

E Monarch 961

Chapter 961: Blood Oath!

“You’re still trying to deny it? As long as you have no intention of eating your words, what would you have to fear from my ‘ominous’ request?! Moreover, are my conditions really too difficult? I’ve directly listed my conditions for all to see, but your conditions were that I have to fulfill three unknown requests of yours without even being able to reject them! All of us here are clever people. Ask around, whose conditions are more difficult!? What did that second brother of yours say just now? Didn’t he swear in the name of the Zhan Family that if I backed out of this challenge, there will not be a place for me, Mo Jun Ye, in the Misty Illusory Manor in the future? If you want to talk about being overbearing, who is more overbearing?!” Jun Mo Xie snorted and pushed further.

“I... that wasn’t what I meant, I was afraid that Brother Mo wouldn’t accept the challenge and spoke too quickly. The Zhan Family has elders and numerous seniors, so what qualifications do I have to represent them... there’s definitely no intention to coerce Brother Mo. In any case, today’s challenge does not only concern my Zhan Family, and instead concerns the future of the entire Misty Illusory Manor’s young generation! Even if Brother Mo wants to dodge this challenge, it is a futile attempt. There’s no need to behave like a base man!” Zhan Yu Shu was quite quick-witted as well, changing his words instantly.

“Base man? I’m sure everyone here can clearly see for themselves who the base man is around here! I will say it again. As long as you can agree to my conditions, the competition will start immediately. It’s still the same words; the decision lies in the hands of you brothers. But I can understand as well... the reason you are hesitating so much must be because you know that you do not have sufficient ability. At least, it seems you still have a clear estimation of your own limitations...”

Jun Mo Xie laughed coldly and scoffed. “I knew that the two of you were just minor characters in the Zhan Family, and you wouldn’t admit it, continuing to boast so proudly about the awesomeness of your Zhan Family... Now, look... the two of you proud Young Masters can’t even dare to promise a mere entry slot to a garden... To think that you guys even have the guts to threaten and coerce others while tooting your own horns so proudly, with spit flying out of your mouths! I truly wonder how many of the things you promised others in the past have been fulfilled! How laughable...”

At this time, Young Master Jun could be said to be completely merciless as he grabbed ahold of a single point and forced his opponents to death. Using an exceedingly scathing and disdainful gaze, he stared at those two as if he were looking at two poor beggars who were so skinny that even if their faces were slapped swollen, they wouldn’t look fat. “In that case, what conditions do you two brothers still want to

raise with me? Are you qualified to do so? The two of you want to talk about conditions in front of a peerless genius with the Free and Natural Physique. Could it be that you don't feel any shame? Are you dreaming of taking advantage of this prodigy? How laughable! Toads lusting after a swan's flesh! HAHahaha. PUI! PUI PUI PUI PUI...."

Young Master Jun spat freely and laughed in a wild manner. In an instant, the Zhan Family two brothers was scolded speechless as their ears turned red and their tongues grew soft!

The situation now was already very obvious. They've brought up very tough conditions, and the other party had accepted them! But when the other party proposed similarly tough conditions, they didn't dare to accept! Or rather, they didn't have enough qualifications to accept... Since you didn't have enough qualifications to accept the other party's condition... wouldn't it be a joke to raise a challenge to the other party and even add multiple very tough conditions? This was truly the embodiment of the phrase "lewd toads lusting after a swan's flesh", an exceedingly shameless act...

Opposite the Drifting Fragrance Hall, in another inn, two white haired old man sat across a table as they gazed out of the window. A stick of incense burned lightly in the room, releasing a swirl of green smoke. Compared to the bustling inn across them, this place was serene and quiet!

"This kid with the Free and Natural Physique is indeed not a simple character. I'm afraid Yu Shu and Qing Feng are not going to have a good time in his hands..." One of the old men said lightly with a calm expression.

"In these years, things have indeed been going a little too smoothly for those two brothers, and they inevitably ended up thinking too highly of themselves. Today is also quite a good chance for them to temper themselves." The other old man replied with a gentle nod.

"But those conditions... what do you think? Do we agree or not?" The first old man said as he stared carefully at Mo Jun Ye's plain face. In that moment, this plain looking face was spitting and scolding the two Zhan Family juniors vehemently, using all kinds of ear-jarring language. The two Zhan Family juniors' faces were turning green and white, completely unable to retaliate...

"There's actually no harm in accepting those conditions." The other old man said, closing his eyes lightly. "The reason Yu Shu and Qing Feng did not dare to agree is because the implications of this matter are too large, and they don't have the authority to make such a decision. Thus, they can't accept the conditions. One must know, this thing called authority is something that has the power to decide a person's boldness of vision!"

“But if we look from another angle, it’s not a big deal even if we accept those conditions. As for what that Mo Jun Ye said, as long as they win, what does it matter even if the oath is more cruel? Moreover, that brat actually has no hopes of victory at all!”

The old continued, croaking in a hoarse voice. “So even if they swear an oath right now, what would it matter? When victory and defeat is determined in a moment, who would remember this matter? Even if someone recalled it, they would only praise Yu Shu and Qing Feng as people with guts... to even be able to accept this kind of condition! To the two of them, it’s instead a good thing.”

“But what if we lose?” The other old man said hesitantly. “All things are possible.”

“There’s no possibility of us losing!” The old man opened his eyes and scoffed as a hint of expression finally appeared on his face. His lips curved upwards, revealing a disdainful smile. “Besides, even if we really lose somehow, it’s still just a single slot to enter the Spiritual Herbal Gardens. Our Zhan Family may not necessarily be unable to obtain it! So what if we let him inside once? Even if he’s fortunate and somehow obtains the acknowledgement of the Holy Tree, it would just be the Miao Family’s loss. As for our Zhan Family, it’s also a good thing, because the Miao Family will then end up on the opposite side of that kid!

“Even if that kid is determined to oppose us in the future... he wouldn’t be able to pose any real threat to us within at least three to five hundred years! In that time, if there are any issues, wouldn’t it still be a simple matter for our Zhan Family to get rid of him?

“Our most important target now is just the Misty Illusory Manor, not the Free and Natural Physique kid! We need to be clear about this point. If we can’t distinguish between the two, what is there to talk about any great matter?”

“Yes! Elder’s words are right.” The two old men did not look much different in age, but the latter’s attitude was much more respectful, as though it was a junior in front of a senior...

“However, this Free and Natural Physique kid is not as simple as a cultivation prodigy! This person must be controlled heavily!” The old man nodded and closed his eyes again after finishing his words.

The other old man's face grew serious as he moved his lips, sending a vice transmission to Zhan Qing Feng.

"Fine! We accept this condition!" On the other side, Zhan Qing Feng suddenly stood up roared with gritted teeth, his face twisted with determination as if he'd been pushed too far beyond his endurance. "I assume there's two more conditions? Say them out together! If you continue dragging the time, it would only make us look down on you more!"

At the same time, he heaved a sigh of relief in his heart. So it turns out that the old ancestor is here... then, today's matter should be fine. However, he also felt somewhat uneasy internally. I wonder if old ancestor will feel disappointed at my performance just now?

"Great guts!" Jun Mo Xie clapped his hands and laughed. "As for the second condition, it's actually nothing large as well. It's a much simpler... if I win, the two of you need to kowtow sincerely to me and call me 'Grandpa' 10 times!"

"YOU!" Zhan Yu Shu's eyes turned completely red as he trembled. "What kind of condition is that? Although your cultivation is not high, with just your Free and Natural Physique, you can also be considered to be a person of the Misty Illusory Manor with high standing! How could you mention such a despicable request?"

"We accept!" Zhan Qing Feng interrupted Zhan Yu Shu as he stared vehemently at Jun Mo Xie, growling, "As long as you can win!" Although this condition was even more humiliating, it was not something that was difficult to fulfill. Naturally, they must accept!

"Good! The third condition is also very simple. Following your example, if I win, I can also reserve the right to request one thing of your Zhan Family. No matter what the request is, you have to fulfill it at all costs! It's impossible to reject! Also, this request does not have a time limit. I will mention it to you at the time that I determine; before that, if I don't want to say it, even if you beg me, I will not bring it up!"

Jun Mo Xie laid out everything in a straightforward manner. These three conditions could be said to be exceedingly tough. But in terms of simplicity, it could also be quite simple.

“This condition is impossible. You are just a single person with little cares in this world, whereas our Zhan Family has countless implications. If you requested for our entire Zhan Family to kill ourselves, could it be that we have to listen to you and do it?” Zhan Yu Shu rolled his eyes and said.

“You guys are so greedy of life and cowardly in the face of death; even if I raised such a request, it would be useless.” Jun Mo Xie shook his head and scoffed. “Do I look like such a dumb person?”

You don’t just look like, you ARE dumb! The two brothers practically cursed in their hearts at the same time!

The conditions were all settled, and the only thing remaining was the witnesses. Naturally, the witnesses were also all present. Of the eight great families in the Misty Illusory Manor, six of the younger generation successors were present. In addition to Miao Xiao Miao, the seven witnesses were formed!

The cultivation level of these seven were all not ordinary. All of them had reached the Supreme realm, or Superior Supreme. Although to true experts, this kind of cultivation was barely passable, but for their ages, it was already extremely high!

In addition to the powerful factions behind them, all of them were legitimately powerful witnesses!

In order to guarantee fairness, in case the Zhan Family had already bought over the other witnesses, Miao Xiao Miao invited another 10 people who stood at the peak of their respective crafts as witnesses!

In the end, there were 17 witnesses with great influence overseeing this competition!

“Kekeke...” Zhan Yu Shu looked at Jun Mo Xie and chuckled proudly a few times.

“Hehehe...” Jun Mo Xie also looked at the two Zhan Family brothers and scoffed evilly a few times.

Both sides felt that they had absolute confidence in victory and were laughing proudly to themselves.

In that moment, everyone in the crowd chattered with excitement. The good show was finally about to begin!

Following that, someone went to retrieve a set of paper and ink. The conditions of both sides were penned down personally by Miao Xiao Miao, her brush flowing gracefully like a phoenix. When she was done, Zhan Yu Shu and Zhan Qing Feng merely glanced impatiently at the paper and directly swore vicious oaths, before biting their thumbs and writing their names in blood, and leaving a bloody palm print as their signature.

Following that, when the Free and Natural Physique Young Master Mo did the same, a shockingly sharp and pressuring aura burst forth from the completed blood oath contract!

Chapter 962: Heartbreak Hymn

Everyone knew that this match was staked on the future of these few outstanding individuals! No matter which side lost, in the future, their status will be lower than a dog's in the eye of the other!

In fact, they would no longer be able to raise their heads anymore in the Misty Illusory Manor!

Verbal agreement being no guarantee, a written blood oath had been drafted as proof!

The names of both sides had been etched with their own blood and jointly witnessed by the leaders and future successors of all the powerful forces in the Misty Illusionary Manor!

There were no longer any grounds for backing out right now!

No one would have thought that this match would actually have such huge implications! The few talents that the Zhan Family had gathered were even beginning to regret slightly right now. For them to have their current great achievements in their own craft meant that they were naturally not idiots. If they knew that it would be this serious, they would not have come! It was just a moment of anger and they had been too affected by the Zhan Family two brothers' words, causing them to behave rashly...

Now, it was difficult for them to retreat or advance.

If they won, they would undoubtedly end up offending this Free and Natural Physique prodigy. For now, Mo Jun Ye's strength was still weak, so it was not that serious. However, the more serious thing was that... they would have offended Miao Xiao Miao as well! To offend Miao Xiao Miao was the same as offending the entire Miao Family! And the terrifying results of that was something that none of them could handle.

But if they lost, that would mean that they'd offended the Zhan Family! At that time, all of them might even die without a burial spot...

Whether they advanced or retreated, it was still a path of death?!

The moment Jun Mo Xie began putting his name onto the blood oath contract, Miao Xiao Miao's anxious voice transmitted into his ears. "Do you have any confidence?"

This Young Lady Miao had already decided. If he said that he wasn't confident, she would immediately create chaos here, beating everyone up, and even directly burn down the entire inn... Even if she was accused of creating trouble on purpose, she would tear down this entire event...

Jun Mo Xie looked at her and smiled. "100 percent!"

Those two words caused Miao Xiao Miao to be so angered that she stomped her foot with exasperation, cursing several times in her heart. Idiot! Self arrogant prick! But left with no choice, she could only look helplessly as that fellow wrote his name on the blood oath contract!

But unexpectedly, she actually felt a strange calm in her heart as if this idiot and self arrogant fellow in front of her really had the ability... but how could that be possible?

A row of 17 tables were quickly placed in the middle of the hall, and Miao Xiao Miao sat at the very center of them!

Everyone else was directly chased 10 zhang away, turning into mere spectators! Even Zhan Yu Shu was not an exception. Only Zhan Qing Feng was allowed to observe from a closer distance.

As for the other geniuses, they were all looking at each other nervously. No one was willing to stick their heads out and be the first to come out. If the first match was won, everything would naturally be fine. But if the first person who came out lost... it was the equivalent of them giving up their little lives...

Looking at that casually seated Free and Natural Physique guy, everyone felt extremely unhappy. Why do we have to stand, while you get to sit there and wait?

However, the other party was a person that was going to handle a long round of cycled matches. He was fighting for himself, but what about them?

"Young Master Mo, this one is called Lin Qing Yin. To be the first person to seek Young Master Mo's guidance, please consider this as just casting a brick to attract jade!" 1 Just as everyone was unable to make up their minds, a green robed youth who stood at the very last row walked out quietly, and greeted Jun Mo Xie.

"Lin Qing Yin... a very elegant name indeed. From the looks of it, Brother Lin should be a musician? Not bad, not bad... Does Brother Lin intend to have a competition on music?" Jun Mo Xie said with a faint smile.

"Indeed. Regrettably, this one has never cultivated in Xuan Qi before, and the only thing I'm somewhat confident in is music." Lin Qing Yin said calmly. "The reason for me stepping out today is firstly because I am truly a little unconvinced by Brother Mo; secondly, there are other reasons that compel me... After today's matter, regardless of win or loss, I, Lin Qing Yin, will never see Brother Mo again. Otherwise, the guilt in my heart will be too much to bear..."

Jun Mo Xie smiled lightly and nodded. "From the looks of it, Brother Lin has some inhibitions in your heart? One must know that music is the voice of the heart. If you cannot play from your heart, it will be difficult to ever rise to the peak of musical attainments. There is actually no need to feel guilty; Brother Lin can just treat this as making a friend through music. At least, that is how I feel!"

"Just the words 'music is the voice of the heart' is enough for me to tell that Brother Mo also has great attainments in music. To be able to meet a fellow friend who also appreciates music is a great

happiness. Regrettably, I am forced by circumstances!” Lin Qing Yin laughed bitterly as he steeled his face. “There is no point in speaking too much. A few days ago, this one had a sudden inspiration, managing to compose this song called ‘Heartbreak Hymn’. May Brother Mo please give me your guidance.

As he said that, Lin Qing Yin shook his sleeves and an inky green jade xiao appeared in his hand. Lowering his head, he gently stroked the xiao and said: “Although I was born in a millennia old musical family, I am the most familiar with the jade xiao. It is also the only skill that I am proficient in. This xiao had already accompanied me for 26 years! It is also the only thing of which I pursue to reach the peak of in this life! Apart from the xiao, there is nothing else I desire!”

“In other words, you only know how to play the xiao? You are not proficient in, or completely do not know how to play other musical instruments, like the zither or flute?” Jun Mo Xie asked.

“That’s right! I’ve said just now; apart from the xiao, there is nothing else I seek!” Lin Qing Yin raised his head and his eyes gleamed with passion.

“Impressive! It is indeed better to be a master of one thing than be a jack of all trades! It’s a pity that too few people understand such reasoning! For Brother Lin to understand this, it truly causes me to look at you differently. Looks like today’s match will be more interesting than I initially expected!” Jun Mo Xie’s face grew more serious.

“Brother Mo is indeed a kindred soul.” Lin Qing Yin’s eyes lit up and he looked at him deeply.

Turning around, he looked at Zhan Yu Shu. “Young Master Zhan, regardless of the results of this competition, I hope that Young Master Zhan can keep your word and stop making things difficult for my Lin Family! Only in this way can I play to the best of my ability!”

The moment these words came out, everyone looked up with realization!

So it turned out that this Lin Qing Yin had been coerced by Zhan Yu Shu to come here!

Zhan Yu Shu snorted coldly and said. “My Zhan Family has always done things in an open and aboveboard manner. When have we ever gone back on things that we’ve promised? You can set your mind at ease! Or do you want me to write you a blood oath contract as well?”

Lin Qing Yin narrowed his eyes and clasped his fists. “I wouldn’t dare. Hopefully, Second Young Master Zhan’s will honor your words. Lin Qing Yin will thank you first now. After this match ends, this Lin will bid my farewell, departing with my family. In this life, we will never step into Heart Fantasy City again. May Young Master Zhan set your mind at ease.”

Zhan Yu Shu snorted coldly again, not saying anything. Today was truly too shameful. But if they ultimately won, all that they’ve suffered today would still be worth it!

Miao Xiao Miao sucked in a deep breath and gritted her teeth. She actually felt a great impulse to speak out at the moment about the matter. Although she didn’t know about the details of what happened, but it was a fact that Zhan Yu Shu had used shady methods to force Lin Qing Yin! To think that the Zhan Family... would actually be capable of such things...

She trusted that as long as she promised the safety of the Lin Family and pursued the matter, she could stop this round of contest, even tearing the entire competition apart on the basis that all the contestants had been coerced and bought over by the Zhan Family unfairly. But after much consideration, she still kept her mouth shut. Because... could she really guarantee the safety of the Lin Family?

Perhaps the Miao Family behind her could do it. But would the Miao Family be willing to offend the current Zhan Family who was as dazzling as the sun in the sky? Although the Zhan Family was despicable, shameless, and hateful, what could they do? As the saying went, the winners are right, and the losers are wrong. As long as the Zhan Family came out victorious today, no one would send themselves to their deaths by accusing them of using underhanded methods to win. Victory would make them heroes!

Knowing that Zhan Yu Shu would not go back on his words after promising in front of so many people, Lin Qing Yin nodded and turned around with a relaxed face. Looking at Jun Mo Xie, he bowed deeply. “Brother Mo, today, I will use this xiao to seek your guidance on the path of music today!”

“Please!”

Lin Qing Yin's robes fluttered gently in the wind as he stood still, not playing immediately. After a long time, he slowly raised the xiao as an indescribable look of sorrow appeared in his eyes. His face was calm and still, and with every inch that the xiao was brought closer to his mouth, the sorrow in his eyes grew more pronounced.

When the first note of the xiao rang out, the sorrow in his eyes had already condensed to an extreme level. Remarkably, his face was still as still and calm as before.

The serene melody of the xiao rang out clearly, permeating to every corner of the large hall. Whether one understood music or not, their hearts could not help resonating clearly with the notes. It felt as if the person they loved most in their lives had already departed forever... the pain and regret was something that could never be mended.

This was a pain and sorrow that was impossible to describe with words!

Whether their cultivation was high or not or if their mental state was strong, everyone was drawn in by the tune without exceptions. This was completely different from any hallucination or Xuan ability. It was purely the power of music!

Music was an exceptionally amazing thing which could rouse the deepest emotions in a person's heart...

With the gradual deepening of the flute sound, Jun Mo Xie could clearly sense the heavy helplessness and sorrow in Lin Qing Yin's heart... In this instant, he heard the trials and pains that this Young Master who was born in a musical family had experienced...

Among the 17 judges, there was a renowned musician of the generation. When he heard this sorrowful tune, his face turned solemn and he sighed repeatedly.

Miao Xiao Miao, who sat in the middle, had a white veil covering her face, which masked her expression. But her eyes actually revealed some emotion, and her lips moved lightly. If one could understand lip reading, they would 'hear' the words. Soon, the spring splendor fades, from the flowers in the woods too soon. There's no stopping the chill rain at dawn, or the shrill wind at night. The memories of the rouge-colored tears, of the stays overnight amid cups. When will all that happen again? Life is long in sadness as water keeps flowing and flowing east...

This tune had moved nearly everybody present to tears!

Chapter 963: Acting Shamelessly?

The song had already ended, but Lin Qing Yin remained standing there silently. His expression hadn't changed, and only his eyes flickered with emotion. The jade xiao still hung beside his lips, and the sorrowful air around him had not dissipated in the slightest.

Complete silence!

After a long time, he finally lowered his hand, and the crowd was able to breathe again. With a very heavy tone, he asked Jun Mo Xie. "Brother Mo, for this first match, I do not ask that Brother Mo compete with me in xiao techniques. I only wished to ask Brother Mo, what did you think of my Heartbreak Hymn? What are the flaws? And who did I compose the song for? If there are any deficiencies, how do I improve? In the future, what shall my path be?"

When Lin Qing Yin said the words 'I do not ask that Brother Mo compete with me in xiao techniques', Zhan Yu Shu's face turned exceedingly unsightly, and a ruthless expression appeared in his eyes. But when he heard the following words, his face relaxed again.

From the way he saw it, Lin Qing Yin's questions were simply making things difficult for his opponent on purpose. Everyone had their own story and experiences. Inspirations were all gleaned from their personal feelings, which resulting in them composing their own works.

Wanting others to determine who the song was written for after listening to it just one time? This Mo Jun Ye hadn't even met Lin Qing Yin before, so how would he know who he wrote it for? Wasn't that just making things hard for others?

As for where the mistake was... and how to improve upon it; that was an even more ridiculous request. Zhan Yu Shu had been talented since a young age and had also dabbled in music for a period, having some understanding on the subject. Even he felt that this was an exceedingly great tune. For such an excellent song, how was one supposed to tell where the mistake was!

Everyone's state of heart was different, and just the slightest disharmony from the heart of the composer would mean a world of difference in the interpretation of the music. Apart from yourself as its composer, how was anyone else supposed to tell where the mistake was?

As for the last sentence, where should his path be in the future... that was even more difficult. You are a person who pursues nothing but music... could your path still be on Xuan Qi cultivation? But that question actually had a meaning of not being willing to continue on that path.

In that case, it was basically impossible to tell what path you should take in the future...

Looks like this fellow hadn't forgotten my warning! Let's see how this Mo Jun Ye handles this round. Zhan Yu Shu could not help but to feel a smugness in his heart.

In fact, it was not only Zhan Yu Shu who thought this way. Regardless of whether they knew music or not, everyone also had the same thoughts. In that moment, a hint of admiration appeared in their eyes as they looked at Lin Qing Yin. Looks like this fellow is a really vicious dog that knows how to bite ah! Not only does he not bark, he even obtains the favorable impression of the others first, before unexpectedly sinking his teeth in. A single bite is enough to claim a person's life ah...

Looking at the deep pondering expression on that Free and Natural Physique prodigy's face, everyone sneered with interest... In fact, everyone felt a little regretful in their hearts. From the looks of it, this competition might end in a single match, leaving them with nothing to see!

The crowd all scoffed as if they were looking at an interesting show.

But what these people didn't know was that Lin Qing Yin's questions might have seemed difficult, but he was actually already going easy on his opponent. This was something that those who are not immersed in music would not understand. Because he'd actually told Jun Mo Xie all the answers using his xiao!

As long as Jun Mo Xie repeated everything that he'd conveyed in the music, he would pass with ease...

"This Heartbreak Hymn is indeed not bad. It's an excellent song that one can not get enough of. There is nothing wrong with the song itself; it's a song that wrenches the heart, with nowhere to find a knowing ear! It could be said to be reaching the acme of perfection and beauty!" Jun Mo Xie said with a smile.

“But from the perspective of musicality, the emotions conveyed are too biased, causing it to be a blemish in an otherwise perfect song.”

When Young Master Jun’s words came out of his mouth, all the musician experts on the judges’ panel immediately sat up straight as they stared at him unblinkingly, afraid to miss a single word.

“A song is nothing but a medium with which musicians use to convey their emotions. Whether it is sorrow, pain, happiness, love, anger, hatred, battle or slaughter, everything can be transmitted through songs. However, apart from transmitting the emotions of the performer, the musician must not forget their responsibility towards the audience! A truly excellent song should be pleasant but not obscene, mournful but not distressing. After listening to it, others should feel more relaxed in their hearts. Since it’s a sorrowful song, the intention is to evoke the same feeling in the listeners’ heart, helping them release their own emotions and relieve the stress in their minds... But Brother Lin’s song is too exceedingly sorrowful that after listening to it, one would end up feeling even more desperately hopeless about their life. That is quite different from the original intentions of music! Although it is not as extreme as travelling in the opposite direction, it still feels as if you’d gone somewhat astray of the path!”

Jun Mo Xie smiled lightly and continued. “One could say that the successful parts of this song are also where its greatest flaws lie!”

“Well said!” An old man on the judges’ panel stood up and said excitedly. The others who understood music also nodded in agreement. Such an analysis was not only extremely relevant to the point, it had also pointed out the critical point with a single stroke!

Lin Qing Yin fell into deep thought, and nodded solemnly: “Then... in that case, how should it be remedied?”

“Remedied? That can be both simple and difficult!” Jun Mo Xie said faintly. “Saying that might sound contradictory because music is something that comes from the heart. I’ve just said that this song has already attained the level of near perfection, and there are no visible flaws. The true problem is with your heart. For such a sad and moving song, you actually maintained the same expression while playing it out. From the looks of it, you had performed it with a mental state of one who’d completely lost hope. The name Heartbreak Hymn, had already expressed the emotions of this song. The so-called remedy is just a switch in the state of mind when you play this song. The moment your state of mind changes, the feelings evoked by the song will change as well. If you cannot do that, it won’t matter no matter how you try to change the song and the melody. This is why I said that it is both easy and difficult!

“Or perhaps you will retort that if you changed your state of mind, it would change the original meaning and emotions of this song. But I will ask you in return: should a person’s life really be so devoid of hope? Why not try looking at it from another angle? Try turning hopelessness and pain into remembrance and memory. That should be enough. I trust that the person who could inspire you enough to compose this song so wholeheartedly must have a very deep relationship with you. Moreover, there must be many beautiful memories between the two of you... These memories are your most precious treasures that no one else can invade or rob you of. If you think of these memories while you play the xiao, even weaving your emotions into the song... I trust that it will definitely be very different. At that time, we will hear your sorrow, longing, and reminiscence instead of hopeless grief! At that time, this Heartbreak Hymn will be a completely perfect song, existing eternally with that person in Brother Lin’s heart!”

Lin Qing Yin’s shoulders trembled slightly as his eyes suddenly filled with tears...

“As for who it’s written for... I’ve already hinted at this in my previous answer. If I’m not wrong, Brother Lin has written this for a beautiful young woman.”

Jun Mo Xie looked at him warmly and continued. “And your grief should be because this beauty had passed away because of an accident, not because her love is for another. Otherwise, your song would definitely have a hint of resentment or hate. Instead, there was only...”

Lin Qing Yin sighed deeply and closed his eyes as two lines of tears ran down his cheeks. “You’re right! Brother Mo is absolutely right. So what if the song is perfect! A song that wrenches the heart, with nary to find a knowing ear! Xiao Ling... my Xiao Ling... We will never meet again...”

A face smiling as sweetly as a flower appeared in front of his tightly shut eyes again, her eyes clear and gentle, cute and beautiful. In the blink of an eye, he was looking at her, his eyes filled with tears, as she lay on the bed, withering due to sickness...

In that moment, Lin Qing Yin seemed to have returned to the past as he sat under the moon with her, gazing into her eyes while he swore a solemn pledge to accompany her through life and death, good times and bad...

“Xiao Ling ah...” Lin Qing Yin sighed deeply again as tears dripped from his cheeks.

Jun Mo Xie fell silent and recited softly. "Twas hard to meet thee and then bid farewell. The eastern wind blew weak and all flowers fell. Silkworms weave until death do them relax; candles weep nightly to the last drop of wax... 1 Brother Lin has deep emotions, gaining the admiration of us all. But if that Miss Xiao Ling saw you like this, she would surely feel exceedingly saddened and worried..."

This poem was undoubtedly one of the best works of Li Shangyin. He'd only recited half of the poem, and everyone was immediately moved! Miao Xiao Miao mouthed the few sentences of the poems with an intoxicated look on her face. Such deep emotions, such beautiful elegance... why is every sentence that comes out of his mouth so amazing...

In that moment, her heart trembled as a realization appeared in her mind. If he hadn't experienced such an emotion personally, how could he write such a touching poem? Could it be that he already... when she thought here, a strange emotion appeared in Miao Xiao Miao's heart. It was as if her heart ached for him... and also a bit of gloominess for herself...

"Silkworms weave until death do them relax; candles... weep nightly to the last drop of wax..." Lin Qing Yin mumbled in a shocked manner as he extricated himself from the sorrowful state and asked, "Dare I ask Brother Mo, what should I do now?"

"Go as your heart wills! Do as your heart wills!" Jun Mo Xie looked somewhat pitifully at this heartbroken youth. "Brother Lin has his own path to tread. You should know what you should do, and what you shouldn't do... It's not necessarily a bad thing to be full of emotions. But you must not let your emotions cage you. Break out of this cage, and with the vast skies and wide earth, where could you not go?"

"Many thanks to Brother Mo for your pointers!" Lin Qing Yin said with great gratitude on his face, thanking him in a heartfelt way. "Brother Mo's comprehensions in the path of music are vastly superior to me! This one is willing to admit my loss. Hur hur... 'pleasant but not obscene, mournful but not distressing'... Qing Yin will forever remember Brother Mo's guidance! It's only a pity that after today, we will never meet again. I hope that Brother Mo can turn calamities into fortune, accomplishing great deeds quickly!"

"Many thanks to Brother Lin for your well wishes!" Jun Mo Xie said with a slight smile.

Lin Qing Yin's words about turning calamities into fortune, naturally referred to this dangerous situation. Disguising his curses for the Zhan Family brothers in his words of blessing, how could Jun Mo Xie not understand this much?

Lin Qing Yin laughed aloud and kept his jade xiao, returning to his original spot.

The first match had ended with the Free and Natural Physique young prodigy Mo's complete victory! Seeing the judges all raising up the "victory" signs for Jun Mo Xie, Zhan Yu Shu's face turned exceedingly ugly.

"This round was a contest on music! But Mo Jun Ye only said a few words and passed without displaying even a bit of musical ability. How can he be declared the winner just like this? Only if he played a song and performed better than Young Master Lin will we be convinced!" A voice rang out, instantly echoing out loudly.

Chapter 964: A Song that Wrenches the Heart

This was clearly a troublemaker looking to disrupt things on purpose. The competitor himself had already declared his loss, and the judges had also given their results. Creating trouble like this was simply too much and wanting Jun Mo Xie to perform a song even more sad than this was also exceedingly shameless. Young Master Jun had already said very clearly just now, that while the song itself was perfect, the only problem laid in the state of mind of the performer, which resulted in the entire performance being flawed. But that person actually wanted Jun Mo Xie to perform a song that was superior to that one. It was simply making things difficult for others!

"Victory and defeat is already clear. Are you going to create trouble on purpose?" Miao Xiao Miao furrowed her brows and her eyes gleamed. It was obvious that she was exceedingly infuriated!

"He didn't even touch a musical instrument. How can you say that victory and defeat are clear?" The voice persisted relentlessly.

Jun Mo Xie had already determined the location of the person speaking long ago. It was a fellow standing far away among the crowd, lowering his head and hiding himself while shouting loudly.

Normally people who shouted like that should be extremely agitated, not like this guilty looking fellow who was afraid of being recognized.

Zhan Qing Feng did not say anything, but there was a look of glee in his eyes. That person was someone they had arranged previously. In case Mo Jun Ye won, no matter with what reason, they would find some ways to oppose it. Even if it was picking a bone from an egg, they would still try to flip his victory into a loss!

Jun Mo Xie swept his spiritual sense out and instantly understood the situation. Scoffing lightly in his heart, he thought to himself. If these people knew that this Young Master was that legendary person who performed that Laughing Proudly in the Pugilistic World back at Chrysanthemum City's Tanguan Hall... I'm afraid you won't be so eager to give this Young Master a chance to perform. That Heartbreak Hymn could indeed be considered as perfect. However, there were also rank differentiations between perfection...

"As the saying goes, justice comes from the heart of the people. Fine then, since someone has raised their doubts, I shall perform a song for everyone. In case others want to find faults and act shamelessly! Am I right, First Young Master Zhan?" Jun Mo Xie said with a faint smile as he looked at Zhan Qing Feng.

"That is natural. One needs to win with overwhelming ability in order to convince the crowd!" Zhan Qing Feng returned the smile and said. "Victory and defeat cannot be determined with just a few skillful words."

"Exactly. Speaking of not determining victory or defeat with just a few words..." Jun Mo Xie chuckled lightly. "One shouldn't rely on sneaky tricks, using people who don't even dare to show their faces to create trouble. The brother who spoke up just now, since you had the guts to use your voice, why don't you step out and speak? I can guarantee you that I will definitely not pursue the matter, whether you're speaking for yourself, or on behalf of others!"

Miao Xiao Miao burst out in laughter when she heard those words. With her abilities, she'd naturally also found that person. When Jun Mo Xie was exchanging words with Zhan Qing Feng, she'd instantly realized everything.

Ever since they reached here, she'd never seen that person and Zhan Qing Feng say a single word. From the looks of it, that person had clearly been planted by Zhan Qing Feng. To think that this fellow was actually so far-sighted to such a level, already making plans to deal with a defeat in advance.

But because of this, she felt even more wary of Zhan Qing Feng! Wouldn't this mean that all those actions he'd shown her earlier had all been a part of his plan?

Those great efforts he'd spent to get into her good books... what had all that been for? Or rather... what does the Zhan Family want?

This was the first time that Miao Xiao Miao linked the matter to the Zhan Family, and she could not help but feel a great shock in her heart!

"Brother Lin, I didn't expect this meeting today and didn't bring my instrument. Can I borrow Brother Lin's jade xiao?" Jun Mo Xie asked with a slight smile.

Lin Qing Yin agreed immediately and took out his jade xiao. After washing it carefully in clear water, he wiped it with his personal handkerchief and passed it to Jun Mo Xie.

Such an action was actually the greatest mark of respect from a musician!

With Lin Qing Yin's status as a great musician, he naturally had his own standing, and it was normally impossible for him to part with his personal instrument which had never left his side, lending it to another person. But Lin Qing Yin's action had shocked everyone.

Because to Lin Qing Yin, Mo Jun Ye wanting to borrow his xiao was an honor to him!

As he received the xiao, it was so light that Jun Mo Xie felt as if there was nothing in his hand. In that moment, he could help but to exclaim/ "Good xiao!"

There was practically no weight to this jade xiao at all. From the touch and feel of it, this was most likely only possible with the exceedingly rare Light Spirit Jade!

"A good xiao also needs to be paired with a capable musician. In my hands, this jade xiao is somewhat wasted. Hopefully, it can produce a different sound now that it's in Brother Mo's hands." Lin Qing Yin smiled generously and took a step back.

“Brother Lin is too modest.” Jun Mo Xie smiled lightly and said. Looking at the jade xiao in his hand, he nodded lightly. “The tune I’m about to perform today is composed by a lady and has been circulated for several hundred years now... Perhaps because the heavens were jealous of her beauty, this woman peerless in her looks was frail and sickly, living her life with brows furrowed in pain. Before the age of 20, she’d already left the mortal world. A country toppling beauty like that was thus covered in earth and left to rot, drawing the unceasing sighs of countless people in the world. But due to us being far away and remote, this song had yet to reach this place. If not for a fortuitous encounter back then, I would not have learnt this song. Today, I will perform this song as a tribute to her.”

As he said that, countless people pricked their ears and sat up attentively. From the looks of it, this was a song that nobody had ever heard of before.

And it was even the work of a woman!

“Though this Miss had a beautiful face, she rarely went out due to her frail constitution which consigned her to her bed. Normally, her greatest joy would be to gaze at flowers in front of her window and look at the clouds drifting through the sky... That day, the flowers in the garden had all bloomed, and her heart was filled with joy as she played to her heart’s content. In her happiness, she decided that she would go out again the following morning! But that night, a huge wind swept through, followed by a storm. All the flowers which had bloomed that day were destroyed in a single night...”

As he spoke to here, Miao Xiao Miao could not help but gasp lightly, thinking to herself that if she were that girl, she would definitely feel exceedingly sad. Especially since this girl was weak and sickly, her heart was definitely frail. The sudden storm had surely destroyed much of her hopes and happiness, so wouldn’t she feel even worse?

And indeed, Jun Mo Xie continued. “... When she heard the storm that night, she already felt incomparably anxious. When the sun finally rose the next day, she covered her body and rushed out to the garden to see her favorite flowers. But the sight before her eyes was just a cruel scene of scattered red petals...

“The girl was completely heartbroken. The resplendent flowers of yesterday had become like this in just a single day. Even so, the dejected girl could not bear to see those petals remain desecrated on the ground like that. So, she swept all of them up and collected them in a bag, burying them in the ground... As she was burying the petals, she suddenly thought of herself. Wasn’t she just like those flowers? With her sickness, she likely would not be able to live for long. Today, she was burying the flowers. But who would be burying her in the days to come?

“Perhaps due to her melancholic emotions, or her state of mind, the girl wrote a poem titled <<Song of the Burial of Flowers>> 1 . Today, the song I’m going to perform is a xiao rendition composed by her. And in just three days after writing that song, the girl passed away...

“This little sister truly can’t wait to listen to this Song of the Burial of Flowers.” Miao Xiao Miao said with rapt attention and interest. “But before Brother Mo starts performing, can you write this poem down for us first?”

“Since Miss Miao has requested it, it is naturally possible!” Jun Mo Xie said with a smile.

With a wave of her hand, a brush and a long scroll of paper were brought out and placed before her. Smiling lightly, she said, “Brother Mo only needs to recite, and this little sister will write it down.”

“That is fine as well.” Jun Mo Xie understood her meaning. In a while, he might need to compete in calligraphy. It was still not time for him to reveal his cards yet.

The two’s words had successfully infected the crowd with anticipation for this Song of the Burial of Flowers even before the performance.

Firstly, the storytelling created a scene in the hearts of the crowd. Then, with the lyrics written down and placed before the crowd before completing it with a xiao rendition, it would undoubtedly maximise the resonance of the music in the hearts of the crowd!

Without further delay, Miao Xiao Miao dipped her brush in ink and as Jun Mo Xie recited, the Song of the Burial of Flowers which had shocked the Earth and was recited by everyone in his previous life was finally introduced for the first time in this other world, revealing its dazzling radiance!

“Flowers fade and fly,

and flying fill the sky;

Their bloom departs, their perfume gone,

yet who stands pitying by?

And wandering threads of gossamer

on the summer-house are seen,

And falling catkins lightly dew-steeped

strike the embroidered screen.

A girl within the inner rooms,

I mourn that spring is done.

A veil of sorrow binds my heart,

and solace there is none.

I pass into the garden,

and I turn to use my hoe.

Treading over fallen glories

as I lightly come and go.

There are willow-sprays and flowers of elm,

and these have scent enough.

I care not if the peach and plum,

are stripped from every bough.

The peach-tree and the plum-tree too

next year may bloom again.

But next year, in the inner rooms,

tell me, shall I remain?

By the third moon new fragrant nests

shall see the light of day.

New swallows fly among the beams,

each on its thoughtless way.

Next year once more they'll seek their food

among the painted flowers.

But I may go, and beams may go,

and with them swallow bowers.

Three hundred days and sixty make

a year, and therein lurk

Daggers of wind and swords of frost

to do their cruel work.

How long will last the fair fresh flower

which bright and brighter glows?

One morning its petals float away,

but to where no one knows.

Gay blooming buds attract the eye,

faded they're lost to sight;

Oh, let me sadly bury them

beside these steps tonight.

Alone, unseen, I seize my hoe,

with many a bitter tear;

They fall upon the naked stem

and stains of blood appear.

The night-jar now has ceased to mourn,

the dawn comes on apace;

I seize my hoe and close the gates,

leaving the burying-place;

But not until sunbeams dot the wall

does slumber soothe my care.

The cold rain pattering on the pane

as I lie shivering there.

You wonder that with flowing tears

my youthful cheek is wet;

They partly rise from angry thoughts,

and partly from regret.

Regret that spring comes suddenly;

and anger that it cannot last.

No sound to announce its approach,

or warn us when it's passed.

Last night within the garden

sad songs were faintly heard;

Sung, as I knew, by spirits,

spirits of flower and bird.

We cannot keep them here with us,

these much-loved birds and flowers,

They sing but for a season's space,

and bloom a few short hours.

If only I on a feathered wing

might soar aloft and fly;

With flower spirits I would seek

the rooms within the sky.

But high in the air

What grave is there?

No, give me an embroidered bag

within to lay their charms.

And Mother Earth, pure Mother Earth,

shall hide them in her arms.

Thus those sweet forms which spotless came

shall spotless go again.

Nor pass dirty with mud and filth

along some filthy drain.

Farewell, dear flowers, forever now,

thus buried as was best.

I have not yet divined when I

with you shall sink to rest.

I who can bury flowers like this

a laughing-stock shall be;

I cannot say in days to come

what hands shall bury me.

See how when spring begins to fail

each opening flower fades;

So too there is a time of age

and death for beautiful maids;

And when the fleeting spring is gone,

and days of beauty over;

Flowers fall, and lovely maidens die,

and both are known no more!"

As Jun Mo Xie recited and Miao Xiao Miao wrote, the entire crowd was engrossed in the sorrowful yet beautiful and graceful poem. Even the two Zhan brothers who were determined to cause trouble for Jun Mo Xie did not say a single word.

To think that there was such beautiful poetry in this world! Every word and every phrase was extremely relatable... that helplessness, that free and easy attitude towards life and death... using flowers as a metaphor for her own aloof pride...

To think that such a pure hearted and free spirited girl had actually existed in this world before...

Chapter 965: Youth Chess King

As for Miao Xiao Miao, she'd already become deeply entranced as each line of the poem was unravelled before her... Three hundred days and sixty make a year, and therein lurk; daggers of wind and swords of frost to do their cruel work... How long will last the fair fresh flower which bright and brighter glows? One morning its petals float away, but to where no-one knows...

But high in the air, what grave is there? No, give me an embroidered bag within to lay their charms. And Mother Earth, pure Mother Earth, shall hide them in her arms... Thus those sweet forms which spotless came shall spotless go again. Nor pass dirty with mud and filth along some filthy drain. Farewell, dear flowers, forever now, thus buried as was best. I have not yet divined when I with you shall sink to rest. I who can bury flowers like this a laughing-stock shall be; I cannot say in days to come what hands shall bury me. See how when spring begins to fail each opening flower fades; so too there is a time of age and death for beautiful maids; And when the fleeting spring is gone, and days of beauty over; flowers fall, and lovely maidens die, and both are known no more!

As she wrote, Miao Xiao Miao's eyes grew wet uncontrollably. It was as if she could see that frail and sickly girl sweeping up the petals with great effort, gathering them together into a hand woven bag and burying them tenderly, finally passing away into a mere soul...

In that moment, Miao Xiao Miao even felt as if that girl was herself... Although I am not frail and sickly, my life in the Misty Illusory Manor is controlled and restricted. At any time, I could be sacrificed away like an item for the family, forced to marry to someone I don't like, or even detest...

If that is my fate, it's really no better than 'No, give me an embroidered bag within to lay their charms. And Mother Earth, pure Mother Earth, shall hide them in her arms. Thus those sweet forms which spotless came shall spotless go again. Nor pass dirty with mud and filth along some filthy drain'...

Just as everyone was still immersed in the beauty of the poem, a faint xiao tune pierced through the silence, seemingly drifting down from the edges of the heavens, ringing out clearly...

Song of the Burial of Flowers!

A single Song of the Burial of Flowers, enrapturing the souls of hundreds!

The cry of the xiao was soft and mournful, as if weeping and complaining. Those innumerable flowers of purple and red, all manners of charm, the thousand different types of amorous feelings... all of it blossomed in the hearts of the crowd, before slowly disappearing and turning into nothingness and melancholy...

Even after the song was finished, no one spoke for a long, long time. It was as if that beautiful xiao tune was still reverberating through the hall, echoing in everyone's hearts endlessly...

"Ai... this song..." A musical expert wiped his eyes with emotion. "It's truly peerless, akin to a tune from the heavens in the mortal realm. To be able to hear it just once has already made this life worth living!"

"Yes..." Miao Xiao Miao had a dazed expression on her face as her mind still lingered in the music. Her voice was wispy and faint, as if her soul was reluctant to part with the beauty in her mind. Speaking slowly as if she weren't aware of her reality, she nodded lightly. "This is the most touching xiao rendition I've ever heard in my life..."

"Reached the acme of perfection and beauty? No, compared to Brother Mo's song, this is what it truly means to have reached the acme of perfection! Only now do I, Lin Qing Yin, know what is the true essence of music! And what is the true path of music! After listening to this song, I suddenly feel as if everything I've learnt before is truly not worth a mention at all... Haha, to think that I've imagined myself to be the best among all the young musicians in the Misty Illusory Manor. In reality, I actually haven't even come into contact with real music yet... In fact, I hadn't even touched upon its corners..." Lin Qing Yin said in a dumb manner.

Even Zhan Yu Shu could not help but nod his head lightly in spite of himself. He could also be considered to have studied music rather extensively, and in this moment, he was not willing to speak in contrast to his heart. But in a moment, he came to himself and realized the side on which he stood and instantly

shook his head. But as if the shaking of his head had pricked his conscience, he actually switched to nodding again...

This Song of the Burial of Flowers was an excellent song with no flaws to attack! The melody was beautiful, and something never before heard in this world! That helplessness and sorrowful emotion embodied within the music had caused everyone to feel a wispy sense of loss. And that purity and pridefulness interwoven within the tunes... caused them to feel even more heartbroken...

After listening to this perfect rendition, everyone cried out together and gave their approval. Even the people on Zhan Qing Feng's side couldn't find any problems with it! Jun Mo Xie had obtained the victory in an overwhelming manner!

This time, nobody dared to mention Heartbreak Hymn anymore. Because the difference between them was like the heavens and the earth... with no way for comparison ah...

"Brother Mo, dare I ask, what is the name of that talented girl?" Lin Qing Yin's voice was humble and he seemed to have a hint of anticipation in his voice. Although Jun Mo Xie had mentioned that the girl had already passed away several hundred years ago, but after he heard this Song of the Burial of Flowers, he felt as if he'd already met this frail and sickly girl...

He even felt an impulse to console this pitiful lady who had to live such a cruel life...

"This is quite a coincidental thing that you asked. Her surname is also Lin, which means that you are of the same line, Brother Lin." Jun Mo Xie said with a faint smile. "Her name is Lin Dai Yu." Jun Mo Xie said with a heartfelt sigh. In this moment, he finally understood one thing. The advantage of a transmigrator was simply too large!

Not mentioning the other stuff, as long as one had studied at a primary school on Earth, they would be able to bring at least a portion of thousands of years of history with them to the other world... Especially songs, poems, and other literary works of the ancient grandmasters... that stuff was completely invincible here...

"So she's also surnamed Lin... what a peerless talent of pure spirit and beauty..." Lin Qing Yin sighed lightly and said in a wistful manner.

“Brother Mo, could you make a copy of musical notes of this Song of the Burial of Flowers’s xiao rendition for me?” Miao Xiao Miao asked in a soft voice.

“Of course! To be able to satisfy Miss Miao is a great honor of mine.” Jun Mo Xie agreed immediately.

“Xiao Miao is filled with gratitude for Brother Mo’s gift.” Miao Xiao Miao smiled shyly as a warm look flashed past her eyes.

In that instant, an intense look of jealousy blazed in Zhan Yu Shu and Zhan Qing Feng’s eyes! The way they looked at Jun Mo Xie became even more hostile.

With Young Master Jun’s abilities, he had naturally detected those two extremely hostile gazes, and he swiveled his eyes to look in a casual manner. As he met their eyes, he felt a shock in his heart. From the surface, it seemed as if Zhan Yu Shu was pursuing Miao Xiao Miao and Zhan Qing Feng was only helping his little brother. But why was there such an expression on Zhan Qing Feng’s face as well?

Could it be that Zhan Qing Feng also had wild intentions for Miao Xiao Miao? The reason he’d approached her previously was not purely for the sake of his brother?

If that’s really the case, Zhan Yu Shu might actually still be kept in the dark about the whole matter! Perhaps only Zhan Qing Feng was truly cognizant of the whole matter... In that case, could I possibly use this knowledge to my advantage?

If he could leverage this point well, he might be able to turn these two brothers against each other! There were two things that a man can never endure. One was being betrayed by their own brothers, The second was that their woman was being coveted by another!

As for Zhan Qing Feng, he seemed to have fulfilled both criteria!

If he exposed this little secret... the results would be very interesting to see. Perhaps, it could even be more interesting than today’s farce!

Jun Mo Xie sneered internally and instantly began making plans in his heart. However, the expression on his face was still completely unchanged.

The results of the first match were very obvious. It was a complete victory for the Free and Natural Physique Young Prodigy Mo!

There were no more voices of contention, and no one could oppose the result. If they continued to seek trouble at this point, whoever spoke out would instantly be cursed to death by the others!

Although the first match had ended, it was merely the start in the context of this challenge. Immediately following it was the second match. The original plan was to chain all the matches up, not giving Mo Jun Ye a chance at a breather. But because of a single Song of the Burial of Flowers, the entire crowd had become lost in the music, not recovering for a long time... Nobody came out for the second match, resulting in an empty stage!

Humans were like this. They would always be filled with jealousy and refuse to recognize others who were simply a little bit better than them. But if the other person was much better than them, they would suddenly be filled with respect and even worship. It was like a household with an annual income of 10,000 yuan compared with a household with 100,000 yuan annual income. The person with 10,000 yuan income will only scoff bitterly, and curse that the other person's luck was simply a bit better than them. If it was them who had the same opportunities, they could also achieve the same thing... But if they were asked to compare themselves with Bill Gates, all of them would bow in respect... Because the person they were comparing themselves to was simply a legend! Who would be so dumb as to think they could match up to such a legendary character?

And right now, it was the same for Jun Mo Xie! Before the first match, the great prodigy Mo was only the "so-called" legendary prodigy. But now, he'd proven himself to be a legitimate legendary prodigy! Thus, everyone's attitude of him had changed!

In truth, most of these people had only come here today because they'd received some advantages and promises from the Zhan Family. As for people like Lin Qing Yin, they had even been directly coerced to come...

But before this, these similarly talented youngsters were truly also somewhat unconvinced in their hearts! All of them had come great achievements in various fields, and although they could not be said to have reached the peak of their fields, their reputations had still spread quite widely in the Misty Illusory Manor...

Achieving great results in their youth, who would not be arrogant?

But the appearance of this Free and Natural Physique youth had directly snatched away the attention of all the Seniors and Elders of the Misty Illusory Manor! No matter how much greater their achievements was, it was not worth a mention in front of this legendary Free and Natural Physique!

The main thing was also that this physique was something that was gained at birth. It had nothing to do with Mo Jun Ye's own hard work. This point made everyone feel even more unconvinced.

But after today, after witnessing his Song of the Burial of Flowers, everyone immediately reined in their arrogance! These youths were undoubtedly proud, and they'd also looked forward to getting some benefits out of participating in this event. However, that did not mean that they would go against their conscience...

For the other party's musical attainments to reach such a high level... just this point alone was enough to cause the crowd to look at him differently. Moreover, he was the owner of the Free and Natural Physique?

Disregarding natural talent, this was still an extraordinary person!

"Shall I face Brother Mo in the second match?" A person finally walked out after some time. The newcomer was a youth with a skinny figure. He looked ordinary and steady, with confidence on his face. It was as if he had everything calmly in his grasp, an absolute self confidence..."

His two eyes shone brightly, but this kind of light was not the clarity that came from cultivation. It was instead a natural quick wittedness and concentration.

Although this youth did not seem old, his bearings were steady and firm. With a single look, Jun Mo Xie could tell that this youth was probably more steadfast and determined than some of those old fellows with a wealth of experience behind them.

"May I know who this Young Master is?" Jun Mo Xie looked at him and asked.

“Brother Mo, this is the Youth Chess King of our Misty Illusory Manor, Qi Wan Jie!” Miao Xiao Miao introduced. “Qi Wan Jie learned the way of chess at a very young age. He made his name at the age of nine, and when he was 13, he was already unmatched in the Misty Illusory Manor! Right now, he’s not even needed to be present in the yearly chess competition. Because everyone else can only fight for the second place! The title of Chess King is something that Qi Wan Jie has held for 12 consecutive years without anyone being able to snatch it away!”

Chapter 966: Chess Move outside the Game of Chess

“So it is Brother Qi; apologies for any disrespect.” Jun Mo Xie bowed slightly.

“The art of chess is originally merely a minor and insignificant talent. There is no harm using it for treating the soul. But if it’s used for a competition to show who is superior, it is rather unsuitable... Brother Mo moved everyone’s souls with a single tune; you’re a person of refined temperament. Could you go for a round with me? Winning or losing is unimportant; just doing your best would suffice.” Qi Wan Jie smiled and said.

His name was originally “Qi Wan Jie 1”, but after he became famous, he changed his name to Qi Wan Jie, changing the original character of Jie to Jie 2, suggesting his constant permutability in the game of chess, his hundreds and thousands of twists and tribulations that were impossible to be figured out by others. Of course, this change in the character of his name also revealed his arrogance.

Jun Mo Xie couldn’t help but sneer internally. Looks like this fellow is one of their main forces for dealing with me, and this fellow is probably be adept at calculation and has a hypocritical temperament...

All of these were conveyed from his one single sentence alone.

You claim to say that ‘if it’s used for competition to show who is superior, it is rather unsuitable...’, yet you request that I ‘go for a round with you’? And even winning or losing is unimportant, so doing my best would suffice!

Since it's a battle of chess, if there is no desire to win, then how can victory be determined? Especially in the game of chess, one has to fuss over every minor matter to be able to calculate their position, figure out their advantages and disadvantages and adapt to it...

It's considered rather impressive to be capable of being so hypocritical at such a young age ah!

This person is a hypocrite. But this Young Master has met plenty of hypocrites. Li You Ran's skills, for example, are way higher than yours, and Li You Ran is so much more honest. What is this!

"That would be natural. Brother Qi is not wrong at all; I deeply feel the same. The art of chess is indeed the deepest form of study, but it is just merely an insignificant talent within a small square. Its name truly follows its merit." Of course, Jun Mo Xie didn't think this way. The art of chess was not some insignificant talent and was even capable of obtaining national glory in the present days...

But he had to continue the conversation like this. Because Jun Mo Xie felt pissed at the sight of this squinty-eyes before him!

You want to help the Zhan Brothers to defeat me, so just do it openly! Why are you still pretending to be all sanctimonious and spouting so much bullshit... You just want to disgust this Young Master don't you.... If I don't properly hit you with some blows, wouldn't I be letting all these pretense of yours down?

Qi Wan Jie... F*ck, I'll just let you 'Finish all together' 3, let you completely be finished here...

To dare to play schemes with this daddy, just watch if this daddy plays you till your death!

"However, I am not very well versed in the skills of chess and only learnt it for a couple of months not long ago. But... since Brother Qi says that it's merely some insignificant skills and tricks, then I shall entertain Brother Qi. After all, it's just to treat the self and soul and not about winning or losing. I believe I am still capable of winning," Young Master Jun said.

"Brother Mo sure is humorous... Since Brother Mo also agrees that the art of chess is an insignificant skill, then please don't blame me for not showing any mercy." A cold gleam appeared in Qi Wan Jie's eyes, but he still maintained his poise as he said this in reply indifferently.

“Oh? Not showing any mercy? Brother Qi is a gentlemen, an honest person who doesn’t do anything in the dark. Just that I have a question in advance. If I blame you for not showing any mercy... Then will you show me any mercy?” Jun Mo Xie asked sarcastically.

“When facing someone like Brother Mo, I believe no one will show mercy.” Qi Wan Jie was getting impatient. This Mo Jun Ye is truly too detestable! I was just trying to speak in a humble manner just now, you’re now trying to go overboard...

“Is that so? Brother Qi’s words really make me upset. I originally thought that you were the supreme chess champion, so naturally you’d be above others in your behavior. Even if you can’t do things open and candidly, it wouldn’t be untrustworthy. But I did not imagine that what you’ve said just now was as if you were letting out a fart... Other people who let out a fart will only stink for a while, but you actually even swallowed it right back... I’m truly impressed ah... This sort of skill is truly number one in the world, as expected of the chess champion. You have a fully justified reputation ah, truly, knowing somebody by their reputation can’t compare to meeting them in person. I truly admire and am impressed, I can’t compare ah...”

Jun Mo Xie noticed that he had already successfully destroyed his frame of mind, so naturally he’d take the opportunity to continue dealing flows. The frame of mind was the most important in the art of chess; if the mental state was not stable, even the best national player can lose to a child who had just began playing chess... This was nothing too bizarre...

“Mo Jun Ye!” A look of anger appeared across Qi Wan Jie’s face. “Let’s wait and see who will be utterly defeated and destroyed!”

“Utterly defeated and destroyed? That sounds a little serious. I only have one thing to say; little brother, you’re not allowed to cry if you lose, ah!” Jun Mo Xie said in an extremely serious tone. “Although you are still young, but in this sort of occasion, if you cry because you lost, it’ll really not look good...”

Qi Wan Jie’s face was turning white, and he scoffed heavily. At this moment, one of his followers behind him had already prepared the chessboard and pieces. He stopped bothering with Jun Mo Xie and walked over to the chessboard.

Clearly he could no longer wait to torture this Free and Natural Physique in a game of chess!

I don't care if you have the Free and Natural Physique, but you offend me, I will not leave you with any face! Especially when Second Young Master Zhan promised me a huge mansion, the position of the Chess Superintendent of the Chess Institution of the Misty Illusory Manor, and four great beauties waiting to be my concubines... All these I must obtain!

I want to have it! I want success! So I must step over your body!

Get ready to be my stepping stone, legendary prodigy!

Jun Mo Xie may look completely calm, but right now, he was a little nervous. He had only grazed the surface of chess when he was training; although his power of understanding was not too shabby and his abilities at the game were not weak, it was still far from professional players.

With Young Master Jun's real standard, in the current world of chess, he was only slightly above average standards. There was no problem in dealing with most people, but it'd be difficult for him to obtain victory in competing with real experts of chess.

This achievement was thanks to that old geezer and his death threatening methods in Jun Mo Xie's previous life. That old thing has insanely high standards of the so-called qualified assassins. Requesting of them to be able to be familiar with mass-oriented skills and sufficiently well-versed in less common knowledge... Only in this way, under any sort of condition and circumstance, they would be able to perfectly conceal themselves and silently get rid of the target... But that sort of expectations is practically beyond what humans are capable of...

Because Jun Xie from the previous life also did not manage to complete all this in reality. He could only complete seventy percent of the training the old geezer had arranged...

The old geezer only has one wish—to create an ultimate legend in the world of assassins! Even if that legend decides to stop being an assassin someday, aside from putting down his weapons, he could go and become a doctoral advisor to any subject at any university...

Anyone who heard of this would understand that this was a completely insane and perverse and terrifying plan!

The four arts, poetry, wine, tea, the three religions and nine schools, medicine and divination, farmland and water conservancy, the eight major subjects, physics, chemistry... f*ck me...

Even now, Jun Mo Xie got a headache recalling all of it!

But after coming to this other world, at the same time as Jun Mo Xie had this headache, he still had boundless gratitude for the cruel training back then... If not for the old geezer forcing him to learn all this with his life, he definitely wouldn't be able to do so well. Even with the best cheating tool, the Hongjun Pagoda, it wouldn't work. Without the basic foundations, he'd just be blind and confused with the most invincible martial art manuals...

At least, right now, he was feeling a little regretful. Why didn't I properly learn chess back then? If I had reached the mid-levels of professional standards, then there would be no need for me to make hasty last-minute efforts today. The game today seems to be a little difficult ah...

Faced with this seasoned young chess champion of the Misty Illusory Manor, what should I do to defeat him? No matter how bad this person's standards are, even if he is low according to the standards of this world, it'll be considered professional level at the very least! With my own real strength, the chances seem to be really bleak ah!

Jun Mo Xie suddenly recalled a sentence the old geezer often used to say back then. In chess, there are moves within the game, but there are also moves outside of the game ah... He couldn't help but feel his heart skip a beat.

Looking at Qi Wan Jie who had already settled down into his seat before the chessboard, Jun Mo Xie suddenly gave a peculiar grin. "Brother Qi, are you prepared? A game of chess is a refined activity of the intellectuals. You must be open handed in your acts. You are known as the chess champion of the current generation in the Misty Illusory Manor. If you unfortunately lose in the hands of a nobody like me, it'll really be ugly ah... Hahaha... Your legendary reputation will all be going down the drain ah..."

"I don't need you to worry about it!" Qi Wan Jie looked at him darkly. "I believe that my reputation is not easily threatened by any random cats or dogs!"

“Is that so? Brother Qi, you sure are confident ah... Back then, when I was outside playing chess with the Xuan Xuan Continent’s Chess Saint Hua Wu Cuo, Hua Wu Cuo once said a single line that I still remember clearly to this day ah...”

“What? You’ve played against Hua Wu Cuo? What did he say?” Qi Wan Jie’s expression turned serious, and a look of nervousness finally appeared on his calm and tranquil face.

Hua Wu Cuo, the Chess Saint of his own generation in the Xuan Xuan Continent, had gained his reputation as a youth, upholding it for over two hundred years and had never been defeated! If the Nine Nether First Young Master was the legend of Xuan Skills in the Xuan Xuan Continent, this person was the legend in the art of chess in the Xuan Xuan Continent!

As an expert of chess, no matter how arrogant Qi Wan Jie was, he would not dare to talk bad towards this Saint of Chess. But now that he had heard that this owner of the Free and Natural Physique actually had played against Hua Wu Cuo, his heart couldn’t help but sink. Could it be that this Mo Jun Ye is really well-versed in the art of chess? Then how good are his skills? Someone who has the right to play against Hua Wu Cuo is definitely not to be belittled.

At this point in time, Qi Wan Jie completely kept away all his belittlement, and his intention to fight began to rise. His gaze was fixed on Young Master Jun.

“Oh? I said that I once played against Hua Wu Cuo. Why did Brother Qi believe it so easily? What if I had intentionally used his name to oppress you?” Jun Mo Xie asked, narrowing his eyes.

Chapter 967: Heaven as Chessboard, Stars as Chess Pieces

If he did not say this sentence, although Qi Wan Jie was cautious, he wouldn’t help but suspect the authenticity of this. But Jun Mo Xie had said to so frankly, causing Qi Wan Jie’s suspicions to be reduced greatly, and the caution in his heart to increased nine folds!

An ordinary chess player would not dare to casually speak of the name of the Grandmaster of the art of Chess, just like how a top expert in Xuan cultivation did not dare to blaspheme the Nine Nether First Young Master. But Jun Mo Xie was mentioning Hua Wu Cuo so casually right now, so there could only be

one reason: that is Jun Mo Xie was really not bothered by Hua Wu Cuo, or at the very least, he didn't view Hua Wu Cuo as an existence that he could not surpass!

If that were truly the case, what did this suggest! Could it be that Mo Jun Ye's skills at chess were at such a terrifying standard?!

"I believe Brother Mo is not someone that nonsensical!" Qi Wan Jie's tone instantly weakened by three folds.

"Brother Qi doesn't have to be concerned; I'm ashamed to be saying this. Back then, I had played three rounds against Hua Wu Cuo... Hahaha, without a choice, losing with a difference of a single piece... Hua Wu Cuo's chess skills are truly worthy of being number one across all times! Truly, no one can compare ah! I am fascinated in the path of chess and rarely get defeated, but when met with true experts, I still can't avoid defeat! Today, I am fortunate enough to meet the chess champion of the Misty Illusory Manor, so I hope that Brother Qi can defeat me, just like Brother Hua did!" Jun Mo Xie said slowly, in a tone as if he were recalling the past.

Qi Wan Jie was speechless. But the look of caution in his eyes got heavier and heavier!

He, against Hua Wu Cuo, managed to determine a victor after three rounds! In other words, amongst the three games, he had won once! I may not have met Hua Wu Cuo, and never played against him, but I studied all the chess records of matches that Hua Wu Cuo had played before. Although it isn't all of it, but at the very least, there are about eighty or ninety percent of it...

Hua Wu Cuo's skills are indeed a profound mystery, and his manner of playing chess is majestic and upright. He is definitely not one who avoids dangers and demands for a fluke, and he has great foresight; in his magnanimity, there is no lack of meticulousness. If not for this, how could he create the legendary record of never being defeated. I may be conceited, but I do admit that I am not as good as this person!

And this Mo Jun Ye is actually capable of playing against Hua Wu Cuo for three rounds, only losing the long match with a difference of a single piece... That meant that his chess skills are rather close to Hua Wu Cuo's. Even though there is a difference, but it shouldn't be big... Then doesn't mean that me playing with an expert like this has no chance of victory?

“Back then, when the game ended, Brother Wu Cuo deeply moved, said...” Jun Mo Xie maintained his mile, addressing that Chess Saint he had never met before as ‘Brother Wu Cuo’. “The thousand years history is often empty; the world from ancient times to now is merely a game of chess!”

“The thousand years history is often empty; the world from ancient times to now is merely a game of chess!” Qi Wan Jie silently repeated, suddenly feeling sweat trickle down. His gaze began to look flustered. Because he could tell from this simple poetic line, the magnanimity of this Chess Saint Hua Wu Cuo!

The art of chess had an inseparable relationship with the breadth of mind of the person himself. If one’s breadth of mind was not wide enough, then he would only be focused on the gains and losses in that moment. He would forever be unable to achieve great achievements in the path of chess. But if you only focused on the greater picture and forgot about the momentarily gains and losses, you would forever be unable to obtain victory...

Only when both of these were combined perfectly, could the person be a top chess player in name and meaning!

Qi Wan Jie knew that he was still far from reaching this level!

The world from ancient times to now is merely a game of chess! What sort of open mindedness is this!

“I admit that I’m nowhere near Senior Hua’s breadth of mind...” Qi Wan Jie sighed, feeling his iron fortress of confidence unconsciously developing an opening... Through the recount by the other party, it was slowly breaking down...

“After Brother Wu Cuo exclaimed, he suddenly burst out in laughter and said, Little Mo, this old man suddenly thought of a first line of a couplet. I’ve met you today, so I shall test you: how’s that?” Jun Mo Xie noticed the falter in Qi Wan Jie’s mental state, secretly rejoicing internally. But he did not show it on his face and calmly continued to chase after this cornered enemy.

“May I ask what is that first line of the couplet?” Qi Wan Jie couldn’t help but ask. He was not the only one curious; everyone present perked up their ears. Jun Mo Xie was one who knew how to tell stories; this story that had never happened before, through his performance, had become one that was vivid realistic, causing everyone who was present feel the urge to continue listening.

Anyone who heard of this would feel that this was something that had truly happened before! Everyone's feeling was the same as Qi Wan Jie, not believing it at first, then skeptical, then suspicious, then to the state of believing it completely...

"En, I had also asked Brother Wu Cuo this same question. 'What is the first line of the couplet?' Jun Mo Xie revealed a look of admiration. "Brother Wu Cuo said: Heaven as the chessboard, stars as chess pieces. Who is able to play it?"

"This is the first line of the couplet!" After Jun Mo Xie had said this, the entire place was silent. Everyone had a frown as they dwelled in deep thoughts.

"Heaven as the chessboard, stars as chess pieces. Who is able to play it?! How magnanimous is this line of a couplet ah..." Qi Wan Jie let out a long sigh as he focused in his thoughts. He had always thought highly of himself, and his goal in life was to overtake Senior Hua Wu Cuo. Now Hua Wu Cuo had come up with a first line of a couplet, he naturally would have to work out the next line that matched it. If he couldn't come up with it, then didn't that mean that he had no hopes of catching up to Hua Wu Cuo in this entire life?

Right now, although he was sitting before the chessboard, there was no longer any desire to win or lose in his heart. Or perhaps to say, he had completely forgotten about this match. All his mind was preoccupied about this first line of the couplet!

Qi Wan Jie was not like Lin Qing Yin. He had his position as the chess champion of the Mo Jun Ye. Even the powerful Zhan Family could not threaten and force him. But he had his weaknesses. Zhan Yu Shu had given him many things and promised him more, as long as he helped the Zhan Family win the Free and Natural Physique. Then, he could gain countless benefits, and that was what he had always dreamt of obtaining.

Power, position, beauty, money... As long as he won today, Zhan Yu Shu would absolutely give it to him!

These were things that people could not get even if they work hard for the entire life! Naturally, Qi Wan Jie desired it!

But the thing he desired the most was still the highest honor and repute from the art of chess—to challenge Hua Wu Cuo and defeat Hua Wu Cuo! This was the highest ambition and ideal he had been chasing after since young!

Between these two things, there was no place for them to be compared together!

Everyone present was a talent, some in literature and poetry. Even those judges were all furrowing their brows and mumbling to themselves. This was a first line of a couplet that had come from the Chess Saint! And the open heartedness hidden in the meaning of this line made those who were listening feel deeply moved!

Heaven as the chessboard, stars as chess pieces. Who is able to play it?

The first line of a couplet like this, so absolute in its words. Who could be capable of matching it?

Qi Wan Jie's mind began to wander, completely engrossed in his thoughts. Unknowingly, a thin layer of sweat had formed on his forehead and his complexion began to turn pale. Amongst all those present here, there was no doubt that he was the one most bothered by this!

Because this half of a couplet had come from Hua Wu Cuo!

Just at this moment, he only heard Mo Jun Ye sighly regrettably. "It's a pity... Brother Wu Cuo has come up with this first line for me, but even until now, I still haven't been able to think of the next line that follows... Ai..." This sigh sounded full of disappointment.

Qi Wan Jie's jolted to his senses. He couldn't suppress a smirk that was appearing on his face. If you're capable of matching it, then will I still be able to shine? If only you can't come up with it, yet I just managed to, then it'll prove that I'm stronger than you! It'll prove that I'm on the same level as Hua Wu Cuo and stand above you...

Hua Wu Cuo, the Chess Saint—how the rest of the world knows him as. I refuse to accept it! The absolute line that you've come up with, I will match it no matter what! Just like your reputation of the supreme Chess Saint! One day, sooner or later, it will become mine! It'll belong to I, Qi Wan Jie!

Qi Wan Jie was squeezing all his brain juice thinking of how to come up with a line that matched this first line of the couplet...

Just when his brain was about to turn into knots from his thinking, he suddenly heard a pa sound from in front of him. Mo Jun Ye asked. "Brother Qi, when are you planning to make me wait until? When will this game of chess begin?"

Qi Wan Jie opened his eyes in a daze, only realizing that he was sitting before a chessboard, and the prodigy with the Free and Natural Physique was seated opposite him, looking at him with a sharp look in his eyes.

He was holding onto a bunch of chess pieces in his hands, clearly waiting for Qi Wan Jie to start...

"Do what?" Qi Wan Jie asked in a daze. He had not completely snapped out of the thoughts of the couplet yet.

"Determine who to go first ah... Don't tell me you don't even know this?" Jun Mo Xie was cackling away inwardly. Looks like this fellow's mind has wandered off already...

"Who goes first?... Oh, yes yes, who gets to go first." Qi Wan Jie subconsciously picked up a chess piece from the container and place it on the chessboard.

Jun Mo Xie opened up his hand, and the chess pieces scattered onto the chessboard. "One pair, two pair, three pairs... Just nice; there are six, looks like I've set up the game. Brother Qi, I've gone easy already..."

"Oh..." Qi Wan Jie was still deep in his thoughts. Heaven as the chessboard, stars as chess pieces. Who is able to play it? Who is able to play it? A line that was impossible to be matched, so how could a correct second line be produced? And what sort item would be able to match the beauty of the heavens and stars? The stars are the chess pieces; the heaven is the board. How was it to be rhymed?

Another pa sound rang out, and when he looked over, there was one more black piece on the chessboard, landing on the top right star point.

The opponent had struck!

Qi Wan Jie suddenly regained a moment of clarity in his mind, and without any hesitation, he matched a piece at the bottom left corner.

Pa! Another black chess piece landed on the top left star point!

“What sort of beginning is this?” Qi Wan Jie had become famous through chess, but he had never met with such an odd way of opening a game. This position was a little far to be said to be keeping to the corner... calling it surrounding the center, it’s not quite... if it’s occupying the sides... it still doesn’t make sense...

In the art of chess, there was a saying of ‘the corners are gold, the sides are silver, and the center is grass; yet the opponent’s current tactics at placing his pieces was beyond all of Qi Wan Jie’s prior knowledge and comprehension.

What he didn’t know was that it was the one thing he had never seen it before. But placing the pieces at the star points was the best method that had been invented after hundreds of years for watching from the corners, aiming for the sides and dominating the center!

Chapter 968: Battle of Chess, Battle of Mind

Qi Wan Jie spent a long time looking at it, but he still couldn’t figure it out. After all, the positions of these chess pieces were poles apart from whatever he knew. But he was still ultimately a chess champion of his generation, so naturally, he was well aware of the situation. Although he didn’t understand the opponent’s intentions, but he could sense that the other party’s two distant chess pieces at the top were showing faint signs of possible potential. In an exchange between experts, the smallest difference could make a huge difference. Qi Wan Jie didn’t dare to take any chances. He testingly placed a chess piece between the two chess pieces Jun Mo Xie had placed with the intention to impose a threat on both sides, or at the very least, sever the connection between them.

He waited for Jun Mo Xie’s next move.

But what he didn't expect was for the other party to completely ignore it, landing another chess piece at the bottom right star point!

Qi Wan Jie was even more hesitant now. The opponent's opening of the game was too peculiar, but it seemed to encompass logic. As expected of a chess expert who had played against Hua Wu Cuo. He was even more on alert now.

All the more he carefully played against his opponent. In a blink of an eye, after taking turns, over ten chess pieces had been placed already. The black and white on the chessboard were in a picturesque disorder, and both parties were more or less evenly matched. Jun Mo Xie's mind moved quickly, and he was even faster in landing his pieces. With every piece placed, it was like the wind and rain crossing with lightning and thunder. It was too much for Qi Wan Jie's eyes to take in, and he felt like the other party's speed was becoming faster and faster, as if all his counter moves were expected by the opponent, for him to be able to put out his moves without any hesitation...

Young Master Jun's powerful speed spurred Qi Wan Jie, who was unwilling to fall behind, to also increase his speed...

Jun Mo Xie sighed internally. Although the other party was not completely focused, his fundamental skills were not for show. Reaching with his instincts alone and under the condition of being completely unfamiliar with the modern way of playing I am using, he is actually able to keep the battle evenly matched, and even vaguely hint at a deep and tenacious strength at striking back...

But the real competition is not here yet...

The moves within the game, he had already brought out to their limit already. There was no more space for any progress! But right now, the one that had the decisive effect was the move outside of the game. And until this point in time, the effects of moves he had employed outside the game had been ideal!

Qi Wan Jie was good at chess, but his weakness was still within Jun Mo Xie's hands!

With the constant sound of chess pieces landing, all the audience also began to get anxious. The match between these two people from the surface was vastly different from what everyone had imagined. Everyone had predicted that Mo Jun Ye would definitely lose this round. But right now, the situation was that...

This prodigy with the Free and Natural Physique had dominated the absolute initiative just like in the previous round. Every single move was as powerful as a thunderbolt, and his amazing moves were breeding like flies, beyond the common ways of chess, but extremely exquisite and boundlessly clever. In contrast, the Misty Illusory Manor's young chess champion seemed to be trembling in fear, as if he were walking on thin ice, invariably coping with the situation. Although they seemed to be evenly matched as of now, no one was optimistic for Qi Wan Jie....

Towards this extremely unexpected situation, everyone was really surprised!

Was there really a prodigy in the world that was talented and well-versed in everything? Could the Free and Natural Physique really be so perverse to such a state?

In sight of the treacherous match before his eyes, Qi Wan Jie began to take it seriously. He had been responding with counters, but never initiated any attacks. This made him feel very aggravated! And it was this aggravation that caused him to suddenly snap back to his senses.. Looking at the opponent's impending success, Qi Wan Jie muttered to himself for a while before decisively placing his piece in the empty space on the right side of the opponent, instead of the bottom left corner!

This move came out of nowhere, and it looked like an irrational move, but upon careful analysis, it was a move to attack the enemy and rescue himself! Although he had completely sacrificed his bottom left corner, but the other party still has three moves of cornering him which could put him in control of the entire match. But if he placed his chess piece in this territory, the originally great set up would be thoroughly ruined by himself! Whatever the choice, it was a difficult decision!

The moment this piece landed, the tables immediately turned. All those in the audience who understood the game let out a genuine exclaim of praise...

Jun Mo Xie laughed coldly internally. Finally snapped back to your senses? But it's a little too late for you to wake up now... The black pieces continued to land mercilessly, completely ignoring that left bottom corner that allowed him to win the game in three moves. And it did not fall into the space to form a line as it should have. Instead, it cut right into the group of white pieces. It forcefully attacked with the intention of invading the entire group!

If Qi Wan Jie continued to attack the opponent's space on the sight, his territory which he was relying on as his base was in danger of being completely wiped-out! But if he were to just give up like this and

focus on protecting his territory from being invaded, then the opponent could harass his territory almost six times! And the moment he got careless, the consequences would be dire. After all, the opponent had the upper hand of making the first move.

Qi Wan Jie's body jolted as he picked up another chess piece. But he did not put it down for a long, long time.

Right now, the match was halfway through. Every single piece had great importance. If there was a miscalculation in any single move, it would create a situation that was beyond redemption!

Right now, Qi Wan Jie felt miserable!

He had never imagined that he would meet such a relentless and pestering opponent in the match today! His intentions are obvious. This Little Master would rather sacrifice if it means I can bite a piece of flesh from you! You hit my eyes and I'll strangle your throat! You attack my legs and I'll stab you right through your heart!

He just did whatever he wanted to recklessly! Be it reasonable or unreasonable!

Fearless!

All of Qi Wan Jie's moves were in vain due to the opponent having the absolute initiative right from the beginning. No matter how he tried to test the opponent out in his passive stage, the opponent had a measure for measure, paying no heed to him. If you play harsh, then I shall also play lethal!

It was a scholar meeting a soldier; no reason could not be spoken clearly!

A look of resolution appeared in Qi Wan Jie's eyes, turning red! The only thing he could do now was to throw his ultimate move and mess up the entire game, then with his meticulous calculation, slowly turn the tables around. If he didn't take this risk, there was no chance of him obtaining victory...

When he had thought to this point, he no longer hesitated. Raising his chess piece. Pa! Everyone fell into a state of shock!

Qi Wan Jie's piece also invaded into Jun Mo Xie's territory!

Right now, both parties were like two gamblers who had lost until their eyes were red. Without a single cent to their name, they continue to slaughter away at each other with knife and sword! You cut me when I'm not guarding, then I'll stab you back similarly!

We'll see who can last till the end!

Jun Mo Xie frowned, lifting his face and letting out a long sigh. He had always been focused on the game, not paying attention to the surroundings. But now, he suddenly raised his head. Qi Wan Jie couldn't help but also followed suit to look at him, only to see Jun Mo Xie with a face full of reminiscence. He couldn't help but feel a pang of shock. He is not focused on the game at a time like this? Then what is he thinking about right now? What can be even more important than the outcome of the match right now?

As he was speculating, he only heard Jun Mo Xie sigh. "Life is truly strange, to think that two games are so similar. Back then, I also played in this manner. Brother Wu Cuo is a master of chess—every single move was steady and strikes hard. There was not the slightest urgency, definitely not taking any risks for the chance at a fluke. But he still ultimately turned all of my attacks into nothing... Today, with a different opponent, it is full of killing intent, and this state of mind is completely different. At least it didn't go to the situation which I didn't hope to see. Fine, let's see who is the victor..."

Qi Wan Jie's heart trembled. Looks like I'm really not as good as Hua Wu Cuo. He can confront the match peacefully and calmly, but I'm playing in such a manner of life and death. Just this attitude alone I am already beneath him...

He was just about to ask, but he suddenly heard Mo Jun Ye letting out another long sigh and muttering softly. "Heaven as the chessboard, stars as chess pieces. Who is able to play it? Using the heaven as the chessboard, and the stars as chess pieces, the scattered stars in the sky as chess pieces on a board, it is truly a good couplet... Whoever can match this first line, this achievement alone is not inferior to Chess Saint Hua Wu Cuo, but... who could be capable of matching an unmatched line like this?"

Qi Wan Jie only felt a heavy blow in his heart, as if someone had knocked on his heart heavily with a hammer! His mental state that had regained a state of clarity returned back to a state of chaos!

I haven't come up with a line that matches that first half of a couplet... And now, my chess skills are far from Hua Wu Cuo's...

This Mo Jun Ye is clearly saying that I'm not as good as Hua Wu Cuo with his tone full of condescendence. It's clear that he is saying that I'm not as good as him. But his chess skills are obviously not that good ah... Since his skills aren't that good, then why is it that during the whole time I've been playing against him, I have always been in the disadvantageous position?...

Could it be that I had already fallen into his set-ups and calculations right from the beginning of the match? He actually just wants to see how I would play in this state, so he dragged it out till now?

Could it be that this person is truly so good?

Could it be that I'm really incomparable to him?

This sudden thought that had risen could no longer be suppressed!

Qi Wan Jie looked helplessly at the chessboard, only feeling that he had no chance of victory. All the arrogance and pride he had for such a long time had instantly been crushed.

Just at this moment, another sound of pa ! Jun Mo Xie landed another piece—it was another attack! And in Qi Wan Jie's territory, preventing him from breaking through!

Qi Wan Jie heard this crisp sound. But his mental state was faltering. it sounded like it was far far away, thousands and hundreds of years ago... He felt like he was in a wrong time and place and felt like everything was not real...

"What are you thinking about? Can you hurry up? Are you going to win or lose? Hurry up and decide, ah! What meaning is there dragging it out like this? It's just a game of chess, not a woman giving birth, seriously... this is intolerable! Wishywashy like a woman, how did you even get your reputation as the chess champion?" Jun Mo Xie ruthlessly berated...

Qi Wan Jie's heart skipped again, as if he were suddenly rudely awakened from a dream by someone. When he raised his head again, looking at Jun Mo Xie, the look in his eyes was already full of loss and... fear...

Looking at the current situation on the chessboard, he only felt like he was in a treacherous state. As long as the opponent randomly decided to take in breath, he had completely no way out...

Upon thinking until he, he suddenly felt that the opponent was extremely magnanimous, not mercilessly killing him off, giving him the chance of retaining his image... Everything was because he was untactful and stalling for time only...

His state of mind had been completely wrecked!

Chapter 969: Double Act

Right now, Qi Wan Jie was not only incapable of playing against Jun Mo Xie. Against any chess player in the Misty Illusory Manor, Qi Wan Jie would still be doomed to lose!

He lowered his head, looking at the chess pieces that were placed wrongly on the chessboard. In a moment, he felt hope turn into dust! He pushed the chessboard away, lowering his head even more. In a tone as if he were choking back his tears, he said, "I... admit defeat..."

This sentence left everyone utterly shocked!

From the start of the game, they'd watched Jun Mo Xie corner Qi Wan Jie. Qi Wan Jie had always been coping with his attacks, with no ability to counterattack back! Until now, the game was halfway through, both parties had already unleashed their ultimate moves!

With this, there could only be one winner now!

Life and death, victory or success would be determined soon!

But Qi Wan Jie surrendered at a moment like this!

Carefully looking at the situation on the chessboard, the black pieces had indeed occupied a significant advantage and dominated all the attacks while the white pieces had been on the defense. Its foundations were significant and had a small chance of obtaining victory, but if he continued to fend, there was still room for him to wait till an opportunity to counterattack. It was not entirely impossible for him to turn things around...

But at a time like this, Qi Wan Jie had already calculated all the moves needed till the end of the game?

So he requested to surrender in advance?

Qi Wan Jie looked up in a daze, his eyes lifeless. He said, "I am indeed not his match. This match shouldn't have started in the first place because I had already lost right before it started! Playing chess with the intention of gaining benefits... is the taboo of all chess players! How could my game be stable when my mental state is not? Brother Mo is truly highly-skilled; I willingly admit my defeat! I am sincerely convinced to concede!"

Jun Mo Xie lightly heaved a sigh of relief. This victory in this round was really not easy. The mental strain was greater than a huge battle. However, everything was within his expectations.

From the moment Jun Mo Xie began to tell the story, Qi Wan Jie did not interrupt him. From that moment, the outcome was already decided! But he still continued to struggle and made it to midpoint with his solid foundation and tenacious battle strategies!

Jun Mo Xie intentionally mentioned the first line of the couplet, but admitted that he was unable to come up with the second line. This was the real emotional devil he had planted in Qi Wan Jie's heart!

From the moment Qi Wan Jie appeared, Jun Mo Xie had clearly determined his personality and came up with a suitable method to deal with him!

This person was greedy for fame! And a hypocrite! With a personality like this, he cared greatly about gains and losses!

Qi Wan Jie was indeed a talent and stood at the peak with his chess skills, enjoying success as a youth. Naturally, it was inevitable for him to be arrogant and haughty. This was a normal ailment of youths, completely understandable. But it had also created his current personality of viewing himself highly.

In this world, if there was one person who Qi Wan Jie genuinely admired, then there was only Chess Saint Hua Wu Cuo!

Other people, even if it was the Nine Nether First Young Master, would not necessarily move him!

Because Qi Wan Jie didn't dabble in Xuan cultivation...

So although Jun Mo Xie only knew the name of a Chess Saint, he still came up with an exciting story with it, using the reputation of Hua Wu Cuo's art of chess to suppress this young chess champion of the Misty Illusory Manor!

This was only the first step of the plan. The moment Qi Wan Jie's arrogance was successfully oppressed, Jun Mo Xie let him realize the disparity between him and the Chess Saint. He also made use of the opportunity to mention that he had once played against the Chess Saint, and that his skills were on the same level... naturally, dealing another blow to his confidence!

Afterwards, bringing up that couplet at suitable timing, suddenly opening the game when Qi Wan Jie was wholeheartedly focused on how to match the next line of the couplet!

At that time, Qi Wan Jie was already sitting opposite the chessboard. It didn't look sudden in the eyes of outsiders; but to Qi Wan Jie himself, it was completely unexpected. His mind had already wandered off elsewhere, but he was suddenly called back...

Then, he was tossed into an intense match and had to deal with bizarre moves that he had never seen before...

With a mental state like this, how could he not lose? When the match was at its most intense point, where Qi Wan Jie's mental state was like a taut bowstring, on the verge of firing, Jun Mo Xie suddenly brought up the couplet again.

Although he was muttering to himself, Qi Wan Jie was extremely bothered about this... Thus, that casual lament turned into the straw that broke Qi Wan Jie completely, crushing him!

From the moment they met, Jun Mo Xie had been setting traps step by step, slowly making Qi Wan Jie walk right into them, until he fell into a state beyond redemption!

Jun Mo Xie's chess skills were definitely not as good as Qi Wan Jie, but Young Master Jun's skills and knowledge of the game had a significant impact. Because in the whole process of officially playing against each other, Qi Wan Jie would be skeptical that Jun Mo Xie was capable of almost winning Chess Saint Hua Wu Cuo even if Young Master Jun used methods from five thousand years in the future! Coupled with his layers of set-ups, no one would be able to resist it!

Even if Qi Wan Jie was lucky enough to resist against this emotional devil, Jun Mo Xie still had a triumph card...

Young Master Jun's unique psychological manipulation was capable of controlling people with no mental training like Qi Wan Jie to do whatever he wanted... With not the tiniest bit of resistance! Although this method left traces and could be easily discovered by Xuan experts present, there was no problem in obtaining victory with it!

The second round, Mo Jun Ye's victory!

After Miao Xiao Miao solemnly announced this outcome, everyone fell into a state of silence. The first and second rounds were what the Zhan Family had the most confidence in winning. But under the prowess of the enemy, they had lost both.

What else should they compete in next?

Some people who wanted to contest in poetry immediately retreated after hearing Jun Mo Xie unintentionally recited that 'Untitled' and 'It was hard to meet you and then bid farewell'! Which one of them was confident enough to come up with such rapturous quatrains that nibble away at the bones?

If they had stepped out to compete, and Jun Mo Xie simply said: You just have to come up with one that is similar to the one I just recited, then it'll count as your victory... That'd really be embarrassing. Not only were they asking for humiliation, they'd really be unable to show their faces...

Miao Xiao Miao looked at Jun Mo Xie happily. Right now, she didn't worry as much as she had before. She only felt that this Free and Natural Physique really matched her tastes. Recalling that line of 'Life is Long in Sadness as Water Keeps Flowing East', and that 'It was hard to meet you and then bid farewell'... and that 'Burial of Flowers' and its unaffected yet deep helpless love...

Miao Xiao Miao's heart was wavering, and to her surprise, she couldn't control herself...

At this moment, no one had noticed that the young chess champion had already snuck away from his seat, as if that young chess champion who shocked the world with his chess ability was no longer worth mentioning anymore...

Seeing that the third match had yet to begin, but it was already in a stage of awkward silence, Zhan Qing Feng and Zhan Yu Shu exchanged glances, feeling extremely anxious.

Both brothers felt that if the two of them were to compete with him, they'd feel afraid. This fellow was too sick in the head!

As if there was nothing he was not proficient in—what sort of person is this? Talk about you having the Free and Natural Physique that is rarely seen in all of history, why didn't you treasure it and cultivate Xuan skills properly! Putting so much effort on all these useless external learning, aside from being excellent at music and chess, even half a poem of yours is enough to scare everyone off from stepping out to compete with you! Are you even still human, ah?!...

Looking at the people packing up the chess equipment, a light bulb went off in Zhan Yu Shu's head. He let out a long sigh and said, "The Chess Saint of Xuan Xuan Continent, Hua Wu Cuo. Legends have it that this person has never miscalculated any of his matches! And everything he does is extremely orderly and full of utmost self-discipline! Amongst those with famous reputations, it is really rare to find one that is like this. Today, upon hearing Brother Mo's recount, I am really full of admiration to this Chess Saint... Hua Wu Cuo, truly as expected of Hua Wu Cuo, truly worthy of the Chess Saint ah..."

This fellow began to embark on his own soliloquy with exaggerated emotions like women in her private room.

Jun Mo Xie didn't bother to respond to it. Because he knew that Zhan Yu Shu was waiting for him to respond and match his tune. But why would Young Master Jun be willing to give him this opportunity! I just want to watch you go on your mono-drama, watch what you are trying to do...

"Indeed ah, the Chess Saint's reputation is well known in the world, as expected of an expert of his generation ah." Since no one responded, Zhan Yu Shu was instantly put in a spot. Not knowing what his younger brother was up to and left without a better choice, Zhan Qing Feng could only force himself to stand up and embark on this double act with his younger brother.

"Indeed, I had originally wanted to compete against Brother in literature. I had even thought of the topic. But now, younger brother, I have changed my mind." Zhan Yu Shu said with a smile, facing Zhan Qing Feng.

No one bothered about him, so these two brothers could only continue with their act. Although both of them were adorning warm and genial smiles, they were feeling extremely awkward internally... as if the two of them were monkeys performing on stage...

"Oh? Yu Shu, what did you change your mind about?" After a while, no one asked, so Zhan Qing Feng could only continue to do it himself. He had already cursed all those followers and all eighteen generations of their ancestors internally. Why are these servants so incompetent at noticing signs?! I'll break all their legs when we return immediately and toss all of them out!

"Yes, since we've just heard Chess Saint Wu Cuo's poems, if we still insist on competing about some poetry, isn't it too cliché? Then I remembered the story Brother Mo had just shared and I thought of a marvellous idea." Zhan Yu Shu said shamelessly with a wide smile.

"Oh? Could there be such a thing? Hurry up and tell, Yu Shu; what is this marvelous idea you have?" Seeing that no one was supporting their act, Zhan Qing Feng just got into the role. F*ck it, I'll just be thick skinned. Who dares to comment about me!

What these two brothers did not know was that it was not that their underlings who did not know how to notice signs and not that they did not wish to speak. But it was Young Master Jun who wanted to see these two brothers acted, so he controlled all of them using his psychological manipulation!

Right now, it was not because they did not want to talk, it was difficult for them to even breathe. But everyone couldn't understand. Why is it that I cannot speak?

Right now, even a single line of 'Indeed ah' would instantly gain them the favor of the Zhan Brothers ah... But they just couldn't open their mouths, it's really bewildering ah...

Chapter 970: Who is Getting Exactly What He Wants

"Brother Mo had said earlier, that Chess Saint had presented him with the first line of a couplet during their match. Today, since we do not have any better topics, why don't we borrow this line and compete with Brother Mo. If Brother Mo is able to come up with a matching line on the spot, this round shall be our loss! Wouldn't that be clean and nimble?" Zhan Yu Shu said.

"Yu Shu, this idea of yours is too marvelous." Zhan Qing Feng nodded his head gently. "Let's do it this way."

These two brothers echoed each other. Even though no one helped respond to them, in their own little act, they had decided on the third topic!

Miao Xiao Miao, Jun Mo Xie, and all the audience present felt their jaws hanging. This is too despicable, isn't it?!

To be so shameless like this, this was no longer a realm—it was a complete domain!

Everyone said that he did not manage to match it, and this first line had come from the person himself, but right now, you two are actually using it to make things difficult for him?? This is too crafty, ah!

“How can this be accepted!” Miao Xiao Miao’s face turned red from anger. “This first line had come from Brother Mo. If he uses this to test you, then it is still acceptable. But today, you guys use it to compete with him instead... Zhan Yu Shu, do you still know how to write the word ‘shameless’?”

“Little Sister Xiao Miao is too harsh in your words. This is the question that the Chess Saint had given Brother Mo. We are only trying to accomplish his wishes and hope that Brother Mo is able to match it soon. Using it as test is merely giving Brother Mo a greater motivation, and I believe Brother Mo is able to understand the good intentions of us brothers...” Zhan Qing Feng said with a smile.

“Haha... In this way, aren’t you guys doing a good deed? Should Chess Saint Hua Wu Cuo or Brother Mo be grateful to both of you? This is preposterous!” Miao Xiao Miao scoffed from anger.

“That would be unnecessary. We do not care if he is grateful or not. As long as Brother Mo is able to come up with the next line, the Chess Saint will have his wishes fulfilled. Even if we were to lose another round, there is nothing wrong about it...” Zhan Yu Shu chuckled, replying shamelessly.

“I’ve really broadened my horizons seeing someone who is capable of being as shameless as you two! Truly, the more despicable a person, the more invincible he is!” Miao Xiao Miao said disdainfully. “The mighty reputation of the Zhan Family of the Misty Illusory Manor is going to spread far and wide in the whole of Misty Illusory Manor. Truly worthy of celebration.”

Just when Zhan Yu Shu brought up this method of competition, Jun Mo Xie practically burst out laughing. F*ck, you guys are so gullible! I said I didn’t manage to come up with a line that matches and you really believed it?

This first line of the couplet doesn’t look fake upon first glance. But the five thousand years of Chinese history has countless of talents. Even this couplet, with the first line, it doesn’t take long for the second line to be created! There is no need to rush; as long as the crux is figured out, it is not difficult to match it! You two idiots! Two idiots who thought you got what you want!

“The shamelessness of you two honorable brothers can really be said to have reached an exquisite realm.” Jun Mo Xie clicked his tongue. “To use the past I’ve mentioned to test this prodigy... Both of your quick-wittedness is truly impressive, ah, this prodigy cannot help but want to write a word of ‘convinced’ ah. I’m truly convinced and full of admiration.”

Zhan Yu Shu's face flushed red. He said in a rude and unreasonable manner. "The third round: we just want to compete matching the couplet! If you are able to match the first line of the couplet we had given, then it's your victory. Otherwise, you lose! It's just that simple! Listen up, the first line we are giving you is: Heaven as the chessboard, stars as chess pieces. Who is able to play it? Great prodigy Mo, please come up with a matching line!"

"Nonsense! I had already said earlier, when Hua Wu Cuo presented this line, I was not able to come up with a second line that matches! Today, you just purposely used this to make things difficult. What are your intentions? Besides, since when did the ownership of this first line become yours? I say, can the Zhan Family still get anymore shameless? Do you still have any dignity of an influential family?!"

Jun Mo Xie chided, pretending to be furious.

"Why, is great prodigy Mo scared?" Looking at this Free and Natural Physique suddenly losing his calm appearance, Zhan Yu Shu couldn't help but laugh at his misery. Thank goodness you gave me a good topic; how can you quickly come up with a good match to this excellent and absolute line? Especially when he admits himself that he is unable to come up with a second line. It is truly the best method to making things difficult ah...

Otherwise, I really don't know of anyone else who can baffle you... This time, it is you who lifted up the rock to slam it on your own feet, shattering it completely, this sort of feeling is truly too exhilarating...

"I refuse to accept this method of competition!" Jun Mo Xie said, as if he were extremely upset. "You are just making trouble without reason!"

"Then does this mean... great prodigy Mo is ready to admit defeat?" Zhan Qing Feng asked eerily.

"Ridiculous! How can I admit defeat? How can I lose?!" Jun Mo Xie put on an expression as if he were pretending to be strong to hide his weakness. "I just need time to think."

"Then you can slowly think; as long as you come up with it today! We are in no rush. Otherwise, some people might say that we are being bullies! You have plenty of time!" Zhan Yu Shu was extremely pleased. You have already thought of this couplet for several years without managing to match it; how could you do it in half a day?

Both parties remained silent. But Jun Mo Xie suddenly piped up again: “Unfortunately, I still find it too unfair! You guys used my topic to make things difficult for me... This is such a ridiculous thing!” Jun Mo Xie frowned. “Besides, there is no benefit, so who is going to bet with you ah! This is a bonus!”

“May I asked what Great Prodigy Mo desires then?” Zhan Yu Shu chuckled coldly. “You can come up with any requests, as long as you are able to come up with the second line of the couplet! There is no problem at all!”

Isn't he just trying to put on a strong front? Clearly he is feeling hopeless about coming up with the second line of the couplet and is refusing to acknowledge that he lost shamelessly. But speaking of acting shamelessly, we are the experts of it, so you have no chance of slipping out of this one. We will counter whatever you say. Since you will definitely not be able to come up with the line, what harm is there in promising as many requests as you raise!

“Can I really make the requests? Then that's great! Actually, my requests are also very simple, and I believe both of you brothers are capable of easily accomplishing it. I just want to know how you guys controlled Lin Qing Yin, to be able to make such a noble and virtuous elegant scholar compete in your stead. And Qi Wan Jie; what benefits did you give him? If I am able to come up with the next line, I want you to spill all of it over here, in front of everyone. And you must not hide a single bit of the truth. Of course, you must make a blood oath that swears the authenticity of your words. There is no need to trouble thinking about the conditions of the oath; we'll just go with the ones we made earlier.”

Jun Mo Xie chuckled, really giving the two Zhan Brothers a ‘simple’ request that they were destined to be unable to accept.

Jun Mo Xie did not intend to bother them about this matter!

His goal for this trip was only for the Seven Color Holy Tree. No matter how ambitious the Zhan Family was, it had nothing to do with him! No matter how big the Zhan Family was, they would not be able to infiltrate Tian Fa Forest! Although the Zhan Family was practically able to hide the truth from the masses in the Misty Illusory Manor, in Jun Mo Xie's eyes, it was insignificant!

The internal disorder of the Misty Illusory Manor had nothing to do with him! In fact, it was better that the Misty Illusory Manor was in a mess. The messier it gets, the less time you have to come and interfere with the matters in the Xuan Xuan Continent!

It's okay if all of you die too...

But with every single step he took to this point, the Zhan Family's constant shameless and overbearing ways had really pissed Jun Mo Xie off! And he just couldn't directly reveal his true strength. Even if he could, with the current acts of the brothers of the Zhan Family, it was merely acts of their own accord and may not necessarily be tied to the entire Zhan Family. It was still not to the point of him being so furious as to drench the entire place in blood...

Secondly, he needed to empathize with Miao Xiao Miao. Since their encounter, this woman who wore a veil had been helping him the whole time, constantly having his back. If not for her presence today, even this so-called fairness and justice today would have been nonexistent!

Miao Xiao Miao, a girl who was neither a relative nor friend, in such a temporary exchange, was willing to sacrifice her face in public to do all this for him. How could Jun Mo Xie not be moved?

Right now, the Miao Family was in charge of the Misty Illusory Manor. If the Zhan Family had any ambitious plans, their first target would be the Miao Family. Only by overthrowing the Miao Family, could the Zhan Family can step up!

Jun Mo Xie only felt that he had accepted all of Miao Xiao Miao's help. If he still pretended to be nonchalant about the Zhan Family's schemes, he couldn't accept it. It really went against his beliefs of acting on his own whim with a clear conscience.

There was no suitable excuse, yet this Zhan Yu Shu just happened to offer him the chance to make any request. So naturally, he had to make good use of this opportunity. This was also one of the main reasons why Young Master Jun was pretending and acting like a fool.

In fact, Young Master Jun did not really have high hopes that the Zhan Brothers would explicitly admit to all their dirty deeds. What Jun Mo Xie wanted was their 'agreement' only. As long as he won this round, the outcome would not change whether the Zhan Brothers spilled all their secret, underhanded methods.

Because as long as it was combined with the matter today, with Miao Xiao Miao bringing it back and mentioning it, it would definitely raise the utmost attention on the Zhan Family by the higher ups of the

Miao Family! When that happened, it would be difficult for the Zhan Family to continue advancing with their schemes and plans as silently and sneakily as before...

And they were all a bunch of old and highly regarded old men. Which one of them had lived in vain, and which one of them would be easy to deal with? Every single one of those old men had grown and developed amidst schemes and conspiracies...

So Jun Mo Xie brought up this request that seemed to have nothing to do with himself, but had great importance between the Zhan Family and the Miao Family!

Zhan Qing Feng and Zhan Yu Shu both froze. Why did he ask for this? What did he discover? Or is he intentionally making things difficult to avoid this topic?

What significance is there in making such a request? Even if you manage to come up with a second line that matches by fluke, as long as we both deny that we did not threaten or bribe those two people, what can you do about me?! Or rather, is there anything odd hidden within? Right now, the only fatal point is the blood oath! Are we really supposed to swear it again?!