

Myth Beyond 1971

Chapter 1971 The Price Of Power (1)

Yun Lintian didn't answer the question right away. Instead, he asked, "Who is your current superior?"

"It's General Song Wanjun," Yang Zicheng replied with a puzzled expression.

"Old Man Song is still working?" Yun Lintian was slightly surprised.

"Yes. He is about to retire this year," Yang Zicheng explained. "Why did you ask this?"

"Since you've been working under Old Man Song, do you know he tried to recruit me to the army many times?" Yun Lintian inquired.

"I've heard about it," Yang Zicheng responded.

"Do you know why I refused him?" Yun Lintian asked further.

"I don't know," Yang Zicheng admitted. "Freedom, I guess?"

He was aware of Yun Lintian's astonishing record on the battlefield. He also felt it would be a pity for Yun Lintian to be a mercenary instead of joining the army.

"Freedom is one thing," Yun Lintian nodded slightly. "Let me ask you another question. What would you do if Old Man Song ordered you to attack me?"

Yang Zicheng's brow furrowed deeply at the question. He pondered momentarily before truthfully answering, "I would do it. A military order cannot be disobeyed."

"Do you see the difference between you, a soldier, and a killer here?" Yun Lintian inquired with a faint smile.

Yang Zicheng opened his mouth, speechless. In a way, the line between soldier and killer seemed almost nonexistent. Both eliminated targets to complete missions.

"The difference is, a soldier has a license to kill," Yun Lintian explained calmly. "Their actions can be disguised under the guise of national security. However, to me, they are simply sanctioned killers."

Yang Zicheng frowned in disagreement. "You're wrong. We do everything to protect the country's interests."

"Killers also act in their employers' interests," Yun Lintian countered with a faint smile. "More importantly, they have the option to refuse a mission, unlike you."

"Even if your superior orders the elimination of children deemed terrorists, you'd be forced to comply, facing punishment for refusal."

Yang Zicheng fell silent, unable to refute the truth in Yun Lintian's words.

"Why are you bringing this up?" he inquired, confused. It didn't seem relevant to their plan against the Zhu family.

Lynn couldn't help but interject. "He's implying Zhu Tianlong will soon send troops to attack him."

Yang Ningchang shot him a cold glare. "Don't even think about it. Understood?"

Yang Zicheng shuddered. "I'm a man of honor, sister. Don't go throwing accusations."

Yang Ningchang scoffed. "I'll be watching you."

Yang Zicheng's shoulders slumped in defeat. His dreams were dashed before they even took flight.

"Let's head back," Yun Lintian said, preparing to leave.

"Is there anything I can do, brother-in-law?" Yang Zicheng asked attentively.

"Just tell Old Man Song I apologize for the inconvenience," Yun Lintian said with a playful smile. "He'll have to bear with it for a while."

He then waved his hand, vanishing with Lynn and Yang Ningchang in a blink.

This finally explained to Yang Zicheng how Yun Lintian and Lynn had bypassed the manor's security.

Taking a deep breath, he muttered worriedly, "I hope the leader's heart can handle this."

"Hello, we're here for maintenance. This is our permit." A strong man in safety gear approached a security guard at the community where Yun Lintian's villa was.

The security guard scrutinized the permit before glancing at the man and the others in the van. He returned the document and said, "Alright, you're good to go, brother."

"Thanks, brother. Have a good day," the strong man replied with a smile before climbing back into the van and driving off.

Watching the van disappear into the community, the security guard sighed and returned to his post.

Inside the van, the atmosphere turned serious. "What's the situation?" the strong man asked solemnly.

"The target's villa is isolated," the middle-aged man on the passenger seat responded, his finger hovering over a laptop displaying a 3D model of Yun Lintian's villa. "It's surrounded by a park and lake. We can attack from the front or back."

The strong man considered this for a moment. "Let's go straight for the bomb," he decided.

The middle-aged man nodded. "We have enough to level the entire villa."

"Excellent. Let's move out," the strong man said, quietly parking the van a short distance from Yun Lintian's villa.

"Here we go," Yun Lintian spoke inside the villa, his spiritual sense observing everything unfold.

Chapter 1972 The Price Of Power (2)

"Let me handle this, Boss," Lei Hao stretched his neck, eager for a fight. He had just broken through to the first level of the Foundation Profound Realm and craved testing his newfound strength.

"No," Yun Lintian shook his head. "Bullets would overpower you at your current level. Besides, we won't engage them."

Turning to Nantian Fengyu, he asked, "Are you ready, Fifth Sister?"

Nantian Fengyu puffed out her chest confidently. "Don't worry, your fifth sister's a top streamer now. Taking a video is a breeze."

Lei Hao was taken aback. "Boss, are you planning on...?"

Yun Lintian smiled. "It's alright. We can rebuild the villa. It's no big deal."

"Are you certain?" Yang Ningchang asked worriedly. She understood the villa's significance to Yun Lintian.

"I'll explain later," Yun Lintian offered a reassuring smile.

"Okay," Yang Ningchang nodded gently.

"Let's go, Fifth Sister," Yun Lintian said.

"Don't forget a generous gift and a like," Nantian Fengyu said with mock seriousness before disappearing.

Yun Lintian was momentarily speechless.

Meanwhile, the strong man and his team swiftly spread out and began planting bombs around the villa. They remained oblivious as their actions were broadcast live on Nantian Fengyu's stream.

Nantian Fengyu pointed her camera at the shadowy figures, her voice trembling. "Chat, what should I do? These people seem to be targeting my junior brother's villa."

Comments flooded the chat.

[Holy cow! What are those things? Bombs maybe?]

[Why do they look like soldiers?]

[Hold on! Soldiers wouldn't do something like this!]

[Run, Sister Phoenix! Those are definitely bombs!]

[Police are already on their way!]

Nantian Fengyu glanced at the chat with a grin, feigning panic. "Oh no! A good hacker friend just sent me information about these people. Let's see it, everyone."

She then skillfully displayed several photos containing detailed information about the Crimson Guard members.

The comments went wild.

[The Crimson Guard? Our country's elite squad?!]

[I knew it! Soldiers!]

[Why are they attacking Sister Phoenix's junior brother?]

"Refuse?" Zhu Tianlong roared, his temper flaring.

"They seem fearless," Qu Yin admitted. "They claim they won't remove the stream unless we produce a warrant."

A sense of unease settled over Qu Yin; this situation felt far from ordinary.

"Li Zong?" Zhu Tianlong pondered. "Besides him, who would dare defy me?"

"Possibly," Qu Yin said hesitantly. "Should we abort the mission, sir?"

"What are you waiting for?" Zhu Tianlong bellowed. "Find out everything about this woman. I want her entire background on my desk, now!"

"Yes, sir!" Qu Yin acknowledged promptly and hurried out.

Zhu Tianlong rubbed his temples, a tired sigh escaping his lips. How Nantian Fengyu obtained such detailed, supposedly confidential information about the Crimson Guard was a complete mystery.

The sudden ring of a phone jolted him from his thoughts. His expression darkened as he recognized a harbinger of bad news.

Taking a deep breath, Zhu Tianlong answered the call.

Before a word could escape his lips, a powerful voice boomed from the other end. "I trust you have a compelling reason for this. Come see me."

The line went dead. A click. Zhu Tianlong hung up, his face a mask of forced calm.

Another ring pierced the silence, this time from his pocket. Zhu Tianlong answered, his voice dripping with icy anger. It was his grandson.

"Grandpa, is it true? Is Yun Lintian still alive?" Zhu Ding's voice crackled through the receiver the moment the connection was established.

"Stay there," Zhu Tianlong commanded coldly. "Don't get involved. Understand?"

"But how is this possible?" Zhu Ding sputtered, disbelief lacing his voice.

"That's all you need to know. Don't cause me any more trouble." Zhu Tianlong ended the call abruptly.

He inhaled deeply and strode out of the room, a heavy weight settling on his shoulders.

Meanwhile, Zhu Ding slammed the phone down, his face contorted in a grotesque mix of confusion and fury. Images of him emptying his gun into Yun Lintian's body flashed through his mind. He was certain Yun Lintian had died...so how was he back?

Haunted by the possibility of Yun Lintian's revenge, Zhu Ding couldn't stay idle. He snatched his phone and dialed a number. "Get the men ready. We're leaving for Hangzhou now."

The Crimson Guard members finished planting the bombs and readied themselves to withdraw.

However, their communicators crackled to life with an unexpected order from their superior: "Abort the mission."

The strong man furrowed his brow in confusion and signaled his team. Orders were orders, and they had no choice but to comply.

Just as they were about to turn back, a thunderous explosion ripped through the air.

BOOM!

Chapter 1973 The Price Of Power (3)

BOOM!

A guttural roar ripped through the air, followed by a blinding flash of orange that momentarily turned the gorgeous villa into an inferno. Glass shattered everywhere, the tinkling a death knell for the manor's tranquility.

The impact hurled the Crimson Guard members backward, crashing heavily to the ground. Their heads buzzed, and the acrid scent of sulfur stung their nostrils.

Through the smoke and haze, they saw the villa engulfed in raging flames. Confused glances were exchanged subconsciously. How had the bombs detonated?

Meanwhile, Nantian Fengyu flung herself considerably, keeping the camera trained on the explosive scene. A pained scream erupted from her lips, "Ahhhhhhhh!"

Nantian Fengyu landed with a thud, shaking the camera dramatically. The chat went silent momentarily before a deluge of comments flooded the screen.

[No! Sister Phoenix!]

[Ah? What should we do?]

[Are you alright, Sister Phoenix?]

[Holy molly! Is this real?]

[Number 1 Shanghai Handsome Man gifted you 10x Universe!]

[Number 1 Shanghai Handsome Man: the ambulance is on the way, Sister Phoenix. You must hold on!]

"Thank you for the gifts!" Nantian Fengyu grinned, then shrieked, "Ahhh! It hurts so much!"

[Oh, no. Sister Phoenix's junior brother...]

[I don't think he can survive.]

[It's fine, as long as Sister Phoenix is alive.]

High above, Yun Lintian and his companions observed the explosion with a detached calmness.

"Good thing you're a cultivator, Boss," Lei Hao sighed softly. "Though losing your villa is a shame."

"No worries," Yun Lintian offered a faint smile.

Lynn chuckled lightly as she watched Nantian Fengyu's theatrics on the screen. "Your fifth sister should consider acting. Looks like she's not keen on leaving Earth anymore."

Yun Lintian shook his head helplessly. This was his first time seeing his sister enjoying herself so thoroughly.

"What's the next move, Boss?" Lei Hao inquired.

Yun Lintian glanced towards Beijing with a knowing smile. "We wait. Someone's putting on quite the performance."

"Crimson Zero, do you hear me? What the hell is happening?" Qu Yin barked into the communicator, his voice laced with urgency.

A rough voice crackled back from the tablet. "We have no idea, sir. We hadn't even touched the detonator."

Zhu Tianlong observed the chaos coldly. Someone was playing him. But who? Li Zong? Yun Lintian? Or perhaps another enemy entirely?

"Everyone, please calm down." Zhu Tianlong raised his hand, speaking slowly. "I understand your concerns. However, blocking me here won't provide any answers."

"In fact, I'm also trying to understand the situation. As far as I know, the Crimson Guard wasn't on a mission today. I don't know why everyone believes they were involved."

The crowd quieted slightly.

"Sir, are you suggesting these weren't Crimson Guard soldiers?" a beautiful reporter inquired.

Zhu Tianlong responded calmly. "The video quality is poor, making identification difficult. Additionally, the supposed classified document displayed by the streamer does not resemble actual government documents. I suspect it may be a forgery."

"Nonsense! Why would Sister Phoenix lie?"

"Yes! Sister Phoenix has no reason to deceive us!"

Nantian Fengyu's fans reacted passionately. How could they tolerate accusations against their favorite streamer?

Zhu Tianlong met their gaze calmly. "We'll find out the truth when we invite her in for questioning."

He scanned the crowd. "Now, if you please, step aside so I can expedite the truth-finding process."

The reporters and others subconsciously parted, allowing Zhu Tianlong passage.

"Thank you. Please await further news." Zhu Tianlong said calmly before exiting with Qu Yin. They boarded a car and departed.

Outside the villa, the Crimson Guard members swiftly cleared away any evidence of their presence and prepared to retreat in their van.

However, before they could climb in, a brick sailed through the air, smacking them on the head and rendering them unconscious.

In the distance, Nantian Fengyu blew the dust off her hand with a satisfied smirk. "Perfect combo,"

She then raised her phone, panning the camera over the unconscious Crimson Guard members.

"Everyone, look!" she said, her voice feigning a tremor. "They're knocked out cold! What should I do? I'm so scared." Her voice trembled convincingly. "... I think I'll go check on them."

Comments flooded the chat:

[Don't go, Sister Phoenix! It's too dangerous!]

[Go for it, Sister Phoenix! Get a good look at their faces!]

[We need to find out who these guys are!]

"A-alright," Nantian Fengyu stammered, slowly approaching the figures on the ground.

Chapter 1974 The Price Of Power (4)

Nantian Fengyu approached the Crimson Guard members, zooming in on their faces individually.

"They look just like the ones in the documents, don't they?" she said, her voice laced with feigned surprise.

The chat exploded with comments:

[Yes!]

[Absolutely!]

[Minister Zhu said the documents were fake? Who'd believe that?]

[Fake my ass! See the seal? It's definitely real.]

[You can't trust politicians.]

Under Nantian Fengyu's manipulation, the chat wouldn't believe she'd forged the documents.

Using her power, Nantian Fengyu nudged the leader of the Crimson Guard awake.

"Ah!" she shrieked, feigning terror and dramatically stepping back.

The strong man, disoriented, opened his eyes. He couldn't grasp the situation yet.

The chat buzzed again:

[Sister Phoenix, ask him quickly!]

[Yes! Get his name!]

[This is perfect timing! He must have a concussion.]

"R-Really?" Nantian Fengyu pretended to hesitate, milking the moment.

[Do it!]

[A Man Of Honor gifted you 1x Universe!]

[A Man Of Honor: Ask him, Sister Phoenix. Don't be scared.]

"Thank you for the gift, Brother A Man Of Honor!" Nantian Fengyu chirped quickly. "I'll ask him right now."

With a trembling voice, she leaned closer to the strong man. "Hey... you. What's your name?"

"Jun Peng," the strong man subconsciously answered.

The chat erupted:

[Holy moly! It's really Jun Peng!]

[The name matches!]

[Ask him again if he's with the Crimson Guard!]

"Are you a member of the Crimson Guard?" Nantian Fengyu pressed further.

"Yes," Jun Peng, still groggy, rubbed his temples in response.

The chat went wild:

[That's it! Zhu Tianlong clearly lied to us!]

[I knew it!]

[Starting a petition to remove Zhu Tianlong. Follow me, everyone!]

[Phew! Sister Phoenix is safe.]

[Shit! That police guy is totally flirting with her.]

The handsome officer glanced at the barrage of comments scrolling across Nantian Fengyu's screen. "Our Sister Phoenix is safe now, everyone. Unfortunately, we have to shut down the live stream for now."

[Ah?]

[Don't close!]

[Protest!]

Nantian Fengyu flipped the camera around to face her. "Thank you all for joining me today. I have to end the broadcast first. But don't worry, I'll be back soon."

"Remember to subscribe and click the notification bell! And don't forget to give me likes before you go. See you all later!"

She then skillfully ended the broadcast.

"We'd like to ask you some questions, Sister Phoenix. Could you come with us? Don't worry, we'll take you to the hospital first to be checked out." The handsome officer spoke gently.

Suddenly, Nantian Fengyu dissolved into tears. "Boohoo! My poor junior brother!"

The officer, momentarily flustered, could only glare at Jun Peng with undisguised hostility.

Now face-down and handcuffed, Jun Peng spat coldly, "You all will regret this."

Humiliation burned through him, a soldier never having been subjected to such treatment.

"Hmph! Don't think your military status exempts you from the law," the officer who handcuffed him retorted with a sneer.

Jun Peng's face darkened further, but with his hands bound, he was powerless. He watched helplessly as he and his team were escorted away.

High above, Lynn chuckled as she observed the scene below. "I never would have guessed you could come up with such a funny scheme."

Yun Lintian offered a faint smile. "It would have been an impossible feat without our cultivation abilities."

"Zhu Tianlong's political career is finished," Yang Ningchang said calmly. Regardless of whether he can clear his name, he'll undoubtedly be forced to resign.

"This is just the beginning," Yun Lintian said, his lips curling into a knowing smile as he looked towards the Hangzhou airport.

"What is it, Boss?" Lei Hao inquired curiously.

"An old friend has arrived," Yun Lintian replied.

"An old friend?" Lei Hao furrowed his brow in confusion.

"Zhu Ding," Yang Ningchang explained calmly. "Given his personality, it's no surprise he wouldn't stay idle after learning of Lintian's return."

"He dares to come here?" Fury ignited in Lei Hao's eyes. "Can I deal with him, Boss?"

"Certainly, but not right now. He still holds some value," Yun Lintian said gently.

"Because of him, Ah'Kai and Ah'Feng lost their lives," Lei Hao said coldly. "He'll pay for their lives."

"He will," Yun Lintian agreed. "The price of power is never cheap. He'll pay with everything he holds dear."

Headquarters, Beijing.

Inside a conference room, several high-ranking officials sat around a table, their eyes glued to Nantian Fengyu's livestream.

As the broadcast abruptly ended, a white-haired old man seated at the head of the table spoke in a grave tone.

"Gentlemen, what is your proposed course of action regarding this situation?"

The officials exchanged wary glances before one of them stepped forward. "Minister Zhu must be held accountable for this incident."

Chapter 1975 Fallen (1)

The official elaborated, "Our investigation reveals numerous instances where Minister Zhu abused his authority for personal gains. The current situation is a prime example."

The old man swept his gaze across the other officials, finding silent agreement etched on their faces. Even those within Zhu Tianlong's faction remained unnervingly quiet.

"Seeing no objections," the old man said calmly, "we'll vote after Minister Zhu arrives. Now, let's discuss countermeasures. How do we control the situation?"

A debate erupted among the officials. Most favored direct censorship, but some worried about damaging government credibility.

Nantian Fengyu's stream generated a massive international response, and suppressing information would be nearly impossible.

"A swift public statement is imperative," an old official declared. "Minister Zhu's actions shatter the image of peace we've meticulously cultivated on the world stage."

The old man nodded curtly. "Handle it well. All resources are at your disposal."

"I shall endeavor to do so, sir," the official replied with gravitas.

Just then, Zhu Tianlong entered the room under military escort. His first act was a deep bow, followed by a formal apology.

"I sincerely apologize for the problems that my actions have caused to our country's interests. I understand the seriousness of the situation and take full responsibility for my mistakes."

"I value my role in serving the country, and I am deeply sorry for the disappointment and frustration that I have caused."

On the way here, Zhu Tianlong had faced the grim reality. He had thought it through and knew that escape was impossible. In order to protect his family's legacy, voluntary resignation remained his only option. Otherwise, the repercussions would engulf his son and grandson.

No one in the room expressed surprise at Zhu Tianlong's voluntary resignation. His intentions were perfectly transparent.

While Zhu Tianlong's actions had undeniably caused significant problems, the officials present opted not to pursue the matter further. His past influence, built on merit, had evaporated. From this day forward, Zhu Tianlong would be a nonentity in the political arena.

"Sit down," the old man instructed Zhu Tianlong. "You've served the country well. I won't punish you further." His voice remained calm. "Hand over your personnel, and you may leave. Effective immediately, you are barred from any political activity."

"Thank you for your leniency, sir," Zhu Tianlong replied solemnly.

With that, the matter seemed settled. However, further consequences had to be addressed.

"Four years ago," Li Zong explained, "Yun Lintian and his team embarked on a crucial mission to thwart the Hell Church's completion of a horrific genetic technology known as Project Eve. They not only successfully retrieved Project Eve but also dealt a crippling blow to the Hell Church."

"It's Project Eve," the officials exclaimed in sudden comprehension. Yun Lintian's actions now held significant weight.

"However," Li Zong's voice turned icy, "they were backstabbed by our own people."

A stunned silence descended upon the room. The officials gaped in disbelief.

Meanwhile, those privy to the truth exchanged knowing glances, their eyes inevitably landing on Zhu Tianlong, whose expression had darkened beyond description.

"If my memory serves me correctly," an official interjected, "it was the Dragon Soul team who returned with a counterfeit Project Eve."

A collective realization dawned on everyone. Zhu Tianlong's grandson, Zhu Ding, had led the Dragon Soul team at that time.

"Precisely," Li Zong confirmed promptly. "It was Zhu Tianlong's grandson who orchestrated the deception."

He switched from "Minister Zhu" to Zhu Tianlong's name directly.

"He's not involved," Zhu Tianlong abruptly interjected. "I gave the order. While Yun Lintian's group posed no immediate threat, they were a potential wildcard. I believed they could become problematic in the future."

"And you used this opportunity to frame them?" Li Zong's gaze narrowed.

Zhu Tianlong lifted his chin, maintaining a composed facade. "My conscience is clear."

A heavy silence descended upon the room. The officials found themselves begrudgingly understanding Zhu Tianlong's perspective. After all, mercenaries were inherently untrustworthy.

"Then why did your grandson allow remnants of the Hell Church to infiltrate our borders a year ago?" Li Zong countered, his expression hardening.

Zhu Tianlong's brow furrowed. "Speak with evidence, General Li. How could my grandson betray the nation?"

His defiance stemmed from the unwavering belief that no evidence remained.

"Indeed," Li Zong replied coolly, retrieving a USB drive. "Never would I speak without proof."

Chapter 1976 Fallen (2)

Zhu Tianlong's gaze fixated on the USB drive, a deep furrow etching his brow. His mind raced, searching for a response.

Following a silent cue from the old man, a nearby officer swiftly connected the drive to a computer and initiated playback.

Zhu Ding's voice soon filled the room, his words dripping with malice.

"...Your daughter is about to enter primary school, right? Don't let her down, understand?... Don't worry. As long as you kill Yun Lintian and his team, I will let your family go."

A collective frown creased the officials' faces. The blatant threat, particularly by proxy, left them utterly bewildered.

"The target of this threat," Li Zong clarified, "was Chi Yuan, a former special forces captain."

The officer promptly switched to the following file, Chi Yuan's profile materializing on the screen.

"To maintain a facade of innocence, Zhu Ding orchestrated this elaborate scheme," Li Zong explained. "Needless to say, Chi Yuan and his family were silenced shortly after the failed attempt."

A video flickered to life, brutally depicting the murders of Chi Yuan's wife and daughter. The air in the room grew thick with a suffocating silence. The sheer cruelty of the act left them speechless.

Their gazes toward Zhu Tianlong transformed dramatically. All respect had vanished, replaced by a cold, unwavering disapproval.

Zhu Tianlong's face contorted into a mask of thunderous gloom. He drew in a shaky breath and attempted a defense. "Surely, the capabilities of modern technology are well-known. It wouldn't be difficult to fabricate such evidence."

His feeble attempt at denial fell on deaf ears. The room was filled with icy stares. Even those who initially harbored some sympathy for Zhu Tianlong now viewed him with utter disdain.

Desperation etched itself onto Zhu Tianlong's face. His mind churned, grappling to comprehend how Li Zong had unearthed such damning evidence. Clearly, he had grievously underestimated the old man.

Driven by the news of Yun Lintian's demise, Li Zong spared no effort to amass evidence. Fortunately, he found them.

He had harbored the intention of taking this secret to his grave. However, Zhu Tianlong's actions today had inadvertently provided the perfect opportunity to expose it.

Li Zong remained silent, conveying his accusatory stance with a pointed glance towards the officer. The officer, understanding his cue, adeptly switched to the next file.

A new video appeared on the screen, depicting Zhu Ding conversing with Ross in a secure location.

"You're dismissed," Li Zong said.

The officer received an affirmative nod from the old man. With a slight bow, he exited the room.

"Don't tell me you come here to have tea with me?" the old man teased playfully.

Li Zong offered a cryptic smile. "Patience is key, sir."

He carefully opened the teabag gifted by Yun Lintian and meticulously added a pinch of the dried leaves to the kettle. The aroma soon filled the air.

The old man inhaled deeply, a peculiar sensation washing over him. He felt a lightness course through his body, almost as if it were an illusion.

Li Zong poured him a cup of tea. "Please," he offered.

The old man eyed Li Zong with suspicion before taking a tentative sip. Instantly, his eyes widened in shock. At his advanced age, he could acutely perceive any changes in his physical well-being. This tea demonstrably improved his health.

"Tell me," the old man demanded, placing the cup down. "Is this the source of your youthful rejuvenation?"

Li Zong confirmed with a smile, "Indeed, sir. Though I promised him to keep it secret, the nation's well-being must come first."

He held the conviction that Yun Lintian would comprehend his decision. After all, the old man was the nation's most vital figure, and his longevity served the greater good.

A realization dawned on the old man. "Yun Lintian?" he inquired.

"Your discernment remains unparalleled, sir," Li Zong acknowledged with another smile.

"His return from death confounds me," the old man admitted.

Li Zong posed a thought-provoking question, "Do you believe in immortality, sir?"

"Immortality?" The old man was startled.

"It's like this..." Li Zong began to explain.

The conversation in the room was destined to remain hidden forever...

Chapter 1977 Revenge (1)

"If I hadn't heard it from you and experienced it myself, I wouldn't believe it in the slightest," the old man spoke emotionally upon hearing the entire story from Li Zong. "Who would have thought such a magical thing existed?"

Li Zong sighed softly. "I was just as dumbfounded when I first heard about it. It's difficult to accept, but the reality is staring us in the face. Otherwise, Zhu Tianlong wouldn't be getting toyed with like this."

"So, this little girl is Yun Lintian's friend?" the old man inquired.

"Without a doubt," Li Zong confirmed with a nod.

"No wonder..." the old man sighed.

Nantian Fengyu's actions weren't without flaws. However, most people overlooked them, focusing on the bigger picture.

The old man initially noticed something strange but couldn't pinpoint it. Now, everything was explained.

"Did he tell you what he plans to do next?" the old man asked seriously.

Li Zong shook his head. "He did tell me something, but I believe he would never harm the country. What happened today is what we owed him."

The old man nodded slowly. They both knew that Yun Lintian must be disappointed with the nation after everything he and his team had done for them. Today, the nation would certainly lose face, but it was deserved.

"I'm glad he showed us mercy," the old man sighed. "It seems I am getting old. I haven't handled internal matters well."

"No, sir. You've done everything you could," Li Zong said solemnly. "After all, a person's energy has its limits. It's impossible to take care of everything perfectly."

"There's no need to comfort me," the old man smiled. "Now, tell me what he said."

Li Zong nodded and said, "There are two things. First, he said he intends to address the world's environment. Global warming will be eliminated, and deserts will slowly recover within ten years."

The old man was surprised. His mind raced, considering the many possibilities. If the world's environment recovered, it would cause both significant positive and negative impacts on humanity. He needed to develop a proper plan to handle the situation.

"Second," Li Zong continued, "he will eliminate human trafficking around the world. He wants us to handle the aftermath."

"That's excellent," the old man smiled. Human trafficking was a significant problem that had plagued every nation in the world for ages.

"After this, we need to devise a better way to prevent it from happening again," the old man furrowed his brow.

After adjusting to his physical transformation, the old man addressed Yun Lintian. "I failed you, yet you haven't shown anger. Furthermore, you bestowed upon me a gift I can never repay. Honestly, I feel ashamed."

Yun Lintian smiled faintly. "I understand your difficulties, senior. While I wouldn't call myself patriotic, I do consider myself a citizen of this nation. I truly wish for everyone to live a good life, not just here, but everyone in the world."

"On behalf of everyone, I thank you," the old man said with gratitude.

"However, once the world recovers, a new wave of war is inevitable," he continued. "To be honest, I have no solution. It is impossible to avoid a conflict forever."

"There is no ideal solution," Yun Lintian said calmly. "While I could eliminate the world's elites, it would only be a matter of time before someone replaced them."

"What I can do is address major problems like world hunger. The land will become fertile globally, particularly in Africa. I will ensure sufficient water sources, allowing them to become the world's breadbasket. Of course, proper management is required."

The old man and Li Zong both nodded slowly in agreement.

"Europe won't let such a delicious opportunity in Africa pass them by," Lynn interjected. "The continent has been exploited for centuries."

Yun Lintian shrugged. "This is where I draw the line. I don't intend to interfere any further."

"Let's look at the bright side," the old man said. "At least people in Africa won't face hunger anymore. We've been investing heavily there for years. We'll do our best to implement a comprehensive agricultural system. Their success ultimately depends on their own efforts."

Lynn remained silent, accepting the old man's words.

"Actually," Yun Lintian said, turning towards the old man, "I'd like a piece of land. I'm thinking of building an orphanage."

"Certainly," the old man readily agreed. "Choose the land that suits you and let me know later."

He was aware that Yun Lintian could simply claim the land, but Yun Lintian's courtesy in informing him was appreciated.

"Thank you," Yun Lintian smiled.

Li Zong suddenly asked, "What do you plan for the Zhu family?"

"Do you have any suggestions?" Yun Lintian countered.

"No," the old man interjected. "It's your decision. We have no say in the matter. You deserve whatever you choose to do."

Chapter 1978 Revenge (2)

"I will make Zhu Tianlong, Zhu Wuxing, and Zhu Ding watch everything crumble before their eyes," Yun Lintian said calmly. "Everything they've accumulated will vanish."

Li Zong and the old man exchanged a glance. For men like Zhu Tianlong, losing their accumulation lifetime was the most excruciating punishment.

"With many positions now open, do you have any recommendations?" the old man inquired kindly. Clearly, he was hinting at Yun Lintian's ability to openly support the Yang family.

Yun Lintian remained silent, his gaze turning to Yang Ningchang.

Surprisingly, Yang Ningchang declined. "Thank you for your generosity, senior. However, my family doesn't deserve such a position. I'd recommend Uncle Xu to take Zhu Tianlong's position."

The old man and Li Zong were taken aback, but comprehension quickly dawned. They vaguely recalled the Yang family's treatment of Yang Ningchang over the past year, particularly her father, Yang Shen.

"Are you certain?" the old man asked seriously.

"Yes," Yang Ningchang responded firmly. "I only have one request. Please look after my younger brother."

The old man met Yang Ningchang's gaze steadily. "Don't worry. He will be fine."

"Thank you, senior," Yang Ningchang said sincerely.

Suddenly, Li Zong remembered Nantian Fengyu. "Your friend has already been taken to the police station," he said. "I will make a call to release her."

Yun Lintian waved his hand dismissively. "No need, Grandpa Li. Let her enjoy herself."

As if on cue, Nantian Fengyu's livestream flickered onto the big screen.

On the screen, Nantian Fengyu beamed at the camera before panning it to reveal the police station behind her. "Hey chat! Look where I am! Today, I'm taking you on a prison tour! They say there are some real baddies locked up here. Exciting, right?"

The handsome police officer standing beside her chimed in enthusiastically. "Don't worry, everyone. Sister Phoenix is perfectly safe with me on duty!"

The comments section erupted in a flurry of activity:

[Shameless!]

[I challenge you to a duel! Draw your sword!]

[Let's report him! How dare he stand so close to Sister Phoenix?]

The old man: "..."

Li Zong: "..."

Li Zong stammered, "Your friend is really..." He trailed off, unsure how to finish the sentence.

Yun Lintian spread his arms.

The old man chuckled. "No need to worry about that," he said. "This will be excellent publicity."

"Get back here, now!" Zhu Wuxing commanded angrily.

"Understood," Zhu Ding responded hurriedly and hung up.

He turned to the soldier, about to order a withdrawal, when a glimpse out of the corner of his eye caught him off guard. There was Yun Lintian, hailing a taxi and climbing in.

There was no mistaking him. Zhu Ding would never forget his nemesis's appearance.

He jumped into his car and barked, "Hurry! Follow that taxi!"

The soldiers, startled, piled into their vehicles and gave chase.

Inside the taxi, Yun Lintian watched Zhu Ding's car in the rearview mirror, a faint smile on his lips.

"Hold on tight, boss," Lei Hao, behind the wheel, said. "We're picking up speed."

The taxi accelerated, weaving through traffic towards Rain Mountain.

"Cut them off!" Zhu Ding yelled.

"Team leader, something's off," a soldier ventured.

"Shut up!" Zhu Ding roared. "Give me that gun!"

The soldier, intimidated, handed him a machine gun. Zhu Ding checked it swiftly, rolled down the window, and aimed at the taxi's tires.

Bang! Bang!

Two shots rang out, but the bullets swerved off course, thanks to Yun Lintian's intervention.

"Wow, he actually shot at us in broad daylight?" Lei Hao glanced back at Zhu Ding's car, disbelief coloring his voice.

"He's lost it," Yun Lintian chuckled.

"Damn it!" Zhu Ding cursed, bewildered by the missed shots. As he readied to fire again, a truck barreled out from a side street, forcing him to swerve.

Zhu Ding bellowed, "What are you doing? You call yourselves drivers? You can't even catch a beat-up taxi!"

No longer hesitant, the driver slammed his foot down on the gas pedal. The gap between their car and the taxi began to shrink rapidly.

Following the taxi's lead, they sped past the suburbs and into the foothills of Rain Mountain.

The taxi slowed to a stop at the mountain's base.

"Pull over! Weapons out!" Zhu Ding roared, scrambling from the car.

By then, Yun Lintian and Lei Hao had already emerged from the taxi.

"Long time no see."

Chapter 1979 Revenge (3)

Startled by Lei Hao's ability to walk, Zhu Ding whipped his focus onto Yun Lintian. His face hardened as he raised his gun, a growl escaping his lips. "It really is you!"

Before arriving, he'd obsessed over the logic of Yun Lintian's "return" from death, but answers remained elusive. Now, with Yun Lintian undeniably alive, such questions faded. Only vengeance burned in his eyes.

"I don't know how you managed to deceive everyone back then. Today, I'll make sure such a thing won't happen again." Zhu Ding snarled, his expression twisting with ferocity. "Kill them all!"

The order was immediate. Zhu Ding squeezed the trigger, his gun barking a challenge. The soldiers behind him followed suit, a storm of bullets erupting towards Yun Lintian and Lei Hao. A direct hit would turn them into human colanders.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

However, the bullets defied physics. They hung suspended in mid-air, inches from their targets, as if an invisible barrier had materialized.

Zhu Ding and his men stood frozen, their minds incapable of grasping the fantastical scene before them. It was like a scene ripped straight out of a science fiction movie.

Clang!

In a clatter, the bullets rained down to the ground. The sound was a harsh reminder, jolting Zhu Ding and his men back to reality. This was no illusion. Follow current novels on [novelb\(in\).com](http://novelb(in).com)

"You..." Zhu Ding stammered, his face a mask of confusion.

"There's no inherent conflict between us at the beginning," Yun Lintian said calmly. "Your family's secretive actions held no interest to me... But you, fueled by jealousy, chose to attack me and my comrades."

"Today marks the beginning of your downfall. I will ensure you can enjoy the painful experience to the fullest."

A flicker of realization crossed Zhu Ding's face. "My grandfather... what did you do?" He grasped the connection - Zhu Tianlong's removal was undoubtedly Yun Lintian's doing.

"He architected his own downfall," Yun Lintian said with a faint smile. "Minimal effort was required on my part."

Bang!

Suddenly, a soldier from Zhu Ding's ranks fired, a desperate attempt to eliminate Yun Lintian. The bullet tore through the air, stopping dead in its tracks just before Yun Lintian's forehead.

Ignoring the soldiers, Lei Hao stalked towards Zhu Ding, who writhed pathetically on the ground.

With a cold fury in his eyes, Lei Hao raised his leg and slammed his boot into Zhu Ding's chin. "This is for Ah'Kai," he growled, the words laced with venom.

The kick was a calculated burst of violence meant to punish, not obliterate. Had Lei Hao unleashed his full power, Zhu Ding's head would have been a gory mess.

"Argh!" A guttural scream erupted from Zhu Ding's throat as all his teeth shattered, filling his mouth with a metallic tang. The world spun, his mind overloaded with pain and the echoing voice of his tormentor.

Mercilessly, Lei Hao loomed over him, raising his foot once more. A sickening crunch resonated as he brought it down on Zhu Ding's kneecap, shattering it with a single, brutal blow.

Bang!

"This is for Ah'Feng," Lei Hao hissed, his voice devoid of warmth. "Honestly, death would be a kindness, but you don't deserve that easy escape. Now, you'll get a taste of the suffering you inflicted for years."

With his legs mangled and useless, Zhu Ding's future was one of agonizing immobility. The once arrogant leader was reduced to a whimpering wreck, a broken testament to Lei Hao's vengeance.

Zhu Ding's men cast nervous glances at the scene, a flicker of relief warming their hearts. Thankfully, their defiance had been minimal. Otherwise, they might have shared Zhu Ding's tragic fate.

Yun Lintian regarded Zhu Ding's abject misery with chilling indifference. To him, the man was a mere speck of dust, unworthy of his attention.

The vengeance that had once burned in his heart had dissipated long before his return to Earth. However, that didn't mean he would let Zhu Ding go.

Wooo—

A low, resonant wail shattered the tense silence. A line of police cars materialized behind them, sirens screaming their approach.

Lei Hao cast a cold glance at Zhu Ding. "Enjoy,"

He then stalked back to the car. Yun Lintian followed suit, offering a parting shot to the soldiers. "If a shred of decency remains within you, you should resign when you go back."

Slipping behind the wheel, he sped away, leaving Zhu Ding and his men in a chilling silence. Years of iniquity committed under the guise of national security finally bore the weight of consequence. Shame, a stranger for far too long, settled heavily upon them.

"Hands up!"

Chapter 1980 Rejuvenation

Atop Rain Mountain, Yang Ningchang, Lynn, and Long Qingxuan watched silently as police vehicles escorted Zhu Ding and his men away. The silence finally broke.

"They've made a statement," Lynn announced, raising her phone. The screen displayed a formal government announcement detailing Zhu Tianlong's corruption with brutal honesty.

"No holding back, huh?" Lynn remarked.

Exposing the extent of Zhu Tianlong's crimes would undoubtedly spark public outrage and damage the government's credibility. But the old man, in an apparent display of sincerity towards Yun Lintian, had pulled no punches.

This marked the official resolution of the Yun Lintian-Zhu family conflict.

"They had no choice," Long Qingxuan said softly. In her eyes, the old man's supposed sincerity masked a deeper fear of Yun Lintian's power.

Yang Ningchang remained silent, the weight of the ordeal finally lifted from her shoulders. She turned to Long Qingxuan, her voice soft. "Sister Qingxuan, can you tell me what he is facing now?"

Curiosity gnawed at Yang Ningchang. Yun Lintian's return to Earth wasn't a simple vacation. She yearned to understand his experiences over the years.

"There's little you can do to help him," Long Qingxuan replied calmly, her words harsh but honest. "Few truly can, myself included."

Yang Ningchang and Lynn exchanged a solemn glance.

"You will understand it later," Long Qingxuan added.

Just then, the taxi pulled up. Yun Lintian and Lei Hao emerged and walked towards them.

Linlin and Qingqing, squealing with delight, launched themselves at Yun Lintian, who scooped them up in a hug.

"It's done," he said simply to Yang Ningchang.

Pushing aside their curiosity, Yang Ningchang and Lynn offered him a warm smile.

Yun Lintian's gaze drifted towards Xia Yao's gravestone. "Did you put it back?" he asked softly.

"Yes," Yang Ningchang replied gently. "It's a replica. We had a new one made."

As the last traces of divine energy dissipated, Rain Mountain was reborn. In its place stood Cloudhaven Orphanage, a sprawling modern residential complex nestled amidst the embrace of nature.

Yang Ningchang, Lynn, and Lei Hao stood speechless, mouths agape in stunned awe before the magnificent residential complex. Though well aware of Yun Lintian's prowess, they never anticipated the creation of a city within mere minutes.

Yun Lintian surveyed his masterpiece with a flicker of satisfaction. This, without a doubt, would be the finest orphanage the world had ever seen.

"This is great for those children," Lei Hao remarked with a touch of envy. "Living here would be a dream come true."

"Indeed," Lynn breathed, her voice filled with wonder. Every detail within this complex exuded the utmost quality.

Yun Lintian turned to Lynn. "I'm entrusting this place to your people. It should comfortably accommodate a hundred thousand children. I envision establishing more orphanages nationwide but under the government's management."

"Consider it done. Anna's already on her way back," Lynn replied. Anna had departed yesterday to gather her people, and they were now en route.

Yun Lintian then directed his question to Yang Ningchang. "Do you have someone in mind?"

"Uncle Wu," Yang Ningchang answered readily. "With my departure approaching, I fear he'll be lonely. This role would be a perfect fit."

"Then let's find him," Yun Lintian declared, glancing at Lynn and the others. "Stay here, I'll be back shortly."

Lynn offered a gentle nod. "Go on."

With a wave of his hand, Yun Lintian vanished from the complex, taking Yang Ningchang, Linlin, and Qingqing with him.

Inside the Yang manor, Yang Shen and Yang Ningchang's grandfather, Yang Xuan, were engrossed in a discussion about the Zhu Tianlong incident. Yang Wu, Yang Ningchang's ever-

attentive butler, skillfully refilled their teacups.

"You may leave," Yang Shen instructed Yang Wu with a calm demeanor.

"Yes, sir," Yang Wu responded humbly, preparing to leave.

Suddenly, Yun Lintian and Yang Ningchang materialized in the courtyard. Their unexpected arrival sent a jolt of surprise through everyone present.