

Realms In The Firmament

Chapter 31: Eight Heads Off!

At this point of time, all of them, no matter which side they stood for, the General's House or the Mu clan, were completely stunned!

When the steward waved his hand and said 'stop them', there were many people who had answered with a simple 'yes'.

The voices were varied. However, there were more than the expected 36 voices which had sounded out.

When the 36 blood guards were preparing to take actions, seven figures popped up from different corners in the yard without any warning. The blood guards could not even react to their sudden appearance.

Sword lights flashed like lightning.

All the participants from both sides were stunned. The steward was the most shocked amongst them all.

The rage which had shown on his face had turned into extreme astonishment! His lower jaw had dropped to the floor. His mouth was hanging wide enough to swallow an entire rabbit!

Where did the seven men, who had suddenly shown up, come from?

They were definitely not the guards of the General's House; neither were they the guards from the Palace of Hua-Yang!

However, they rushed out fearlessly right after the steward had shouted out the order!

Who were they?

The events that took place in the following moments had left everyone extremely astonished. There would be nothing more shocking than what they were witnessing!

They saw the sword lights flashing in the air as the seven masked men rushed toward the eight Mu clan assassins!

Swords rose up and then they slashed down in the blink of an eye!

- Chop chop chop ...-

Seven heads were sent spinning in the air, decapitated!

The men from the Mu clan had come with fierceness and confidence, but in just a flash, seven of them had already died! And they had all died within a span of a few seconds!

Facing the seven masked men of unknown backgrounds, the so-called expert cultivators of the Mu clan had been unable to even raise their swords in defence.

The seven men who just died had flown over smartly, but ended up being chopped into halves. The entire ambush had taken less than a second to pan out!

Everyone had become petrified!

The 36 blood guards looked at the blood spraying in the air, completely clueless. They had no idea what was going on as they simply stood there like idiots. Even the most experienced of the lot, the steward, remained rooted to the spot.

Suddenly, he realized something, and this 'something' was not the joy obtained from the deaths of their enemies. He thought, "Damn it! We were framed!"

These men who came from nowhere had killed seven of the Mu clan men with a single strike and they truly had no good intentions.

What would have been seen by everyone would be that, after the steward had given the order, the seven masked men came out and killed the Mu clan men.

That meant that the seven men from the Mu clan were killed because of his order!

The Mu clan and the Ye clan would become foes after this, even if the suspicion for Mu Cheng-Bai's death was to be lifted away from Ye Xiao!

As for now, nobody could do anything to stop the two clans from being foes!

The steward was absolutely livid.

When he looked at the blood guards, he found that they were actually looking at him with eyes filled with worship and shock!

"Super!" Someone shouted.

The steward nearly spit out blood... he thought, "'Super' your ass! Are things not bad enough for you? Can't you use your brains? We were framed!"

In front of him, stood the leader of the seven dead guys. He was the only one left alive in his team. He was stunned and felt fear creep into his mind.

He was completely panicking, "What the hell! Is this really just a general's house? Is it really a general's house of the mortal world? Are you fxxking kidding me? My men wouldn't just be killed so easily even if we were fighting the Royal Palace guards! Well even if they were killed, they would never get killed in an instant! They could have at least given a decent fight, right? They actually got chopped up like they were vegetables! They were killed so easily! This is impossible..."

It was a fabulous instant extermination!

"The house of Ye! I will remember this!" The man immediately flew back to escape after recovering from his initial shock.

Since the masked men could kill all his underlings so easily, he definitely would be unable to beat any of them!

He was afraid that, if he had decided to leave any later, he would lose his own life too.

So the only thing he wanted to do now was to get out of here as soon as possible; he wanted nothing more than keep his life!

One could only do something when one stayed alive; that's what he believed!

He had already flown back several meters and had almost made his getaway, but at this moment, a sharp sword light suddenly flashed again. The shiny blade of the sword had pierced his back and had come out of his chest, skewering him. It was covered in blood.

A look of despair showed up in his eyes and he looked back.

Another masked man was standing behind him. Nobody could comprehend how he had reached there so quickly. His eyes were cold and he slowly drew his sword back. He then spoke peacefully, "You have already come all this way. Why leave so soon?"

The leader of the dead guys stared at him and blood flowed out of his mouth. His body feebly fell down on the roof.

The masked man swung his sword again, even before the escaping man had touched the floor and - chop -, the head was chopped off!

The masked man then raised his foot and kicked the dead body down to the ground and said chillingly, "One hit; two parts!"

The next moment, all of the eight masked men had jumped on the boundary wall.

The steward seemed to emerge from his reverie and ran forward shouting, "Who are you? Why do you frame us?!"

The eight masked men replied with silence and flew out of sight immediately.

They didn't even want to speak to the steward.

Watching the eight of them disappear into the night, looking at the eight dead bodies and smelling the blood in the air, the steward was totally stunned speechless.

They really were framed this time, and no escape was in sight.

They wouldn't even have a chance to explain.

The 36 blood guards showed up from the darkness and gathered around the steward. They were delighted.

"Hey boss, I admire you sincerely! So cool! So overwhelming! Eight bastard's heads got chopped off just because of one simple order..."

"Yo boss! That was awesome..."

"Hey boss..."

"Shut the fxxk up! All of you!" The steward drew a long face and tried hard not to freak out, "We just got framed! You foolish lubbers! In your brains there is nothing but muscles, you morons... What was so delightful? Gosh..."

He stamped and went to find Ye Xiao.

The steward awkwardly realized that in this place, the only person he could actually talk to was the foppish young master of his, who actually was the one who had caused all this mess!

When he reached Ye Xiao's room, he found it to be unoccupied.

He had noticed quite a while ago that the snoring had stopped, which had made him believe that the young master was just sleeping soundly. Had Ye Xiao already left by then?

The steward didn't believe it to be true, so he looked all over the house to find him. However, even after searching every corner of the house, he didn't find any trace of Ye Xiao.

There wasn't any sign of a struggle, so the steward knew that Ye Xiao, at least, was not kidnapped.

But where could he have gone?

The steward was left wondering, "How a foppish young lord could leave without leaving a trace?"

Then he realized he had no time to think of such tough questions, so he just sighed.

"Oh my dear lord. Why are you still fooling around at this troubled time? Don't you know people are all aiming for your life? Why are you still..."

It was so ridiculous!

Now the General's House was in a big mess and they had been framed, and big trouble would head in their direction. Why did he still go out?

Was it not perilous enough for him?!

...

Well the steward was wrong about Ye Xiao!

In fact, Ye Xiao had been in the house all along and had watched everything that had happened in this weird fight.

When those men from the Mu clan arrived, Ye Xiao was preparing to take actions.

He did know that he might expose himself if he struck out, but he also knew that everyone in this house would die if he didn't.

Oh of course, except this unfathomable steward.

However, when the masked guys showed up and killed seven of the Mu clan warriors in one strike, Ye Xiao stopped and stayed silent. His eyes lit up!

Why are they doing this?

Ye Xiao knew the answer clearly and he didn't need to ask about it. It was quite obvious to him!

Ye Xiao only had one question – who were these men?

When he was thinking about it, he had already moved out of his room through the window. He sneaked to the yard and waited, hidden in a shadow.

He thought that those masked men would definitely go back to their base, so he decided to wait here, so as to follow them secretly when they left!

He was curious, "I wonder who else would want to mess with me in the capital!"

Ye Xiao was right. The eight masked men left quickly after they successfully framed the Ye clan, and then - swish! swish! swish!... - they flew over Ye Xiao's head.

Ye Xiao held his breath and waited for some time to pass. He knew that it would be unwise to follow them right away.

He had noticed that there were still a lot of people who were hiding around the house. If he showed up rashly, he would definitely expose himself!

And he was right. After the eight masked men disappeared, dozens of figures flew out from around the house and left towards their own destinations. These guys were obviously people from other forces who had come to check the situation here.

"Some people just came to me directly while more people were just watching us fighting against each other." Ye Xiao sighed.

After a while, from a dark corner inside the house, a figure rushed out and flew up. Puff! The figure disappeared from eyesight in just a blink.

Ye Xiao had noticed this figure as he had a pair of keen eyes. Then he decided to take action. He had decided to follow this person from the shadows, and while following him, Ye Xiao's appearance had changed drastically.

Ye Xiao now had a much larger frame and was a head shorter than normal.

That's right! He had decided that the appearance of Feng Zhi-Ling, who he had played when was selling the supreme dan beads to the salesroom, would serve him wonderfully on this occasion.

He flew in the night sky like a ghost. His speed seemed to be faster than a typhoon, but his posture wasn't affected by the howling wind at all.

It was another one of his exclusive skills.

The Lunisolar Shadow!

Coming like a stream while leaving like the wind. Sneaking to the horizon and every tail is vain. [1]

...

[1] A poem-like line: 来如流水去如风，隐入天地无影踪。 It means Ye Xiao moved so fast that he could not be traced if he didn't want to.

Chapter 32: The Mountain, The Bamboo Forest And The Maid

The Lunisolar Shadow!

It was a skill used to conceal oneself and become untraceable. Ye Xiao had obtained the scroll of Lunisolar Shadow after he had killed a one-footed robber in the Qing-Yun Realm. The robber had just reached the mystical Grade of Daoyuan. But it had actually taken Ye Xiao, who was at the peak of the Grade of Daoyuan at that time, an entire month to track him down!

If the robber had not eventually exhausted himself, Ye Xiao might not have been able to catch him.

After Ye Xiao took the scroll of Lunisolar Shadow from the robber's dead body, he came to know that the Lunisolar Shadow was truly something outstanding!

The most wonderful thing about this skill was that he could use it to conceal himself instantly and then flee away as per his convenience!

Such a miraculous skill was truly something that could keep him safe under any circumstance. Moreover, using it only cost a tiny bit of his energy, which made it unreasonably powerful!

Ye Xiao had mastered this skill only after he had spent a lot of time to practice. But, in spite of all these benefits, this was the first time that he had been forced to use it.

The Xiao Monarch had been so powerful that he did not even have to hide from anyone. He had never been in a situation in which he had been forced to use this skill, that is, until now!

Ye Xiao had been diligently following this man. The man seemed very cautious and kept changing directions at unexpected intervals. Maybe, he had felt that something was wrong. In fact, he had changed no less than fifteen times.

When daybreak came, he actually stopped and stood still. He kept looking around for fifteen minutes until he finally chose a direction and shot off without any warning.

Ye Xiao was caught off guard.

The man's cultivation level should be around the 6th rank of the Grade of Diyuan. Although Ye Xiao was not strong enough to perform the Lunisolar Shadow perfectly, he could still conceal himself to a satisfying extent. But the man really had a superior spiritual sense!

Ye Xiao kept following the man at a distance of about three hundred yards. He usually kept a distance of a hundred yards while shadowing people, but he wasn't strong enough at the moment, so he kept a longer distance, so as to avoid being noticed. But he still had drawn the attention of this man, who had tried several times to shake him off.

It was not until Ye Xiao had drawn back another hundred yards, that the man finally relaxed.

Ye Xiao had realized that this man's spiritual sense was superior to ordinary cultivators, so he didn't dare get any closer.

The man finally reached the base of a mountain and quickly started to make his way to the peak. He kept on jumping, seemingly floating, to reach the top. Ye Xiao was just about to follow him before he sensed something and immediately backed off. Ye Xiao was scared half to death, and sweat started rolling down his back.

It turned out the man had suddenly turned around to check for followers, when he had just steadily landed on the mountain.

And then the man transformed into several ghost shadows which ran rapidly into different directions and then disappeared.

"This guy could really make one's hackles rise with his unbelievable caution." Ye Xiao thought and quietly came down from a tree, and then he gingerly moved along the grass.

He guessed that this place should be where the man's base was located.

He was sure about it as he had seen the man acting with increased caution over here.

Whoever had been backing this man should be beyond this mountain. Ye Xiao might not be able to confirm it, but he could at least get to know something if he went ahead and investigated.

However, this place must be extremely dangerous!

What troubled Ye Xiao most was that this mountain wasn't just any normal mountain. It was completely devoid of any vegetation!

Whoever crossed the mountain top would definitely get exposed!

Ye Xiao sneaked forward and only peaked his head above the mountaintop, and then he immediately drew back.

There was a bamboo forest in front of him, a sea of bamboo trees.

It wasn't surprising that a bamboo forest existed among the mountains. But, it was a totally different situation when it was inside the capital. Ye Xiao thought that this bamboo forest must be under the protection of the government. Therefore, it was either something which belonged to the government like the Royal Garden or something which belonged to someone... Who even the government wouldn't dare to mess with.

Ye Xiao had just taken a glance and had seen nothing but the forest.

Although he had just taken a single glance, he could confirm that there were no constructions within the forest.

"This bamboo forest is truly weird somehow." Ye Xiao pondered.

He couldn't believe that there actually was something in this mortal world that he couldn't figure out...

Ye Xiao quickly analyzed what he had seen with that glance, and suddenly two words emerged in his mind.

'Energy Arrays!'

As soon as he realised this, a feeling of danger invaded his senses.

The very next moment, Ye Xiao ran away at top speed.

Right after Ye Xiao left, about fifty men arrived from all over. They were obviously trying to quietly outflank Ye Xiao.

Every one of them was equally strong as the man Ye Xiao had been tracing; in fact some of them might even be stronger.

Anyway, each and every one of them was a lot stronger than the present Ye Xiao.

If Ye Xiao had left a bit later and fallen into their trap, then he would've definitely died; even if he had a thousand lives, it wouldn't be enough to survive!

However, at least Ye Xiao had something in mind this time.

All the framing, the assaults and the disturbances... were originating from this place.

This mountain.

This forest.

...

Just before Ye Xiao had stumbled upon the bamboo forest, the man in white was sitting on his wheelchair that was being pushed by Wan-er. They were walking leisurely.

Dozens of men in black ran across the forest and gathered around him one after another, but none of them dared to make a single sound. They just stood silently.

“Did Hei-Yi come back?” The man in white spoke with half-closed eyes.

“No. But he wouldn’t get into any accidents with his strength in such a place.” One of the men answered humbly.

“Anything in the world could go wrong. Nothing is absolute.” The man in white took a deep breath and said, “It is always better to be cautious.”

The words just came out of his mouth right before another man in black wearing a mask arrived quietly.

The masked man was just about to speak, when the man in white suddenly opened his eyes looking to his left and said seriously, “Someone has tracked you here! Go get him!”

The masked man in black felt ashamed and his face immediately turned red.

The other men were all looking at him with an open-mouth.

The masked man couldn’t believe that he had just drawn an enemy home.

In fact he wouldn’t even have noticed the tracer if his master hadn’t said it!

He was extremely abashed.

With the order from their master, the men in black flew out to intercept the invader.

“Nobody’s here. What’s going on?” When they arrived at the barren mountaintop, they were surprised.

They thought their master could not have made such mistakes, so if he said there was a tracer, there must be a tracer.

But where was he?

A slender figure suddenly arrived at the mountaintop with a delightful scent. It was Wan-Er.

She took a deep breath and then looked into the distance. The path she was looking at was exactly the direction toward which Ye Xiao had fled.

The next moment, Wan-Er frowned and said softly, "It was an expert!"

"What do you mean, young lady?" Hei-Yi was a bit relaxed and felt lucky when he saw that nobody was here, but he turned nervous again when he heard Wan-Er.

"This man was hiding here and waiting for a chance to take action." Wan-Er looked down at the grass on the mountaintop. The grass was pale green and was obviously ill.

Along the direction where Wan-Er was looking at, there were actually some bent blades of grass. It was not very obvious, but it couldn't be hidden from her sight.

"Here. There is grass over here, but only three blades are broken. It means that this guy is very good at movement skills and is very cautious. The three broken grass blades are the result of his panic. He panicked because he noticed our presence. This guy has a perfect hiding skill.

The spot where I was standing is the best place to hide on the mountaintop. It is the only spot on the three mountains from which he could watch down on us and wouldn't be detected... That means he is an attentive and experienced man.

A very short period of time had passed between the time Hei-Yi left this place and the time master noticed the tracer. Even if he had seen us, he could take no more than a glance.

We came here very quickly, but found nobody.

This guy must have a very good spiritual sense, so he noticed the danger and left after just a glance.

He is decisive. He has no hesitations. He had a very scary resolution. Most people will definitely watch us for a longer time, because it is impossible to figure out our array using a single glance. However, this man just left decisively...

This man must be very resolute! If a poisonous snake bit his arm, he would cut his arm off decisively!

Moreover, this guy has a particular smell. It was a pure smell of nature. He must have achieved the ablution of muscles and bones. Otherwise he won't carry such smell.

The three broken grass blades are not in the same spot. One of his knees must have pressed on one of them; his hands must have pressed on the others. His other knee must be bent and he must've been preparing to move. Otherwise there would be four broken grass blades instead.

According to the three marks, he can't be very tall... but he is big, well, unless he had changed his appearance with disguise skills..."

If Ye Xiao was to hear the analyses made by this girl, he would be astonished.

It was hard to believe that the girl actually had inferred so many details by only three marks of broken grasses.

It was very difficult to develop such skill – extremely difficult.

This girl, Wan-Er, was just a maid to the man in white!

If a maid was already this strong, what would her master be like?

