

## The Legendary Man Chapter 526 - 530

### Chapter 526 Conspiracy

“E-Exploded?”

Even someone with rich life experiences like Jonathan was stunned to hear what Andy said. “When you said it’s exploded, do you really mean it? Like ‘boom!’ kinda explosion?”

“Yes, exactly. It happened at the square over there. The moment I saw you fall into the lake when I walked over, the explosion happened!” Andy said while letting out a cough. All of a sudden, blood started leaking from his nose and the corners of his lips. Andy then spewed a mouth of blood. The color instantly drained out of his face.

“What happened?” Jonathan looked at Andy and asked with a frown.

“I have no idea.” Andy wiped the blood from the corners of his lips. “When I was having a tough time identifying the actual location earlier, I heard the bell ringing twice. After sensing the fluctuations of the spiritual energy, I rushed over here. While standing by the door, I heard the bell ringing again. My blood began to surge through my veins, and that’s how I coughed out blood.”

It must be the ringing sound from the bell! What weapon is that? How can it be so powerful?

While Jonathan was still in deep thoughts, his fingers began to shiver.

In just seconds, he felt an agonizing pain all over his body as if an army of ants was nibbling his flesh.

“Argh!” The sudden pain was so intense that he could not help but let out a deep grunt. As Jonathan gradually recovered from the pain, he felt utterly exhausted and lost.

He slowly lifted his hand and gently tapped on his lower jaw. Upon his action, the pain in his body was gone almost immediately.

Jonathan’s action was no different from how Garrison had locked the meridian on his right arm earlier.

Locking the meridians might temporarily relieve his pain, but it would also cut off the connections between the receptors in his nervous system and his brain.

In other words, Jonathan would not know if he had suffered any internal injuries.

After the pain subsided, he could still feel a tingling sensation on his body, but since it was bearable, he did not pay much attention to it.

After helping Andy up, Jonathan turned around and walked toward Torhen Square.

He said to Andy, “Tell me everything that happened after I left.”

Jonathan grabbed Andy’s wrist and activated his limited spiritual energy to inspect Andy’s body.

Andy thought about it and replied, “All right. In less than two hours after you left, Yaleview Army lifted the ban in Yaleview but stopped the troops from entering. That was why I had to change into casual attire and enter the city as a citizen. I managed to find my way here based on the information given by Wilbur.”

“That’s all?” Jonathan released Andy’s wrist and said, “I sensed a shockwave in your energy field, and your meridians are mildly damaged, so avoid using your spiritual energy for a month. You can still cultivate three rotations a day, but not more than that. You should recover after some time.” While Jonathan was explaining, he felt a pulsing

spurt of blood in his throat.

He froze for a moment and knitted his brows before swallowing the fluid lodged in his throat.

“Mr. Goldstein... You...”

Andy seemed to notice something was amiss with Jonathan, but before he could ask, Jonathan shook his head. “I’m fine. I just used up too much energy just now.”

Yet, Jonathan was aware that he had sustained severe internal injuries during the battle.

The golden core he had cultivated had turned dull after he used it to restore his body and protect his meridians. Right then, even his energy field was falling apart.

Jonathan deduced his elixir field was approaching an extremely dangerous threshold when the bell rang for the last time.

If Garrison had been able to ring the bell once more, Jonathan might have died. Even if the latter survived, the bell’s ringing would still destroy his elixir field. Should that happen, Jonathan would never be able to cultivate for the rest of his life.

Jonathan walked up to Sophia, squatted down, and pressed his fingers on her neck. He could tell her pulse was steady.

Just as he had expected, the ancient bell seemed to only work on cultivators. It had no effects on ordinary folk who did not possess spiritual energy.

“Tell us what to do, Mr. Goldstein. Give me the green light, and I’ll immediately inform Hades to gather all his men. In a day, I can get a million soldiers to standby by Yaleview’s borders!” Andy bowed and said to Jonathan.

Everything that had happened in Yaleview had triggered those in Asura’s Office.

Those in Asura’s Office would never tolerate or go easy on those who tried to trick and harm Jonathan.

Besides Jonathan, all Eight Kings of War in Asura’s Office had also decided to revolt!

After all, everything that had happened in Yaleview showed that the authorities of the place were no longer qualified to be the leaders of Chanaea.

Not only did the respectable families intervene in the city’s governance, but businesspeople also worked closely with governmental officials. In other words, corrupted practices had infiltrated the administration.

Ever since Asura’s Office had appointed Eight Kings of War to rule their respective territories, the entire Chanaea remained peaceful except for Yaleview.

“You shouldn’t say that. Don’t say that anymore,” Jonathan responded with a sigh.

“Don’t you forget, Asura’s Office was established to end all the wars. If we were to launch a civil war against Yaleview, regardless of whether we could achieve victory, we would risk sacrificing the lives of millions of soldiers. Besides, Remdik in the north, Jetroina in the south, and Ibica in the west might take advantage of the chaos and invade us, since their military force is ever ready,” Jonathan explained.

He then continued, “Chanaea has just defeated the rebels in less than a year. If we were to start a civil war, we would all suffer regardless of the outcome. If that happens, the foreign powers can easily intrude on Chanaea. The instability in the country would put us in a disadvantageous position.”

Upon hearing that, Andy gritted his teeth. “But Mr. Goldstein, those in Yaleview have gone overboard. For your information, they have wiped out three nodes from Asura’s

Office intel networks. I'm sure Office of Government Affairs is up to no good."

"How many men did we lose in that three nodes?" Jonathan turned around and asked Andy.

Andy took a deep breath and said solemnly, "We lost touch with a total of one hundred and seventeen men, so we have no idea if they're dead or alive!"

"How many spies did we station in Yaleview?"

"Almost eight thousand."

Jonathan thought about it and ordered, "Tell them not to get in touch with the Intelligence Bureau and destroy all the information they have gathered. From now on, all our spy agents in Yaleview must stop collecting data."

Andy's expression turned grim when he heard Jonathan's instruction.

It took Asura's Office more than two years to send those eight thousand agents to Yaleview. These agents were involved in various sectors, prominent families, governmental organizations, and other industries. They had already established a comprehensive intel network, providing Asura's Office with a vast amount of intel reports.

If they were to stop what the agents were doing, the effort Asura's Office had put in in the last two years would be in vain.

"Mr. Goldstein, are you planning to ditch all the eight thousand agents?"

"I'm not ditching them. I'm trying to save their lives."

Jonathan could not help but feel downhearted when he remembered Agent 018, whom he had called earlier.

Agent 018 was the one who had sent him the address of the Osborne residence.

Jonathan was aware that Agent 018 might have already died by then.

"Joshua's plan in Yaleview is slowly taking shape, and if those agents are to continue investigating Joshua, they might lose their lives."

Jonathan walked to the middle of the Great Torhen and picked up a thumb-sized bell from a pool of blood.

"Yaleview is no longer fighting us in the dark. When Wilbur led a six-hundred-thousand troop to fight against me and prevent me from entering Yaleview, I knew we couldn't rely on schemes and conspiracies. It's time to take them on head-on."

#### Chapter 527 Tripartite Confrontation

After listening to Jonathan's words, Andy fell silent.

The Eight Kings of War, with Hades as the leader, wanted to support Jonathan and create a new order.

Meanwhile, Yaleview had always been the symbol of authority within Chanaea since it was the ancient capital.

No matter who held the authorities within Chanaea, they had to obtain Yaleview first.

This time, Jonathan ordered them to pull out all their informants in Yaleview, which also meant that he gave up on the plans they had for Yaleview.

Although this decision could stabilize the current state of affairs in Chanaea, implementing Jonathan's order would instantly change everything in the country.

Within Chanaea, three separate forces were restraining and keeping each other in check—respectable families, the Office of Government Affairs, and Asura's Office.

Among them, respectable families had a long-standing history and exceeded

materialistic restraints. They did not have a fixed order and base and functioned as a huge and complex union formed through mutual benefits.

After so much time had passed, these respectable families had a new tacit understanding. They controlled the regime and did not intervene in the ruling process. Placed at the top of the social class in the country, they controlled many aspects of Chanaea. This included the monopoly of base industries that involved clothing, food, and shelter, which were essentials for people.

For these people, respectable families were invisible vampires who constantly took from the commoners using reason and law.

End of the day, these respectable families were just very good business people.

For many years, these respectable families monopolized many industries in society. Since the industrial revolution a hundred years ago, no new respected family was allowed to join this circle.

Although there was competition among respectable families, these rivalries were kept at a reasonable level.

They were big shots that loomed over society, yet they still had to rely on the public to survive.

Ironically, they were the top predators and arrogant, but they somehow wanted society to develop peacefully for a long time.

Meanwhile, excluding the huge and complex benefit-based union formed by respectable families, the other two forces were Asura's Office and the Office of Government Affairs. Office of Government Affairs was Chanaea's image and reputation, in charge of announcing all internal and external matters.

Although the Office of Government Affairs had many members of respectable families, and they were loyal to those families, the Office of Government Affairs remained orthodox and an independent entity due to its unique status.

Furthermore, the Office of Government Affairs gained more authority after Joshua began governing Chanaea in recent years.

It was also the reason why Asura's Office spent more than two years investing a great deal and planting spies in Yaleview.

In the past, the Office of Government Affairs was controlled by respectable families, and government officials became those families' tools to manage Chanaea.

However, Joshua popped out of nowhere and began changing the Office of Government Affairs' objectives. He wasn't even afraid of the members of respectable families. Someone like that was not a simpleton.

What worried Asura's Office's Eight Kings of War was Wilbur's six-hundred-thousand-men army in Yaleview.

Even the commander-in-chief from the Office of Government Affairs, who first suggested forming the Yaleview Army, could not have expected this. The army conscription had rickrolled a whopping six hundred thousand men.

At present, Wilbur's troops and equipment were all lacking in comparison to the million soldiers under Asura's Office.

However, Jonathan also said that everything had changed the moment Wilbur blocked and ordered the shot at Jonathan at Yaleview's border.

A deterrence through military prowess was like a nuclear bomb that would destroy

everything.

If one party had ten thousand bombs, and the other only had a hundred bombs, the difference of ninety-nine thousand nine hundred bombs was still useless because the results were the same—both sides still had to suffer.

The decision to call back these spies seemed as if Jonathan was compromising to avoid confrontation with Yaleview.

However, the truth was this was only the beginning of the opposition.

In the past, Asura's Office had to be wary of Yaleview's image despite its strength. Even if they obeyed military orders but did not obey the summons, they were one level lower than Yaleview's Office of Government Affairs' status on the surface.

However, these two were no longer in a superior-subordinate relationship from then on. While looking at Jonathan, Andy understood that it would be war the next time they returned to Yaleview after leaving now.

Jonathan's retreat was to suppress the current conflict temporarily. However, this matter was like a spring. The harder the compression force, the stronger it would rebound. War would arrive soon.

"Mr. Goldstein, we have some superficial informants in Yaleview other than the spies we planted. How should we deal with them?" Andy asked slowly after taking in a deep breath.

"Superficial informants? What exactly did Hades arrange in Yaleview?" Jonathan frowned and looked at Andy.

Andy recollected his memories and answered, "Mr. Goldstein, Yaleview is the Office of Government Affairs' territory and is protected by Yaleview Army. Two years ago, when Asura's Office was established, Hades was responsible for constructing the Intelligence Bureau. The first thing he did was to send a large number of people to Yaleview. They were divided into two groups. There were spies tasked with collecting key information, assassinations, and such, and superficial informants who collected low-grade information. Although superficial informants were required to hide their identities, too, the information protection level of their identities was only grade B. In other words, they are baits."

When Jonathan heard the word "baits," his expression turned solemn.

It was simple. These people simply existed as a smokescreen to cover for the spies so the latter could work better.

The personnel protection level was divided into five grades, S, A, B, C, and D.

Personnel in grade B was required to hide their identities but did not have a deep understanding of their organization. They also did not have direct contact with the organization.

This kind of personnel could be easily found out if the opposition party put all its effort into the investigation.

"How many baits like this were sent out? How many were sacrificed?" Jonathan asked in a low voice.

Andy answered, "There was a total of thirty thousand people. The mortality accumulated to roughly four thousand five hundred. Mr. Goldstein, we could only adopt this method two years ago since Asura's Office was newly established, and we had no foundation in Yaleview—"



“You don’t have to explain. I understand.” Jonathan opened his mouth and interrupted Andy. “Pass along the order. Handle these superficial informants as if they had been exposed. Everyone has to report to Yalegard Legion. You’ll be in charge of taking them in.”

“Huh? I have to take in all twenty thousand people?” Once Andy heard Jonathan’s orders, he was slightly dazed.

“Not for you. Register them in the records and then divide them into eight groups for the Eight Kings of War to lead into your respective territories.” Jonathan sighed. “Send those who were willing to continue serving to the firefighting department. For those who want to retire, pay them two times the decommission pay.”

Andy seemed to have understood something from Jonathan’s words and had a sad look in his eyes. “Mr. Goldstein, they’re carefully selected people.”

Jonathan flashed a smile at Andy. “I don’t doubt their excellence and loyalty, but these twenty thousand people had lived in Yaleview for two years. There must be some who had been bribed over. They were people who dedicated their lives to us, so I don’t want to investigate them in detail. The best choice is to give them a relatively peaceful life.”

#### Chapter 528 A New Situation

Jonathan and Andy remained silent at Moonriver Estate.

As one of the Eight Kings, Andy had fought on the battlefield for over a decade.

Jonathan rose to prominence three years ago and had been suppressing numerous armies of rebellion since.

Even so, the battles Andy had fought before that were far more terrifying.

Without Jonathan’s direct methods, they had to resort to all sorts of other strategies, such as decapitation, counterintelligence, divide and conquer, torturing, and so on.

When it came to wars, an ordinary citizen’s worst fear would probably be death.

However, to a soldier, the fear brought upon by death was nothing compared to the mental torment one might experience.

The most agonizing task of all was to infiltrate an opponent’s army as a spy.

One who was given such a job would live on the verge of death every day, for a mere slip of the tongue could easily lead to one’s demise.

Yet, the worst that could happen wasn’t during the mission itself—it was when soldiers would return to their teams after completing their tasks.

All the applause and flowers they received upon return were but temporary, for they would then be subject to countless inspections and examinations for many years to come.

Not only did they have to remain vigilant at all times while inside their enemies’ base, but they would also end up under the surveillance of their own allies every day after returning. The army would also gradually marginalize them on the grounds of vacation, fearing that they had already been bought over by their enemies.

To have to guard oneself against one’s opponents while being suspected by one’s own allies—such was a spy’s inevitable fate.

A brief moment of weakness could send many outstanding informants spiraling into endless cycles of self-doubt.

In fact, rather than die by their enemies’ hands, they would often pull the trigger on themselves as a result of being called into question by their own teammates.

Those eligible to become informants were usually the most loyal and brilliant soldiers an army could have.

It would definitely be a pity to only place them in charge of maintaining public order. Still, Andy knew that not inspecting them was the best outcome for them.

A flurry of footsteps resonated outside the garden, and the two looked out to see a group of men running in. They wore white robes over their military uniform.

"It's the Yallegard Legion's medical team. It's not that Wilbur doesn't let me bring anyone in. I just can't bring that many," Andy explained as he watched the soldiers run toward him.

"Mr. Goldstein, I remember you telling us about Wilbur Xanthos. You said he fired at you, and then he let you in. Now, you're part of the medical team. What on earth is he up to? Could it be that he's still thinking about the old times when you both used to work together, but he has orders to follow from the Office of Government Affairs?"

Andy's comment made Jonathan smile faintly. "The old times? Please. Wilbur can't wait for me to kick the bucket. He'd gain real military power only after I die."

"Then, why is he..." Andy didn't understand.

Jonathan unleashed the remaining spiritual energy inside his elixir field with a gesture of a hand. Then, turning the energy into thousands of threads, he lifted Sophia off the ground and placed her on the stretcher the medics had laid down next to her.

"These are some really serious injuries, so be careful. Take her straight to Jadeborough and have Zachary tend to her," Jonathan instructed as he glanced at Sophia's ashen face.

The medical team asked both men about their injuries before leaving.

Then, Jonathan turned to Andy.

"Wilbur wants me to die, but not now. If my guess is correct, he wants me to die at the right time."

Andy was taken aback.

Given that he was one of the Eight Kings of War—a man of prolific experience—it only took a brief moment for realization to dawn on him.

"Mr. Goldstein, are you saying that Wilbur..."

Trailing off, the older man extended his right hand and turned his palm over, his actions self-explanatory.

Instead of answering the question, Jonathan patted him lightly on the shoulder.

"Don't think too much about the other stuff. Just do as I've told you. By the way, gather every member of Quinten Xydias' family, and leave not a single person out. Anyone who dares lay a finger on my family won't be spared."

"Yes, sir!" Andy replied with a salute. "What about you, Mr. Goldstein? If you're planning to leave Yaleview, allow me to take care of that."

Such arrangements weren't unreasonable, considering the city's current situation. The man had seen Jonathan get severely injured with his own eyes, after all.

Hence, he believed that the best option now would be to escort Jonathan out of Yaleview.

The latter naturally knew what Andy was thinking but shook his head after feeling his own injuries.

"Carry on with your duties. I have some other things to take care of."

Later, every core Goldstein family member gathered inside the conference hall of the

Goldstein residence and stared grimly at Jonathan.

"I believe I've made myself clear. All of you seated here are considered my elders if we were to go by the family hierarchy, so speak your minds," the young man announced while seated in the very front.

"We object!" an elderly man responded with a shaky voice as he stood up with the aid of a cane. "I know you're all staying quiet because you're afraid of Jonathan, so let me be the first one to speak. I object to this!"

Jonathan turned to the old man. "I suppose I should be addressing you as Granduncle Simon."

"Why, I wouldn't dare refer to myself as Asura's granduncle!" Simon huffed while striking the ground with his cane. "You must think you can do whatever you want to us now that you're Asura, huh? But don't forget that you're part of the family too! Without the Goldsteins, you would've never become what you are today!"

Jonathan chuckled blandly. "You're right. If you guys hadn't kicked me out of the household back then, I sure wouldn't have realized how disgustingly cold-hearted you humans could be, and I certainly wouldn't have become the person I am today. That's why I intend to repay you guys for the humiliation you caused me all those years ago. I'm also asking you to get out of Yaleview because blood is thicker than water. You might actually die if you don't leave."

"Die?" the old man sneered. "We wouldn't be in this predicament if you hadn't crossed the Osborne family! You started this whole mess!"

"That's true! He p\*ssed the Osbornes off, and now he's acting like our savior!"

"Exactly. I'd say he just wants to move us all away so he can split the family assets between Sophia and himself."

"We can't give him what he wants! Our family has worked too hard to get to where we are today. How could we give up just like that?"

The hall was now in an uproar thanks to Simon, and the several dozens of core Goldstein family members began to question Jonathan. It was as though they had completely forgotten how he had saved them when they were kidnapped.

"Jonathan, I bet you and Sophia are conspiring to make us give up our family assets worth hundreds of billions! The Goldstein family doesn't belong to you alone! Now that we're all here today, you'll never be able to—"

Thwack!

Following a loud noise, the young man who had just spoken was suddenly sent flying before crashing to the ground with a mouthful of blood and broken teeth.

"How dare you attack a family member in front of everyone like this? What has become of the Goldstein family rules?" Simon roared.

"I'm educating him," Jonathan responded frostily while turning to the old man.

"According to the family rules, he should be referring to Sophia as Aunt Sophia."

#### Chapter 529 The Goldstein Family No Longer Exists

After hearing Jonathan's words, the elderly man was at a loss for words.

"You..." he stammered as his body trembled violently.

Someone quickly held him so he wouldn't fall.

"Jonathan, this is your grandpa's brother. How could you be rude to him? Where are your manners?" another man yelled at Jonathan.



Alas, all he got was an icy glare from Jonathan.

“Manners? Who are you to talk about manners to me?” He snorted icily. “I asked you to come for a discussion as I didn’t want to humiliate you. Do you think you’re that important? You want to talk about rules, huh? Let’s talk about the Goldstein family’s rules. According to the Goldstein family’s rules, those who aren’t direct descendants shouldn’t interfere with the direct descendants’ core decisions. My grandpa is the patriarch of the direct descendants. My father might be dead, but my Uncle Tommy is still in charge. My Aunt Sophia shall be in charge if he isn’t in charge. As she’s currently in the hospital, I, Jonathan Goldstein, will take over the position. No matter what, the position won’t be left in your hands as you’re from one of the branches. Am I right?” Hearing his words, the Goldstein family members slowly fell silent.

At their reaction, Jonathan chuckled. “Let’s talk about moving the entire family to Bonham Island. If I were to say it another way by announcing that I’m moving the family’s headquarters to the island, that would be part of the direct descendants’ core decisions. What right do you have to object to my decision? I’m not lying when I say the Osborne family has just begun their revenge. Death would come knocking on your door soon if you were to stay in Yaleview. I shall give each family a mansion if you agree to move to Bonham Island. I won’t press you to give up the money you have now. The Goldstein family is worth hundreds of billions. As core members, you are in possession of assets worth billions. That’s enough for you to lead a worry-free life. Of course, if you insist on staying and keeping watch over your assets, I can’t force you to leave.”

After a pause to let that sink in, he added, “After I leave Yaleview today, I shall announce that I have nothing to do with the Yaleview Goldsteins anymore. From now on, we shall go on separate ways. Whether you survive or die has nothing to do with me. Do as you see fit.”

Ignoring their outbursts, Jonathan got to his feet and strode out of the house.

“Jonathan...” someone called out hesitantly behind him.

Jonathan turned over his shoulder and spotted his uncle, Tommy.

“What is it?” he asked coolly as he wasn’t close to Tommy at all.

After all, Tommy had contributed to his getting kicked out of the Goldstein family.

Tommy forced a smile when he realized how indifferent Jonathan was.

“Your grandma and I will head to Bonham Island as you say,” he revealed.

“That’s great. You’ll be safer there,” Jonathan said with a nod.

“Er... How is your Aunt Sophia doing?” A flash of anguish appeared in Tommy’s eyes when he mentioned Sophia’s name.

Tommy and his two siblings were the direct descendants of the Goldstein family.

Following Jonathan’s father’s death, Sophia was abducted and went missing. As the second sibling of the family, he was involved in the power struggle all his life but was still alive and well.

“Aunt Sophia got hurt, so I arranged for her to get treated.”

Jonathan felt terrible when he saw Tommy’s anguished expression.

“I’ll send her your address on Bonham Island. However, it depends on her whether or not she wants to pay you a visit,” he added.

“All right. Thank you!” Tommy choked up. “I’m sorry, Jonathan. Back then, I—”

“Stop,” Jonathan cut in. “As I said, I won’t be who I am today without the past.”

Half a day after martial law was lifted in Yaleview, the entire Yaleview descended into

an uproar.

The Yaleview Goldsteins released an announcement saying that they would leave Yaleview forever. They weren't just moving their headquarters out of Yaleview, for they were giving up all their assets in Yaleview.

Someone who was in the know leaked news that the Yaleview Goldsteins were also liquidating their assets outside Yaleview.

Despite being the most influential family in all of Chanaea, the Goldstein family was backing out of the corporate world.

Once the news broke, it immediately ended as a trending topic.

The public made wild guesses regarding the Goldstein family's sudden decision.

However, the Goldstein family didn't respond and maintained a mysterious air about their act.

The Office of Government Affairs was in utter chaos. However, it wasn't the Goldstein family's fault; it was because of the Xydias family.

Quinten's family, the Xydias family, was initially just an ordinary family.

However, the Osborne family took an interest in them and helped them rise through the ranks. They were now a family that was second to the prominent families.

Quinten was now the director of the Department of Transportation. It was a pretty lucrative job.

Thus, everyone in the Office of Government Affairs clamored to butter up to him.

Alas, this afternoon, a fire broke out in the Xydias residence. Over one hundred and fifty members of the Xydias family, including the elderly people and women, died in the fire.

According to intel, these people were dead before the fire broke out.

There were two interlocked daggers stained with blood placed at the entrance of the Xydias residence.

No one admitted to it, but everyone knew that it was Asura's Office's signature.

Finally, Jonathan was taking action in Yaleview.

Joshua was reading some information on his tablet in a small garden in Zedfield.

"Commander, this is all the information I got of the Xydias family," a young man reported.

Joshua's face was devoid of expression as he saw the photos showing the corpses burned to a crisp in the Xydias residence.

"During his previous visit to Yaleview, he only dared to kick the Maxwell family out. Now, he had wiped out an entire clan. It looks like Jonathan is pretty upset this time. Good job."

"Thank you for giving me a chance, Commander," the young man responded quickly.

He straightened his back after hearing Joshua's praise.

Joshua returned the tablet to him. "Enough. Being too humble will make you look like a hypocrite. By the way, how is Wilbur faring?"

"Commander, Lieutenant General Xanthos lifted the martial law after receiving your order. But..." he trailed off.

"But what?" Joshua lifted his head to glance at the young man.

"Commander, I can't be sure." The young man seemed stumped. "Your order stated that soldiers aren't allowed entry to Yaleview, but Wilbur allowed Andy and a medical team entry. I think—"

Before the young man could elaborate further, Joshua raised his arm to stop him.

“Enough. You may leave now. Keep an eye on Yaleview these few days and let me know if anything happens.”

“Yes!” the young man responded politely despite his confusion at being cut short.

Turning around, he walked out of the garden. At the door, he bumped into a man with a scar on his face.

It was none other than Wilbur!

### Chapter 530 Exchanging Strikes

The young man was taken aback to see Wilbur here.

“Lieutenant General Xanthos...” he greeted carefully.

The young man recalled how he was cut short earlier as panic flashed across his gaze.

Wilbur chuckled gaily. “Why are you looking at me this way?”

As his lips curled, the scar on his face turned more menacing. Anyone would shiver in fright at the sight.

“Are you feeling guilty as I caught you badmouthing me behind my back?” Wilbur burst out laughing.

The young man paled instantly as cold sweat trickled down his face.

Behind him, someone placed a hand on his shoulder lightly.

“What are you doing? Won’t you go back to work?”

Hearing the reminder, the young man lost his balance as though he had just been dragged out of the water. He leaned against the wall and panted heavily.

Wilbur glanced at Joshua and raised his right hand to give him a casual salute.

“Commander, there’s no need for you to welcome me personally. I don’t deserve it.

Your subordinate is quite interesting, huh? He can’t take a joke.”

The young man stood straight and tamped down his fear to force a smile after hearing Wilbur’s teasing words.

Joshua gave a perfunctory chuckle. “He’s young, but you’re the commander of Yaleview Army, in charge of six hundred thousand soldiers. Even I have to show respect for you, so obviously, he’s afraid of you.”

The smile on Wilbur’s lips froze when he heard Joshua’s words.

He quickly shook his head. “Commander, please don’t joke around. You were the one who appointed me. Even though I have military control, you can take it back anytime.”

“You’re right when you said it was a joke.” Joshua spun on his heels and entered the garden. “Besides, where else could I get such a capable commander if I were to fire you?”

After Joshua heard Wilbur’s reply, his lips curled as a murderous look glinted across his eyes.

They walked to the table, where Joshua poured two cups of tea.

“Have a seat. Try this expensive tea. I only got a little of them this year and rarely drink them. You got lucky today.”

After taking a seat, Wilbur accepted the cup of tea from Joshua. Instead of drinking it, he placed the cup aside.

Seeing that, Joshua sat down and sipped on his tea. He then shot Wilbur a smile.

“You rarely visit me. There must be a reason for you to pay me a visit today. Tell me. What is it about?”

Hearing Joshua’s question, Wilbur hesitated briefly before revealing, “Commander, you

must've heard about the two big news in Yaleview today. First, the Goldstein family is withdrawing from Yaleview and won't interfere in the prominent families' business anymore. Also, over one hundred family members of the Xydias family had been massacred. There were two crossed daggers placed at the door, so it should be Jonathan's doing."

"Yes, I've heard about both matters." Joshua bobbed his head. "They are slightly tricky matters. For the time being, we must focus on maintaining peace, especially within the Office of Government Affairs. We can't let anyone panic. I can handle the politicians, but you and your Yaleview Army have to handle the pressure outside."

While Joshua spoke, he shot Wilbur a pointed look and placed emphasis on his last few words.

Across from him, Wilbur stared at the flowers afar idly as though he didn't notice Joshua's stare.

"Commander, your Intelligence Bureau isn't doing its job well. Let me tell you something you don't know," Wilbur said in an impassive voice as he looked into the distance.

Joshua's hands froze, and he placed the cup he was holding back on the table.

"That sounds interesting. Is there anything in Yaleview that escaped my notice?" he drawled.

To a leader, intel meant power and control.

They had been testing each other since Wilbur's arrival. Wilbur was about to strike once again.

"You're the commander-in-chief, so many things require your attention every day. Of course you can't think of everything. After assuming your position, instead of using the old intelligence system, you trained your own team," Wilbur said as he turned over his shoulder to look at Joshua.

"Commander, kids like that young man are inexperienced and will expose themselves easily," he declared.

Joshua's face turned dark after he heard what Wilbur had to say.

The latter was obviously telling him that the man he sent to monitor his every move had been exposed.

Joshua had no choice but to keep his misery to himself.

"Rookies have their advantages. I won't have to worry when I use the men I trained myself," he responded. Snorting, he added, "You have other intel, right? Why are you being mysterious? Be frank with me."

Taking in Joshua's icy expression, Wilbur grinned. "Garrison from the Osborne family is dead. He's a God Realm expert."

The news caused Joshua's heart to sink to the bottom of his stomach. Shocked, he held his breath and asked, "Did Jonathan do it?"

"I'm not sure about that." Wilbur's brows snapped together. "I can only confirm that Jonathan went to Moonriver Estate and attacked Garrison and that Garrison died. However, I'm not sure if Jonathan killed him or something else happened."

Those as powerful as Wilbur had a habit—they never infer the result with little information.

Back when Jonathan arrived at Yaleview, Wilbur exchanged a few moves with the former to sound him out.

Jonathan didn't unleash his full potential, but Wilbur knew they had similar strengths. A

God Realm martial artist could easily escape if he were to run into a capable opponent. There was no way Garrison would be killed easily. However, all that was left of Garrison at the scene was a puddle of a bloody mess. Jonathan was a horrifying presence if he was the one behind Garrison's death. Deep down, Joshua was plagued with conflicted emotions. Previously, he ordered his subordinate to set a trap for Sophia. He wanted to use her to sow discord between Jonathan and the Osborne family so they would be at odds. No one knew that Jonathan was ruthless enough to kill Garrison in a horrible manner. Things did not pan out the way Joshua had imagined. A God Realm martial artist was dead. It wasn't just between the Osborne family and Jonathan now. To protect their family's pride and profit, the Osborne family would definitely do their very best to teach Jonathan a lesson as a warning to the entire world. The results of his plan were beyond his initial expectation. Joshua was ecstatic to hear that, but he did not show the joy on his face. The Osbourne family restrained Jonathan, but Wilbur was a massive threat to him. "It's good news for the Office of Government Affairs," Joshua said cheerfully. "Looks like my intel about the Osborne family is lacking behind compared to the Yaleview Army. If that's the case, let me share a few intel with you that you might be interested in," he offered. "Commander, there isn't much intel that I'm interested in," Wilbur replied with a grin. Hearing that, Joshua dipped his finger in his tea and drew an "X" on the table. "Aren't you interested in intel about Asura's Office?"