

Firmament 71

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Chapter 71: The Flame In The Heart

The two shops near the dead bodies were truly unlucky. The shopkeepers' faces turned green when they saw what had just happened. But no matter what, they had no chance of escaping this scenario.

This was really a case of 'he who stayed in the house was hit by the misfortune from the sky' [1]. They were simply running their businesses as usual, but to their surprise, people just died in front of their doorsteps.

However, people of the Divine Arms Mill were far more pissed off than they were.

They had brought some divine weapons to the capital and caused quite a sensation, attracting a lot of followers as they had expected!

They believed that this time, they could sell them for an exorbitant price! They could sense the excitement of the crowd...

There was no doubt that they had made a good decision to show up at that moment.

However, just as they were becoming complacent and elated...

Suddenly, three men in the crowd who had been following them had just died!

That was seriously some bad luck!

Their faces immediately turned green!

[That is fxxking so... so... so, so... What the hell...]

Watching the crowd scatter and leave the place, all of the expert cultivators of the Divine Arms Mill were stunned.

They couldn't help but come up with a common thought — [Will the death of these guys... get us involved?]

...

Under the cover of the chaos, Ye Xiao was dragging that man as he leisurely went into a small alley. He climbed over two walls and casually kicked a hole in it. After he passed through the wall, he kicked it once more, returning it to how it was before.

He finally found a secluded place, where he placed the man on the ground.

The man hadn't made any sound or movement, but he had kept on observing everything that Ye Xiao had done, from easily killing the other three assassins to dragging him away as if nothing had happened, and then bringing him to a secluded place...

The boldness, precision, wariness, cruelty and strength that Ye Xiao had shown... was really shocking.

Thus, when Ye Xiao placed him on the ground, the guy's face was already pale and filled with fear.

When he finally dropped to the floor, he was finally freed from being frozen. Just as he started to recover, he quickly opened his mouth... and then fiercely snapped it shut. Apparently, he was trying to commit suicide by biting his tongue off.

Analyzing Ye Xiao's actions, he decided that it would be a blessing if he could just kill himself after being captured! It would be better to die quickly than suffer.

Ye Xiao reached out an arm and casually broke the guy's lower jaw. He said, "You want to die? You know it can't be this easy, right?"

And then he blocked the guy's Jing and Mai. He held the guy's lower jaw up to his mouth and then touched the guy's cheek with his finger. A stream of gelid power had instantly frozen the guy's facial muscles.

"Now, you should only be able to speak in whispers. You certainly cannot shout. You are free to try if you don't believe me." Ye Xiao spoke gently, "And, to kill yourself by biting your tongue requires certain strength, but unfortunately, you hardly have the strength to do so. You can at most blink. Things like cutting off your own Jing and Mai, exploding your dantian... Oh you don't have those abilities now, am I right? Even if you do, it is impossible to execute those moves in front of me!"

"Well, I talked a lot with you. I just want to tell you that even though you so desperately want to die right now, you just can't." Ye Xiao smiled gently, "See how kindly I treat you. This is just so meticulous."

The guy couldn't prevent his body from quivering.

His face was filled with extreme fear.

[Is this demon really that foppish black sheep of the Ye Clan?

Who the... Who the fxxk collected that bullshit information?]

The guy nearly cried out: [Since such a terrible monster could be called a foppish black sheep... are you telling me that all the foppish lads in the world are monsters too?]

Ye Xiao wore a smile on his face, but he was actually rather furious.

The four men had actually tried to kill him on the street without even caring that they were in public. They were so brazen and unscrupulous.

They didn't care about hurting innocent people...

The anger inside Ye Xiao had reached its pinnacle.

Dealing with men who disregarded innocent lives, the Xiao Monarch never showed mercy!

"Now you are absolutely not going to die, but you cannot live well either, because I won't let garbage like you live well." Ye Xiao spoke frankly, "Well, there are many methods in the world that could force a man to tell something he doesn't want to. Do you know what those methods are?"

The man lied on the floor, looking at Ye Xiao, absolutely terrified.

"I guess you don't know any more than I do." Ye Xiao sighed, "There are so many methods to make people beg for death... Today you met me. Now you can enjoy these methods from the bottom of your heart. You are lucky, because you are going to experience something most of the human beings wouldn't be able to experience."

The man's eyes were begging for mercy and he only had a sliver of hope: [Oh God! Please! He must be exaggerating!]

Ye Xiao sighed, "Don't even think for a moment that I am boasting. Such methods, I really know a lot. And... I know a lot more than those executioners do. So, you are really lucky, because in the history of this world, there has never been a man who has experienced all the 108 brutal torture methods!"

He smiled, "Of course you are unlucky at the same time, because these tortures hurt really, really bad. It can't be explained just by speaking. Let's go ahead and make you taste each and every one of them. Now we begin with the first, the Flame in the Heart."

And then he reached out his hand, very slowly.

He didn't speak any other words at all.

Everything about this assassination including who was behind it, who planned it, who wanted to kill him...

He asked none of those questions.

He just started with the torture.

He acted like these details didn't interest him in the least and the only thing that he was interested in was torturing!

Under the fearful look of the man, a flame suddenly appeared in Ye Xiao's hand. - Poof! - It was burning in Ye Xiao's hand.

Ye Xiao explained patiently, "Look, this is fire. However, this fire is no ordinary fire... Because it can't burn anything... If you don't believe me, just look."

Ye Xiao moved the flame to his own clothes, and then to his hair. There was no trace of burning.

"Of course, this fire is not completely useless. It's usage lies in the fact... that it can enter a man's mouth and move to his belly bit by bit... and then it will burn the man's heart... Hmm. No, I was wrong. It is not burning. It is roasting. While your heart still beats... it will kept on roasting it. But it won't kill you. I can only say that it is a strange feeling... Right. Why don't you try it."

"Be proud as the first man who can experience such feeling. How admirable." Ye Xiao praised.

The man's eyes were already dull. His pupils were nearly dilated. He was shaking because of fear. A terrible stench was spreading out from the lower part of his body.

"Don't fart. That is not civilized." Ye Xiao reprimanded, "Didn't your daddy teach you that?" He then hit him with a finger and had actually blocked his acupoint of excretion. And then he pulled up the man's head and pushed the flame into his mouth.

“New new new n...” The man kept shaking his head. He struggled with faint efforts. He had tried his best but realized that he could only draw out a tiny amount of strength. The words of begging, ‘no no no no’ had actually become ‘new new new n...’ due to excessive shivering...

The flame had been delivered into his mouth and he really didn’t feel burned at all. There was only a warm feeling of heat slowly moving toward his belly. He actually felt comfortable.

Ye Xiao spoke blandly, “Feel anything? Hm, now it has entered the mouth... It isn’t scorching, is it? It is even comfortable, right? It should have reached the throat right about now... Not burning either, right? Now it has passed the throat... Hot? It isn’t hot, right? Now it gets to the chest... Not hot either, right? I didn’t lie to you, did I? Now it gets to the heart... And then, ahem... What about now?”

He hadn’t even finished talking, and then the man felt a rushing stream of heat coming up from underneath his heart!

Suddenly, he felt like his heart was slowly being roasted. That terrible feeling was nothing that could be described by any language. Even though his body was thoroughly restricted, he still widely opened his mouth, wishing to cry out loudly.

Ye Xiao slowly covered his mouth with one hand, and waved one finger of the other, “Be good. Don’t shout. Don’t become excited. Feel it slowly. Take it easy. No need to rush.”

The man’s head was shaking intensely, but he couldn’t get rid of Ye Xiao’s hand. He couldn’t make any sound. His eyes looked like there was fire burning inside them.

The entire Jing and Mai of his body were twitching at the same time. Blue veins stood out all over his body and then fell back the next moment...

A large amount of sweat was released, immediately drenching his clothes.

It could be seen that the pain he was experiencing was excruciating.

“I... I will talk... Please... Stop...” The man finally broke down. He begged repeatedly, looking at Ye Xiao with pleading eyes.

“What did you say?” Ye Xiao frowned, “Don’t you realize, I don’t really want to know anything from you... Whether you talk or not, it doesn’t matter to me at all. You know that, right? Otherwise, I would have asked you, but I didn’t. Don’t you feel it strange?”

The man looked at him, pleading. His eyes had turned red because of anxiousness.

Ye Xiao sighed, “Fine. Fine. You looked so pathetic... All right then, I will let you say something. But I need to clarify something first... I won’t spare your life. You must think about that clearly. In fact, you can keep your mouth shut and I would like to enjoy seeing you being tortured.”

The man sincerely nodded. His forehead was drenched as he spoke, “I will tell you everything. All I ask you is to let me die quickly...”

Speaking so quickly, he realized that his body had nearly dried out because of the flame. After saying just one sentence, his throat had already bled.

Ye Xiao waved his hand and the flame instantly went back to his hand. It was pulsating slightly. Ye Xiao spoke blandly, "Who sent you here?"

"It was the crown princess! The crown princess..." Sweat trickled down his forehead as his face cramped up, creating a ferocious expression. He shouted loudly since he couldn't wait to tell the truth, but his voice was hoarse and was barely audible.

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Chapter 72: The Divine Arms Mill!

Ye Xiao felt a surge of motivation fill his heart.

"The crown princess? Who are you? Are you from the Mu Clan?" Ye Xiao asked.

"No... We are the guards of the east royal palace. The four of us..." The man spoke with great difficulty. He felt the pain intensify, so he groaned, "Please... spare me... a quick death..."

Ye Xiao's eyes showed fierceness and spoke blandly, "The crown princess... The guards of the east royal palace..."

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Ye Xiao questioned him three more times to make sure that he was not being lied to.

He walked out of the covert.

On the floor of the area he vacated, the guard silently lay. The corners of his mouth showed a smile which implied 'final relief'.

There seemed to be a sense of gratitude...

It seemed that dying was a blessing to him.

It looked like nothing had happened. Not even a single trace of them could be found. However, a vigorous man just disappeared forever...

"The Crown Prince's Palace. The crown princess." Ye Xiao was walking casually with a beaming face, but these words were lingering inside his mind.

He suddenly came up with a bold idea: [Why not sneak into the Crown Prince's Palace and kill the lousy couple?]

...

When he walked back to the street, he looked leisurely. He was pleased, as if he was enjoying the spring breeze. He acted like... he had been pacing around and had never left at all...

Even someone who had been trying to keep watch on him would have been fooled: [The young lord has been hanging around on this street buying stuff and has never left... Now he is still here...]

But how did three of us die?

And most importantly, one is missing?

Is he alive or dead? Where is he?]

Soon, people from the government arrived. After some sort of investigation process, they took the three dead bodies and left. The other people who were involved were taken with them for interrogation. Among them, there were of course the shopkeepers around the crime scene.

After what happened, people on the street had already gotten away cleanly, except for people like these shopkeepers who had been forced to stay. Although they hadn't even approached the bodies, they could not get away from it. Since people had died in front of their doorsteps, they were surely involved!

These men had their cheeks turned sour. The unexpected disaster was inexplicable for them; it was simply a sudden misfortune.

There were twelve people in the group of the Divine Arms Mill and six of them were taken to assist the investigation.

Because the Divine Arms Mill had great influence and wished to have some of their men to remain in order to guard the divine weapons, only six of them were taken. If it held slightly lesser influence, all the twelve of them would have been seized and even those weapons would have been confiscated. Well, as for how they would be confiscated, the opinions might differ...

Ye Xiao was still hanging around casually. Walking and walking, and after a while, he walked into the house of the Divine Arms Mill.

After the homicide case, people on the street disappeared immediately. In the Divine Arms Mill that used to be busier than the market, there was only one guest at the moment, the lord Ye!

The shopkeeper of the Divine Arms Mill was just lamenting about this misfortune. He had sent men to collect information from the government offices and tried to use some connections for this event to bribe people in power, but then he suddenly saw a guest come in, so he was stunned for a second. His professionalism made him instantly ask, "The... The young lord. What do you need?"

He had been through the shock of the government people, so he was somehow like a trembling bird at the moment. But unexpectedly, he saw a guest enter the house, so he was more or less surprised.

Ye Xiao waved his hand casually, "You are asking nonsense. Could I come to a weapon shop for a pen and paper? Any good blade? Good sword? Good weapon? Good iron? Take them all out." When speaking, he patted himself on the chest, "You are lucky today. I am full of money!"

The shopkeeper who was stroking his beard was stunned.

All those who had ever sought weapons in the Divine Arms Mill had always acted humbly. Even though the traces were fair, all the customers would say the word 'please' as if they were begging. Among those who were seeking divine weapons, this guy who spoke louder because of his wealth was truly rarely seen for the shopkeeper!

[Don't you know that you may be overcharged by saying that? And despite of that, you might even fail to get the items that suits your desire?!]

“May I ask what exactly do you want? Is it a sword or a knife for self-defense, or is it a pike or a halberd that can be used in the big battles? Or maybe it is a small and delicate... weapon that could be hidden with you all the time?”

The shopkeeper saw him as a fool, so he had to guide Ye Xiao.

The other people were still in shock, so he had to do it himself this time.

“The big weapons are not my type, so I shall not take any. Give me two knives and two sword. I want the best. The ones that can chop iron like it was mud. And... those small ones like throwing knife and needle... give me some. Those that can also chop iron like mud.” Ye Xiao waved his hand.

The shopkeeper couldn't help twitching his mouth. In his mind, he had a desire of kicking this guy out.

[Are you capable of purchasing or not?

Even though you are a moron, you are not supposed to let yourself be easily overcharged.

‘Chop irons like mud’, do you even know any sayings other than this? Do you think it could be used to describe the tiny throwing knife and needle? If those expendable weapons are not custom-made, do you think we would use special materials to make them?]

Suppressing the anger in his heart, he brought up two middle-class swords.

[He must be a foppish useless lord... It would be a waste to give him any real precious swords.]

“What the hell are these?” Ye Xiao picked up one sword. He held the nose of the sword with two fingers of one hand and the blade of the sword with two fingers of the other hand, and then he casually folded it.

The sword became bent. When the blade was bent, it started to make cracking sounds. Ye Xiao immediately loosened his grip and said, “This sword sucks! The other one must be of the same quality. The elasticity and the ductility are both below average. I just bent it slightly, and it turned out like that. What garbage!”

The shopkeeper was stunned.

[The swords I just took out are some middle-class swords indeed, but ordinary people can never do something like what he did. Bend the sword using only four fingers? He was actually a superior master?]

Thinking about that, the shopkeeper became flustered and started sweating. He then brought up some top-class weapons in a hurry.

Ye Xiao looked at one and shook his head, and then another and shook his head again. One after another, he kept rejecting the sword, with disappointment on his face.

“More?”

“No.”

“The name of the Divine Arms Mill shocks the capital. However, as I see today, you are not deserving of such a great reputation. Yet you claim to be the Divine Arms Mill?” Ye Xiao frowned and looked at him

asquint with disdain, "Such scrap metal... They are only a little bit better than the kitchen knife of my house... They really dishonor the word 'divine'!"

The shopkeeper was a bit pissed when hearing that, "Sir! All the weapons in my shop are made by the true Divine Arms Mill. Even though you are aiming very high and cannot appreciate them, my weapons have never disappointed anyone except you."

The shopkeeper's words were neither humble nor pushy. He didn't offend Ye Xiao, but also didn't depreciate himself. He was truly open-minded!

Ye Xiao curled his lips and picked up one sword casually, "Proper goods for distinguished

guests. There are some words I didn't want to say. Let's talk about this sword. There is the pattern of clouds engraved on it and spiritual lights hidden inside. It is made from well tempered steel. The blade itself gives off a scary aura. It shines in the light. To speak of the appearance of a weapon, it looks as if it is the king of weapons. I guess that this must be the favorite work of your shop, right?"

The shopkeeper raised his head and answered proudly, "Yes. The sword is named 'The Sword of King'!"

"Pah!" Ye Xiao made the sound of spitting and said, "This sword holds too much focus on the appearance. Yet, its essence is flawed. It has been tempered hundreds of times, so it is very sharp indeed, but it has lost its essence and connotation as a sword. Against someone with an ordinary weapon, it would be fine to use this, as it would be able to chop through iron as if it were mud. However, if facing off against some real cultivators... The weapons of the cultivators, especially those well-known cultivators, could they be ordinary weapons? Within less than three times of crashing, this sword of yours will be rolled up on the edge. This is its first failing. Seeking sharpness recklessly has led to its thin blade."

"Second, seeking the pinnacle of lightness makes it too light. It nearly has no weight. Lightness is good for a sword, but even 'four ounces yields 1000 catties'[1] requires four ounces at least. This sword obviously fails. When it is pushed to a certain extent, it will break. The sword is too fragile. That is its second failing."

"Third, after too much tempering, there has been many impurity mixed into the metal. It looks perfect on the outside, but in fact, the impurity contained inside is impossible to be removed. How could such a sword be called a divine weapon!"

Ye Xiao sneered, "A sword with impurity, with the impurity completely mixed into the material of the sword, will never respond to the owner's mind. No matter how much blood it will be fed, it will still be nothing!"

"This sword is nothing but a 'pretty' ordinary metal. Yet you actually call it a divine weapon..." Ye Xiao smiled blandly, "It really is unqualified! Every cultivator, especially a superior cultivator, when he wants to buy a weapon, prepares to carry it for his entire life. It will become his vital partner... Because they will grow bonds with their weapons..."

"That's why there is a saying 'to live when the sword rises; to die when the sword falls'." Ye Xiao spoke, "That is... When a sword grows a bond with the soul of the man who holds it, if the sword could not bear the strike, neither could the man; he would die! So, it is not a simple oath, it is a fact!"

Ye Xiao smiled coldly with his hands on his back, "I have talked that much. I just want to tell you that if this sword is your best work... Then I can be sure that cultivators at the Grade of Tianyuan carry no weapons of yours!"

"Because at that very level, they no longer seek for the sharpness of the weapon, they seek for the bond between the weapons and their souls."

Ye Xiao sighed disappointedly, "It turns out the well-known Divine Arms Mill is just of this level... It seems I have come to a wrong place today."

After speaking, he shook his head and turned, preparing to leave.

"Hold on a second, sir!"

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Chapter 73: Divine Weapon With Demonic Edge!

The shopkeeper continuously nodded as he listened to Ye Xiao speak about the sword. His face looked indifferent at the beginning, but after a while, it became sincerely moved. When he saw Ye Xiao was preparing to leave, he immediately asked him to stay, "Please stay, sir. You have spoken like a true swordsman. We have proper goods for distinguished guests. Only distinguished people can see the most precious items. To be honest, these weapons here that we put in our showcase are only for ostentation. We just use them to impress some outsiders. As for the real divine weapons... How could we just show them here in front of the public? You are a distinguished man, sir. Since you are seeking weapons with sincerity, may I lead you to our secret storage?"

Ye Xiao's eyes lit up and he said, "I said the Divine Arms Mill was better heard than seen. It turns out that there are some secrets within it. Ok. That's fine."

In his mind he said, [I knew that you guys are not dishonest.

You would never show me the real deal if you didn't get scolded.]

They both walked to the back of the shop.

A big fellow in cyan robes opened a hidden door for them and then another big fellow in white robes opened another hidden door. After passing through, the door to the secret storage was revealed.

The shopkeeper unlocked the door himself and walked in with Ye Xiao. The doors were closed immediately. Several superior cultivators came and stood outside the doors.

It is obvious that the security here was extremely rigorous.

After entering the secret storage, what came in sight was a spacious room. Weapons were hung or leaned on three walls.

There were only three weapons!

On the wall in front was a sword, on the wall on the left was a knife and on the right was a spear! There was a small chest on the floor by the right wall, and on the other side, there were some unimpressive metal.

The sword and the knife were sheathed, while the spear handle was placed on the floor and its blade leaned on the wall. It resembled a king looking down upon the world.

“Well, at least weapons here are fine enough to enter my sight.” Ye Xiao nodded with satisfaction.

After checking carefully, he shook his head again.

The spear was fine. A spear was always used in the formal battle. It moved drastically. Yet normally, the superior cultivators barely used spears.

Among all the weapons that could create a spiritual connection, the most common were swords and knives; other kinds of weapons were extremely rare.

The spear in front of them lacked spiritualization, but it was still a piece of divine weapon, a perfect weapon for a soldier to cleave enemies and capture the flags.

However, although the sword and the knife were a lot better in both quality and value than the so called ‘the sword of king’, the spiritual part which Ye Xiao valued the most was still missing.

Or might be broken.

“It seems the divine weapons you Divine Arms Mill make... are only worth mentioning in the Land of Han-Yang...” Ye Xiao didn’t continue to make excessive demands.

Because with the condition of the Land of Han-Yang, the sword, knife and spear were already in the peak range among the divine weapons!

It wouldn’t be appropriate to judge by the standard of the Qing-Yun Realm.

“Are these all? Anything else?” Ye Xiao asked with disappointment, “It would be fine even if it is just some tiny ones. Throwing knives? Sleeve dagger? Throwing needles? Or maybe...”

The shopkeeper had realized that the guy in front of him was quite professional in smithing although he was young. Yet he actually saw no value in the weapons of his shop...

Even the most precious item of the shop... was too cheap to get in his sight.

The shopkeeper felt disgraced.

So he spoke, “Items of my humble shop are beneath the professional sight. If the weapons here could not suit your demand, I shall only apologize that there are no better weapons here really... The smaller ones. We do have some... There are a set of throwing needles and twelve throwing knives kept in the storage... But those are the last pieces of our departed great master, Shen Lian-Zi, which remain unfinished... There is still a final step to finish. And that’s why these unfinished pieces are still kept in our shop. Nobody ever wanted them, so they are more like souvenirs now...”

Ye Xiao asked indifferently, “The last pieces of a departed smith? That is interesting. Maybe you could show me.”

“Hmm?” The shopkeeper didn’t hesitate and brought up a small leather bag. After it was opened, Ye Xiao’s eyes lit up immediately.

Inside the bag, there were 108 shining needles. Every piece of it was extremely thin. They were delicate in shape, giving off a sense of extreme coldness that could make people tremble. Yet the needles were somehow defective; they didn’t have edges. Needles without edges, how would they injure enemies and defend the user. With such a defect, the needles were useless.

“Twelve needles together are no thicker than my forefinger. Impressive.” Ye Xiao measured them with eyes and picked one of them in hand. He felt a sense of refreshing coolness and a killing intent hidden inside it. He was motivated: [The needle is filled with spirit. It’s something extraordinary.]

He murmured, “Yet the needle has no point... Why?”

“These 108 needles and 12 knives are all made from a piece of Deep Sea Frigid Metal by the great Shen Lian-Zi. They contain no other materials. However, the proper material required to make the edges was yet to be found. They are simply hard to merge. So they have been kept this way.” The shopkeeper was a bit embarrassed.

“I see.” Ye Xiao put down the needle.

He picked up a throwing knife. The knife was rather delicate. Each of them was only as long as a finger with a beautiful curve. The edge was sharp, filled with terror, shining with a sinister glow.

The knives were also defective in the same way - they had no edges!

Deep Sea Frigid Metal!

Ye Xiao thought of the Spiritual Essence of Gold in his Spaces that he bought earlier. He had spent 1 million silver bars for it. He was quiet for a moment and then spoke, “These are fine. I will take them. Give me the price.”

“You... You will take them?” The shopkeeper was surprised.

There had been many people saying they were good items after they had saw them, but because they had no edges, they were only ornaments in their eyes. They couldn’t be properly used, so nobody really wanted them. People always left some kind words like ‘this is truly a masterpiece set made by a great smith... And then they turned away...

For so many years, the shopkeeper had seen a lot of people doing so, but he never expected that the young man in front of him would actually want to buy them.

“I do! State a price!” Ye Xiao nodded affirmatively.

“Well...” The shopkeeper smiled bitterly, “Forgive me, sir. They are not something that can be exchanged with money. Before Shen Lian-Zi passed away, he said that these were Divine Weapons with Demonic Edge; one who was not a monarch should not use them. They are weapons of the monarch. Once they meet the right person, they will be revealed and start killing in the world. He said that once the right person appeared, we shall charge him nothing for them; otherwise, they shouldn’t be sold for even ten thousand golds. We only hope that... The right one will return us a favor in the future

whenever the Divine Arms Mill makes a mistake because of offending someone or if we fall into trouble.”

When speaking, the shopkeeper was somehow indifferent.

[Such defective items are actually called... the weapon of the monarch?

How ridiculous!

It was apparently an excuse for the fact that they were impossible to sell because of the flaw.

Fine. Since it was the words of a deceased person and luckily the man in front of me has a crazily high standard that disdains everything, I will just present him.

They are not gonna be sold out within a thousand years anyway.

Making friends with a valuable man shouldn't be a mistake!]

However, after hearing what the shopkeeper had said, Ye Xiao was rather motivated.

He stared at the needles and knives for a long time.

[Divine Weapon with Demonic Edge!

Weapon of the monarch!

What does that mean?]

It reminded him of his title in the previous life: the Xiao Monarch!

[The monarch!

Does it mean I, the monarch? Or a monarch of the mortal world?]

He took a closer look at those dedicated items that were sending out endless senses of hostility. He had a feeling: [These are not some defective items!

Nor some unfinished pieces that were casually made!

That departed smith, Shen Lian-Zi... He must have spent all his energy on these 120 pieces of weapons!

And that had led him to the death when he finally finished the these fantastic pieces!

These are the true most precious items of the Divine Arms Mill!

The true divine weapons!

Yet he had left such a strange message. Present?

Did this Shen Lian-Zi see through the destiny? And wanted to use these items to seek an opportunity to leave the Divine Arms Mill a chance of survival?]

He collected thoughts for a long time and then said blandly, “Since master Shen Lian-Zi had left such words, and I like this set of weapons a lot, then... if someday the Divine Arms Mill offends me... I will spare you for good!”

The shopkeeper smiled bitterly.

[The guy talks with such smugness... He actually climbs up along the pillar I made[1]... Spare us? Who do you think you are? Such a...

I am speechless!]

However, it was the last word of a deceased master, and it was restated by himself, so there was no way to deny it even if he wanted to. So at the moment, his face looked like he just had swallowed shit.

Ye Xiao smiled and put the needles and knives into his clothes.

108 needles and 12 knives, all together, were packaged only with a small bag.

“That spear. I will take it too.” Ye Xiao pointed at the spear.

The spear was for another intent. He once heard Su Ye-Yue said that her father, the Prince Hua-Yang, was the best at using the spear. There amount of weapons in his house could nearly fill up an entire weapon shop and most of them were spears.

As he heard previously, he knew that the Prince Hua-Yang must have no proper weapon!

Because... one weapon was enough if it was a proper one. A man doesn't need to keep that many weapons.

This time the battle was in the south. The Prince Hua-Yang would soon join the battle. Therefore, when Ye Xiao saw the spear, he had a plan. He prepared to give it to the Prince Hua-Yang as a gift for nothing but all these years' secret protection...

To give him a spear was something worth doing.

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Chapter 74: Your Death Will Lead To My Miserable Life

Besides... the spear was for his future father-in-law.

This act perfectly described; 'fertile soil never went to the fields of strangers' [1].

Ye Xiao felt happy about it.

“Well... If you really like it...” The shopkeeper thought for a while and said, “750 thousand silver bars. What do you think?”

The shopkeeper was obviously raising the price.

Ye Xiao knew it as well. The spear might not be ordinary, but for the weapons in the market, the prices of the best ones were no higher than 50 thousand.

Although that spear was far better than those weapons, the price should not be above 500 thousand!

The difference of ten times had reached the limit!

It should be stated that spending 500 thousand for just a spear... would be simply squandering money. A weapon with its spirit broken wasn't worthy of that.

In Ye Xiao's estimation, the spear was only worth about 250 thousand. That was already an exaggerated price.

The shopkeeper knew that Ye Xiao had sharp eyes, yet he still stated a price like that. He had felt uncomfortable because Ye Xiao would have the needles and knives for free, so he intended to earn some money from the spear!

He looked at Ye Xiao with a smile. Apparently, he was waiting for Ye Xiao to bargain.

[The price must have scared the guy. He will either be angry or talk a lot to bargain. If he really wants it, it will surely take me a long time to finish the deal. However, he spent nothing and took two weapons from me...

Even though the needles and knives are defective and nobody ever wants them, they are still the last pieces of the great master. He wouldn't dare to bargain drastically for the spear, would he?

No matter what price you make, I will at least gain some profits. That will fix my loss.]

"A fair price." Contrary to the shopkeeper's expectation, Ye Xiao agreed without hesitation, "750 thousand, right? That's it then. I will take it!"

The shopkeeper was shocked and skeptical, because he couldn't truly believe what he had just heard.

He never thought that there was a fool like this guy in the world. Not even in his dreams.

A spear, which was slightly better than average quality, was priced for 750 thousand silver bars! The guy didn't even bargain, he just agreed without any hesitation!

However, he didn't know that from the moment he spoke out the price of 750 thousand, he had already lost the opportunity for the Divine Arms Mill to truly rise in the Land of Han-Yang!

Ye Xiao always discriminated between love and hate. He paid debts with gratitude to friends, and with savagery to his enemies.

The reason why he hesitated when they were talking about the needles and knives was because he was thinking about whether or not to accept them. And, he finally chose to accept the needles and knives. That meant that he owed a favor to Shen Lian-Zi and also agreed to his request.

He had decided to keep an eye on the Divine Arms Mill. If they behaved themselves, he wouldn't mind helping them truly rise or taking them under his protection once he became strong enough.

However, he wouldn't mind it if he was to return the favor with money. That would reduce a lot of extra efforts on his side.

A favor was the debt that was the most difficult to pay!

If it was possible to return a favor with money, it was the best bargain!

For Ye Xiao, money was the cheapest thing after all.

To end the connection with 750 thousand silver bars, that was really the best bargain!

He discriminated between love and hate indeed, yet he was not a stubborn man.

Even so, if the Divine Arms Mill had troubles in the future, Ye Xiao would offer his help.

However, it would only be similar to that of the departed master's last words... only a 'favor'!

Then he could comfort his heart by having the debt paid.

He took out some notes and counted 750 thousand silver bars worth of money. He gave the notes to the shopkeeper with pleasure and relief, and then reached his hand to pick up the spear. He said, "I hope we can see each other again." Then he turned and left.

The shopkeeper held the stack of notes and watched Ye Xiao's back. He didn't feel happy about earning a lot. Instead, he felt like he had done something terribly wrong...

However, that feeling just flashed away. After that, what he could feel was only the great pleasure of gaining so much money!

[Yah hah hah. Wealth!

I gained over 650 thousand by selling only a single spear... With that material and quality, counting in all the extra cost, the spear costed me no more than 100 thousand...]

Ye Xiao walked out the shop with the spear in hand. He casually swung the spear and split it into three parts. One part was the spearhead while the others were only metal sticks.

There were two sets of circular joints to reconnect the three parts. The spear could easily be rejoined with a sound of 'ka'. It was tightly joined and was able to bear all kind of strikes. As long as the strikes were below the strike-resistance threshold of the spear, the joints could handle them well...

There were some light patterns on the spear emitting a sense of coolness. Ye Xiao knew that there must be some Wind Copper mixed into the spear during the tempering. It allowed the spear to absorb the sweat in the hands during the fight.

This design prevented the spear from slipping in the user's hands and causing mistakes. Besides, it made the spear extremely comfortable to hold. That was really an original and convenient idea.

Two small words were engraved on the sphere.

'Hundred Fights!'

It weighed 78 kilograms!

Looking back to the entrance of the Divine Arms Mill, Ye Xiao showed a indescribable smile on the corner of his mouth. He then left with big strides, holding the Hundred Fights Spear.

...

Ye Xiao didn't go home immediately. He called a carriage and went to the Palace of Hua-Yang with the spear.

He packed the three parts of the spear with a big cloth bag and with the bag in hand, he spoke his name in front of the Palace of Hua-Yang.

Besides delivering the spear, he naturally had another purpose here.

...

Prince Hua-Yang was having a meeting with his men discussing the war affair in order to make a military strategy.

Although the royal decree hadn't been made yet, Prince Hua-Yang knew that his presence in that battle was unavoidable this time.

At the moment, it was already the last part of the meeting. Prince Hua-Yang said, "... HA HA. All these years, our passion for fights has never fallen. Since so, when the decree arrives, you and I, my friends, let's fight side by side in the battlefield once again!"

Everybody stood up with respect, "We will follow the great Prince Hua-Yang to sweep the battlefield!"

Prince Hua-Yang laughed loudly with a great heroic spirit.

At the moment, someone reported, "The son of the General Ye Nan-Tian, Ye Xiao, asks for admittance."

"The son-in-law comes to see his father-in-law. We shall not disturb you of enjoying your harmonious family relationships." The guys scattered while laughing and joking.

In the battle or the war camp, Prince Hua-Yang had strict enforcement of orders and prohibitions. But personally, he never went about with his head high in the air to his men. They were like brothers to him and they always talked freely. Usually, they were not scared of him. When there was a chance to make a joke on him, they would certainly do it.

Prince Hua-Yang laughed, "You bastards never let go of the chance... All right. Off you all. Let me be clear. When the day comes, if any of you is left behind... You know what will happen!"

The guys all laughed and left right away.

Prince Hua-Yang then changed his expression and said, "What reason does the guy come here for? Take him to the reception room."

And then he walked to the reception room himself with vigorous strides.

In fact, Prince Hua-Yang was not so happy about his daughter's marriage.

He only had one child, yet she was going to marry such a worthless jerk...

If he gave no concern about the fact that Ye Nan-Tian had saved his life... If he hadn't suggest this engagement with a whim that day, he wouldn't have been driven mad by the little foppish fool of the house of Ye in the recent years...

Prince Hua-Yang was known as the No.1 general in the Kingdom of Chen, the War God of the Kingdom. No one was able to challenge his position.

That was acknowledged by all the people in the kingdom!

However, only Prince Hua-Yang knew in his own heart. To command an army in a battle, to devise military strategies, to fight in the boundless battlefield... In any aspect, he was inferior to Ye Nan-Tian...

But Ye Nantian had always remained obscure. It was even a bit scary how he had maintained such a low profile. He never initiatively revealed anything about himself...

"A great man like Ye Nan-Tian, how can he have a son like Ye Xiao. That is really 'a hero father has a stupid son'... Damn it!" Prince Hua-Yang held his forehead because of headache and murmured.

He had decided the marriage because he had thought that 'a tiger father would not beget a dog' [2]. Yet he had never thought that the man who was both brave and resourceful would actually have such a worthless son...

Now it was too late for regret.

...

"What are you here for?" Prince Hua-Yang was indifferent. His squared face showed no emotions.

Prince Hua-Yang looked down upon Ye Xiao from the bottom of his heart, but a general should stay calm and collected all the time. He should never show his anger from the heart and he should be indifferent to everything.

This was Ye Xiao's first time to see Prince Hua-Yang, his future father-in-law.

Princess Hua-Yang, wife of Prince Hua-Yang was also sitting in the room, looking up and down at her future son-in-law.

She saw that Ye Xiao behave well. He didn't looked like the foppish lad as the rumor described. And she found that he had a pretty face, acted elegantly like a young spark. She already had a favorable impression of him.

"Nothing important actually." Ye Xiao smiled and said, "I heard that the battle is in the south and the capital is in disturbance because of that... I am afraid that the good days are about to end."

Prince Hua-Yang looked at his future son-in-law and spoke blandly, "There is war in the south. The court and the public are in turbulence... I am afraid this has nothing to do with you."

His words were rather straight, even dismissive. He was obviously satirizing that Ye Xiao was a stupid black sheep who knew nothing about hardships of the people and was only seeking fun and fooling around in his own life.

"How does it have nothing to do with me? It definitely has something to do with me. A great serious thing." Ye Xiao spoke seriously, "As long as you leave for battle, my good days in the capital will end..."

Prince Hua-Yang couldn't help but scornfully laugh, "It turns out you know about this point. You are slightly better than those who are worse than dog shits."

"I also know that if anything unlucky happens to you, my days will be far worse." Ye Xiao continued speaking 'seriously'.

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Realms In The Firmament

Chapter 75: An Outstanding Character

“What a prick!” Prince Hua-Yang’s eyes were wide open, he was furious, “You little... little shit! What did you say!”

Princess Hua-Yang also humphed in her mind and thought, [This little bastard truly doesn’t know how to talk. Such a waste of his natural-born pretty appearance.] The favorable impression which was just established had instantly crumbled.

Ye Xiao laughed and said carelessly, “So, today I was hanging around... and saw something. It is pretty good. See. I brought it to you immediately.”

Saying that, he dropped the bag on the floor.

“What is that?” Prince Hua-Yang frowned.

“A spear.” Ye Xiao opened the bag and picked up the parts of the spear. With two sounds of ‘Kah’, the extremely distinguished Hundred Fight Spear showed up in front of them!

The spear was in a spiral shape and was made from fine steel. The spearhead was 50 centimeters long!

With just a single glance, it aroused a feeling of dread in people's hearts.

“Hundred Fight Spear!” Prince Hua-Yang’s eyes lit up as he jumped out of his seat.

On the side, Princess Hua-Yang made an exclamation when she saw it.

The mother-in-law of Ye Xiao was no ordinary woman. She used to cultivate martial arts and her cultivation level was not low at all. When she saw the world-killing vigor and the overbearing sharpness and proudness of the spear, she knew that it was not some ordinary weapon!

The past few days, she was just worrying that her husband should get some powerful weapons for the upcoming battle. Then this guy just brought them this precious spear as if he knew her thoughts like a worm in her body!

A sense of satisfaction appeared in her eyes when she looked at Ye Xiao.

Ye Xiao didn’t know that his actions had won a good impression from his mother-in-law...

Prince Hua-Yang kept his eyes on the spear and paced around it. Apparently, he liked it very much.

He had gone to see this spear many times before.

However, it needed at least 250 thousand silver bars to buy the spear from the Divine Arms Mill.

That was worth as much as the cost of maintaining an army of 500 hundred men for three months. Prince Hua-Yang was extremely fond of the spear and had dreamed about getting it many times. [If only I could hold this spear and stand in the battlefield...]

However, he was too thrifty to buy it.

But surprisingly, the spear was now in front of him!

“How did you get this treasure?” Su Ding-Guo, i.e. Prince Hua-Yang, didn’t even try to disguise his love for the spear in his eyes.

“I bought it, of course.” Ye Xiao smiled, “Maybe you don’t need it... But I will just leave it to you. It is better staying in your hands than mildewing somewhere else.”

Prince Hua-Yang rubbed the mustache and laughed. But suddenly, doubts arose in his mind and he stopped. He asked doubtfully, “How did you get that much money? That day when I tried to get this spear, I stopped because it was too expensive. Your family is not richer than mine. Ye Nan-Tian is poor. How did you buy it? You didn’t swindle it, did you? According to your reputation, you very likely have done so. I heard that you swindled the blood ginseng out of the house of Wang. You must have done the same trick this time...”

Ye Xiao didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

[It is true that good news never go beyond the gate, while bad news spread far and wide. Is my reputation really that bad?]

“Relax. I got this spear legitimately. And I spent more than others would!” He solemnly said, “As for why I could afford it, I recently acquired an unexpected wealth... Please just relax and take it.”

Prince Hua-Yang humphed and spoke, “With your reputation, I can’t trust you...”

Princess Hua-Yang annoyingly said, “Why are you so stubborn... The kid cares about you and brought you this precious spear with kindness. You are actually showing an attitude like that. You really shouldn’t.”

While speaking, she turned to Ye Xiao and said, “Xiao Xiao, where did you rob this spear? Ahem. I mean swindle... Erh. I mean... Where did you buy it?”

Ye Xiao was speechless and upset. What a damn grievance!

[I brought a gift... Yet I am actually disdained like this! That... That is truly my first time in my two lives...

I, the honorable Xiao Monarch, would actually have such a day!

And I can’t burst my anger to them. Instead, I have to cater to them...

That is so annoying!]

“A few days ago, I saved a man.” Ye Xiao blurted out a lie, “The man was being chased and ran into me... A man with a kind heart like me would of course help him. The man gave me two jade bottles before he left.”

“I didn’t care much about them at the beginning. Until lately, I discovered that in each bottle, there was a supreme dan bead...” Ye Xiao said.

“Huh?”

Princess Hua-Yang exclaimed. She looked surprised and happy.

“What? Really?” Prince Hua-Yang was a collected man, but he couldn’t help exclaiming. He stood up, “Were they really the supreme dan beads?”

As the No.1 general in the Kingdom of Chen, how could he not know of the supreme dan beads that had stirred up the chaos in the whole capital these past few days? He would never have expected that this guy had actually saved the owner of the supreme dan beads.

[It is true that Feng Zhi-Ling has been missing since he left the salesroom... He was being hunted, and was saved by the lucky Ye Xiao...

Does this kid have a kind heart? It must be a coincidence that he saved the owner of the supreme dan beads and benefitted as a return!]

“Then where are the supreme dan beads?” Prince Hua-Yang asked.

Ye Xiao took out a jade bottle and smiled, “Right here. I knew that you are going to join the battle soon, so I brought you the supreme dan bead as a gift...”

Princess didn’t wait for Prince Hua-Yang to speak and quickly snatched the bottle.

She acted so quickly that Prince Hua-Yang didn’t have the time to react.

That was no kidding. With such a dan, her husband was like carrying an extra life with him!

That was so precious!

“Xiao, you are so...” Princess Hua-Yang nearly choked with sobs, “So full of filial piety! It was a truly worthwhile thing to let our daughter marry you... Oh...”

Women were capricious. Princess Hua-Yang just had a few good feelings to Ye Xiao, but now she liked him to the fullest. She had already started to call him ‘Xiao’ now. Apparently, she had already treated him as her present son-in-law. A gift from her son-in-law was obviously something she should and would love to accept!

Prince Hua-Yang was speechless.

[Arh. Woman... Several days ago you just cried in front of me blaming me that letting our daughter marry that guy was ruining our daughter’s life. Look at you now. Just for a dan bead, you immediately ‘sold’ our daughter to him...]

“What a loss of principle! You just can’t restrain yourself.”

Prince Hua-Yang sighed helplessly and said, “And the other dan bead?”

He was thinking, [The battle is full of traps. If any of my loyal brothers suffers a fatal wound, another supreme dan bead can save another life. Although it is a bit presumptuous to ask for it, I could only care less about that right now!

I have already betrothed my daughter to you. What could be wrong to only asked for two dan beads!]

Thinking about that, he spoke boldly, “How many do you have? Take them out! Give me all!”

[I should be allowed to ask for anything from my son-in-law!]

Princess Hua-Yang showed the whites of her eyes. [You old man criticized me just now... It turns out you have lost your principle yourself! I was just accepting it from others, yet you are asking for it. That's a huge difference. I despise you very much!]

"I don't have it..." Ye Xiao threw up his hands, "I sold the other one and bought the spear for you. Where do you think did I get the money from..."

"You!" Prince Hua-Yang was furious, "You black sheep! You you you... You are exasperating... A dan bead that could bring the dead back to life, you exchanged it for a stupid bloody spear!"

Princess Hua-Yang was unhappy all the sudden, "What are you talking about, you old man? The kid just saved one for you. He could have kept it to himself and you wouldn't know of it, would you? You old man. You really don't know how to appreciate what is good for you! How could you say it's just a stupid spear. You have longed for it for a long time. I always knew that!"

Prince Hua-Yang was a bit guilty and said, "What a shame... A supreme dan bead could save a life..." He still felt aching about it.

He usually didn't appreciate a supreme dan bead a lot, but since the war was approaching, he saw it as something extremely valuable.

Ye Xiao did have more, a lot more. However, he wouldn't dare to reveal them at the moment even if he would die for not doing so...

As a man like Prince Hua-Yang, it was normal that he had one supreme dan bead. But if he had many... it would draw suspicions or greedy eyes. He was afraid that everyone in the Palace of Hua-Yang would be in danger because of it...

If so, that was not a gift, but a curse!

Xiao Xiao said, "You are not seeing things in the right way... With this spear, you will be invincible in the battle, killing enemies, capturing flags... That will save a lot more lives than what a dan bead could do."

Princess Hua-Yang's eyes lit up and she said, "That's right. That is reasonable. As long as you stay alive, you can save many many men!"

She was a clever woman, so she naturally understood the meaning of Ye Xiao's words: [The supreme dan bead... You must not give it to others...

That means giving a life.]

Prince Hua-Yang sighed and frowned for a long time.

After a while, he spoke gently, "They are all my brothers... It is acceptable not to save them when I am not able to... However, I could, if I were to keep this dan bead for myself... how could I face myself again?"

The princess and Ye Xiao were both silent.

Loving his soldiers like they were his own sons and sharing happiness and woe with them; standing side by side in the chaotic storms of the world.

That was Prince Hua-Yang, Su Ding-Guo.

He meticulously treated his soldiers as he treated his own kin. The princess and Ye Xiao both believed that in the battle, if one of his men and himself were both badly injured... the one who would take the supreme dan bead would never be Prince Hua-Yang!

Even if he had 100 supreme dan beads with him, he would take none for himself.

If he wasn't like that, maybe he wouldn't have been the Prince Hua-Yang whose majesty was felt throughout the whole kingdom for decades.

Ye Xiao felt admiration in his heart.

An outstanding character, Prince Hua-Yang was definitely one!

...

Prince Hua-Yang was delighted. He asked Ye Xiao to stay for dinner and let Su Ye-Yue, who was grounded, to join them. The four of them sat together around the table, two old and young couples. It really looked like a harmonious family enjoying happiness together. The house was filled with laughter and cheerful voices.

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Chapter 76: Your Father Is A Peerless Figure!

...

It was the first time for the four of them to have a dinner together since the two kids were engaged.

"If your father is here, it would be perfect..." Prince Hua-Yang drank a couple of liquor and then sighed with emotion.

Princess Hua-Yang nodded in agreement.

It seemed like Prince Hua-Yang had changed his attitude towards Ye Xiao. At least right now, he didn't loathe him like he did before.

What Ye Xiao did had made some difference. He brought the spear to Prince Hua-Yang before he left for battle.

That was not something an ordinary kid would do.

"Our families have been close for many years, but we have never enjoyed a proper meal together. Your father has been guarding the north all the time. He seldom comes back to the capital. I have been staying in the capital all the time and I could not leave for even a day. And whenever your father returns, it means I have to leave for somewhere else..."

Su Ding-Guo smiled gently, "Because when your father returns, it means the north is in peace. Since the most dangerous area is in peace, it means matters in the other areas need to be handled as the primary tasks for the kingdom... There won't be anyone who could complete such tasks well except me."

“Hmm... It was arrogant to say I am the only one who can do that. In fact, your father surely can, but he is too lazy. He would never waste a single minute of his vacation.” He looked at Ye Xiao.

Ye Xiao didn't speak. He kept acting decently; silently eating and drinking.

Su Ye-Yue looked at her father, and then looked at Ye Xiao. She smiled with pleasure from the bottom of her heart. She lowered her head to focus on eating. She seemed to be thinking about something and her cheeks suddenly turned red...

Ye Xiao raised the cup and proposed a toast to Prince Hua-Yang. And then he said, “I wonder how you and my father became friends?”

Su Ding-Guo's eyes were clouded with nostalgia as he stared blankly for a second. He then gently answered, “Your father... is truly a peerless figure...”

“Peerless figure?” Ye Xiao was surprised.

The word ‘peerless’ was not a word that people casually used.

For Ye Xiao, there were only a few that he thought were peerless in both the Land of Han-Yang and the Qing-Yun Realm.

However...

[Even though he is only a peerless man in the Land of Han-Yang...] He drank and thought, [... he is still peerless after all.]

“I am a prince in the kingdom. I have seen many great men. I know something about great people. However... I still have no idea where your father came from even after all these years. It is like he just suddenly appeared out of nowhere... And he looks down upon the world.”

Prince Hua-Yang's voice was filled with yearning for the past.

After he spoke those words, he glanced at Ye Xiao and then turned a bit angry, “You goddamn fool have never known what your father has done for you. You have no idea how much he has sacrificed for you! You ungrateful stupid bastard! Stupid little shit! You garbage!”

Ye Xiao was speechless.

[What the hell is the matter with him?

We were just happy drinking, eating and talking, and praising my father, yet he suddenly started to shout at me... I just gave you a spear worth 750 thousand...

You old fool actually cursed me!

Are you drunk or have you taken any wrong pills?]

“You... Speak discreetly. Why are you cursing?” Princess Hua-Yang was also unsatisfied with what her husband had just said. She frowned and said, “In front of the kids, keep your decency, would you? You are a prince...”

“Decency my ass! Prince my cock! Without his father, I must have died a long time ago! What kind of dead man need decency!”

Prince Hua-Yang hit the table and pointed at Ye Xiao, “You little shit. You seem a little better now, yet when thinking about what a prick you were before, I only want to split you into pieces! And feed your penis to the dogs!”

Prince Hua-Yang and Su Ye-Yue both blushed and lowered their heads.

[What did the old fool say. He actually wanted to feed the dogs with his own son-in-law’s penis... What a fool!]

Ye Xiao was stunned. He was at a loss.

[Why... Why is he so emotional?

The former owner of my body was not a good kid. That is true. But no matter how bad he was, he was just a teenager. How bad could he possibly be? Is it necessary to curse him like that?]

As Prince Hua-Yang talked like that, Ye Xiao was like a scourge that was hated by both man and god!

Prince Hua-Yang stopped and sighed.

“In those years...” It looked like he was once again experiencing the battles from those days.

“That year, I led the army against the Kingdom of Lan-Feng. In an attempt to rescue the besieged 30 thousand brothers of mine, I raided the enemy’s troops. That time, the Kingdom of Lan-Feng had discovered my raid. They set up a trap and were waiting for me to fall in it. What I did was to actually lead my men to their deaths...”

“When I thought we were all going to die there, a man in white wearing a mask suddenly appeared. He came from the sky with only a sword. He landed in the middle of the 300 thousand soldiers of the Kingdom of Lan-Feng and led me to slash a path out of it.”

“With the help of this marvelous cultivator, I actually survived. The most important thing was that, if he didn’t show up that time, that would be a big failure of mine. The invincible Military God? It would have been a joke already!”

“That day, the sun bled into the sky. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers were fighting in the final battle of the war.” He raised his head and stared at the sky through the window. He spoke gently, “The blood had dyed the ground. Every soldier of either side had went mad because of killing. At that time, an impatient and vigorous voice echoed, ‘Who is Su Ding-Guo?’”

“The voice came from far away, but everyone in the battle heard it. It was a battle of hundreds of thousands people! Even a thunder was insignificant at that moment... However, that voice had made all the soldiers stopped fighting at the same time!”

“I was among my men. I thought that there was a superior cultivator in the enemy’s troops and he wanted to kill me in order to capture my flag. Even though I knew I would never have a chance to defeat such a superior cultivator, I couldn’t lower my head in front of all my men. So I answered loudly, ‘I am Su Ding-Guo! Speak your name! I never kill a man with no name!’”

When he spoke of these events, Prince Hua-Yang felt like he was seeing the gruesome scenes of that battle once again. His voice became terrified and his face horribly distorted.

Su Ye-Yue was overtaken by worry, so she held her father's hand.

Prince Hua-Yang took a deep breath and calmed down. He laughed and said, "Damn it... 'Never kill a man with no name' my ass. With a single battle, I had killed more than one thousand men without knowing any of their names. What I said was just to boost my courage. The man was too strong for me. His strength was in a level that I had never known about. A general shouldn't fear death during the battle, however, dealing with a powerful enemy like that, I felt terrified..."

Ye Xiao was surprised that his father-in-law was so cute that he actually told them his innermost thoughts and feelings, as well as his disgraceful experience!

"... That voice then spoke, 'You are Su Ding-Guo? Good. Let me give you a gift.' And then I saw a sword light rushing over from the peak of a mountain. At that moment, because of the shining sword light, the sun seemed to lose its glow... The sword light was getting bigger and bigger, longer and longer, harder and harder... Finally it reached the... crowd!"

Prince Hua-Yang was fascinated. Recalling the sword light in that battle, he was filled with enjoyment.

Princess Hua-Yang must have thought about something naughty as a blush appeared on her face. She looked at Prince Hua-Yang with embarrassment and then lowered her head immediately. She was murmuring, "Shameless old bastard!"

Ye Xiao was holding the cup and touching his lower jaw with a look of 'I am listening and thinking'.

In his heart, he felt very curious, [Longer and longer? Bigger and bigger? Harder and harder...

Was he really talking about the sword light?]

He couldn't help looking down on his crotch...

And then he coughed and said, "Admirable! Admirable!" He raised the cup and drank.

Prince Hua-Yang was lost in the memory of the old days. He was shaking his head slowly and murmuring. He didn't know he had described the sword light in an inappropriate way.

Obviously, that battle was the greatest honor of Prince Hua-Yang!

"That sword move slaughtered those men like crushing dry weeds and smashing rotten wood [1]!" Prince Hua-Yang sighed, "People always said that the army slaughters its adversaries as easy as crushing dry weeds and smashing rotten wood... After that, I witnessed what crushing dry weeds and smashing rotten wood truly means! That was the real glow of a peerless expert!"

"After that light slashed down, thousands of men had already fallen while he calmly stood there. I discovered that the man's clothes was still clean and white!"

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Chapter 77: Questions About His Parents

Prince Hua-Yang continued speaking passionately. His face had turned red because he was excited enough to feel his blood boil.

“... Across the blade of his sword, blood flowed, dripping down to the ground. His eyes resembled two sharp swords which stared at me and he asked, ‘Su Ding-Guo, I can bring a complete turnabout in this battle, but in return, you need to give me a thing. What do you think?’ And then I answered, ‘As long as you can turn the table, I can even give you my head!’ The man in white nodded and said, ‘Very well. Follow me!’”

“The whole conversation had no superfluous words. And then he turned around and fought his way towards the densest part of the enemy troops’ formation. We fought hard, rushing here and there, covering the entire battlefield. He used incredible martial arts to change the flow of the battle and then, all my men got together under his lead and broke out of the encirclement!”

“From beginning to end, the man in black was concentrating on fighting and rushing. When his sword swung, all the people in front of him fell down. He kept swinging his sword till we got out. He never stopped, his sword never stopped.”

“The man in white was your father, Ye Nan-Tian!”

Su Ding-Guo looked at Ye Xiao, “Do you know why your father saved me?”

Ye Xiao was stunned and he said, “Was it... for me?”

“That’s right! You are not completely stupid after all!” Prince Hua-Yang humphed and said, “After we got out of the besiegement, before I had time to say thank you to your father, he said, ‘Now that I have done what I promised to do, you should honour your end of the deal. I need your Seven Hearts Nine Seeds Dreamy Lotus!’. He was completely exhausted. In fact your father had received many wounds during the fight. More than fifty cuts were gushing out blood, but he didn’t care about them at all. He simply stated his request.”

Ye Xiao was astonished.

[The Seven Hearts Nine Seeds Dreamy Lotus!

He wanted that!]

At that moment, the Xiao Monarch finally realized what had been wrong with his body.

The Seven Hearts Nine Seeds Lotus was used for curing some natural-born diseases.

Actually, when the dead Ye Xiao was still a fetus, he had been suffering from poisoning and Jing and Mai damage. Although he was successfully born, his body was weak and he was in a critical condition throughout his infancy.

This Lotus was the perfect cure for that.

It was not extremely precious, but it was extremely rare!

The reason why it was called ‘Dreamy Lotus’ was that it was only seen in dreams.

Prince Hua-Yang laughed and said, "I found it by coincidence when I was in a battle on a snow mountain. I encountered an avalanche and was buried underneath the snow. After I dug myself out, I found the Seven Hearts Nine Seeds Dreamy Lotus. Although I had been cherishing the Dreamy Lotus, after that fight, I had no hesitation and I said, 'You can have it!'"

"After that, we returned to the capital. When we arrived, the first thing I did was to send the lotus to your father." Su Ding-Guo smiled warmly, "And the friendship between your father and I was built at that moment."

Ye Xiao felt that a lot of events had started to make sense.

He thought, [My 'father' actually did such a great thing in the past... Killing in and out a battle alone with one sword only to get the cure for his sick son. He deserves to be called 'peerless figure' indeed...]

When Ye Xiao imagined the scene of Ye Nan-Tian fighting and rushing inside an encirclement made by hundreds of thousands of men with only a single sword in his hand, although he showed a calm exterior, he felt his blood boil.

"What your father did for you was really..." Prince Hua-Yang looked at Ye Xiao like he was exasperated about his disappointing lifestyle, "He had been extremely worried about you! He had almost given up his whole life for you... Yet you are... Arh!"

He took a deep breath. Obviously, he had lost all interest in talking any more.

Prince Hua-Yang thought of the day when Ye Nan-Tian fought alone on the battle and then looked at Ye Xiao. He felt sad for Ye Nan-Tian.

Ye Xiao took a deep breath too. He lowered his head.

Even though the one Prince Hua-Yang was criticizing was not him, yet he felt what 'Ye Xiao' should feel.

[In my previous life... if I could have such a father, a father who would sacrifice everything for his son... How happy would I be?] He thought.

When collecting his thoughts, he was suddenly motivated, [Father sacrificed everything, but... what about mother? Prince Hua-Yang didn't mention my mother all along!]

So he asked, "Well... What about my mother?"

When speaking of 'mother', he felt a strange excitement in his heart, even though he had been living as a man for two lives. The feeling was warm but it also contained a bit of loneliness...

[My mother...]

How warm. He felt a strong yearning for her.

He never had met his parents in his previous life... He had never known who had given birth to him. Until he died, he didn't know who his parents were.

Did he have a mother now?

He must have!

He should!

Prince Hua-Yang wore a sad expression and shook his head slowly. He quietly said, "I have no idea. I never met your mother... Your father never mentioned her."

Ye Xiao was surprised.

In fact, he had thought that his mother might be dead for a long time. However, after hearing what Prince Hua-Yang said, he figured there must be some hidden reasons for her disappearance.

[Nobody has ever mentioned my mother in front of me. My father never did... If she died, why didn't anybody talk to me about her?

There is something strange about it!]

He didn't speak anymore, but he bore it in mind.

After a short silence, Su Ding-Guo continued speaking... The lotus hadn't made any big difference. After that, Ye Nan-Tian went to see the king of the Kingdom of Chen under Su Ding-Guo's recommendation. The king gave him the best medicine of the kingdom, but as a return, Ye Nan-Tian had to become a sworn brother to the king and guard the northern border for twenty years. The medicine attained was really extraordinary and it successfully restored Ye Xiao's condition to a normal, healthy condition...

Ye Xiao had already heard this story from the steward, yet, after hearing it once more, he still felt excited and thrilled.

A father could actually do such a thing for his son...

However, after the excitement subsided, Ye Xiao came out with a question. The Dreamy Lotus was divine among medicines. As per his knowledge, it could easily cure every poison and diseases in the Land of Han-Yang.

However, after Ye Xiao took it, although it was somewhat effective, it still didn't work well. He still needed the medicine of the Kingdom of Chen to be fully cured. That meant that he had suffered from an extraordinary condition, and the cause of the damage was something not from this realm!

His father, single handedly, was able to kill hundreds of thousands men in the battle...

[In another word, my father, and mother, even the steward, are very possibly not residents of the Land of Han-Yang. They must be from a higher realm...

But how did they get down?]

While collecting his thoughts, he kept finding new information about his family. Finally, he focused on the words of Prince Hua-Yang...

After that battle, there was a new prince with a name different from the royal family in the kingdom — Prince Hua-Yang. Su Ding-Guo had made great contributions, so it was reasonable that he was awarded the royal title. However, people didn't know that there was another prince in the kingdom...

“To be a sworn brother of the king, he naturally became a prince. But your father stoutly refused the title. The king had no other choices but to announce that the title should be reserved for your clan in the royal family book. No one ever divulged information about this.”

He laughed, “So, in people’s eyes, there is only one prince with a different surname in the kingdom. Hah hah. In fact, there are two. And we got the title at the same time.”

They all smiled.

At the end of the conversation, Su Ding-Guo finished another cup of liquor and tapped Ye Xiao on the shoulder. He spoke softly, “Xiao Xiao, you better... not let your father down...”

He said with a comforting tone, “These days, I have seen you change a lot indeed. You finally stopped fooling around like you did before... Heh heh...”

At the end of the dinner, Prince Hua-Yang was seriously drunk and immediately went to sleep.

His wife naturally went to take care of him. There were only two of them left at the table, Su Ye-Yue and Ye Xiao.

Actually, Ye Xiao wanted to return home right now.

He had done what he came to do. He felt that he didn’t need to stay any longer. For him, the most important thing at the moment was to deal with his newly acquired Divine Weapon with Demonic Edge.

“I ur... I better be off.” Ye Xiao giggled and touched his head. Being criticized for a whole night, he felt that he had actually come to ask for torturing this time...

“What did you say? You are leaving?” At the beginning Su Ye-Yue blushed and kept her head low like a bashful lady, but when she heard Ye Xiao, she started acting overwhelmingly, “What does that mean? You were so happy being criticized by my father. Now you are alone with me and you actually want to leave! Humph! Move if your dare!”

Ye Xiao groaned, “Please my dear lady...”

“A ‘dear lady’ couldn’t help you!” Her tongue was vicious. She rested her arms on her waist. Apparently, she was reaching for the whip that was given to her by Ye Nan-Tian. Oh, the fabulous husband-disciplining tool.

Ye Xiao gave up immediately, “Fine. Ok. I never wanted to leave. I just want to find out if you would ask me to stay or not.”

“Humph!” She didn’t believe him, apparently.

But she was satisfied that Ye Xiao would stay. She jumped breezily with her hands on the back and said, “Let’s go to the back yard. People always say a smart man and a pretty girl staying under the moon beside the flowers show each other their ... sort of love stuff... I don’t know...”

Ye Xiao held his forehead and groaned. He sighed deep within his heart.

[The girl must be seriously poisoned by those romantic stories in the books and seeking those plots in reality. That is not good...]

[A smart man and a pretty girl showing each other their 'sort of love'... Gosh... When they have money, they are a smart man and a pretty girl. Without it, there will never be the 'sort of love'...] Ye Xiao smiled bitterly and thought, [There was only 'adultery'...]

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Chapter 78: Ye Xiao, Midnight Snack?

Ye Xiao had no other choice but to let Su Ye-Yue drag him to the backyard.

"Xiao Xiao, to be honest, your name is really weird. Ye Xiao. Ye Xiao. Hahahaha..." Su Ye-Yue opened her mouth, showing her clean white teeth. She laughed, "No matter how I resist, it sounds like 'midnight snack [1]' to me. Try saying it several times and you will agree with me."

"Midnight snack?" Ye Xiao felt embarrassed.

He himself had chosen this name in his previous life. It meant that even a fallen leaf [2] with no roots could laugh at the entire firmament. 'Ye' meant that he was an orphan who had no family. And also he had been carrying a jade pendant with the word 'Ye' on it since he was a child. As for the 'Xiao', it was rather easy to understand.

People lived, people laughed [3]. People should live with joy.

[How did it become a midnight snack?]

In Ye Xiao's whole previous life, no one had ever dared to call the Xiao Monarch 'midnight snack'.

He looked at Su Ye-Yue and thought, [She must be a foodie deep in her heart...]

Thinking about how he got his name, he touched his chest and felt sad, [Now that my jade pendant was taken... by the woman in the Qing-Yun Realm. I wonder where she would keep it? And where she is now?

How is she doing?]

"That's right. Midnight snack." Su Ye-Yue was thrilled. Jumping and walking with her hands on the back, she said complacently, "Finally, I know how you got your name."

Ye Xiao was embarrassed, "You do? Really?"

"Of course. It is obvious, isn't it..." Su Ye-Yue laughed and said, "It is said that some day in the past when Uncle Ye was drinking with my father, they were both drunk and they talked about the derivation of your name. Uncle Ye laughed loudly and said... 'Well the name actually means midnight snack.'"

Ye Xiao's face was twisted and he spoke with his eyes wide opened, "It really means midnight snack?"

"Yes. My dad was surprised at that moment, so he asked 'why'..." Su Ye-Yue spoke cheerfully, "And then Uncle Ye said that... when he had just married your mother, they were so deep in love with each other. That night... That night... Ahem..."

She might not be a sensible girl, but she stopped talking when speaking of that. Her extraordinarily beautiful face was blushing like the butt of a baboon, but it made her look even more gorgeous.

“That night what?” Ye Xiao didn’t want to stop. He wanted to know everything.

“Ahem... Anyway... It was...” Su Ye-Yue kept rolling her eyes and tried to find out the proper words to say. She blushed and spoke haltingly, “It was said that Uncle Ye wanted to have some midnight snack... So aunty went to cook some for him. Before she finished cooking, Uncle Ye was too hungry. He couldn’t hold it and... so he ‘ate’ aunty instead... Ahem... And then after some time, you were born. So Uncle Ye just gave you the name... Ye Xiao. Just as the name implies, you were born because of the midnight snack. So, ahem, hmm, you are midnight snack...”

She spoke with many pauses and her eyes were dodging Ye Xiao’s eyes.

Apparently, it would make the girl embarrassed if she had to explain this any more.

But Ye Xiao had a different feeling.

He nearly passed out. Deep in his heart, he really wanted to pass out.

[What the hell is that? How is this logical? What is the point?]

Even though he was always calm and used to be the world-shocking Xiao Monarch, at the moment, he truly felt dizzy. [My name... actually... comes... from that...]

Wanted to have some midnight snack... Went to cook... Couldn’t hold it... Had another kind of... ‘midnight snack’? And got pregnant? And gave birth to a son... who was named ‘midnight snack’?

Er... No... Ye Xiao?

That is the whole process?

Oh my bloody heaven god...

Let me die.]

Suddenly, Ye Xiao felt a pain in his heart that nearly drove him to death.

[I would have never expected that the explanation of my name would be such... My god...]

“No. It doesn’t make sense.” Ye Xiao returned to his senses and looked at her, “You are younger than me. How did you know that? Even your father hasn’t met my mother. How could you know such a personal thing about my parents? It doesn’t make any sense... Is it... Did you just make it up?”

Ye Xiao looked at her, expecting her to change her story. [God bless me. Tell me that you are making it up...]

“You are a liar, not me!” Su Ye-Yue pouted, “My dad was drunk and telling jokes and stuff with your father. Your father himself told my dad about it. It wouldn’t be a lie, would it? Humph. They thought nobody was around but in fact, I was there listening secretly. It is true.”

Ye Xiao felt hopeless. He wanted to hang himself on a tree several times...

With sad eyes, he looked at Su Ye-Yue who was blabbering on and on because of the interesting topic she had just picked up. He felt like the world had become darker... [It turns out my name is midnight snack...]

Damn it.

I must be the only one who had such a weird origin for his name...]

“Hey. Why are you so down? What’s wrong?” After walking for quite a distance, Su Ye-Yue finally felt less embarrassed about the topic, yet she found Ye Xiao hadn’t caught up with her, so she turned around and asked.

“I am thinking...” Ye Xiao sighed with sadness and said, “When I have a wife, would she ask for midnight snacks all the time...”

“Pah...” Su Ye-Yue blushed and reached out her hand to pinch him, “Do you really think you are that tasty... Come on. Let me teach you how to stop being a shameless guy. I will show you my Sword Art Of Feng-Hua...”

She had concentrated on cultivating these days and had shown shocking improvement. With the Sword Art Of Feng-Hua and the Spiritual Method Of Feng-Hua, her rate of improvement had become much faster than anyone else in the history of the Qing-Yun Realm.

So her confidence had shot up to the peak.

Ye Xiao fought clumsily. In contrast, Su Ye-Yue swung her sword like a stream of waterfall in a painting. She fought with natural and smooth moves, she was able to move however she wished. After beating Ye Xiao up for a while, she finally felt satisfied. She waved her hand and spoke like the king sparing a convict, “Off you go.”

Ye Xiao hurried off.

It was too hard for him to continue acting...

The girl’s improvement had been above his expectation, but...

No matter how good the Sword Art Of Feng-Hua was, it was modified by Ye Xiao himself. Considering Su Ye-Yue’s current capability, it would be as easy as flicking a finger for him to win the fight.

But Ye Xiao knew well what result would that bring to him. He would have been at least kept in there to practice with her for a ages...

So he chose to be beaten and then leave the place for good.

Su Ye-Yue humphed and looked at the retreating back of Ye Xiao. She murmured with a complex emotion in her eyes, “He didn’t want to stay, so he let me win... Humph. He must have something important to do. I won’t disturb him then.” She was unhappy. After a while, she was completely lost in thoughts, [He really is different now. In the past, when he was beaten up by me, he would only beg for me to stop with a full mouth of sweet words. Now he is so calm and he left like a light breeze... Was I not beating him heavily enough?]

She was holding her sword and thinking. She waved her fist and murmured, “I am not strong enough. I have to continue cultivating. Next time I will beat him harder.”

On the other hand, Ye Xiao hurried home without stopping.

The first thing he saw after arriving was the steward who wore a strange look.

It was as if he was looking at a monster or his forefather.

It was a look filled with helplessness and disappointment.

“Uncle Song, what’s wrong?” Ye Xiao was confused.

[I just got home and you are looking at me like that? Do you know that I am not so comfortable with that?]

“My dearest forefather.” Song Jue sighed heavily, “You promised that you wouldn’t get into any trouble, did you not?”

“I didn’t get in any trouble. I did not...” Ye Xiao scratched his head innocently and showed confusion.

“You dare say you didn’t! Then explain, what do you expect trouble to be...” The steward sighed, sadness being shown in his eyes.

[My big brother, how come you only have one child?

People pay money for troubles they make.

Your son pays with lives for the troubles he makes. I wonder how many lives it would take.

All those troublemakers I have seen in my life together cannot compare to your son.]

“A mail has come to us from the Crown Prince’s Palace. The crown prince wants to meet with you.” The steward sighed, “And... I heard that you went to the west market, and three men died...”

The steward showed the whites of his eyes, “After some sort of clarification, it was revealed that those men were from the Crown Prince’s Palace, my dear young lord. If you have nothing to do with that... it must be some ghost who had shown up under the sun.”

Ye Xiao threw his hands up and said, “Uncle Song. To catch a thief, you need proof; to accuse someone of adultery, you catch them both. [4] To accuse me of murder, I don’t mind if there is no proof, but it should at least be reasonable, right? Why would I be involved? How strange, people from the Mu Clan died and I am under suspicion; people from the Crown Prince’s Palace died and I am under suspicion; am I to be under suspicion when anyone dies? Who on earth is messing with me now? So unbelievable. Is there any justice in the world?”

The steward showed the whites of his eyes and was speechless. He suppressed the eagerness in his heart to push Ye Xiao down and spank him on the ass.

[Wherever you are, people die there.

And people are all your enemies. Who would believe it even if you say you have nothing to do with them?

What proof do you want? What reason? Everyone can see through it.]

When thinking of that, the steward suddenly had doubts filling his mind. He raised his head and stared at his young master — his nephew.

[It doesn't make sense...

Why... Why are all of them from our enemies?

And none of our men even got hurt?

Of course it is good that our men stay fine. It surely is. But... But... It doesn't make sense.

Why? How?]

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Chapter 79: A Boat Capsizes In A Calm Sea

[The death of Mu Cheng-Bai is an unsettled case.

Who could have killed him?

After that, the three assassins, who were the guards of the Crown Prince's Palace, died in the west street market. Yet Ye Xiao is perfectly fine after returning from the market, unharmed and rather happy.

Then... who killed them?

Since they were assassins, they must have been assigned to do the same task. According to the information received from the market, all three of them must have been killed in an instant.

Who were they aiming at? Who was their target?

That is pretty obvious actually... it would be Ye Xiao.

Then, who killed them?

Mu Cheng-Bai had an average cultivation level, so he was easy to kill. But this time, it was three guards from the Crown Prince's Palace. They were not some ordinary cultivators, but even they got killed instantly. They were killed at the same moment together. No matter who did that, he must have accomplished an extremely difficult mission.

So...]

The steward looked at Ye Xiao. The confusion in his eyes now turned into questioning.

[Ye Xiao. Does he have such capability?]

"Xiao Xiao..." Song Jue used Ye Xiao's nickname. That meant he was talking to him as his uncle, "Have you been... going through anything special?"

"Special? What special?" Ye Xiao was stunned, "No. I have not."

"But your have improved a lot in cultivation." Song Jue frowned and looked at Ye Xiao, "You can't deny that, can you?"

Ye Xiao rubbed his nose and nodded.

He couldn't lie about that. It was obvious, especially for a sharp person like Song Jue.

If he made an ambiguous statement or a lie right now, he would only embarrass himself.

“You have improved; I am happy to see so. Come on, show me what you’ve got.” Song Jue waved his hand and dragged Ye Xiao to the backyard. While walking, he gave the guards an order, “Guards! Seal the backyard. Nobody gets in.”

“Yes.” Two of the 36 blood guards answered loudly, and then moved away.

Suddenly, the whole house had turned into a highly secure arena. Let alone a living man, even flies couldn’t access it easily.

In the backyard...

“Come on.” Song Jue stood with his hands on the back with an ‘I am a superior cultivator’ attitude. He said casually, “Kid, use your full strength, attack.”

Ye Xiao’s mouth twisted a little.

[What? Full strength? Uncle Song, do you want me to send you to the gods today?

I have taken a huge effort to save your life that day. Do you think you can just give it away so easily, really? Even if you don’t want to live, I won’t agree.]

“Don’t hesitate. Don’t use restraint.” Song Jue thought that Ye Xiao was hesitating, so he encourage him, “Just use your full strength.”

Yet he didn’t know what Ye Xiao exactly was thinking. [Should I still conceal my true strength? Actually, Uncle Song is not a stranger. He has been loyal all along. And he is a sworn brother to my father. He is absolutely on my side...]

Collecting his thoughts, he decided to reveal his true power a little bit, so as to let his men feel relief and stop worrying.

Of course he couldn’t reveal it all... If he was to truly use his full power... even if Song Jue was a supreme master of the Grade of Tianyuan, Ye Xiao could easily send him to hell.

So he nodded and said, “Since so, I will only have to accept it then. But please, Uncle Song, be careful...”

Song Jue laughed as if he had just heard the most hilarious joke. He was amused and smiling, “Don’t worry kid. Even though you’re capable enough to actually hurt me, you’re still over 20 years away from being my opponent.”

Ye Xiao nodded and spoke with admiration, “It turns out that Uncle Song is such a strong superior cultivator. You never show your strength in day to day activities. It is true that the greatest genius often lies concealed.”

Song Jue nodded with satisfaction. He almost smiled his teeth off. He said, “Come on.”

“Ok.”

Ye Xiao answered, and then struck immediately without hesitation.

His body twisted, turning into a whirlwind. - Whoosh! - Only a dim shadow was left.

- SHOOT! -

He was faster than lightning. In an instant, he had already arrived in front of Song Jue.

Seeing the surprising turn of events occurring right in front of his face, Song Jue was terrified and shouted out, "What the fxxk..."

He definitely hadn't expected - not even in his dreams - that his nephew could actually move so fast and his attack would actually be so sharp. He had actually broken the balance of time and space, making an incredible noise by distorting the nearby space.

Song Jue felt that this wasn't ordinary attack, so he quickly operated his qi in order to defend against it.

The most terrible mistake a superior cultivator could make was to underestimate the opponent. And that was what Song Jue had done just now. At this moment, he had fallen into an unexpected situation.

In fact, he shouldn't be blamed for this. He had been weakened a lot because he had been suffering from the Golden Mai Palm. Now he was only at the ninth level of the Grade of Diyu. However, with his true strength, even a cultivator of the Grade of Tianyuan would not be able to defeat him.

And he had been through endless fights, so he was rather experienced in fighting. With all these advantages, it was reasonable for him to be confident while facing an inexperienced Ye Xiao.

At the beginning, he was only thinking about testing Ye Xiao's capability; he never truly wanted to fight against him.

After all, in his mind, the disparity between their capabilities was so massive that he didn't think there was need for him to be cautious.

However, reality had brutally betrayed his expectations.

A test had turned into true combat.

Facing Ye Xiao's sharp attacks, he was forced to fight with utmost concentration. He fought well, but he had made a mistake already forcing him to defend in desperation. Although he had a higher level in cultivation, he couldn't save the situation that was caused by his own casualness.

He had operated his qi in order to resist Ye Xiao's attack. But when the attack came, its strength was beyond his imagination.

His chest suddenly suffered from a variety of strikes. He shouted out once again, "OH FXXK!"

- Pah Pah Pah Pah Pah! -

At that moment, Ye Xiao had struck Song Jue's chest like a metal hammer several hundred times.

And the winner of the combat was quickly decided.

- Shoot! -

Ye Xiao turned over and stood on the ground. He waved his sleeves and stayed still.

- Puff! -

On the other side, Song Jue flew out awkwardly for several meters. - Boom! - And then he stopped once he hit the wall. He stared at his nephew, shocked. His body was plastered on the wall, spread eagle. He finally slid down to the ground like a snake. - Puff. - He collapsed on the floor.

With his mouth hanging open, he was looking at Ye Xiao with astonishment as he murmured, "What... What... What was that? You you you... I... I... I..."

After stuttering for a bit, he coughed. He stood up from the ground, tottering and staring at Ye Xiao as if he was looking at a monster.

He could swear that he had never imagine that Ye Xiao could be so strong.

[What was that?

I was showing how a cultivator stands, and then he attacked, and I fell down like he was crushing dry weeds and smashing rotten wood.

I didn't even have time to react.]

Now he only had one thought, [Shit... That was so embarrassing... People say 'a boat capsizes in a calm sea [1]', yet it was not a boat which capsized; it was a bloody huge ship...]

Ye Xiao laughed and pulled him up. He said, "This martial art, I just learnt it recently. It is called Thunder Thousand Palm. How are you Uncle Song? Are you hurt? Is it sharp, my new martial art?"

Song Jue blushed and murmured, "I was just not fully prepared just now. I was kind of unprepared... If I am well prepared, that would never happen. I was careless... Ahem... Of course, I kind of let loose you... I fell down myself on purpose..."

"Sure. Of course." Ye Xiao said, "Who are you? You are Uncle Song! You must have done that on purpose to make me feel confident. We all know that. No need to speak too much of it. We know that."

Song Jue coughed. He hadn't blushed for decades, yet now he felt his cheeks burning. He said, "However, as young as you are, you have such capability. That's not a normal thing. You are fine. You are good..."

He was wondering, [Thunder Thousand Palm? How come it sounds familiar to me? I seem to have heard of it before...]

He started going through his memories, trying to recollect where he had heard of the Thunder Thousand Palm before. He looked at Ye Xiao, "Well then... Mu Cheng-Bai and the three assassins today, were they killed by you?"

Ye Xiao smiled. He didn't answer the question directly, but said, "Uncle Song, let me walk you back to the house."

He didn't answer the question, but Song Jue understood. He was shocked and then felt gratified. He gave a thumbs up, "Good man. You definitely are the son of Ye Nan-Tian. You have got guts."

And then he waved his hand, "No need to walk with me. I am not that weak. With your low capability, even though you did make me fall over by chance, you could never hurt me."

Ye Xiao nodded, "Of course not. That's obvious."

Song Jue held his head high and walked in front of Ye Xiao like nothing had happened. He said, "By the way, when did you start training that martial art..."

"Not long ago. I was hanging around outside and saved an old man by chance..." BY now, Ye Xiao had become a specialist in making these kind of lies. He had made one in front of Prince Hua-Yang; now he was making another one. "But that old man was so ill. After he taught me a bit of this, he passed away. And then I tried it and felt it to be perfect for me. So I kept cultivating..."

"That is more than not bad. Even I couldn't..." Song Jue stopped hurriedly. He coughed and said like an old sage, "I was nearly defeated by that. It must be something extraordinary... It was your fortune. From now on, you should work harder on it. After working hard for a certain amount of time, you will be improved in an obvious way. You are young. You should accept what you are taught. Do you understand?"

...

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Chapter 80: The Truth About The Demonic Edge

Ye Xiao nodded in agreement.

Song Jue took a breath and continued, "I didn't finish yet. The crown prince had sent an invitation. He wants you to go to the Crown Prince's Palace for dinner tomorrow night... I think it is for the same topic we are discussing right now..."

Ye Xiao thought and nodded, "I know. Don't worry, Uncle Song. If the crown prince dares to do anything to me, I will take care of him and his wife for good. I promise that no one will notice..."

"Take care of them for good..." Song Jue gave him a look filled with hopelessness. He couldn't help but have a coughing fit. He was furious, "You, you... you... Cough, cough,, cough, cough, cough, cough..."

"I am joking..." Ye Xiao quickly played off his previous statement as a joke.

But in fact, he was thinking along the lines of, [Shit! The crown prince and his wife, dirty bitches. They always stand against me. Even if I slaughter them, so what?]

Song Jue was speechless. He said, "Go to the dining room. What to say and what to do, you make your own decisions. You have such capability now. That means you are in the Grade of Diyu at least... Then I can be less worried. But don't you be reckless! You understand? Gosh... I am playing the harp to a cow [1]..."

Ye Xiao grinned cheekily and said, "Relax, Uncle Song. I know the what to do."

"You know shit..." Song Jue murmured before replying, "Fine then. Nothing else now. I need to check on the blood guards. They are always idle. Getting worse and worse now..." He left hurriedly with big paces.

He didn't want to talk to Ye Xiao anymore. [What kind of human is he? Talking about slaughtering a crown prince and killing a crown princess... Shit. Even if you really want to do so, couldn't you just keep it under table...]

And... I was so embarrassed!]

As he walked, his face turned hotter.

[That was truly embarrassing... Am I still the Vital Blade?

I actually got beaten up by a sixteen year old kid with a single wave of attack...

I, I, I... I really should find a tree and hang myself from it...

It is lucky that the kid is my brother's son, not a stranger. Otherwise I have to end my disgraceful like for good...]

He turned around a corner and made sure Ye Xiao wasn't following him. And then he sat on the floor and rubbed his chest, "... Ouch... Bloody hell... That hurt me to death... The little prick was really good. He actually hit on my chest with 178 strikes of the fists... Every hit was the real deal... I almost spat out blood... That seriously hurt... I thought my bones were about to break..."

When rubbing his chest, a blood guard turned around the corner and saw him like that. The guard was shocked, "Chief! What happened to you? Who beat you up?"

He then rushed forward to help Song Jue.

Song Jue blushed and stood up instantly, "You jerk! You are talking nonsense! What do you mean beating me up? In the whole Chen-Xing City, do you really think there is anyone who can beat me up? I was just... feeling a little bit breathless... So I rubbed my chest for a while... Are you blind..."

The guard was confused and stared at him. He stammered, "But... Obviously you looked like you were beaten up... Look at the dirt on your clothes. Even on your butt..."

Song Jue turned angry because he was exposed by the guard. He jumped up, caught the guard's ear and gave it an almighty twist. He was furious, "You bastard. Do you even know how to talk... You, you, you... You are driving me crazy... Come and let me teach you how to be a smart man... You have been a moron most of your life and you are still as stupid as a pig..."

Then he dragged the guard and left.

...

On the other side, Ye Xiao was concentrating on eavesdropping on Song Jue's conversation with the guard. Now that he had caught the conversation, he couldn't stop a delightful smile from appearing on his face. He felt relieved and returned to his room.

Then he took out his Divine Weapon with the Demonic Edge!

"Deep Sea Frigid Metal huh..." He was looking at the 108 needles and 12 knives lying in front of him. He was feeling the coldness being emitted from the weapons and a mysterious smile showed up on his face, "If it really is only the Deep Sea Frigid Metal... how could it possibly exhaust a smithing master's life? Besides there are no tips on these..."

"The Deep Sea Frigid Metal is a precious metal indeed, but how could it possibly contain such power."

“Most importantly, weapons that made from the Deep Sea Frigid Metal could never deserve the title of ‘Divine Weapon with Demonic Edge’! There must be something hidden within these. If I am right...”

He picked up a needle and held it in his hand. He operated the scorching hot power of the East-rising Purple Qi!

Suddenly, his hand became incredibly hot. That cold needle was wrapped inside the heat. Yet, he could still feel a slight coldness emitting from the needle.

That was the speciality of the Deep Sea Frigid Metal.

Yet Ye Xiao didn’t let go of the suspicion in his mind.

So he continued increasing the heat using more power.

Gradually, the whole room became hot like hell.

Finally, a crystal like glow started to show up on the needle. The surface of the needle started to melt and peel off. Its true appearance finally emerged.

Hidden underneath the Deep Sea Frigid Metal exterior was a crystal material, dark like ink but shiny like the stars in the night sky!

When the hidden material showed up, an aura of death that belonged in the depths hell started spreading out slowly. It had an indescribable aura of coldness... That coldness didn’t belonging to the mortal world!

Ye Xiao stared at that special material with his sharp eyes and murmured, “I knew it... It is not the Deep Sea Frigid Metal! Something else is hidden within!”

His eyes were sharp as he looked at the needle in his hand, murmuring, “The aura of slaughtering and destruction can only be emitted by one material in the universe!”

“That is Sky Demonic Steel!”

While he was talking, the surface of the needle had melted completely. The dark and shiny needle was completely uncovered.

A aura of destruction was forming around it.

It was like the demons from hell were ready to do something evil. Once they got a chance, they would keep killing until they slaughtered and swallowed the whole world!

“It is the Sky Demonic Steel!” Ye Xiao felt relieved, “Only something like this could possibly make a smithing master spend all his life to temper it!”

“Only, the aura of death around the Sky Demonic Steel causes it to reject all other metals. Because of this, no other metals could be used to make the tips!”

“The Sky Demonic Steel needed to be covered by the Deep Sea Frigid Metal. If it had remained uncovered and people kept held it long enough, their minds would be affected, turning them into mindless demons!”

“Only the weapons made from the Sky Demonic Steel are qualified enough to be called... the Divine Weapons with Demonic Edge!”

“Now that I have revealed its true face in my hand, it means... I can slaughter the whole universe with these weapons in my hand!”

Ye Xiao took a deep breath.

He held the Demonic Needle in his hand and entered the Spaces.

The Demonic Needle had entered the Spaces with him too. Ye Xiao looked at the small pile of Spiritual Essence of Gold and walked to it without hesitation.

- Shoot! - The Demonic Needle flew into the Spiritual Essence of Gold automatically, it started to glow.

“They are not unfinished. They are fully developed. But... they just need the Spiritual Essence of Gold to sharpen them. Only after that can they become the real Demonic Edge. The Sky Demonic Steel is not suitable for making tips of needles and knives...”

At the moment, the shiny glow on the Demonic Needle had disappeared.

Ye Xiao waved his hand and the needle returned to his hand.

Only this time, the needle had a long and narrow tip.

It was shining a indescribable glow of cold!

The needle was like nature itself with no flaws!

The throwing needle, finished!

“I knew it!” A satisfied look appeared in Ye Xiao’s eyes.

After that, Ye Xiao started to repeat the same process on the other needles. He took a needle and then operated the East-rising Purple Qi to melt the surface, and then he got into the Spaces to create the tip...

Because his cultivation of East-rising Purple Qi was at a low level, he could only work on one needle at a time. As for the 12 knives, as they had a larger size than the needles, he was unable to develop them till now!

Even so, he was rather satisfied!

The ultimate weapon that only existed in the legends was now in his grasp. That was already a huge fortune! Even though he could only develop one at a time, it was good enough for him. He only needed to be patient and spent more time on it and he could naturally get all the needles and knives finished.

“The point is that it could be done!” Ye Xiao rubbed the sweat on his forehead.

While he was operating one after another, the East-rising Purple Qi was becoming purer and purer, sharper and sharper. And its strength seemed to be increasing...

Not long after, he could also create the sharpened edges of the knives!

He was so concentrated on working on the weapons that he didn’t even notice the time flying by.

He also didn't notice that with a large amount of the qi in his body being consumed, the qi in the Spaces was rushing into his Jing and Mai like a tidal wave. As for the purple qi in the universe...

They were continuously replenishing his energy.

During the process, Ye Xiao was extremely focused. That was why he had already reached the rare situation of 'harmony between man and nature'.

Both his spiritual and mental power were increasing rapidly...

He was consuming his energy to unveil all the Divine Weapons with Demonic Edges. The massive amount of qi in the Space was replenishing his energy continuously. That became a delicate cycle. The Spaces seemed to be at a disadvantageous situation, as it kept offering qi without any returns...

Ye Xiao was working in full flow. He didn't know that everyone in the house of Ye felt that it was extraordinarily hot that night...

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