brief moment, the atmosphere of the Imperial Court had become intense.

Everyone's face were flushed red, each and every one of them were filled with indignation. In the end they all chorused out. "Not killing Jun Zhantian equals endangering the Imperial Family's powers! Not killing Jun Zhantian, the people would not be appeased!"

Jun Zhantian turned his gaze up, his eyes slightly closed. Watching the performance by all the ministers in the Imperial Court, he could only think of his grievously injured grandson. He was contemplating on how to ask His Majesty to loan him the best Imperial Doctor...

"Jun Zhantian! You old thing, you actually dare to act in such a brazen manner! What do you have to say for yourself?" His Majesty questioned him in a very harsh tone, seemingly furious!

"Your Majesty, yesterday, this minister received news that the Princess had suffered from an assassination attempt just outside the Imperial Palace. Thankfully, the Princess' luck was good and she managed to escape unscathed. However, hearing that those criminals dared to act so wild; going so far as to profane the dignity of the Imperial Family, this old minister felt a bottomless anger spout out from within my heart. This minister then received further news that the assassins may harbour the intention of following up by trying to assassinate the members of the Imperial Family and high-ranking officials of the Imperial Court. This old minister fears that any delay would bring about irreparable disaster. Thus, this old minister had mobilized the army before reporting to Your Majesty, all for the sake of capturing the assassins. In this regard, this old minister had indeed committed a mistake. This old minister begs for Your Majesty's careful inquiry and just punishment!"

The Emperor's mouth was about to lash out, but had forcibly held himself back: You old brat! You have already said everything in detail, what else do I have to inquire? Inquire my ass! You portrayed yourself in such a righteous light, punishing you would make me a muddle-headed ruler! How am I supposed to continue this act?

"Continue speaking," His Majesty, the Emperor frowned, seemingly displeased. His Majesty was truly at a loss on how to continue from there.

"Yes! This old minister felt worried about this matter and did not have the time to inform Your Majesty. This old minister got up in the middle of the night and rushed to the military field without having the time to finish dressing. However, even though the mobilization of soldiers was executed quickly, we were helpless to stop the assassins. Those assassins had come prepared and had instantly turned the city upside down. This old minister exerted every last drop of effort without reserve and served as vanguard to wage a bloody battle against the many insidious assassins. After a long time, we finally managed to curb this disaster and finished off those assassins! The total number of these assassins amount to a whopping hundreds; their bodies were then hanged for public display before the city gates.

However, this old minister dared not claim credit for these actions because there were some regrettable events. Even though this old minister had tried my best, there were tens of officials whom this minister failed to reach in time resulting in them being brutally murdered by the assassins! Their horrible deaths were all due to this old minister's carelessness and slow response to this situation! This old minister is willing to accept the punishment for my crime of carelessness in executing my duties!"

Grandpa Jun sighed, his voice mournful. "All those lives are the pillars of our Tianxiang Kingdom..." He rubbed his eyes, appearing to be on the verge of crying. In truth, he was feeling sleepy...

All the ministers within the Imperial Court heard Senior Duke Jun's words and turned to face one another: What? You are willing to accept punishment for your crime? Accept your mother's head! Listening to you, you are simply the great hero that has single-handedly saved all of Tianxiang Kingdom! Acting decisively, turning the situation around in a matter of moments, the one who carried a heavy burden to save the common people, the loyal minister who placed the importance of protecting the dignity of the Imperial Family before all else! Since you have put it that way, not giving you a great amount of reward would be tantamount to a huge loss of reputation, and yet you say you are willing to accept punishment?

Besides, is there anyone here who does not know that those men in black are part of the Jun Family? Assassins? What a joke? How does one describe the act of reversing black and white? This is how! We have seen shameless, but we have never seen such a high level of shamelessness before! Turning the act of raiding other people's residence into a meritorious deed, this level of bullshitting expertise had reached a completely new realm!

A mountain worth revering*!

As for those dead men that were left hanging for display to the public, if the Prison Chief of the Minister of Justice were to go check it out, he would certainly find that their faces were very familiar: Because those people were simply a bunch of death row prisoners. However, their execution date was bumped up by you, Grand Marshall Jun!

Chapter 78 Dugu Zongheng

A look of contempt burst out from the faces of all the ministers and they prepared to start their verbal attacks once again. Truth be told, Grandpa Jun's explanation and justifications were simply unbearable and too easy to refute. After all, Grandpa Jun was first and foremost a general. His skills in civil affairs

was simply too limited. For him to actually be able to come up with an explanation was already a rare occurrence. Asking for a detailed and seamless explanation was absolutely ridiculous!

Unexpectedly, an old man with white hair and beard stepped forward. This old man possess a stalwart figure. Standing beside Jun Zhantian, it seemed as though there were two majestic mountains imposing their grand aura within the Imperial Court. His moustache spread out explosively to the side cheeks and beard. A wild looking face and a loutish body. This was none other than Grandfather Dugu, the second most powerful person within the military in Tianxiang Kingdom, and the number one predator within the capital city: Dugu Zongheng!

He is the number one savage individual in Tianxiang Kingdom! The number one unreasonable individual! The number one tough shank! The number one great family... great families' House Master*. This man has a skin so thick he could be revered as a master in skin thickness! This is a character who would brandish his ignorance as knowledge! This is a character who would talk about large swords when discussing reasons! All the members of the Imperial Court, be they from the civil or military affairs showed some degree of fear towards him. Even the present Emperor had no way of dealing with him.

It was only after he stepped forward did the members of the Imperial Court realized his existence. They could not help but whisper to themselves: This old man had not attended the court for years now. Why did he suddenly appear today? For him to appear at such a sensitive moment, something is obviously not right.

Dugu Zongheng's round eyes widened, just like a mountain bear. He then cupped his hands and spoke in a coarse voice. "Your Majesty, the assassination attempt on the Imperial Princess and the officials of the Imperial Court is indeed a national situation that could cripple the foundations of our kingdom. Thankfully, this old bag... Senior Duke Jun Zhantian was quick and decisive in his actions, thus succeeding in averting this terrible disaster! This old one thinks that Senior Jun's actions this time is not a mistake! He is not only innocent; he has also earned himself a merit! An astounding amount of merit!"

A thin old man with sheep like beard who was standing beside him sneered. "After this traitor defied the authority of the ministers and disrupted the Imperial Court's affairs, he is lauded as someone who earned himself a merit? If this is how the Imperial Court works, then won't we end up being despised by the people of the world?"

This thin old man with barely any flesh on his body and a sheep like beard is one of the three most capable individual from the Meng Family, Meng Youfang. Last night, his house suffered the highest level of damage. Not even a single tile was left whole. A high ranking member of the Imperial Court had to bring his own family out into the rich and bustling capital in the middle of the night to eat the cold air

and sleep under the starry skies of the night. The amount of suffocation he felt nearly caused him to puke out blood! Watching these two military leaders reversing black and white, he was unable to hold it in and stepped forward.

Dugu Zongheng became enraged. He turned around and viciously stared at Meng Youfang, opening his mouth that revealed a yellow set of teeth; his voice shook the tiles in the Imperial Court. "Screw your granny! You are worth less than dog poop! You mean to say that this senior is wrong? Hmm?" As if acting in concert with his fury, his beard exploded out, his facial hairs standing upright. His mouth was opened wide, as though he wanted to swallow the thin old man with sheep like beard, his entire being radiating an aura of violence.

Beside him, the great general Dugu Wudi immediately stepped forward to support. "Meng Youfang, what are you trying to do? My father is in the middle of a conversation with His Majesty! Do you think someone like you have the qualifications to interrupt them?" His hands extended outwards, his palm opened wide like a palm leaf, intent on catching him by his neck.

All the senior ministers rolled their eyes: This pair of father and son, is truly... invincible (wúdí). They actually dared to bully others in the presence of His Majesty! His Majesty, the Emperor who was supposed to be the main character of this play could not help but stare in a dumbfounded manner!

"Enough!" His Majesty, the Emperor thundered loudly and stood up in fury. "A group of civil and military ministers arguing with one another, and starting a fight upon the Imperial Court! What do you plan to do next? Are you going to start throwing obscenities around?"

His Majesty's wrath caused everyone to become silent, except the Old Masters from the Jun Family, Dugu Family, Li Family, Meng Family, Song Family, Tang Family and Murong Family. As for the rest, they all immediately knelt down and spoke out in unison. "This minister is guilty, I am willing to accept Your Majesty's punishment."

"Very well, I have already understood the gist of what happened. Jun Zhantian had originally wanted to capture assassins, but had made errors in his mobilization of the army. His actions caused the city to fall into chaos. As punishment, one year's worth of salary will be deducted. In addition, I decree that you are not allowed to leave your residence for three months. However, in light of your contribution of capturing assassins, I reward you a thousand gold liangs and a thousand year old ginseng. Military matters will temporarily be handed over for Dugu Zongheng to handle. Next, you great families chose to ignore the truth and focused only on your own losses, blatantly accusing other ministers. All your positions are now downgraded by one rank. In order to avoid riots from happening, all military authority of the great families must be returned to the Military Division. It will be reassigned again one year later."

Deducting one year's worth of salary; not allowed to leave home for three months; a reward of a thousand gold liangs; a thousand year old ginseng! Could this still be considered a punishment towards Old Master Jun? This is simply a reward plus holidays...

There was also the 'military matters will temporarily be handed over for Dugu Zongheng to handle'. This sentence seemed to be hiding a different meaning. However, there was a problem here. All the ministers turned to look at the Dugu Family's pair of 'tough shanks'. They all had the same thought: If this is how it is to end, won't it be better to have Jun Zhantian continue handling military matters? These pair of father and son from the Dugu Family is even worse than Jun Zhantian...

At the very least, Old Master Jun is generally a reasonable person. However, this pair of father and son had never been reasonable before. Now that their family's private forces was about to fall into their hands, they wonder how many could come back.

In just a moment's time, nearly everyone started cursing secretly and almost lashed out at Meng Youfang: His Majesty was manipulating everything behind the scenes. Since Dugu Zongheng had already appeared, why did you have to step in and interfere? You do not recognize your own strength and weakness; however don't you at least understand the meaning of the word 'humiliation'? If you want to jump down the cliff, you should just jump down alone. Why the heck did you drag us down with you? What kind of damaged goods are you...

Almost everyone in the Imperial Court revealed an expression of one who had just lost their soul and vigour. It does not matter if it was real or fake. What was important was that it looked real on the surface. As a member of the Imperial Court, they must have the ability to put on an act. Otherwise, it would be hard for them to continue serving for long.

However, there were around ten or so people within the Imperial Court who lowered their heads, anger etched upon their faces. These were all men who could not stomach their grievances; they were truly enraged and were unwilling to simply let it go. However, all of them have had their identities noted down by all the senior 'grandfathers' of the Imperial Court: They could not even recognize that a performance is in progress, these people have no future in store for them! When we go home later, we must inform our sons and grandsons to keep a distance from these people. Otherwise, who knows when we would end up being dragged down by them...

"You fellow Ministers are all the pillars of our kingdom. To see such a scene occurring in this Imperial Court today... I am disappointed! Very disappointed!" His Majesty was furious, unstoppably furious!

After having meted out the punishments, His Majesty said heavily. "This matter will be resolved following my commands. No one is allowed to disobey it! You may leave now!"

The Minister of Rites, Sun Chenghe** shouted out loudly. "Your Majesty, please stay..." This person was none other than Fatty Tang's future father-in-law.

All the senior grandpas of the Imperial Court burst out with a look of contempt: Could you not see that His Majesty is heading back to his chambers to relish the 'joy' from earlier. Ever resourceful, overlooking the world as its sovereign, delightfully manipulating everyone within the palm of his hand, suppressing all the great families influence and authority in one fell swoop, bringing stability to the entire capital city. How joyful would such an experience be? However, you actually chose this moment to restrain His Majesty? Do you not want to live a good life anymore? What a silly idiot!

"What do you wish to discuss?" His Majesty's face was a mask of fury. His Majesty's fury had originally been staged, but after having been restrained his false countenance of fury has started turning real.

"Your Majesty, please understand, this one is in charge of ceremonies. However, today is the day for the annual Gifted Scholars' Autumn Festival Feast. What should I do..."

This Minister of Rites is clearly missing the capacity to judge the situation. This is not a light problem ah! All the ministers in the Imperial Court sighed inwardly: Could you not see what kind of situation we have here? Every family is filled with weeping and mourning, who would be in the mood to care about a Gifted Scholars' Autumn Festival Feast? This brat is simply an idiot... I will need to pay attention next time. I must not get too close to him, chances are he will be the death of me!

Sure enough, His Majesty was greatly furious and spoke out in a heavy tone. "Gifted Scholars' Autumn Festival Feast? We are currently in the middle of troubling times, how can you even bring this up? If I recall correctly, I had appointed two ministers to be in charge of organizing the Gifted Scholars' Autumn Festival Feast just a few days ago. But these two men are amongst the names of those who've been assassinated by the assassins!" Having finished speaking, he pointed vigorously at the list of names on his table. Flicking his sleeves, His Majesty walked out with an expression of rage on his face.

No one was able to see it, but when His Majesty had turned away, the sides of his lips curled, as though he was happy...

Indeed, no one was able to see it. However, all the old ministers were secretly feeling pleased with themselves as well: As expected, everything went according to my predictions...

After His Majesty had left, everyone patted their knees and got up from their kneeling position. A few of the elder ministers looked at one another with an 'as expected' gaze. Li Shang snorted at looked at Jun Zhantian through the corner of his eyes. "Old Jun, congratulations. Has your grandson gotten better yet?"

The reason Li Shang had mentioned this matter to Jun Zhantian was for the sake of pissing him off. Even if Li Shang could not do anything to him this time, he could still prod Jun Zhantian until he chokes. That would not be too bad. However, once Jun Zhantian heard that, he suddenly recalled what he wanted to do. Ignoring Li Shang, he immediately ran in the direction that His Majesty had went. "Your Majesty, Your Majesty... I need to borrow that Death Warding Imperial Doctor for a while, this is an emergency."

All the ministers in the Imperial Court stumbled.

Chapter 79

A Blessing In Disguise

Dugu Zongheng squinted his eyes as he looked on with contempt. "Look at this old bastard. Just because his grandson was a little hurt, he became so anxious. He does not have the bearing of a great general at all, how disdainful! For someone like me to be outranked by such an ordinary man, what a worldly tragedy!"

Dugu Wudi curled the corners of his lips and spoke out in support of his father while nodding his head. "Indeed, indeed, how despicable, a worldly tragedy!"

All the ministers shook their heads in unison as they looked at them with utter contempt: A mere scratch would have been enough to cause you people from the Dugu Family to raise a sky shaking havoc. And yet you actually have the gall to despise Jun Zhantian, how shameless! However, the words that Grandfather Dugu spoke today seemed rehearsed. It seemed one of the head clerks must have helped him out with the script...

En? Could it be that he had rehearsed this for a long time? That is a shocking revelation! Could it be that something is going on in the Military Division? Thinking about this, all the old foxes in the Imperial Court felt shocked.

Seeing his son supporting him with complementing words, Dugu Zongheng laughed happily. Stroking his beard, he said. "In the end, my family is still the best. Producing nearly ten heirs in one go, each of them are skilled dragons and fearsome tigers; unlike the Jun Family which only have a single fur."

Dugu Wudi nodded like a chicken pecking down at grains of rice. "Indeed! Indeed!"

A wave of contempt burst out from the crowd again: With just one sentence, you started bragging about your family foundation. Producing nearly ten heirs in one go? Do you take that daughter-in-laws of yours as sows? How unrefined! Besides, your three sons have a total of twenty wives but only nearly ten grandchildren; you think you are qualified to brag about this?

Ignoring the prideful pair of father and son, they all shook their heads and left as they headed home.

Let us just assume that everything that had happened in these two days as an exhilarating farce. If only we knew it would end like this... sigh.

A while later, the palace guards saw Grandpa Jun triumphantly escorting an old man with white hair and beard who was carrying a medical chest out the palace. On the horse that Grandpa Jun rode on, there was actually another seat prepared!

It turned out that even before entering the palace; Grandpa Jun had already prepared a seat for the doctor...

Truly... a detailed plan!

What kind of person could be called a master? This is what you call a master!

...

The great Young Master Jun, Jun Moxie was lying in bed, putting in every effort to appear ill. But in truth, he was inwardly feeling joyful.

The Lolita, Little Ke carefully served him, scooping spoonful of sweet bird's nest soup for him. There were also ginseng soup, eight treasures lotus soup... as long as it is nourishing, it would be prepared for him. The only thing which made him unhappy was that Grandpa Jun would occasionally prepare a generous sum of Sixth level Xuan Beasts' blood. According to him, this was a rare nourishing stuff. But, Jun Moxie would have to cover his nose and pour it down his throat or pour it down the bucket beside his bed...

It is simply too hard to stomach! I am not a barbarian! Is it worth it to give me blood to drink? How unhygienic is it? Would my stomach even survive?

Naturally, these were not what had made him joyful. After having suffered from this injury, Jun Moxie realized that the Hongjun Pagoda within his consciousness was constantly rotating at high speed, releasing a rich amount of white, misty Spiritual Qi. The qi swept through his body's meridians again and again, focusing onto the damaged area. In less than a day, the sword wound on his chest had been fully healed.

After several coughs, some thick black coloured blood came out; the damaged area on his chest had also been reduced considerably. As for the wound on his thigh where one could see through to the other side, it only seemed serious. After the continued restoration effects of the Spiritual Qi, he was no longer in pain from the wound. The only thing that gave Jun Moxie some discomfort was the waves of itchiness and numbness, which occurred every now and again. However, Jun Moxie still felt comfortable. After all, there is the saying: No pain, no gain...

That was not all, the Hongjun Pagoda's Spiritual Qi kept gushing forth as though saying that it would not stop until the wounds on Jun Moxie's body have disappeared. Naturally, Jun Moxie would not miss out on such a good opportunity to cultivate his Arts. He quickly activated the Art of Unlocking Heaven's Fortune, leading the near solid form of Spiritual Qi as he channelled them through his meridians. While he was exercising the Arts, he realized something different this time. The Spiritual Qi turned into a semi-solid existence as it pummelled the area of the meridians that were suffering from blockages due to the sword wound. Almost instantly, the blockage was burst open. After that, he could clearly feel the qi flow within his meridians expanding bit by bit, becoming thicker bit by bit...

Under such circumstances, the Hongjun Pagoda would usually stop releasing the Spiritual Qi. At this moment however, it did not show any signs of stopping at all. Jun Moxie became elated. He gave up on

his plans to restore the damage from the sword wound and focused obsessively on leading the Spiritual Qi in order to increase his qi flow, secretly becoming joyful over this fortunate event.

Jun Moxie suddenly felt that his behaviour was similar to those of scammers... Others were being kind to help you treat your injuries, and yet you took advantage of this opportunity to increase your own strength. This was just like the act of making profit from other people's kindness...

However...

Such a type of scam, I would very much like to commit a few more! I am already addicted to it! Who would not want to do this kind of fraud? Jun Moxie cried out inwardly as he grasped onto the opportunity provided by this 'scam'.

Otherwise, what would he do when the Spiritual Qi's intensity dropped down to its former level after his wounds were fully healed? He has now become accustomed to this high quality delivery service of Spiritual Qi! Once his body has been fully restored, he could only cry: Or perhaps I should stab myself again in order to gain such a suitable condition for cultivation?

Unfortunately, some of the Spiritual Qi would still move towards the wounded areas and slowly began restoring those parts. During the moments when the wound on his thigh was being restored, the feeling of itchiness started to appear as well. The emission speed of Spiritual Qi from the Hongjun Pagoda began slowing down. After a few more moments, the speed of its rotation also slowed down and finally returned to its former state of silence within his sea of consciousness...

Jun Moxie woke up with a start and gave a sigh within his heart: I still have not had enough... this fast rate of cultivation is simply too alluring. Activating his inner eye, he could see a transparent qi flow slowly moving through his meridians. In the short span of just one night, the size of this qi flow had doubled! If one were to use the Xuan Qi cultivation as a standard of measure, then his current level of strength was at least at the Eighth level Xuan Qi! In addition, his qi had a high grade of purity!

In this world where Nine and below are but ants, Silver and Gold Xuan experts were aplenty. No matter how pure his Eighth level Xuan Qi may be, he was still not someone worth discussing. However, do not make light of Jun Moxie's speed of cultivation. Just in case anyone had forgotten, he had only arrived into this world roughly a month ago. Within this one month's time, he successfully improved his body, which was only at the Third level Xuan Qi up to the Eighth level Xuan Qi! If those old Supreme Divine Xuan geezers witnessed this practice speed, they would be shocked to the point of having their old teeth drop out!

If this world has an Institute of Anatomy where they dissect things in their studies, then upon learning of Jun Moxie's speed of cultivation, they would likely move out to capture him and dissect him for studying purposes! Jun Moxie gave a pleasant sigh of relief. He suddenly felt that the injury caused by the sword was... too bloody darned worth it! He had begun to seriously consider if he should just stab himself again!

A bodyguard entered and reported. "Young Master, Young Master Tang is here to visit you."

Jun Moxie gave an "oh", then he suddenly remembered something. He calmly picked up something that was wrapped up with a cloth beside his pillow and stuffed it into his blanket. Then, he used a feeble voice to speak. "Invite Young Master Tang in."

Following that, the sounds of heavy footsteps could be heard. Fatty Tang panted as he stepped into Jun Moxie's room, his face expressing exertions. At the same time, the vast room suddenly seemed much smaller. "Third Young Master, you scared me." Tang Yuan's face was a mask of shock. "I heard that you were killed and cried for the whole night. If we brothers were to be forced to part ways forever, then how am I supposed to live?"

Jun Moxie stared weakly at the fatty before him. He had the urge to jump out and kick him out! However, he was currently playing the part of a heavily injured person. He will have to spare him for now. His eyes on the other hand was spouting flames...

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"Thankfully, you did not die. Otherwise, I would be left alone. What would I ever do without you?" Fatty Tang wiped away his tears. After that, he drank a cup of tea that Little Ke brought in and called out. "Come! Quickly lift up and bring over the gifts that my Tang Family has prepared for Third Young Master Jun!"

Jun Moxie turned his attention to the outside, he was curious as to what kind of gifts did this brother of his prepared. He had even used the word "lift" for the gifts, what kind of gifts could it be?

Two men carried in two big boxes into the room, their faces showing an expression of extreme difficulty. Suddenly, Jun Moxie's bedroom was completely occupied by Tang Yuan and the two big boxes. Even Little Ke did not have any place to be at; she could only try to shrink her legs as she sat on a chair.

Tang Yuan waved to have the two men move out and laughed. He moved about with a mysterious air as he giggled and glanced at Jun Moxie. After opening the box, he moved away to let Jun Moxie see the contents within. Seeing it, Jun Moxie nearly fainted.

Placed within the box were high-grade medicines, boxes after boxes, bottles after bottles, packages after packages... all of them were perfectly packed and the smell of medicine assailed one's nose. One look was enough to confirm that the things inside were all valuable items. Jun Moxie wondered: did this fatty sweep up all the medical shops within the capital?

For the common people that had been injured, these medicines would certainly prove useful. In fact, those medicines were necessary. Moreover, some of these medicines might be impossible to obtain even if one has money. However, there was a problem here... Jun Moxie is no ordinary person; he has absolutely no need for this stuff!

In Jun Moxie's eyes, these items were no different from a pile of garbage! At the very least, it was only chicken ribs*!

Groaning, Jun Moxie spoke feebly. "Fatty, you have had it tough. However, even if I were to get hurt every day, all these medicines could probably last until the day I reach a hundred years of age. Are you here to visit me, or to curse me so that I get injured more?"

Tang Yuan slapped down on the box, closing it and spoke in a triumphant demeanour. "Third Young Master, what do you think of your brother's acquisition techniques? As long as the medicine is available in Tianxiang City, regardless if it is the holy grade or pinnacle grade, all of it is now within these two boxes!" After saying that, he secretly moved close to Jun Moxie and whispered furtively. "Third Young Master, those in the bottom layer are the ones I have spent a huge amount of effort in acquiring. Those are all rare items that are very hard to find. You must hide them carefully."

"What is it?" Jun Moxie felt himself becoming interested; his eyebrows were raised as he asked.

Tang Yuan gave a furtive glance at Little Ke and then smiled indecently before replying. "The ones at the bottom are those that you are most interested in, treasures to make females strong, Joysong Grass, Kinky Lady, Chaste Breaker, Golden Spirit Spear, Infallible Rod, Wall Piercer, Hundred Jin Hoist..."

"Stop! Stopstopstop!" Jun Moxie was shocked. "What in the world are all those weird stuffs? What is that... Hundred Jin Hoist, just what is that?"

"Hundred Jin Hoist, hehehe..." Tang Yuan let out an obscene smile again. Pointing at Jun Moxie's crotch, he whispered. "It means that after you eat that item, then that part of you could hoist up a hundred jin (60.5 kg)... err, good stuff!" Hearing Jun Moxie use the words 'stuff', Tang Yuan decided to call it 'stuff' as well.

"Bloody Hell! Don't do this to me, that is simply too disgusting!" Jun Moxie felt himself coming down with a headache. "Quickly move it away! If my grandfather sees it, he might decide to just cut that part of mine off! I want to take it with me even after I die! Don't bring such a kind of calamity to me!"

"What are you scared of? As long as one is a man, he will certainly appreciate this item! If I am not mistaken, Senior Boss Jun should also have this item. After all, his age is nothing to scoff at. Without the help of this 'stuff', even with his glorious bearing, he may not be able... kaka..." Tang Yuan laughed out recklessly. Suddenly...

"What item do I also have?" A deep, profound voice sounded out and Grandpa Jun stepped into view just outside the doors. A puzzled expression was on his face as he glanced at Tang Yuan before looking at the crammed room. "What is going on here? What were you just talking about earlier?"

Why is my luck so shitty! Tang Yuan was shell-shocked, large drops of sweat perspired out from him, his eyes rolling about in disorder. The floor below his obese body had, in an instant become drenched with a pool of sweat: Oh, my pitiful life! If those words earlier had been heard by Old Master Jun...

"What is all this stuff?" Grandpa Jun showed an expression of annoyance. "What a mess, quickly move it away!"

Tang Yuan immediately straightened himself, nodding his head like a chicken pecking on grains. "Yes, yes! I will immediately take them out! These are all some common herbs and medicine, nothing special about it."

After he spoke out though, Grandpa Jun spoke out again. "Fatty, what was the item that you said I have?"

The facial features on Tang Yuan's face suddenly contorted together, his complexion turning white, then red, then green. His fat cheeks trembled non-stop and his thigh quaked...

"Uh, Fatty was saying something about your imposing aura, he even said that His Majesty's aura could also be felt from you, but decided to stop because the subject was too much of a taboo," Jun Moxie quickly stepped in to smooth things over. Watching the poor Fatty's pitiful figure, he estimated that Fatty would probably turn to stone from just another word by Grandpa Jun.

"What is so taboo about that subject? Do you need to be scared to such heights? This senior simply possess a grand and imposing aura, a heroic aura that would never fade, this is simply a fact!" Grandpa Jun looked at Tang Yuan with an expression of disdain and continued. "In the future, do not invite our Moxie to go to those shady places anymore. Back then, he became bad because he followed you all the time."

"Ah?" Tang Yuan became shocked: Old Master, how could you flip right and wrong to such an extent? Back then, I was the one who followed your grandson and turned bad as a result...

Grandpa Jun snorted. In his heart, his own grandson was naturally a good grandson. As for all the disappointing things which happened back then, the main reason would naturally be due to this bad apple of a friend...

The two bodyguards came in and lifted up the two boxes. Tang Yuan then urgently said. "The second box..."

Jun Moxie started to sweat himself: Could it be that the items within the second box are even more unbearable than the first? Are you trying to get me killed...

Grandpa Jun waved his hand, commanding the men to carry away the two boxes of gifts away. Little Ke also went along with them. It was only then that the two of them let out a sigh of relief.

An old man with white hair and beard walked in; his face was one of kindness and harmony; he carried with him a small medical chest. Tang Yuan became shocked; he quickly bowed in a respectful manner and saluted. "Sir Fang."

This Sir Fang was none other than the Chief of the Imperial Doctors, Fang Huisheng. Those within Tianxiang City also gave him a resounding nickname: Death Warding Fang! The meaning behind this name was that no matter how grievous one's injuries may be, once the Imperial Doctor Fang treats that person, then that person will never die! This description towards him may have been exaggerated, however, his expertise within the field of medicine was indeed indisputable. If Huatuo** were to return to life, then he would probably be at this level.

In the past, Tang Yuan had fallen seriously ill and all the doctors within the capital were unable to cure him. During the most critical moment, this Sir Fang had appeared to treat him, saving him from the brink of death. Thus, Tang Yuan showed a great level of respect towards Sir Fang. After all, he was the one who saved his life.

Fang Huisheng nodded and gave a gentle smile. Without speaking, he sat on the bed and his hands grasped onto Jun Moxie's wrist, feeling the pulse on his wrist. He carefully observed Jun Moxie's complexion, pulling up his eyelids and asking him to extend his tongue out for observation.

It was at this moment that an idea suddenly popped into Jun Moxie's mind.

Using his internal energies, he exerted control over the qi flow of his body. It suddenly moved, causing his meridians to pulse in a seemingly abnormal manner.

This method was something that this world has no knowledge of. Naturally, there was also no one who could detect this method.

Fang Huisheng's face gradually turned serious. He had originally assumed that Jun Zhantian was simply making a mountain out of a molehill by dragging him here. However, after having checked this patient's pulse, he suddenly realized that this youngster before him was in a truly terrible state!

[* There is a part of chicken ribs which is tasteless. Meaning: Eating it would be pointless; throwing it away would be a waste.]

[** Huatuo is a famed doctor in ancient China during the Three Kingdoms era.]