

Firmament 151

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Chapter 151: You Liar!

The king entered the side hall. He saw Jiang Yu-Ming was there on his knees holding his head up. He had a sullen expression. The moment he saw the king, he burst into tears, "Your Highness, you must make the decision for your humble servant this time..."

Jiang Yu-Ming, although he was the Revenue Minister, still called himself a servant to the king in private. He wanted to show the king how he wouldn't forget the days he served the king. The king was pleased about it though.

The king sighed and thought, [You foolish servant. Your 'son' is just a bastard who doesn't even have a clear identity. Look how you cry like he is your own kin. Do you have to be like this...]

He looked calm though, and he asked, "What are you crying for? Quickly get up and speak."

Jiang Yu-Ming kowtowed and said, "Your highness, I have been truly wronged this time..."

"Just tell me everything." The king showed kindness.

"My beloved son was tortured for no reason outside the south gate by Ye Xiao, son of Ye Nan-Tian... Most of his bones are broken, and he is totally disfigured. His body was covered in blood and flesh. I couldn't even tell any part of him that wasn't lashed. He didn't even look like a human when he was carried home. He is now still in a coma and I am afraid he will die at any moment. Your Highness, please hold justice for your humble servant and punish the assailant!"

The king was shocked, "How come he got so seriously hurt?"

Jiang Yu-Ming cried, "Your highness, please. He is the only son I have..."

The king twitched his lips. He was rather speechless.

[I know he is the only... urh.. son you have. Well everybody knows about this son of yours...

I was sorry for you a second ago, yet now I have nearly laughed out because of what you said...]

He was about to speak but then he thought of something, "The south gate? Isn't it where Su Ding-Guo departed from? Why did your... beloved son got beaten there? I was on the wall there, not for long though. After they left, I just returned to the palace. Why didn't I notice the fight?"

Jiang Yu-Ming was stunned and he replied ambiguously, "My son and the boys, they urn... They... must... have arrived at the gate... after Prince Hua-Yang departed... Your highness, you must have already left for the palace. So urn... it is a reasonable situation."

The king frowned tightly, "Your son got there after the army left? And then he got beaten up?"

Jiang Yu-Ming shouted 'Oh Noooo' in mind and said, "Your highness, it was because Ye Xiao was arrogant and domineering. He talked with a dirty mouth and intentionally challenge my son. My son didn't have any other choice but to answer back with some strong words. Yet he ended up beaten up bad by Ye Xiao and now he may die for it. Your highness... Please... I need justice..."

While speaking, he shouted and got down on the floor. He couldn't stop crying and said, "Looking at my son suffering such pain... My heart is broken..."

At this moment, a voice sounded coldly, "You liar."

The king was stunned. Jiang Yu-Ming who was on the floor was shocked too. He suddenly forgot to cry and turned around his head to look for the person who spoke.

At the door of the side hall, the Crown Prince was stepping in with big strides, "Father, it is an emergency, so I didn't send people to inform you of my arrival. Please forgive me."

The king frowned and said blandly, "What is it so urgent?"

The Crown Prince talked hurriedly, "Father, I don't have the time to explain. Please send a royal doctor to the house of the great General Ye. His son, Ye Xiao, is at a critical situation. If we do it later... I am afraid he may die."

"What?" Jiang Yu-Ming was blank all of a sudden when he heard it. He couldn't help but scream out.

[My son is in coma now at home because of being beaten up by Ye Xiao. How come Ye Xiao is in vital danger now?

What happened?]

To his surprise, the king lost the color of his face when he heard it. It was totally a different reaction when he heard Jiang Tai-Sui was beaten up by Ye Xiao.

- Puff! - The king stood up fast and shouted with furiousness, "What? What happened?"

He didn't wait for the Crown Prince's response. He just went on shouting, "Go get Doctor Li, Doctor Huang! Tell them to go to the House of Ye immediately! Without delay!"

He didn't stop shouting, "Tell Master Sun to go tell the doctors to keep Ye Xiao alive in any cost!"

And then, "Tell the Interior Minister to open the storehouse. Send all the best medical materials to the House of Ye! Whatever it needs to cure Ye Xiao, just use without asking!"

[What?]

Jiang Yu-Ming was shocked and frightened.

He had served the king since he was a child. He was a good friend to the king and that was why he knew so much about everything about the king. It was also the reason why he could stay safe in the royal court after countless times of embezzlements and punishments.

He knew that Doctor Li and Doctor Huang were the best royal doctors. They only accept people in the royal family as their patients. Even the king's concubines couldn't casually see them as they wished. People all behaved politely in front of these doctors.

Master Sun was the royal dan-maker the royal family specially hired. He usually only served the king. Even the Crown Prince needed the permission from the king to see Master Sun...

Yet when the king heard that Ye Xiao was in danger, he just sent three of his most important men for it.

And he actually said that all the medical materials could be used without permissions!

Whatever was stored in the royal storehouse were all extremely rare and valuable materials. Any of them was a priceless treasure. Yet now whatever Ye Xiao might need, it could be used without any hesitation!

All these things showed one thing clearly to Jiang Yu-Ming — Ye Xiao couldn't die.

[If Ye Xiao couldn't die, then...]

He didn't dare to think deeper about it. He knew well that the king could be ruthless.

The king didn't show his ruthlessness to him yet, but another person did it first.

The Crown Prince just took some breath and he looked at Jiang Yu-Ming coldly, "Lord Jiang, how can you confound right and wrong and turn white into black like this?"

Jiang Yu-Ming was scared, "Why do you say so, your highness? How did I exactly confound right and wrong?"

The Crown Prince spoke indifferently, "Well. Lord Jiang, you connived at the violence of your son, yet now you come here to sue the victim first. You tried to confound right and wrong. What exactly do you want?"

Jiang Yu-Ming was extremely wronged and he said, "I really don't understand any of your words, your highness. The truth is Ye Xiao has beaten up my son nearly to death. There were many people from other officials' families. They can prove it!"

The Crown Prince spoke coldly, "Lord Jiang, answer me. Prince Hua-Yang left for the battle in order to protect the our kingdom, our home. Why didn't your son see him off? Well maybe your son just doesn't love his country. That's fine. Why did he ride a horse with a group of people to where the army just left and acted arrogantly like that? Was he trying to show how magnificent his family was and how his family overrode the kingdom?"

Jiang Yu-Ming was stunned, "Your... Your highness... Why do you..."

The Crown Prince seemed to make things sound much more serious. He actually made it look like something about national crime and security.

Well, he wasn't done yet.

He waved his hand and continued, "It is fine that your son didn't see the warriors off. Yet he thought that the military group had no leader in the capital, so he arranged some lads claiming they were going to get the junior generations of the military group. Am I wrong?"

Jiang Yu-Ming was extremely scared. He shouted, "Your highness, you can't speak of it like this. It was merely..."

The king's eyes had become extremely cold at the moment.

The Crown Prince stepped closer and interrupted, "We all know what happened. Not only the two sides of the quarrel saw the whole thing. The guards on the wall knew clearly about the truth too. You said

those foppish lads could prove it. I just want you to know that there are thousands of people there who can prove that you are lying! Do you really think your baby son is wronged now?!”

The king was calm. He was listening with a cold expression.

“The soldiers left for the battle to protect our home with their blood and lives. Yet your son actually led a bunch of people to bully their families... Lord Jiang, I wonder how you dare to see my father now. And I wonder how you can be so shameless to reverse right and wrong here. How can you do this?”

The Crown Prince pushed him hard through scolding.

Jiang Yu-Ming felt a bit dizzy and said, “Your highness... What shame do I have? My son is still lying at home not knowing whether he will live or die... I can’t lie about that, can I...”

He was truly confused, [I wasn’t told Ye Xiao got beaten! And... Why does the Crown Prince keep aiming at me today?

He is offending a main official in the court now. That doesn’t seem what he usually will do...]

“I don’t care whether your son is going to die or live. He deserves to die anyway.” The Crown Prince showed no mercy. He just took his stand immediately.

At the moment, the Crown Prince was somehow full of the aura of a dominator.

[What happened to Ye Xiao should actually be my responsibility. Now there is a stupid one who is going to be the scapegoat. I have to make sure of it.]

“Lord Jiang, answer me! Your son, Jiang Tai-Sui, brought a group of others outside the city right before Prince Hua-Yang left. You guys claimed that you were going to get on Ye Xiao and his friends. There were thousands of people there who can prove it! Do you really think your son is wronged now?”

The Crown Prince spoke coldly.

“Well... Well...”

Jiang Yu-Ming lost his ability to speak. He was astonished.

He had truly never thought that the Crown Prince would do this to him. He felt like the Crown Prince was going to push him to the edge.

The Crown Prince repeated the same question again and again...

He kept emphasizing his point again and again...

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Chapter 152: The Thunder-like Anger!

The Crown Prince was a fool who kept repeating the same words for nothing. He was trying to notice the king... [This is a serious problem!]

Jiang Yu-Ming thought that the Crown Prince was going to get him killed today...

[But when did I offend the Crown Prince? Did I mess with him somehow? A prince who is going to be the king actually treats me like that...]

“Your son and his group teased and bullied Ye Xiao and his friend’s outside the southern gate. Is your baby son wronged?”

“Prince Hua-Yang had just left and your son, Jiang Tai-Sui, actually talked dirty to the little princess of the House of Hua-Yang. Is your son wronged?” The Crown Prince kept pushing him to the edge.

Jiang Yu-Ming couldn’t find the words to retort the Crown Prince.

He knew that his son could have actually done those things.

“The warriors fight for the kingdom. Your son fools around in the capital. He actually got out and bullied the warriors’ families right after they left. Isn’t it insulting the warriors who are now shedding their blood to protect you?”

“When the soldiers are disappointed, who will protect the land of our kingdom?”

The Crown Prince was harsh.

Jiang Yu-Ming felt like he would be wronged to death this time. [Wasn’t it always a children’s fight between the lads? They had done it before, hadn’t they? Why are you being so harsh on it this time and keep dragging it to the national level?]

“When the two groups of lads met. One group were moaning in heart because their families had just left to a life and death battle. Yet your son’s group acted arrogantly and humiliated people as they wish...” The Crown Prince spoke coldly, “Nobody could stand it. Isn’t it?”

“So they got into a fight. Your son was hurt. That’s true. But wasn’t he asking for it? He viciously offended people and ended up being badly beaten. It was just simply because he was lame. The one who humiliates people will always get humiliated!” The Crown Prince humphed and said, “Besides, although your son is hurt, he was not in a critical condition, as far as I know. Ye Xiao’s bones are all smashed! He is stepping into the door of the heavens right now and you actually dare to reverse right and wrong here!”

The Crown Prince had made Jiang Yu-Ming lower his head.

While he just wanted to say something, he heard the king asked in concern, “What? What did you say? His bones are all smashed? Were you talking about Ye Xiao?”

The Crown Prince turned to the king and spoke respectfully, “Yes, father. I didn’t see him myself. But I was told so. It can’t be false... Because there was actually a superior cultivator among the group of Jiang Tai-Sui. He secretly hit Ye Xiao with the long lost martial art, the vicious Melting Bone Palm.”

“What? The Melting Bone Palm?” The king had once cultivated martial arts before. He knew about the Melting Bone Palm, so his face turned pale because of fear.

These three words meant death.

“After Ye Xiao was hit, it didn’t act up immediately. When he returned to the city and just got near his house, he suddenly fell down off the horse. He bled badly and his bones all turned soft like cotton.”

The Crown Prince sighed, “Now he is in coma. He seems to be only a breathing corpse...”

The House of Ye had sent the pigeon to the north to inform General Ye. He may be able to see his son for the last time.”

The Crown Prince saw the king was actually shaking.

The king’s face was all pale.

He had always been a tough guy, yet at this moment, he couldn’t help staggering. He couldn’t even stand stably. He staggered and nearly fell on the floor. He hurriedly held the table to keep his boy stable. His legs, however, were weak. He sat straight down on the chair gasping.

“Are you alright, father?” The Crown Prince was in a panic. He hurriedly stepped over.

The king’s condition rather surprised the Crown Prince. [How come? It shouldn’t be!]

The king gasped and then smiled bitterly, “I think it must be the gods’ will. The gods want my kingdom to collapse.”

Jiang Yu-Ming and the Crown Prince were both frightened.

[Why did you say that, your highness?]

The king closed his eyes. He seemed tired. He rubbed his head. He looked extremely weak and tired at the moment. He couldn’t even disguise it.

The Crown Prince was astonished at this moment.

Since he was a baby, the king was like a great mountain to him. The king had held up the whole kingdom through countless storms and misfortunes. He never showed the look he was showing right now.

The Crown Prince was scared.

After a while, the king opened his eyes slowly and murmured, “The Melting Bone Palm... It is incurable... He is in a coma... He is going to die soon... They have sent a pigeon to the Great General... He will come back to see his beloved son for the last time...”

And then he laughed weirdly and spoke coldly, “Great. How amazing!”

It looked like his hopes were all blasted apart.

He knew that when the pigeon arrived at the north, no matter what Ye Nan-Tian was working on, he would leave everything behind and return for his son.

He wouldn’t even waste a second.

[Well then... What about the war in the north?

The only firm and safe place along the border of the kingdom is going to be the first broken breach?]

He opened his eyes and looked at Jiang Yu-Ming expressionless. He sounded calm and peaceful, "Jiang Yu-Ming, you should go home now."

Jiang Yu-Ming was frightened, "Your highness... Your... Your health..."

The king spoke gently like he was whispering. What he said was, however, frightening, "You spoil your son. That's fine... Your son is foppish, useless, arrogant and wild. Ok. Fine. I don't care... Yet he actually acted with the temper of such a bastard while dealing with the national affairs... That was..."

He deserves to die! Jiang Yu-Ming, you get the fxck out of here! I don't want to see you again!"

Jiang Yu-Ming moved forward a bit on his knees and begged, "Your highness... Your highness, please... Please..."

The king closed his eyes and shouted all of a sudden, "I told you to get the fxck out! Are you deaf?!"

The shout had nearly dislodged the soul out of Jiang Yu-Ming. Even the Crown Prince felt a bit dizzy.

At the moment, the king's eyes were full of disgust while looking at Jiang Yu-Ming.

Jiang Yu-Ming tried to say something. The king shouted loudly, "Somebody come! Drag him out!"

A few eunuchs came over and dragged Jiang Yu-Ming who had been scared and become like a puddle of mud out of the hall.

Jiang Yu-Ming was confused and blank. [What on earth happened? Why did the king do this to me? We are good friends, aren't we?]

To be honest, Jiang Yu-Ming was absolutely loyal to the king. That was why the king had been valuing him all the time.

However... What happened today...

Jiang Yu-Ming was limp and feeble outside the hall. He felt like he just had a nightmare back there.

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It was in the main hall again.

"Father, what happened to you? Why did you..." The Crown Prince was rubbing the king's head gently. His voice was full of worry and concern.

He was eager for the crown indeed, yet he was still frightened by how his father was ill now.

"What happened? Look at them yourself." The king pointed at the reports on the table.

The Crown Prince picked them up and started to read. When he read the first one, he exclaimed. When he finished the four reports, his face had turned all pale.

"I never have thought that Jiang Yu-Ming would have caused such a disaster for our kingdom..." The king spoke with hatred, "I should have killed his whole clan when that thing happened. I was soft-hearted. I kind of cherished the friendship between us and I have kept him alive till now. Now my stupid mercy has led to the collapse of my kingdom. A king should never have friends indeed."

The Crown Prince had totally lost the vigor he showed just now. He was now blank.

He was scared. He surely was.

The four sides of the kingdom were all facing wars at the same time.

The enemies in four sides were all strong ones. Enemies in each side had a commander who was at the equal range as Prince Hua-Yang, the invincible War God.

That was truly the most dangerous situation the Kingdom of Chen had ever faced.

It just broke out like this quietly.

And Ye Xiao was down at the very moment.

Ye Nan-Tian would definitely leave the battle once he knew what happened to his son.

That meant they had already lost the battle in the north.

The Crown Prince was extremely astonished knowing the current situation.

He was so regretful. He thought that he shouldn't have listened to his wife and planned on killing Ye Xiao.

However, nobody had expected a foppish young lord in town would have made a great impact to the war.

It was unbelievable and incomprehensible, but Ye Xiao had actually made such a weird thing to happen. It was as if the most unreasonable thing could only happen on Ye Xiao.

The king gradually regained his composure. He frowned and looked at the Crown Prince. His eyes were full of inspection and he asked calmly, "My son, you seem to care much about this thing."

The Crown Prince was stunned and then immediately responded, "It concerns the safety of the entire kingdom. Now it is the troubled time. I am indeed worried about it."

The king nodded.

They both knew that he wasn't really answering the question. Yet the king didn't want to dig deeper about it anymore.

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Chapter 153: A Provocateur!

The king was just asking. The biggest problem he was worried about was the fact that the kingdom was surrounded in four directions.

He looked at the other three reports before looking back to the one from the north and spoke blandly, "The situations on these three sides seem to be a coincidence. They actually happened at the same time... I reckon the four armies have been plotting on this long ago."

That means we may need to face the united force of the whole Land of Han-Yang this time. And we can't count on the northern army, because Ye Nan-Tian will definitely leave the battle. The whole northern army is going to break down.

The war has just begun, yet our best force is going to collapse soon."

The king spoke slowly. The Crown Prince was getting more and more hopeless. The pressure of knowing they were going to the end of the kingdom had made him feel breathless.

Besides, he was one who was responsible for all of this.

That was lifting a rock and dropping it on his own foot

He had actually hit himself into a cripple.

Unlike the Crown Prince, the king was rather calm. He talked peacefully like nothing seriously was happening.

It seemed all the negative situations couldn't threaten his kingdom at all. It was like the kingdom would firmly stay under his control again.

"When Prince Hua-Yang left, the reports came. They are doing really good in controlling the timing. They actually started the battle before Prince Hua-Yang left, because they had considered the time it took for the soldiers to send the report back to the capital. That was a rigorous plan. Right after the army departed, the three reports came to me and struck my heart.

The departure date of Hua-Yang was the top secret of the kingdom. Yet our enemies knew about it. Well, there is a provocateur in our court."

The king's eyes lit up.

"A provocateur?" The Crown Prince was shocked and he looked at his father.

"Yes. So our plans, whatever we discussed in the court, were never secrets to our enemies." The king spoke blandly, "That is why we suddenly fell into such a miserable situation.

Four sides burst into wars at the same time. Two War Gods showed up for the war at the same time. Dozens of the southern tribes and thousands of the northern grassland tribes all turned up against us. It takes a lot of time to arrange such battles.

To organize these forces and persuade them to attack as a union should at least take half a year in preparations. During the six months, our spies around the world actually failed to get any information about it. That is a big problem.

Everything I said proves that our enemy is thoughtful, careful and foxy. They are obviously controlling many people in our kingdom including some important officials in the court. Yet our men can never get to know anything about these men's true identities. That is really a horrible force.

Facing such a force, who has such a perfect plan, our kingdom is truly in great danger this time. They tried so hard to set this thing up against us. That means they want to defeat us in a short time once and for all."

The king's thoughts were sharp like knives.

"So what we need to do, or can do, is to buy more time and wait for the opportunity to show up in our side." The king had come up with his plan, "So even if we need to sacrifice men's lives, we have to keep holding the war. We have to try everything we can to buy the time for us.

As long as we can make it last over one and a half years, half of their united force will collapse." The king looked outside the window and spoke blandly, "War is simply a competition of money. The tribes in the north and the south are always poor. They have no capability to arrange a big-range battle. They can only make some assaults every now and then to get resources. The other two kingdoms are absolutely funding those tribes.

It won't last forever. Unless they both want to become broken kingdoms themselves.

Time.

That's what we need. That's the key.

As long as the war lasts long enough, the unfair resource allocation will eventually arouse fights among them. They will start to fight against each other... That is our opportunity. We need to wait for the occurrence of their infightings and that will bring us the opportunity to fight back."

Every word the king said was filled with a dense killing intent. His voice was firm and his eyes were sharp.

There was, however, a big concern in his mind. It was Ye Nan-Tian.

At the moment, the pigeon had been sent by the House of Ye. Ye Nan-Tian would return soon. The north battle had been the safest side of the kingdom. If Ye Nan-Tian left, the northern army could only keep defending and it wouldn't last long.

The key was Ye Xiao. If Ye Xiao was alright, Ye Nan-Tian would return to the battle. No matter how bad it was, once Ye Nan-Tian returned, then victory was already certain.

But if Ye Xiao was dead, they were doomed to lose the northern battle.

The king frowned and murmured, "There must be some rather wise people in the enemy's side. Things about Ye Nan-Tian are the key issues about this war. They must have thought about it! And it must be the most difficult thing for them to deal with Ye Nan-Tian.

They all knew the most powerful general in our kingdom was not Hua-Yang. It was Ye Nan-Tian.

So... that fight outside the city gate... Was it a plot? They did it purposely in order to deal with Ye Nan-Tian? So that they could collapse our northern force?"

The king's eyes were extremely cold.

The Crown Prince was sweating badly.

At the moment, Eunuch Wang spoke outside, "Your highness, the officials are here outside the hall."

It was the afternoon.

The king replied, "Tell them to wait for me in the Cheng-Tian Hall."

And then he talked to the Crown Prince, "You come with me."

Then he walked out with big strides.

The Crown Prince answered him humbly and then followed him out.

Looking at his father's back, the Crown Prince was touched.

He had always felt that his father walked too fast. Even though he looked vigorous with his big strides, it lacked of a sense of liberty. He thought a king should have a sense of liberty.

Yet now he knew that the liberty hidden inside his father was far more than he could compare to.

When the war was entering a hopeless situation, the king still walked firmly and steadily with big strides. He just looked the same as he usually was.

He was like a moving huge mountain, holding all the storms from all directions.

He took them all.

It was in the Cheng-Tian Hall.

The king was sitting in his throne looking down at the officials calmly.

The officials had been in great confusion.

The officials just got the information a bit later than the king. They all knew about what was going on now.

The wars in four sides were going to burst out in any second.

It made them all worried like their hearts were burning.

They all understood one thing. There wouldn't be an unbroken egg in a collapsed nest [1].

The king calmly watched them talking for a while and then spoke blandly, "Silence."

The officials shut up immediately.

The king stood up with his hands on his back. He looked down and said, "The Right Prime Minister, Lord Li, Lord Tao, Tao Ju-Ze... And..."

He named six officials.

They stepped forward immediately and humbly waited for the king's words. They looked panic. Apparently, they had thought about what the king wanted to say to them.

"You guys haven't done good in disciplining your junior generations. Your boys mess around and ignore the national affairs. My soldiers are fighting with blood and lives in the frontlines, yet your boys tried to bully their families... Do you admit your mistakes?"

The king's voice was calm and peaceful. Yet the raging anger inside his tone was clearly heard by everyone.

The officials all knew about what had happened outside the city gate. They knew what severe consequence it had brought to the kingdom.

Normally, such things like foppish young lords messing around with each other would never trouble the king. He didn't like it, but he wouldn't care much about it. Yet this time, such thing had a negative impact on the kingdom's future.

The other officials gloated, [They are truly unlucky, aren't they, the Right Prime Ministers? Ha. What can they possibly say?]

The officials including the Right Prime Minister immediately kneeled down and said, "We do. Please punish us, your highness."

They asked for punishments, because they actually thought that the king wouldn't really punish them for some fights among the boys. It would just be a light punishment if the king really wanted it.

However, the king's voice suddenly became extremely cold.

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Chapter 154: The Royal Doctors Arrived

"Since you admitted your mistakes, bear the punishment then. From now on, you people will return to your place and stay there. You are not allowed to step outside your house and get involved in any form of politics. You are not allowed to contact anybody. Whoever violated my order, his whole clan should be wiped out."

The officials were all stunned.

The officials who were kneeling on the floor were shaking. They raised their heads and said unbelievably, "Your highness..."

"Drag them out!" The king's eyes were full of coldness, yet at the same time, there was a slight sense of sadness.

These men were all important figures in the court. If there was a provocateur in the court, he must be one of these men.

Although it was just some foolish fight among some foppish lads, it actually mattered at times.

The army had just left and the capital was in the weakest moment. The military families felt mostly unsafe at the moment. Yet they actually stirred up troubles at the very moment.

It happened right before the three reports were received.

How could the king not suspect there was a scheme about this fight.

Besides, it was the most dangerous moment when the kingdom was surrounded by powerful enemies. The king wouldn't use people that he didn't fully trust at the moment. He didn't dare to keep these men in the court now.

There were some of them who were wronged though.

The king had no other choices.

If these men were not such important figures in the court, the king would have killed them already. It was the fast and simple way after all.

These men couldn't believe it, and the other officials were surprised. The guards came in and dragged these old officials out like tigers dragging rabbits.

"Ok. Now we discuss about the situation about the four battles." The king spoke like nothing had happened, "You can express your thoughts without hesitations. Let's find out a way to defend our kingdom..."

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It was in the House of Ye.

Ye Xiao was lying in bed. He looked 'extremely miserable' at the moment. His body was soft and it seemed as though he had no bones at all.

Song Jue was also extremely 'upset'. He sat beside Ye Xiao with a dark face.

Unlike these two 'talented actors', some blood guards kept pacing around the house with concerns. They were truly worried though.

"How is it?" Song Jue asked quietly as nobody was around.

Ye Xiao, who should be in coma right now, slightly opened his eyes and said, "Don't worry. It's fine. Everything is under control."

They both didn't know what result their acting had brought about this time though.

However, the forces against the military group in the court had been way too strong for a long time. It was time to do some change about it anyway. It could at least make military people feel settled after this.

"However, I think it is going to happen when your father comes back... As time goes by, I don't think there will be many of them who are going to get demoted." Song Jue spoke, "But we are definitely going to escape the crisis though."

"It isn't a sure thing though." Ye Xiao answered.

"What? You mean those guys still dare to mess with you even though you are already living corpse like this?" Song Jue was surprised.

Ye Xiao smiled, "No. I have never worried about what happened today. As for weakening the opponent forces, we may not be able to do much about it, but the Crown Prince will do it for us."

"The Crown Prince?" Song Jue was disdainful, "That's impossible. He wishes you to die quickly. How will he help you? Don't forget the Melting Bone Palm on you was from his man."

Ye Xiao spoke blandly, "Of course he won't help us weaken the political group. He will try to get rid of people who didn't support him. If he doesn't knock those men down, how can he pass the buck to them? He may weaken our opponents coincidentally. It was reasonable."

Song Jue was stunned. He couldn't react yet.

Ye Xiao smiled lightly and said blandly, "Uncle Song, you... You are cute. How can you still not understand? The Crown Prince has to make sure that somebody will take the responsibility for messing me up, so that he can act like he didn't do anything to me... The case about his brother-in-law is not passed yet, remember?"

Song Jue was enlightened. He said with praises, "You little kid. You are really getting smarter and smarter. It is a pity that you don't want to get in the court. You are really good at setting people up... What do you mean 'cute'? Don't describe me like that! How can you call me cute?"

Ye Xiao twitched his mouth trying not to laugh loudly.

They didn't expect that the king was helping them weaken their opponents in the court this time.

At the moment, footsteps could be heard outside as a blood guard shouted, "Chief! There are royal doctors from the royal palace here. They are here to see the young master."

Ye Xiao naturally 'passed out' again. Song Jue made an 'emotional face' immediately and spoke in a deep voice, "Lead them in quickly."

He sounded like he was in a haste.

It looked like he had been waiting for the doctor for a long time.

Some figures flashed outside and Song Jue hurried to the door. He opened the door and spoke with worry, "Doctors, please come in."

His eyes suddenly lit up and he said happily, "Master Sun, you are here too! Great! That's great! Come in, please!"

The three of them all knew it was an urgent situation, so they didn't say anything useless. They entered the room immediately.

They just entered the room yet the dense smell of medicine had already bombarded their nose.

The well-known Lord Ye was lying in bed like a pile of mud.

They all felt bad when they saw Ye Xiao's posture.

They had seen countless dead men, and among them, some were punched to death, some were stabbed to death, and some died from diseases. They simply knew every kind of death... At the moment when they saw Ye Xiao, they knew he was going to die soon.

It was hopeless to bring him back.

Everyone needed the bones to support his body. Even those who were about to die, they were supported by the bones.

Yet Ye Xiao was now all collapsed.

He looked so bad without bones.

Doctor Li didn't dare to waste time. He put down the case he had been holding and sat on the edge of the bed to check Ye Xiao's pulse. Doctor Li was famous for his capability in checking the pulse. He was the best on it among all the other royal doctors. He was also good at treating internal injuries.

It wasn't a good time to chat now.

He put his fingers on Ye Xiao's wrist to feel Ye Xiao's pulse. His face suddenly turned dark.

Doctor Huang hurriedly took out papers. He already held a brush pen. He had worked with Doctor Li for his whole life. He knew what to do now.

Doctor Li spoke while he was checking Ye Xiao's pulse, "... The Jing and Mai are broken."

The first thing he said made Doctor Huang's hand shake. And then Doctor Huang wrote it down on the paper.

"The abdomen is empty. The heart barely beats. The lung is working weakly... The bones..." Doctor Li sighed and said, "Are mostly damaged... In fact, they are nearly melted."

"It was like some ice being heated by the sunlight. Even though he can still hold it for a while, it is just a matter of time before he will finally die with all his bones melted."

Doctor Li closed his eyes and sighed to the sky, "This injury... Should be..."

He looked at Doctor Huang and both of them nodded and said, "The Melting Bone Palm. An extremely vicious martial art in the martial world. It should have been lost for a long time."

Song Jue asked with a shaking voice, "Is it really that serious... Then... Will he be fine?"

Doctor Li and Doctor Huang shook their heads with both their faces dark. Doctor Li sighed, "The injury has reached the current stage. There is no cure for it now. Even if anyone who is like a god in the medical area can't do anything about it."

Song Jue gasped with hopeless breath. He asked stubbornly, "Isn't there... Isn't there anything we can at least try?"

Doctor Li turned to Master Sun and spoke sincerely, "That should be answered by Master Sun now. If he doesn't have any suggestions, then..."

He didn't finish his words, because he needn't to.

Master Sun moved to the bed and sat on the place where Doctor Li had sat when Doctor Li just stood up. His hands were like talons. He held Ye Xiao's wrist.

He closed his eyes.

And then the other three who stood in the room felt an extremely strong power waving in the air. A blue color which was like the ocean fully covered Ye Xiao and Master Sun.

Song Jue was stunned.

This Master Sun turned out to be a superior cultivator at the Grandmaster Level of Tianyuan. He seemed to be much more powerful than Guan Zheng-Wen.

There were truly full of superior masters in the royal palace.

People always said, 'whoever does the best in martial arts should be sold to the royal palace'. There were indeed many great cultivators in the royal palace.

In the past, Song Jue had placed such people in his sight. Yet now maybe Master Sun didn't look at him in sight.

"It is the injury of the Melting Bone Palm indeed." Master Sun talked with a rough voice without turning his head, "I don't have anything good to deal with it. I can merely keep this lad alive though... If you want this lad to recover to the time he was before, it is as difficult as bringing the dead to life. Only the Nine Turning Dan can do it..."

That meant Ye Xiao's death was already certain.

The Nine Turning Dan was the top-class priceless treasure even in the Qing-Yun Realm. In this mortal world, it had never shown up in even billions of years. It was simply something that didn't exist.

"Right. If we use medicines and dan beads together, it might bring about some efficacy." Master Sun blinked his eyes and talked to Song Jue, "Steward..."

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Chapter 155: Ye Xiao Will Die!

Song Jue answered at once, "My name is Song. Master Sun, please feel free to talk."

Master Sun kept quiet for a while and said, "We will naturally do whatever we can to save him. However, even if we are doing our best, we can only keep Lord Ye alive for ten days! Keeping him alive these ten days will take a huge price! There are some decisions we don't dare to make, to be honest."

Song Jue said, "What do you mean, Master Sun?"

Master Sun drew back his hand and closed his eyes. He said, "The problem is... Hmm... Doctor Huang, could you please hurry to the Royal Palace and ask his highness whether he could give us the supreme dan bead. I know the king has told me not to ask for any permission for using any thing in the royal stock, yet the supreme dan is really too important. I am afraid I have to ask the his highness!"

Doctor Huang was surprised!

The supreme dan!

[The mysterious supreme medical material can merely bring ten days for the dying Lord Ye!

How can the king possibly agree?

It should be used to the king during the most dangerous time of the kingdom!]

Master Sun opened his eyes and said, "Go quickly!"

Doctor Huang was a bit upset and he said, "Fine. I am on it now."

"If the king does agree. Ask him to send some superior cultivators of the palace to deliver the supreme dan bead. We must keep the dan bead safe on the way." Master Sun spoke lightly, "Remember, you only have three hours. Within three hours, I will use the pure spiritual qi that I cultivated with my life to keep Lord Ye alive. If the dan bead doesn't in time, he will die. Even the supreme dan bead can't save him after three hours!"

Doctor Huang promised and left right away.

Song Jue was already yelling outside, "Prepare the horse! Quick! The fastest one!"

Doctor Huang hurried off. He was confused, [The supreme dan bead is extremely priceless. How come Master Sun was so sure that the king will possibly take it out for the lad?]

...

It was in the House of Ye.

The blue aura appeared again. Master Sun operated his martial arts so he could stabilize Ye Xiao's condition.

"Doctor Li, when I am exhaling qi, please do your 13 Soul Healing Needles on Lord Ye!"

Master Sun asked Doctor Li.

"Ok."

Both of their faces were dark and solemn at the moment. They were doing everything they could to keep Ye Xiao alive for the next three hours.

As the trusted subordinates of the king, they knew that Ye Xiao's life was concerning the future of the kingdom!

If they saved Ye Xiao, they saved the kingdom!

If Ye Xiao died, the north of the kingdom would immediately fall in imminent disaster!

The feet of the grassland wolves would step onto the wonderful land of the Kingdom of Chen.

Doctor Huang was moving fast on the horse. He directly entered the Royal Palace.

He came straight to the Cheng-Tian Hall, yet was stopped by the guards. The king was discussing with the officials at the moment, so he couldn't be disturbed.

Doctor Huang was like burning in anxiety. He asked the guards to inform the king quickly. After a short while, Eunuch Wang rushed out.

"Gong-Gong, Master Sun said... the supreme dan bead is required to cure Ye Xiao... That..." Doctor Huang still felt it ridiculous to ask the king for the supreme dan bead.

Ye Xiao was merely the son of a general after all.

Even if Ye Nan-Tian was injured, the king might not take our the supreme dan bead for him. Yet he had to do it, because Master Sun had asked him to.

Master Sun was one of the most important figures in the Royal Palace after all!

Eunuch Wang didn't hesitate and went straight back to the hall. After a while, he came out again and said, "I will go to the House of Ye with you."

Doctor Huang looked at Eunuch Wang confusedly.

Wang frowned while looking at him and finally added, "The supreme dan bead is with me right now. Come on."

Doctor Huang was stunned!

[What the hell is going on?

Is it really this easy?

Ye Xiao was injured and now he needs the supreme dan bead. Ok I got it. How come the king just gave out our the supreme dan bead so quickly?!

What does that mean?

Even the Crown Prince has never been treated that kindly, I am afraid!]

Doctor Huang couldn't help guessing, [Could this Ye Xiao be the secret son of the king? So he boiled him over the Crown Prince?!]

Eunuch Wang saw him stunned. He felt impatient and he coughed heavily.

Doctor Huang finally came back to his senses after hearing that cough.

They hurried back to the House of Ye.

When they arrived, two hours had passed.

Master Sun placed the dan bead into Ye Xiao's mouth immediately. The Soul Healing Needles stayed on Ye Xiao's body. Master Sun operated his power in full range to accelerate the effect of the dan bead...

After a long time, something had finally changed with Ye Xiao's soft body which looked like a corpse.

The breath of Ye Xiao became heavier and mightier. His chest began to move along with his breath...

Yet that was all.

Nothing else happened.

Doctor Huang was more confused now, [We have used such a precious supreme dan bead on him. It is fine if it can save him, but if it just makes him breath for a more few hours, isn't it a waste of the fine dan bead?

That is... That is more than simply wasting.]

“We have done what we can.” Master Sun hit on Ye Xiao and delivered a stream of purple qi into Ye Xiao’s head. He seemed exhausted and he was all wet with sweat. He spoke to Song Jue, “It will keep him alive at least till the General Ye is back... I really have done everything I can. Sorry.”

Song Jue took a deep breath and said, “It is more than enough already. Thank you. Thanks a lot.”

Eunuch Wang looked at Song Jue with his sharp eyes and spoke blandly, “Do you think... the man who used the Melting Bone Palm can cure it?”

Song Jue spoke with hatred, “It must be those foppish bastards! We will take revenge!”

Eunuch Wang was quiet for a while and said, “The first thing we should do is to save Lord Ye. It will be better if you think about other issues later.”

Song Jue sneered and didn’t reply.

Wang spoke, “The injury of the Melting Bone Palm seems really strange though... The man who did it must not be very powerful, because he cannot delay the day of its activation. However, when it is checked deeper, Lord Ye looks like he was hit for several days though. That really confuses me.”

Song Jue spoke coldly, “When our great general comes back, he will have conclusions!”

Wang sighed. He was a superior cultivator himself. He knew about the Melting Bone Palm. He said what he had said, because he wished that things could be different. He knew that if it didn’t involved those important officials, who were the important men of the king, maybe the current situation wouldn’t be so bad.

When they left, Eunuch Wang and Master Sun discussed about it for a long time.

“It is absolutely a grievous injury.”

“That’s right.”

“Ye Xiao took the supreme dan bead. Yet he is going to die anyway.”

“That’s true.”

“But was the injury really caused today?”

“I have no idea. It is hard to tell though.”

“If it wasn’t today, who did it to him?”

“Heh heh.”

“If it was today, among those houses, who did it?”

“Heh heh.”

And then they were silent.

“The Crown Prince was a bit strange today. He wasn’t his usual self.” Eunuch Wang said.

“Oh?”

“It seems normal that he would accuse Lord Jiang when Lord Jiang was down. But what he did went too far.”

“And your point is?”

“I don’t have a point.”

“I see. If there is a suspicious point towards a man whom you shouldn’t suspect, then it is better ignore the suspicious point.”

“That’s right.”

“Then those houses?”

“They are dead meat!”

“So be it then!”

...

Ye Xiao was lying in bed like a dead body. There was only a small bit of qi supporting his body right now. Even his soul seemed to have disappeared.

In fact, he was inside the boundless Space.

He was inside the Sky Space at the moment.

Ye Xiao sat beside the Cosmic Hades. He was absorbing the gelid qi from the Cosmic Hades with huge efforts. The gelid qi burst out, not because of the gelid qi overflowed, nor because of the spiritual jade; it was caused by an egg!

It surely meant that egg!

Since the egg manned up the other day and fiercely put down Gu Jin-Long and absorbed his soul, it entered a weird mode!

Ye Xiao reckoned that the egg must be positively full because it had never eaten anything better than Gu Jin-Long’s powerful soul before.

It was like a snake swallowing an elephant. That was why there was occasionally some energy coming out of the egg. These energy somehow activated the Cosmic Hades and made it burst out with gelid qi!

This time, it lasted for a half day already.

Ye Xiao could only fully focus on it. First of all, he needed to reduce the gelid qi in the Space to keep the Spaces in balance. Secondly... The gelid qi was rather precious for Ye Xiao at the moment. It made his spiritual qi purer and purer. And it improved his gelid power...

If he didn’t care about the balance of the Spaces, he would definitely throw several pieces of spiritual jades to the Cosmic Hades...

While the gelid qi increased, Ye Xiao found that the gelid qi inside his body seemed... Finally he seemed to come to the stage where the East-rising Purple Qi could break out to the second level. In his dantian,

the energy of the East-rising Purple Qi had formed into a purple mist. It stayed at the center of his dantian.

If dantian was as big as a house... then the purple mist at the center of his dantian was now as big as an egg.

It was small, yet it was clearly there. It made Ye Xiao feel that as long as he filled up his dantian with the purple qi, which was produced after he converted the gelid qi, he could smoothly upgrade the East-rising Purple Qi to the second level.

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Chapter 156: Take Over The Ling-Bao Hall

However, according to the condition of the Land of Han-Yang, Ye Xiao reckoned... that it still would take a long time to reach the second level.

If the power of reaching the first level of the Grade of Diyuan was equal to one portion, reaching the second level was equal to two portions. To reach level three needed eight portions... And sixty-four to reach the fourth level...

Ye Xiao felt that when he reached the Grade of Tianyuan, his East-rising Purple Qi would reach the second level!

Well, thinking about how long it would take, Ye Xiao felt speechless.

He had to try his best to improve himself.

To reach the second level of the East-rising Purple Qi, it took thousands of times more than it took to reach the first level.

There were nine levels of the East-rising Purple Qi in total.

When thinking about all this... Ye Xiao was... rather motivated!

When he reached the fourth level, he must have already become as powerful as he was in his previous life! That was the ninth level of the Grade of Daoyuan!

That was the peak level of the Qing-Yun Realm already!

So when he really reach the ninth level of the East-rising Purple Qi, what would he become? What cultivation level would he reach?

He felt excited even just thinking about it!

The next morning, the Crown Prince came to visit Ye Xiao in person and stayed in the House of Ye for quite a while.

He said a lot of thoughtful words and showed his concerns in all aspects. He delivered a lot of precious medical materials and sent out a lot of men to find good doctors... He was doing everything to help.

As the Crown Prince of the kingdom, he truly did all these things for merely a general's son. People were going to be moved with tears when they knew it.

Well... Ye Xiao didn't feel anything. Song Jue was watching all these like he was watching a play.

[Look how the bastard try to buy popularity...

He must be in dreaming!]

The next night, the House of Ye finally came back to peace after running for one day. Song Jue stayed around Ye Xiao. He felt tired and he was confused, [He has been lying here like this for such a long time. Doesn't he feel tired?]

To keep being like this, Ye Xiao had been operating his martial art to support it...

[Is he really capable to hold such a long time? That's unbelievable!]

"I think it is enough now..." Song Jue shook Ye Xiao.

Ye Xiao finally woke up. He was still focused on acting, so he asked weakly, "Are... Are they... all gone?"

Song Jue was amused, "There is only me. Stop acting. What the hell. I never knew it was so tiring to act. I think it is worse than fighting ten battles. I am exhausted!"

Ye Xiao took a deep breath and made his bones crack. He sat up on the bed and said, "Uncle Song, you should feel satisfied. You are better than me. I nearly died trying to stay still. I felt like I was so stupid. Look, you have been busy for a whole day. Why don't you lie down for me..."

Song Jue nodded, "Ah, you do have conscience after all... Hmm. What did you say? Lie down for you? You want me to act as a dead man for you?"

Ye Xiao smiled, "Uncle Song, you are tired, aren't you? Look. You just need to lie down and do nothing. That must be easy and comfortable..."

Song Jue spat, "Pooh! You little prick. How dare you! Need to do nothing? That's unable to do anything! I don't need your conscience now... Enjoy it yourself. Go back to your bed and lie till the end of the world, will you?!"

Ye Xiao showed a sad face, "Uncle Song, please. I know you always treat me well. Just do me a favor. It really is unbearable. Have pity on your beloved nephew, will you?!"

Song Jue showed a dark face, "You know it is unbearable, yet you still want me to do it. Unbelievable..."

Finally, after begging for a while, Song Jue promised to lie in the bed for Ye Xiao, because he did treat Ye Xiao rather well. He was now going to enjoy the comfort of 'doing nothing'.

Ye Xiao wore black robes and got out through the window...

After only a few seconds, he disappeared in the dark night.

There was one thing Ye Xiao had been planning to do for a long time.

Now he had the time to do it.

Well, he had spent a lot of time while talking to persuade Song Jue though...

...

It was in the Ling-Bao Hall Salesroom.

The big fat Wan Zheng-Hao was lying part way up on the chair. He looked anxious.

[It has been two and half days since the god-master left.

Did he leave already?

He always came without informing me. I don't think he will tell me if he decided to leave...

He made me feel anxious all the time...

What should I do now. I don't know where he is.]

"Fine. I will wait for another three days. If the god-master doesn't come back, I will return to my place myself. This is not a good place for me with my weight... I feel pain in every step." Wan Zheng-Hao sighed.

He had gotten the method to live forever and Gu Jin-Long had helped him on it. It was surely a good thing for him.

However, the price was that he would stay fat all the time! And he would get fatter and fatter!

When he first built up the Ling-Bao Hall, he was about 90 kg. Now he was 700 kg. He was the no.1 fat guy in the world!

It was said that... it was the curse he had to take for the longevity he shouldn't have had.

Gu Jin-Long said that.

He grabbed his big belly, which had slipped down to the floor, and put it on his knees. Wan Zheng-Hao was quite upset.

"That is too big a price... and a heavy one..."

Well I can live forever. So I guess it should be fine to just be fat."

While he was murmuring, he heard someone knocked the door gently. Master Guan was outside reporting, "Boss. Feng Zhi-Ling requires a meeting."

Wan Zheng-Hao was surprised. He said, "Brother Feng? Why is he here? Go invite him in quickly!"

The next moment, Feng Zhi-Ling just sat in front of Wan Zheng-Hao arrogantly.

"Brother Wan." Feng Zhi-Ling was smiling proudly.

"Brother Feng, do you know where Master Gu is?" Wan Zheng-Hao asked anxiously.

"Hmm. I have sent a letter to him earlier. Brother Gu got the thing he wanted already. And then he just left to cultivate immediately." Ye Xiao answered blandly.

“Oh. I see. That’s good.” Wan Zheng-Hao rubbed his hands excitedly, “I am going back tomorrow then.”

“No, you can’t.” Feng Zhi-Ling’s face turned cold, “Brother Wan, when Brother Gu left, he wanted me to tell you something.”

“Brother Gu?” Wan Zheng-Hao asked with astonishment.

“Brother Gu felt grateful when I found his family treasure for him. So he swore to become brothers with me. We became brothers of different names. We kowtowed eight times to the sky. We are life-and-death brothers now.” Feng Zhi-Ling was seriously talking.

“Eh... Well...” Wan Zheng-Hao widely opened his mouth while staring dumbly at Feng Zhi-Ling. He was confused and unbelieving at the same time!

[Sworn brothers? Life-and-death brothers?

What the hell? Isn’t it too fast?]

“Oh, you don’t believe it? Well Brother Gu knew that you wouldn’t. Look, what is this?” Ye Xiao put several pieces of stuffs on the table.

There was one jade token among those things. It was all covered by a purple glow. There was a word ‘decree’ on it.

There was another jade token where the name of Gu Jin-Long was inscribed.

When Wan Zheng-Hao saw the two jade tokens, his fat body started shaking.

All the fats on his body started to shake around him. -Pah! Pah! Pah! -

The latter jade token was the identity token of Gu Jin-Long in his sect. It was something he would definitely keep with himself.

The purple jade token was the token he used to take charge of the Ling-Bao Hall.

When the purple token showed up, it represented Gu Jin-Long himself.

The two of them were both in Feng Zhi-Ling’s hand. That meant one thing. Gu Jin-Long had handed over the power of running the Ling-Bao Hall to Feng Zhi-Ling!

For Wan Zheng-Hao, there turned out to be one more man who was in a higher position than him.

He had a boss who is directly in control of him now!

So he looked at the two tokens stunned. He looked ill like he just ate up a pile of shxt.

If he found the two tokens here, he would be extremely happy. That meant nobody was going to control him anymore. However, there was Feng Zhi-Ling with the two tokens. He was now the owner of the two tokens. That meant he was the second boss of Wan Zheng-Hao other than Gu Jin-Long.

At the moment, Feng Zhi-Ling smiled softly, ‘Wan, from now on, we are going to work on Ling-Bao Hall together. We have to do a good job. Don’t worry. I won’t hinder you in anyway.’”

Wan Zheng-Hao's mind blanked out. He looked at the tokens on the table. He seemed to have lost his soul.

When he heard Feng Zhi-Ling's words, he turned furious!

[What the hell!

What is this all about?]

In the past, whenever Ling-Bao Hall got something precious, he needed to give the best ones to Gu Jin-Long. However, Gu Jin-Long came to Ling-Bao Hall nearly every hundred years and he just stayed for a few days. It didn't stop Wan Zheng-Hao from making his own money at all. And he got those medical materials to extend his life. So he had been feeling really good about the business in Ling-Bao Hall.

However, things were different now, as there was another boss above him.

First of all, Feng Zhi-Ling would never ignore everything in the Ling-Bao Hall like Gu Jin-Long did. He would definitely lay his hands on it.

Secondly, Feng Zhi-Ling didn't come from the higher realm. He was the native of the Land of Han-Yang. Even though he would be busy making dan beads, he would still spend most of his time to working on the affairs in Ling-Bao Hall.

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Chapter 157: Both Hard And Soft Tactics

What Gu Jin-Long required were all the best treasures, but because he had quite a high standard about treasures, there were not many things he liked. So Wan Zheng-Hao didn't really give Gu Jin-Long a lot of treasures after all. Now that Feng Zhi-Ling got involved, he was afraid everything that Ling-Bao Hall got would all be snatched by him and would all be used to make dan beads. That meant most of the resources that used to be in his hand would become Feng Zhi-Ling's.

When he thought about seeing Feng Zhi-Ling face to face everyday, he felt pain in his heart.

He just wanted to smash Feng Zhi-Ling.

When he had such thought, his eyes would naturally be filled with a killing intent.

Ye Xiao sat opposite to him with his legs crossed. He spoke blandly, "By the way. Brother Gu didn't return to where he belongs. He has been taking a secret training in the Land of Han-Yang... He said he would leave after he make success in some kind of martial art. During the time he is cultivating, he wants me to make one kind of dan for him. It is difficult to make, to be honest, but the materials are easy to find. Well, it is going to be your job then. Thanks, Boss Wan. And we can't make any mistakes on this."

Wan Zheng-Hao trembled like he was stricken by the thunder. He laughed constrainedly and said, "Yes. That's right. I will do my best. I won't let any mistake happen!"

His hostile thought against Feng Zhi-Ling disappeared immediately.

He knew how vicious Gu Jin-Long was. He knew that if Gu Jin-Long wanted him to disappear, he wouldn't even need to do anything. Simply a breath could make him disappear once and for all.

He realized that Feng Zhi-Ling was someone he couldn't afford messing with.

He had to please him and make him feel good about everything!

He was seriously upset about it.

Ye Xiao saw the expressions on Wan Zheng-Hao's face. He felt rather casual.

Now, Gu Jin-Long was one hundred percent dead in his hand.

This Ling-Bao Hall was obviously a private force that Gu Jin-Long raised for himself. He wanted a place to stay when he came to the Land of Han-Yang, and he thought maybe he could get some valuable treasures from it. It apparently was not making enough money for him.

In fact, Ling-Bao Hall had been running its business all around other countries. That was Wan Zheng-Hao's credit. The cross-kingdoms business didn't get any support from Gu Jin-Long. The Ling-Bao Hall was not good enough for Gu Jin-Long though. Yet it was quite a powerful thing for Ye Xiao, so he would, of course, take it over as soon as he can.

He knew that Wan Zheng-Hao didn't really like this; he just didn't dare to say anything.

It wasn't a good thing that his underling had any crosscurrent to him. He thought that it would definitely bring troubles if the underlings didn't fully obey him.

He spoke casually, "Wan, I am afraid you have to care more about your personal image. It doesn't do good to your health anyway. A king doesn't use hungry soldiers. I mean, you and I, we are like a family now. I have a recipe of Slimming Dan that can help people lose weight. If you keep taking it for a month, I think you will lose 90 percent of your fat..."

He smiled blandly and continued, "Well then, you won't be 700 kg anymore... I am confident that you can become under 100 kg."

"Most importantly, it works perfectly with the Life Extending Dan." He smiled with his eyes closed.

Wan Zheng-Hao was shocked when he heard that!

He started to quiver.

[Slimming Dan?

There actually is such a kind of treasure!]

Wan Zheng-Hao had been through thousands of years in misery because of the fat on his body. Sometimes, he felt that he would rather die than live. He thought that it was better living miserably than dying comfortably. That kept him from killing himself overtime.

As the fat grew, from 1600 years earlier, the fat had covered all of his true body.

He had lost the pleasure of being a man. The fat covered his penis so he couldn't use it for sex at all. The only thing he could do with his penis was to pee strugglingly. He could only sigh whenever he wanted to do 'something'.

The Life Extending Dan surely did extend his life, yet every dan bead he took added more fat on his body.

When he heard what Feng Zhi-Ling said, he felt like those words were from the heavens. He was like a man who was about to drown when he suddenly grabbed a firm grass on the land!

"Brother Feng! Is there really such kind of wonderful dan?! Hmm. Such magical dan beads, does it need your master to make them?!" Wan Zheng-Hao held Feng Zhi-Ling's hands. He was thrilled!

His eyes actually lit up with a green glow. That showed how eager he was.

Ye Xiao nodded seriously and said, "Relax, Wan. Although it is not easy to make such dan beads and it also requires a lot of materials, it is not a high-class dan. It won't need my master's assistance. I can do it. As long as I have enough materials, I promise I can make some for you.

Well, the only thing that concerns me is that I don't know why he never told you about this dan. There maybe something tricky about it though. I don't know."

He was attempting to get the support of Wan Zheng-Hao so he could develop the Ling-Bao Hall as his own force. So he seized every chance to smear Gu Jin-Long. He could feel free to smear him because he was already a dead man.

Wan Zheng-Hao's face turned dark.

[There is such a dan and he never told me about it! Why?

He never wants me to become a normal person! He never wants me to enjoy the pleasures in my life! Right?

That's reasonable... I am holding so big amount of wealth here. He comes down here once in dozens of years. I have the long-lasting life, thanks to him. Am I not enjoying more than he does? Even if he never cares that I hold this wealth, maybe he just cares that I am living a better life than his!

All in all, Gu Jin-Long just extended my life so that I can work for him!

I am just a tool for him. Why does a tool need to enjoy life then?]

His face turned darker and darker.

Ye Xiao spoke casually, "In fact, I have asked Brother Gu about it."

"What did he say then?" Wan Zheng-Hao asked.

"He said... He spent a lot to raise you and extend your life, so that you can collect valuable treasures and useful resources for him. If you enjoy your life too much, you will be distracted and you won't do your best in works. That would be him lifting up a stone to drop it on his own toes..." Ye Xiao answered blandly.

“I knew it! Humph!” Wan Zheng-Hao bursted with hatred. He humphed and then remembered that the man in front of him was the sworn brother of Gu Jin-Long. He feared that if Feng Zhi-Ling told Gu Jin-Long anything...

So he looked at Ye Xiao alarmingly, “Master Feng... Well urn...”

Ye Xiao acted like he was generous and said, “Easy, Wan. We still need to get well along with each other in the Ling-Bao Hall. I need to focus on dan-making, so the affairs in the Ling-Bao Hall will mostly be in your charge. I am not stupid enough to cut my own hand, am I?”

Wan Zheng-Hao felt relieved and said smilingly, “That’s true. That’s true.”

“Well in the future, when Brother Gu fully digests the Cosmic Hades and boosts his cultivation, he won’t need us to supply resources to him anymore...” Ye Xiao spoke slowly with his eyes closed.

[What does Feng Zhi-Ling mean? Does he want to get rid of Gu Jin-Long once and for all?]

Wan Zheng-Hao felt happy about it. And then he was scared. [I know too well about Gu Jin-Long. If Ling-Bao Hall means nothing to Gu Jin-Long anymore, he will never give me Life Extending Dan anymore. How am I going to extend my life then?]

“Brother Feng, what... what should we do then?”

His face turned pale all of a sudden.

Everything he learned today made him feel like he was coursing through heaven and hell. It was rising up high suddenly, and then dropping down rapidly.

He felt happy that he had a chance to lose his weight at first. He wanted to have a normal life. Yet he became unhappy because he had a problem extending his life.

He had sacrificed so much to keep himself living. Now that his long-lasting life was going to an end, wasn’t it unfortunate?

Ye Xiao looked at Wan Zheng-Hao with cold and sharp eyes.

“Master Feng, why do you look at me like that?” Wan Zheng-Hao asked anxiously.

“Nothing. I just want to tell you, only when Brother Gu leaves and only when I can truly do whatever I want... can I give the Slimming Dan Beads to you.”

Ye Xiao smiled blandly, “Well, there is a time issue with the Slimming Dan though. You know the efficacy of such wonderful dan is always limited. After you start to take it, in a certain period of time, you need to take it again before the fat on your body increases again..”

Wan Zheng-Hao smiled bitterly. [I know how it works. I understand it. Well... but...]

His eyes lit up with fierceness again.

[It just means that right now, someone else is controlling me.]

It was Gu Jin-Long then, and now, it is Feng Zhi-Ling.

Yet I can't get a long-lasting life anymore. Why do I need to be somebody's servant after I finished being another person's servant?

Fcking bullshit. Do I have to be a servant?!

I am going to die soon anyway. Why don't I die fighting back. Everybody die then! Do you think it is that easy to take advantage of me?!

It seemed Ye Xiao didn't notice that Wan Zheng-Hao was strange, so he continued, "In fact, I have the recipe of the Life Extending Dan too. I don't have enough materials though. Otherwise I can make it now too!"

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Chapter 158: Reined Wan Zheng-Hao

Ye Xiao looked at Wan Zheng-Hao coldly. His eyes had a sharp glint as though he was in the higher position. He said blandly, "Wan Zheng-Hao, if you satisfy me, please me... I can make you live forever and I can give you a normal man's body, with which you will enjoy all the pleasures in the world! Endlessly!"

He stopped calling him 'Wan' or 'Boss Wan' anymore. He just called his name, Wan Zheng-Hao!

Obviously, it showed who would be the master of the other. He stayed a high position above Wan Zheng-Hao.

At this moment, Wan Zheng-Hao didn't care though. His breath became rapid after he heard Ye Xiao's words.

One of the Life Extending Dan Bead could extend his life for 100 years.

The Slimming Dan Bead could give him reduce his weight and he could regain the male capability.

With both, he could enjoy the wonderful world forever!

If he really got them both, his life was going to become a thousand times happier than he was now. That was exactly what he wanted!

His lips were shaking, "Brother Feng, you can't joke on such things."

Ye Xiao was displeased, "Do I need to lie to you? It is merely a few Life Extending Dan beads. I may not be able to make supreme dan beads, but it is an easy job to make some normal Life Extending Dan beads!"

Wan Zheng-Hao showed a complex expression on his face and spoke while gritting his teeth, "What is true should be seen! As long as I can see either of these two dan beads... I will give my life to you, Master Feng! My life doesn't belong to me anyway. I could sell it to Gu Jin-Long, so why can't I sell it to you?!"

Ye Xiao smiled blandly, "Wan Zheng-Hao, you have lived a long life. I believe there is one thing you have already learned."

He continued casually, "Well... People have souls. People's bodies are merely fleshes and blood... They are just the physical holders... You should have learned it already."

Wan Zheng-Hao nodded, "That's true."

"The Life Extending Dan beads Gu Jin-Long gave you seem to extend your life. In fact, it may not be a good thing to you." Ye Xiao spoke slowly, "Every time when you took the dan bead, you felt dizzy for a while, right? The world will become silent like you were a dead man, right?"

"That's true. How do you know?"

"Heh, heh... Because whenever you took the Life Extending Dan bead, you die once.

And then you come back to life, like your life had been extended." Ye Xiao said blandly, "It means you are overdrawing the time of your next life and all the lives to come... Those lives have all been attached to your current life and you are living your future lives in this body..."

Wan Zheng-Hao said, "Yes."

Ye Xiao said, "So, even if you die now... Your soul won't be free immediately... You will have to suffer in the hell for over 3000 years. Well if you have done anything immoral, it may take you four or five thousand years. When you get through all this, you can become a pure soul and get into the tunnel of transmigration. And then you become some kind of animal in the next life. You are not going to be human anyway, because you have spent over 3000 years being a human. You can't be a human any longer..."

Wan Zheng-Hao suddenly shivered.

"Heh, heh. Well, that's just for talking though. I told you those, because I want to tell you that the Life Extending Dan is actually not its real name..." Ye Xiao smiled coldly and said, "It should be called... Dark Soul Dan!"

"Dark Soul Dan!" Wan Zheng-Hao murmured. His big fat face was all pale. Sweats on his face were like squeezed out from his fat.

"The real efficacy of Dark Soul Dan is not for extending life..." Ye Xiao spoke indifferently, "It is used to... restrain people's soul in order to stop him from rebirth!"

"It should only be used on someone you hated the most in the world, when you want him to suffer for all his lives. It is a vicious dan. Whoever takes it, their soul will be restrained inside his body forever. He will suffer everything forever and will never have the chance to start over again."

"It is the most vicious dan in the Qing-Yun Realm!" He continued, "It can only be used on souls though. However, Gu Jin-Long is a genius. He actually added the Nine Silence Grass and the Opposite Bank Flower in it. So it is different; it can be used on living men."

"But the Nine Silence Grass will definitely damage the human body. Getting fatter and fatter is only one of the negative effects... It will make a man become half man half woman. Wan Zheng-Hao... Have you felt that you no longer long for that thing between a man and a woman? Hmm. I mean losing your sexuality. You are not interested in either women or men!"

Ye Xiao asked frankly.

Wan Zheng-Hao was shocked.

He just stood there saying nothing. His eyes were blank.

What Feng Zhi-Ling said were all true on him!

He remembered when he was young, he loved sex. After extending his life, he became less and less interested in women anymore. And then he gave up on it. Besides, he was too fat to have sex with a woman. He seemed to forget how it felt like to be with a woman.

[I have worked for Gu Jin-Long for my whole life and have been a dog for him!

Yet he treats me as if I am his biggest enemy...

And I have been admiring him and respecting him all the time...]

“Wan Zheng-Hao, I can return your body to a normal status, and I can give you the real Life Extending Dan. I can even reduce the sin you made. And I can help you regain your male capability!”

Ye Xiao said, “Wan Zheng-Hao, now you need to choose... What is your choice?”

Wan Zheng-Hao shivered. He raised his head and looked at Ye Xiao.

Ye Xiao looked at him coldly and blandly.

At the moment, he was like a monarch looking down on the follower who was kneeling on the floor!

The vigor of a sovereign descending the world and commanding the universe bursted out!

Wan Zheng-Hao was stunned all at once.

Not only what Feng Zhi-Ling said had shocked him, but also his vigor was much stronger than Gu Jin-Long!

It was totally a different thing.

Gu Jin-Long was more like a head of a small gang. He was full of killing and fierceness!

Feng Zhi-Ling was more like a king who dominated the whole world!

[Who is this Feng Zhi-Ling? How come his vigor is so much stronger than Gu Jin-Long?

Isn't he... just a dan-maker? And he seems to be humble and kind...]

Wan Zheng-Hao couldn't believe it. He kept blinking to try to stay clear-minded.

He felt like he was in a dream.

And it was of course a good dream. A wonderful dream!

He was obviously thrilled by what Ye Xiao promised him. It was a bright and beautiful future!

“I...” Wan Zheng-Hao Felt a bit thirsty and he couldn't talk.

He only spoke one word and his throat seemed to be burning.

"I know what you want to say. I surely can prove it to you!" Ye Xiao smiled blandly and reached out his hand, "You know I have limited materials, so I just made a half-done Smiling Dan bead. You can try it and look how it works. And then you tell me your decision."

A jade bottle was put in front of Wan Zheng-Hao. Ye Xiao continued, "You need to prepare a big tub. When you feel burning after taking this dan bead, you cut the middle finger of your right hand and keep it in the tub. And then you can see... how much fat can be drawn out of your body! Then you will know my words are true!"

Then he stood up and said, "Alright then. I got to go. I will come back tomorrow night. I hope you can tell me your decision when I am back."

And then he smiled and said, "So long."

His body flashed and then he became a black lightning rushing out through the window as he disappeared in the dark.

A long time after Feng Zhi-Ling left, Wan Zheng-Hao was still sitting on the chair. He didn't even move a bit. After a while, he moved his eyeballs.

He looked at the jade bottle on the table in front of him.

There was only one dan bead in the jade bottle.

Wan Zheng-Hao was struggling with a fight inside his head.

[What should I do?]

He did want that. All that Feng Zhi-Ling had promised him were what he wanted the most.

However, his heart was filled with mixed feelings.

Wan Zheng-Hao realized that this Feng Zhi-Ling wasn't an ordinary figure.

He now knew that Feng Zhi-Ling acted humble and innocent earlier.

He thought that Feng Zhi-Ling must be more horrible than Gu Jin-Long!

He had a feeling that when he was under Gu Jin-Long's control, he might be able to get away from him; yet if he was under Feng Zhi-Ling's control, he was very likely going to spend all his life, or lives, to serve him!

His eyes were flashing with complicated feelings. He looked at the little jade bottle and he was gasping.

After a while, he finally made up his mind!

He was a bit self-abandoned.

"I have been serving somebody for my entire life already! How bad can it be to serve another one?" Wan Zheng-Hao gritted his teeth and murmured, "Besides, I can be in normal size this time. And I can

man up again. I can enjoy all the pleasures in the world! It is a good deal to me! I have to have a higher standard about my life!”

He didn't hesitate anymore. He reached his hand to the little jade bottle and grabbed it.

And then he shouted, “Somebody! Bring me an extra large tub!”

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Chapter 159: Fat!

An empty huge scale wood tub, which was as high as a man, was placed in front of Wan Zheng-Hao.

Wan Zheng-Hao gritted his teeth and unsealed the bottle.

[If it really is that good, then... Your promises seem to be true. It won't hurt to serve you anyway, will it?]

He thought, [At least you treat me as a human being. At least you care about my problems... It is better than being a tool to Gu Jin-Long that could never enjoy anything and only be tortured all the time.]

He closed his eyes and didn't even look at the dan bead.

He raised his head and swallowed the dan bead.

Unlike the supreme dan beads, this dan bead created a spicy and unbearable flavor in the throat.

Wan Zheng-Hao didn't expect it, so tears immediately fell from his eyes because of it.

“What the hell is this. Why does it taste so...”

He murmured as he felt a stream of heat arose inside his dantian all of a sudden.

And then the heat ran over his body. His entire body seemed to be on fire.

It felt like endless flames had surrounded him.

He felt unbearably hot, but he kept holding it.

He realized that this dan bead was making a difference after all.

He felt the fat on his body was all trembling. It felt like it was melting.

And it seemed there was really something moving to his middle finger...

He gritted his teeth and held on.

It must be better to let this burning power work as long as possible.

That was obvious.

He tried so hard to hold on with it.

After about two hours, he screamed out, “Ahhh!”

And then he took out a knife like mad and the tip of his middle finger. - Tsshk! -

At that moment, he immediately placed his right hand on the edge of the tub.

He was uncomfortable, so he reached his head over to see the finger.

The wound on his fingertip didn't bleed at all. Instead, some sort of an ivory oily material was surging as it came out of his finger.

It was like a tiny river of white fat floating out from the wound. It was half-solid and half-liquid. It kept coming out...

At the same time, he felt his body were on heat and he felt good about it.

It was truly feeling pain and happiness at the same time.

And then the feeling of being on fire became stronger and stronger. There was more and more fat coming out from his finger. And then he saw a stream of fat which was as thick as his finger pouring out.

- Puff! - It poured out heavily onto the opposite tub wall and then floated down along the wall. While time passed, the whole bottom of the tub had been filled up. The oily fat kept rising like rising tide.

There was more and more coming out.

Wan Zheng-Hao felt like he was flying in the heavens. He loved this feeling immediately.

It was awesome.

He could clearly feel that all the fat in his body was running over to his fingertip...

It all ran out of his body through the only tiny loophole on his fingertip.

"Yohoooo..." He groaned while rejoicing. His voice was soft, like some 'professional worker' getting a strong customer...

After a while, the whole tub was half filled already. The feeling of fire was still vivid inside his body. It didn't even decrease. The fat was running even faster...

It felt like all his fat was melted at the moment.

"This is awesome..." He groaned happily, "Oh, Lord Feng. I am so going to serve you from now on... This is so awesome..."

In two hours, the fat was like water pouring out into the tub...

The huge tub was about to be filled up...

He just wanted to asked for another tub, yet the feeling stopped surprisingly.

The fat was still pouring.

He could feel the fat was curdling on his body. He sighed.

[It seems... this should be called the end of the day.]

After about ten minutes, it stopped pouring out.

As the fat stopped, a feeling of pain was arising. He was in great pain and he kept struggling on the floor. He nearly couldn't breathe.

That was... how good you felt, how painful you got.

"Well, this dan bead... Isn't something I should take casually..." He gritted his teeth and he was all wet with sweat. He spoke fiercely, "Anyway... It is worth suffering though."

Till the latter part of the night, the pain finally disappeared bit by bit.

He got to understand that to decrease such amount of fat meant to cut the same amount of fat directly. It must be painful. As long as he could get through the pain, everything would be fine.

He stood up slowly and tried jumping around in his room... The fat on his body shook. He found that he really had lost some weight...

He couldn't help but walk over to look inside the tub. There was a full tub of fat.

"That should be at least more than 50 kg." Looking at the tub, he was happy and upset at the same time, "For somebody else, to lose such an amount of fat can surely make him slim, yet I still look the same..."

"This is all my fat..." He sighed. He was happy though. He had been trying to lose weight for centuries, and this was the most significant achievement.

That was happiness to him.

He groaned happily and shouted, "Somebody come in!"

Two guards came in immediately.

"Take this tub of fat away and dispose it well." He waved his hand and spoke with satisfaction.

He kept pacing around in the room while checking his belly. It didn't seem changed a lot, yet he could feel himself lighter.

Especially the belly.

He rubbed his belly and was lost in satisfaction.

Although it was still a big fat belly, he could already feel that it had become smaller.

That was a wonderful feeling. Anyone else could never understand such pleasure.

He slept tight and sweet this night. He hadn't had such a good sleep for... over several hundred years.

He thought, [I am wealthy. I am even richer than a country.

I can buy whatever I want in the world.

There is nothing I can't afford.

Including... every virgin's first night.

But even though I am so rich, I don't have the honor of a man anymore.

Those that men can do became impossible for me.

I even needed to get away from the girls who came to me first. That is really an indescribable pain.

But that is going to be the past soon.

Hahahahaha...]

The next day, he felt like he was as light as a bird; well of course, comparing to what he used to be.

Whoever had lost over 50 kg in one night would feel like a bird. That was a real feeling inside his mind, even though he was still a big fat monster.

When he was having his meal in the salesroom, for the first time... he had a good appetite.

He wanted every dish.

So he just got loose to eat whatever he wanted. In the end, he wiped his mouth and said delightedly, "The food today is really good. It suits my appetite."

The old Master Guan was enjoying his own food and answered, "Thanks to you, boss, I can have such delicious food today."

Wan Zheng-Hao was surprised, "What? Thanks to me?"

[Why is it anything to do with me?]

Master Guan smiled and rubbed his beard, "Well, that huge tub of fat... I don't know where you got it. The cook saw it and he was like meeting with something given by gods. He just couldn't stop praising. He said that he had been a cook for his whole life and that was his first time to see such a high-quality pure fat. Most importantly, it is all natural. That is the most organic cooking material..."

Wan Zheng-Hao felt something wrong about it already. His face turned pale and he said, "So...and then?"

"Well, he wouldn't waste any good materials, would he? That would be quite a waste. So the cook, Li, used that fat to cook. Well look what we are eating today..." Master Guan was satisfied. He picked his teeth and said, "It really is extremely tasty. Brilliant smell, color and taste at the same time. My mouth can still feel the scent of the tasty food. I think I will be thinking about it for three days."

Master Guan seemed to be rather excited and he spoke a lot.

Wan Zheng-Hao's face was all pale at the moment. He looked at the empty plates on the table...

Half of the dishes... came into his belly...

His face turned pale from red, and then turned red again. And then it turned pale again before eventually, it turned green... Well then, it turned black...

Master Guan saw the changes of his face and thought, [He is indeed such a boss. I don't think I can learn how to change my face like he did. I think those face switching masters should learn how to do it from him...]

And then he heard Wan Zheng-Hao throw up. - Orhhh urhhh ahhh ohhhhh...-

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Chapter 160: Divine Fat Food Festival

- Orhhh... Splash... -

Whatever got into Wan Zheng-Hao's stomach now poured out like water. - Splash... -

As Master Guan was enjoying the aftertaste of the tasty food, he didn't expect his boss would have a 'volcanic explosion'. Some nasty stuff that had come out from Wan Zheng-Hao's mouth immediately got on his face and body all around...

He was stunned. And then he started to feel extremely nauseated... and then he was throwing up too...

Wan Zheng-Hao was puking badly...

It was quite a miserable scene. Master Guan already had nothing to puke now, yet Wan Zheng-Hao was still puking like a fountain... It looked like he was puking out all he had eaten in his life...

The maid standing aside was so scared that her face turned pale and she was shaking.

[What is wrong...

What on earth happened...]

Finally, Wan Zheng-Hao stopped puking. He lied on the chair with his head hanging there and spoke weakly, "Hurry... Hurry... Clean it up... Change clothes... Orhhh..."

He felt like throwing up again, yet there was nothing for him to puke at all. He just lied there.

Master Guan left to change his clothes with a dark face. He was now soaking in whatever came from the big boss's mouth...

The maid had a quick reaction and she moved fast. After just a while, she had already finished cleaning the whole room. And she brought up some sugar ginger soup for the big boss...

After a long while, Wan Zheng-Hao finally took a deep breath and moaned, "Oh my god... I must be the first one who have done such a thing and praised it... I... I may kind of create a record in the history..."

He was both sad and angry at the same time.

The door opened and Master Guan got in angrily. His face was still dark, "What happened to you, boss?"

He had been working in the salesroom for his whole life and he actually got puked on by his boss just now. And it was right after he had finished a good meal. He was really mad.

Wan Zheng-Hao turned his head weakly and looked at Master Guan. He opened his mouth trying to say something, yet he couldn't.

[What can I say?

Do you want me to tell you... that those fat you ate was from me?

Do you want me to tell you that... I ate the fat that came from myself? And I praised it?

You want me to tell you that all of you have eaten the fat from my body and you all praised?

Well... I still have a sense of shame.]

Wan Zheng-Hao thought hard about what he should say, 'Anyway... That fat... The cook can't use it anymore... No one is allowed to eat that. No one!'

Yet he felt like it would draw people's attention on this, so he smiled and said, "From now on, whatever is cooked with that kind of fat, I won't eat it. Hmm. Not only that fat, all dishes that contain fat, I won't eat them. I am losing weight. Understand? I am losing weight. No matter how delicious it is, I am out. Ok? Understand?"

Everybody was stunned.

[Losing weight?

That is a good excuse.

But do you really think you could possibly cover your strange behavior today?]

They all felt suspicions, yet none of them dared to ask more.

Apparently, their boss tried to cover up something...

He was the big boss, so even if it was a worst excuse, it would be the strongest excuse.

An excuse that no one could question.

However, foods that were cooked with that precious fat had become popular in the salesroom henceforth.

No one wanted to miss the food that was cooked with that fat. People held their bowls waiting in the canteen for the food. Nothing else could make them care more...

It was too precious...

That fat showed up in a fixed interval.

Sometimes, there would be a lot of it, while sometimes, there was just a little after being out of stock for decades ...

Whenever people were waiting for it, Wan Zheng-Hao would stand there with a strange expression on his face.

There was a tale saying that only the big boss could get this kind of fat. No one else could find it, no matter how powerful he was...

In fact, that was no tale at all; that was just bullshxt. Of course there was only Wan Zheng-Hao who could find it.

Well... Looking at the fat that was drawn out from his own body cooked into dishes and eaten by lots of people... That must be a unique experience of Wan Zheng-Hao in the history.

The complex feeling in his heart... must be difficult to describe even for people who were rather good at writing.

A feast was held because of that fat.

At the beginning, there were tens of tubs of that fat in the salesroom...

That was such a happy year.

It wasn't so priceless that year, because there was lots of it.

However, it was out of stock for a long time.

No one could find it anywhere.

After a hundred years, it showed up again... but there were only two or three tubs of it.

Whatever was rare became priceless. That was so true.

The day when the fat showed up again became a grand festival.

It was the Divine Fat Food Festival.

As time passed by, the salesroom became bigger and bigger under the lead of Feng Zhi-Ling.

Thus, this Divine Fat Food Festival became an important day in the Land of Han-Yang.

That was an annual festival on the 18th of July.

After ten thousand years, no one in the world would remember when and why they started to have this festival. Probably even no one would know the exact name of this festival... However, this festival lasted forever.

It became a tradition of the Land of Han-Yang...

...

The next night, Ye Xiao came to the salesroom as he had promised.

When he entered Wan Zheng-Hao's room, he felt something strange in the room.

Wan Zheng-Hao looked like decades aged within only one day. He was filled with the aura of death. He just lied there like a dried fish.

He didn't even have the strength to blink normally.

"What the hell? What happened?" Ye Xiao was shocked. He was confused.

Although he should feel bad and uncomfortable about being somebody's servant, it was a bit unbelievable that he lied there waiting for death.

Wan Zheng-Hao was like a dying man who could only breathe.

It was a little bit better than how the 'bone-melted' Ye Xiao looked like.

"Master Feng..." Wan Zheng-Hao rolled his eyeballs forcibly. He looked alive a little bit when he saw Feng Zhi-Ling, "Finally, you came..."

He stood up after struggling for a while. He was staggering; weak like he could be blown away by the breeze.

It was actually a rare scene on Wan Zheng-Hao...

Wan Zheng-Hao didn't want to get up at all, because he was too uncomfortable. However, he didn't dare to in front of Feng Zhi-Ling, who was the figure that concerned his future after all.

"I have made up my mind. From now on, I will follow your lead." Wan Zheng-Hao spoke.

That was committing loyalty; it should be powerful and loud.

However, he had been throwing up for a whole day. He was too weak and he felt like his feet were floating. He really didn't have the energy to speak any stronger.

"Brother Wan, it seems you have had a long day." Ye Xiao felt a bit pity for him and spoke gently, "Well I can understand how you feel in your heart. It must be hard for you to change your loyalty. Well, over time you will get to know what a wonderful decision you have made today."

Wan Zheng-Hao was a bit anxious. He said, "No, no, no. I know it now. Being on Brother Feng's side is definitely the most marvelous decision I made in my life."

Ye Xiao was confused, so he asked, "But... Look at you... You don't seem to be understanding, do you?"

Wan Zheng-Hao twitched his lips like he was going to cry. He wanted to say something, but decided against it.

Ye Xiao didn't ask anymore. He said, "Did you use the dan bead I gave you? How was it?"

He was confident about the dan bead. However, because Wan Zheng-Hao was truly too unbelievably fat and he was now in a bad condition, he couldn't tell whether Wan Zheng-Hao had lost weight or not.

Wan Zheng-Hao sighed plaintively and said, "It worked. It worked well... I drew out 50 kg oily fat for real... It was truly some wonderful dan bead..."

"Ah? Shouldn't you be happy about it?" Ye Xiao was surprised.

[Since it worked, he should be rather happy about it. Is he too happy that he had gone crazy?

He looks really abnormal anyway. I don't remember the Slimming Dan has such a side-effect. He should merely feel pain on his muscles. It shouldn't have made him look like this.]

"I am happy! I truly am. I am really, really, really so happy... I am overjoyed..." Wan Zheng-Hao moaned, "But those bastards didn't throw away my fat..."

"Urh..." Ye Xiao was confused. [What does that mean?]

“Hmm. The fat... What happened to it?” Looking at how miserable Wan Zheng-Hao was, Ye Xiao thought of a possibility which was hardly possible to happen but could explain the current situation. He nearly bursted out laughing and he asked, “You didn’t eat it back, did you?”

Wan Zheng-Hao was so upset that he nearly wanted to kill himself. He said, “Those lads... They cooked with the fat... I didn’t know... So I ate them... Honestly, they were tasty dishes... Yet when I found out the truth... I became how I look like now...”

He was still overwhelmed with sorrow while talking about it.

“What?”

Ye Xiao opened his mouth looking at the sad Wan Zheng-Hao.

What he had guessed was actually the truth?

For a long time...

“Hahahahahahaha...”

Ye Xiao bursted out with a world-shocking laughter. He kept rubbing his belly and slapping his legs, trembling because of laughing as tears went down on his face.

...