

PROTECT OUR CLAN LEADER

Chapter 16 Qian Family's Business _1

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That night.

Wang Shouzhe's carriage returned to the main residence once to draft several letters entrusted to the household heads for delivery.

He informed the closer related families first to avoid any resentment they might harbor against the unscathed Wang family after suffering from a disaster. Even if they had already discovered signs of the insect disaster, it wouldn't hinder the Wang family's friendly gesture.

In addition to this, Wang Shouzhe only brought two household heads with him. They rode on horses throughout the night. Upon arriving at Dingpu Ferry, they secretly crossed the Peace River using a family-owned fishing boat. By the time they reached Changning Guard City, the day had just barely dawned.

In the sunlight, the city walls of Changning City were majestic and radiant.

The city walls were over ten zhang tall and the whole body was built from solid black stone bricks. There were fully armored soldiers with crossbows stationed on the battlements. Every few dozen zhang, there was also a gigantic crossbow stationed for defense.

Although Changning Guard City is only ranked as a county-level city, it was more formidable and domineering compared to the prestigious cities on Earth.

There was no choice, this world was not the Ancient Huaxia. In this dangerous foreign land, many powerful monsters and dangerous beasts roamed. Once a beast tide occurred, high walls and solid cities were mankind's only barriers.

Ping'an Town also has city walls, but compared to Guard City, it was vastly inferior.

Wang Shouzhe and his two companions stopped their horses gradually before the city gate. They dismounted and joined the crowd of people hurrying into the city early in the morning. Although at this time, those entering the city were mostly farmers, petty merchants, manual workers, and other common people.

Seeing Wang Shouzhe and the household heads leading tall and large horses and dressed extravagantly, they instinctively gave way and showed reverence.

In the Great Qian Land, the Profound Martial prominent families were the privileged class. Even the most downtrodden small prominent family was not something that a commoner could compare with.

At the east city gate.

Two fully armored soldiers stepped forward to inspect Wang Shouzhe's family token, and then respectfully invited him into the city.

After entering the city, he didn't dally and led his horse directly to the Qian Family Business Group. The Qian Family Business Group had businesses throughout Longzuo County, its strength was profound and it had excellent credibility. The Insecticide Powder, made by the Purple Abode Academic Palace, was handled mainly by the Qian Family Business Group.

This alone made the Qian Family Business Group very wealthy, not to mention their business was not limited to just the Insecticide Powder.

After pulling out the Wang family's token, the household heads waited outside. Wang Shouzhe was led into one of the side halls in the business sector, and after the maidservant offered him fruits and tea, she withdrew.

Wang Shouzhe calmly sipped his tea and looked around. Even though it was just a side hall in one of the branches of the business group, it was still decorated luxuriously. The various precious wooden screens, furniture, antique ornaments simply placed here and there, each one was highly valuable.

Even with Wang Shouzhe's rather "superficial" knowledge, he could perceive the value of the decorative items in this side hall. They were worth at least hundreds, if not thousands, of Qian Gold, showcasing the profound wealth of the Qian Family Business Group. They were truly worthy of being the dominant wealthy clan in Longzuo.

As a transmigrator, Wang Shouzhe understood, of course, the psychological tactics of the Qian Family Business Group.

After about a quarter of an hour.

A kind-faced, chubby middle-aged man walked in: "The Family Head of the Ping'an Wang family has personally come, I, Qian Mou, have failed to receive you from a great distance. Please forgive my rudeness."

Wang Shouzhe's eyes narrowed, the other party's seemingly casual polite remark revealed some colossal information.

He had only been the clan leader for these two or three days, and given the current decline of the Ping'an Wang Family, even a change in clan leader wouldn't cause much attention. Unexpectedly, not only did the Qian Family Business Group notice, but they also confirmed his identity within a quarter of an hour.

They were truly worthy of being one of the commercial giants dominating Longzuo. Their information gathering ability was very strong. And the man's surname was Qian, he had an extraordinary temperament, he most likely was a bloodline member of the Qian family.

"Oh, come now, it's my intrusion that brought me here, so it's already a great honor to be greeted by Principal Qian himself," Wang Shouzhe responded in a similarly humble and courteous manner. The person with the last name of Qian could hardly be the head of the shop.

The Qian Family business is enormous, even the shopkeeper of the Changning branch is a big shot, they wouldn't be here to deal with him, the Clan Leader of a declined family who only reached the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

The two exchanged pleasantries for a bit before sitting down.

Once seated, without heading towards the main topic, Principal Qian and Wang Shouzhe casually talked about everything from Elder Zhou Xuan to Elder Longyan, then to the achievement of cultivating at the Purple Abode Academic Palace. Throughout these discussions, Shouzhe showed outstanding knowledge.

Wang Shouzhe also had grand plans for this visit and naturally couldn't show any signs of fear, he played along by making small talk and subtly revealing his superior logical and cognitive skills.

"What a pity, Shouzhe. With knowledge like yours, if you took part in the re-examination at the Purple Abode Academic Palace, it might secure your position as a disciple. Their focus is not merely on the cultivation base and talent, but also on the broad views and stature of the disciples.

I think the Wang family in your hands will sooner or later regain its peak, or even exceed it." Principal Qian seemed to take Wang Shouzhe more seriously and both praised and lamented him.

"Principal Qian, don't make fun of me," Wang Shouzhe shook his head with a bitter smile, "Our Ping'an branch of the Wang Family only wants to survive peacefully, nothing more."

In the midst of their courteous exchange, the two started addressing each other as brothers.

"Shouzhe, you rushing to the Qian family business late in the night, could it be you have a big business deal in mind?" Principal Qian, who had been exchanging courtesies for a while, couldn't wait anymore and started segueing into the main subject.

At these words, Wang Shouzhe gently put down his teacup, his eyes filled with calmness: "I do need a favor, Brother Qian, I need five thousand bags of insecticide powder."

At these words, Principal Qian's hand trembled slightly. He glanced at Wang Shouzhe in disbelief, and after some time suppressed his anger, "Brother Shouzhe, are you here to mock me?"

"Why would Principal Qian say such a thing?" Wang Shouzhe replied with utter calm, "Surely the grand Qian Family business can't be out of five thousand bags of insecticide powder?"

"Do you realize how much five thousand bags of insecticide powder is?"

One bag weighs about a hundred catties, once diluted it's enough for a hundred acres of fertile land, five thousand bags is enough for five hundred thousand acres." Principal Qian frowned, "The total amount of fertile land owned by Changning Guard City and the various towns under our command is only about one million five hundred thousand acres."

"I know." Wang Shouzhe's face remained undisturbed, his eyes were very serious.

Principal Qian's expression gradually became intrigued: "Brother, this isn't a joke?"

"Of course it's not a joke." Wang Shouzhe said, "Although Ping'an branch of Wang family is just a bottom-tier Rank 9 Family, we would surely not treat this lightly."

"Well, well, well, brother, you've truly given me quite a surprise. This business deal is definitely mine." Principal Qian spoke with a joyful expression, "However, the Changning branch of Qian's business only has two thousand bags of insecticide in stock. The other three thousand bags have to be transferred from other branches, which will take at least ten days."

"Why is the number in stock so small?" Wang Shouzhe frowned slightly.

"That's already a lot, last years' supplies were almost entirely cleared out." Principal Qian responded seriously, "The production of the powder relies on the crops that are grown and harvested accordingly each year. Last year saw a bountiful harvest resulting in excess production by nearly ten percent.

The plan was to sell it to each family at a low price, but only a few were willing to stock up at that price. And so, at the end of last winter, our supply in Changning Guard City was left with a surplus of two thousand bags."

"Why didn't those families stock up when prices were low?" asked Wang Shouzhe casually.

"Well...alright, this isn't exactly a secret anymore, a lot of families already know. I'm not breaking any clan rules by telling you." Principal Qian hesitated a little, then reluctantly admitted, "The medicinal materials used in the insecticide are planted by various prominent families. As this was proving to be profitable, more families started investing in these medicinal farms.

As a result, the production in the past couple of years has been increasing, also we have been purchasing raw materials at a lower price. This winter's batch of insecticide powder has a lot of...you know. The larger families have quicker access to such information."

Hehe~ Wang Shouzhe understood; it was a case of overproduction, and market saturation. Though he wasn't an expert in economics, his awareness and consciousness were still above the inhabitants of this Mysterious Magical World.

"In that case..." Wang Shouzhe, after contemplating for a moment, said, "I'll take the two thousand bags of insecticide in stock of the shop as well as the three thousand bags of future goods."

"Well, brother Shouzhe, what do you mean when you say future goods?" Principal Qian completely didn't understand the term, his round face full of confusion.

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"Spot goods refer to items that can be exchanged on the spot, while futures are items to be exchanged on a specified date. Old Brother Qian, didn't you mention that you need to adjust your inventory, and only able to have the exchange after ten days?" Wang Shouzhe casually explained to him.

"Makes sense. With Brother Shouzhe's explanations, I can now understand the difference," responded Principal Qian, his spirits lifting. He gave his eyes a roll and said in a low voice, "Brother Shouzhe, if I'm not mistaken, these 5,000 bags of Insecticide Powder are not from your own inventory, did you find a new business opportunity?"

"Haha, well if Old Brother Qian called it a new business opportunity..." Wang Shouzhe sipped his tea with a grin, "I just help your company clear out its inventory, and I can even make a small profit from it. It's a win-win situation. Old Brother Qian, name your honest price."

"Hahaha, a win-win situation, Brother Shouzhe's suggestion is really interesting. I won't pry anymore. In this case, I'll give you a 10% discount for these 5,000 bags of Insecticide Powder, a total of 4,500 Qian Gold."

"Four thousand!"

"4,200 is the lowest I can go, Brother."

"4,200 it is, but I intend to make the payment for these goods using the credibility of the Ping'an Wang Family," Wang Shouzhe said it calmly, "I will pay the 4,200 Qian Gold in full a month from now."

Principal Qian was momentarily startled, but quickly smiled and said, "This works, but we need to have a contract in place. If you're unable to make the payment then, our company will have the right to take any steps necessary to collect."

Even though the Wang family had seen a decline, they were still a Profound Martial prominent family. They had some assets left. Just selling the Fenggu Farm alone would bring in at least ten thousand Qian Gold. As long as a contract was in place, the Qian Family, with their vast resources, would have numerous ways to collect on this debt.

"Even if Old Brother Qian hadn't mentioned a contract, I was planning to draft one." Wang Shouzhe said seriously. "I've already been in contact with a freighter. I'll send someone to your warehouse to transport 2,000 bags of Insecticide Powder in three days, and the second batch will follow ten days later."

If the company refuses to deliver the goods or cannot deliver them, you have to compensate us three times the value of the goods."

"Please be reassured, Brother. The credibility of Qian's line of business has been upheld for hundreds of years," Principal Qian responded solemnly, "Under all circumstances, we will deliver the goods on time and in full."

"I trust the credibility of your company, but this deal is of great importance to our little Ping'an Wang family," Wang Shouzhe continued solemnly, "I'd feel secure if we write it in black and white in the contract."

"In that case, let's add it," Principal Qian didn't think his company had any reason to default, and this deal of just mere thousands of Qian Gold didn't matter much to the entire Qian family.

It took the two of them two hours to finalize all the terms of the contract under Wang Shouzhe's meticulous scrutiny.

After both parties put their signatures on the contract, Principal Qian was covered in sweat. He wiped his brow and chuckled, "I've been in the business for 20 years and this is

the first time I've encountered such detailed contract clauses and careful wording. But having said that, these detailed clauses will indeed prevent needless disputes in the future. It's been enlightening."

Hehe~

Wang Shouzhe just smiled. To him, this was nothing. The complexity of some business contracts on Earth far surpasses this rudimentary contract by hundreds of times.

With the contract now in hand, a big stone in Wang Shouzhe's heart fell to the ground.

Based on his understanding of the Qian family's business, they wouldn't breach their own credibility, even if the contract wasn't this detailed. After all, the credibility built up over hundreds of years is a business's most valuable asset.

As for dispatching heavy hitters to exterminate him over such a small amount of money? Even more impossible.

Though his Old Ancestor Longyan was on the verge of death, he's still an old Spiritual Platform expert from the Purple Abode. No one knew what kind of tricks he had up his sleeve. If he decided to let loose regardless of his own well-being, he could very well take out a particular Spiritual Platform individual.

It was with all these reasons in mind that Wang Shouzhe made this risky decision. But he had no other choice. The Wang family was too poor, so poor they had to carefully calculate even for a single "Little Cultivation Pill". If things continued as they were, they would merely fall into a vicious cycle.

The only one he potentially wronged was Principal Qian.

A middle-aged man who was only a minor principal of a branch in a remote area. It was clear that he didn't hold much weight within the sprawling Qian family. This unprofitable business could likely make him bear the responsibility.

"Old Brother Qian, it was a pleasure doing business with you this time," said Wang Shouzhe as he got up to leave. Then he added in a low voice, "If all goes according to plan, I will be doing a great favor for you in the near future."

Principal Qian was momentarily startled, but then he laughed heartily, "I look forward to your good words, brother. Let me escort you to the door." With a friendly chat and laughter, Principal Qian saw Wang Shouzhe out the door.

After leaving the Qian Family's business, Wang Shouzhe's mood instantly became joyful. In just three days, he would be able to greatly alleviate the financial crisis of the Wang family.

"Family Head."

Two household heads who had been standing outside the door led the horse over and greeted him respectfully.

"Wang Zhong, Wang Yong." Wang Shouzhe laughed, "I haven't been out for a while, accompany me to stroll around Guard City."

"Yes, Family Head." Both household heads respectfully responded, leading the horse and accompanying Wang Shouzhe on a leisurely stroll around Guard City.

During the time of Elder Zhou Xuan, the Wang family had a peak of forty-seven household heads, with the highest cultivation base reaching the Vital Energy Refining Realm level nine.

However, the current Wang family only has nine household heads, with the highest cultivation base only reaching the Vital Energy Refining Realm level five.

The household heads differed from servants, they were no longer slaves, but vassals. Yet, they also differed from visiting elders who are contracted outsiders.

The vast majority of household heads are trusted followers cultivated within the family. They have a high status and treatment within the family, but they do not have the freedom to come and go as they please. To live as a household head is to die as a household head.

Their fate and life and death, are all tightly bound with their master's family. They prosper or decline together with the family. It is for this reason that some families often arrange a union between side-line or illegitimate children and very excellent household heads. One reason is to bind closer, and the second reason is to improve the family bloodline.

The nine household heads of the current Wang family are descendants of household heads personally cultivated by Elder Zhou Xuan; their loyalty is extremely high.

"Wang Zhong, remember your youngest son is about seven or eight years old, right?" Wang Shouzhe casually asked, "Did he pass the Profound Martial talent examination?"

Wang Zhong hurriedly caught up and replied, "The little one has participated in this year's spring talent examination, achieving a Low Grade Class C attainment. He has started his cultivation initiation in the Clan School and begun the stage of nurturing his meridians."

As he spoke, a faint smile spread across his face. He was clearly very satisfied with his son's talent.

The Profound Martial talent was divided into those who passed and those who didn't. The ability to pass is extremely important, representing potential for future cultivation. And among those who passed, it's subdivided into four grades: A, B, C, and D. Being rated as Low Grade Class C is already considered the second tier, worthy of significant investment in cultivation by the family.

"A chip off the old block indeed." Wang Shouzhe praised, "Guide him well, he may exceed you someday."

"Thanks for Family Head's blessing." Wang Zhong laughed until the wrinkles around his eyes piled up. This year he was thirty-six years old and had two sons. Both of them had passed the Profound Martial appraisal, with his eldest son just turning fifteen. In another year, he would reach adulthood and be able to become a household head serving the family.

His younger son's talent had even reached Low Grade Class C, entering the list for special cultivation.

Wang Yong, the other household head, looked rather awkward in comparison. He was about the same age as Wang Zhong, married to a side-line daughter of the Wang family, with a son and a daughter.

His son failed to pass the Profound Martial talent examination and could only learn academics. He was currently seventeen years old and worked in the Silkworm Manor. His six-year-old daughter still had not undergone the Profound Martial talent examination and even if she did pass, she would always be just a girl.

"Wang Yong, you must seize the last few years and work hard with your wife to have another child." Wang Zhong jokingly suggested, "Maybe you will be lucky and produce a Grade B son."

"Go away!" Wang Yong waved his hand impatiently. Whenever this topic was brought up, he got a little sulky.

The three of them casually strolled around Changning Guard City, as Wang Shouzhe's memories of Changning City gradually became clearer. The city had a resident population of about 150 to 160,000 people, inhabited by several old Profound Martial families, among which the closest relationship with the Ping'an Wang family was the Changning Xu family.

But this was just a relatively close relationship after all. The gap between the two families was becoming larger and larger, and they were no longer on the same level. Therefore, Wang Shouzhe had no intention of visiting the Xu Family Head.

Apart from operating traditional farms, the unique business of Changning Xu family mainly revolved around silk and cotton mills.

All the cotton, hemp and raw cocoons produced in Changning Guard area were supplied to several workshops of Changning Xu family. They produced fabric and silk, which were sold throughout the state, earning a considerable profit.

At the same time, the raw cocoons produced by the Xinmao Silkworm Farm, one of the pillar industries of the Ping'an Wang family, were supplied to the Changning Xu family.

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Chapter 18 Spirit Bee Hive_1

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Let's momentarily leave aside some irrelevant details.

In Changning Weicheng, the East Market and West Market are undoubtedly the liveliest. The East Market mainly consists of various street-side shops selling local specialties from the towns beneath the Weicheng, such as fruits and vegetables, meat and poultry from different animals, fuel, rice, oil and salt, and daily necessities, etc. The fish stall of the Ping'an Wang Family was also among them.

Wang Shouzhe and others, leading their horses and immersing themselves in the market, felt as if they had entered a large farmer's market. All kinds of agricultural products and handicrafts were available. There were not only large specialty shops belonging to wealthy merchants or prominent families but also many scattered peddlers occupying corners of the marketplace.

They were selling all sorts of odd items. These peddler spots were specifically set aside by the Changning government office to prevent these Independent Cultivators from setting up stalls everywhere which could be hard to manage.

Independent Cultivators didn't usually have high-quality items, but they often roamed all around. The items they sold were diverse and occasionally unique.

"Top Level Two Fierce Beast - Black-Backed Fierce Bear's bile, only one pair left, priced at fifteen Qian Gold, no haggling." A scarred man, clad in an animal hide armor and an Independent Cultivator, at his stall. His stall was spread out on a sturdy bear hide, on top of which a pair of shadow-dried bear-bile was hanging on a tree branch.

There was a sign standing erect, giving the vibe of 'stay away, stranger'.

"This bear hide is black on the back and white on the belly, the texture is thick, it indeed seems to be the hide of a Black-Backed Fierce Bear." The head of the household, Wang Zhong, whispered on one side, "This pair of bear-bile has a golden color and the quality seems good. Fifteen Qian Gold is not expensive, if sold to Danfang, you can at least earn four or five Qian Gold".

Having studied the Fierce Beast Atlas since childhood, Wang Shouzhe could identify most common beasts and the materials on their bodies. He just smiled and said, "We can't be greedy about this kind of stuff." Then, he walked away without looking back.

"Does the family head think that it's a fraud? I think this bear-bile's color and quality are excellent, it can't be wrong." Wang Zhong was somewhat unwilling but obediently followed him. His eyes were somewhat reluctant to leave the stall, "If the family head doesn't care about making a small profit... maybe..."

"Idiot, the family head must have noticed something strange!" Wang Yong gave him a harsh stare.

"Hehe~ The tip of the bear hide is dry and black, obviously, it is quite old. That pair of bear-bile, although shadow-dried, is still bright in color and must have been taken out within the past three months." Wang Shouzhe laughed, "Wang Zhong, if you want to buy it, I can lend you the money. You don't have to share the profit with me."

He couldn't help but silently laugh. Compared to Earth, the stall fraudsters in our Profound Martial World seem so crude. They don't even make up a strange story or anything, not professional at all.

"No, no. Luckily, I came out with the family head today." After a cold sweat, Wang Zhong was like a cat on hot bricks. He grumbled, "These Independent Cultivators are indeed untrustworthy. There are too many scam artists."

"We, the Profound Martial World Prominent Families, have homes and businesses, foundations, and bases. As long as we secure these bases, we will have incessant cultivation resources." Said Wang Shouzhe leisurely, "Those Independent Cultivators are homeless drifters.

They have to find everything by themselves, and their lives are inherently difficult, and they are also very likely to be deceived or cheat others. Once they commit something wrong, they can pack up and leave without hesitation. They might even disguise or change their identities.

What's the point of our ancestors' hard work, sacrifices, and the establishment of a family business to guard the family's properties if Independent Cultivators could have resources easily?"

What the family head said made perfect sense.

Both Wang Zhong and Wang Yong grew increasingly respectful of Wang Shouzhe. They had begun to notice the differences between the new family head and the previous one, and could clearly distinguish the situation of the Independent Cultivators and the prominent families in just a few words.

From then on, they became increasingly cautious about those random, differently-dressed Independent Cultivators who set up stalls with all kinds of junk along the sides of the road. As soon as they saw Independent Cultivators, they thought they were dealing with frauds.

"How much for this beehive?"

At this moment, Wang Shouzhe suddenly squatted in front of a stall. The stall-owner was a sloppily dressed man in his forties and looked like he had reached the peak of the third level in the realm of Qi refinement.

But this was also the normal state for most Independent Cultivators; having the inability to find systematic ways of cultivation, lacking guidance from elders, and an unstable supply of cultivation resources made it hard for most Independent Cultivators to get ahead.

As soon as the stall-owner saw Wang Shouzhe's lavish attire and the two heavily-armed guards behind him, it was clear that they weren't ordinary people. He immediately swallowed his exorbitant initial price and put on a pleasing smile: "This young master, this is a Tiger Head Spirit Bee Hive, which I obtained by risking my life in the mountains.

As you can see, there is still plenty of spiritual honey and bee larvae in this hive. I want to trade it for two Little Pei Yuan Dan."

When it came to Little Pei Yuan Dan, there was a rumbling sound in his throat.

"Are you trying to rob us?" Wang Yong's face changed, and he put his hand on his knife handle, "This beehive is only the size of a head, at most it could yield two 'liangs' of spiritual honey. The little bee pupa isn't even enough for a stir-fry dish. The most it could be sold for is a few Qian Gold."

"Good sir, please don't be angry." The stall owner appeared slightly fearful and spoke, "This beehive is freshly harvested and many of the bee pupae inside are still alive. If your family possesses an Insect Master, it's likely you could cultivate a Tiger Head Spirit Bee colony."

Many independent cultivators roam across the world. Their strength may not be impressive, but their knowledge is extensive.

"You're overthinking. There is not a single Insect Master in the entire Changning region. We purchased this rare item to spice up our meals." Wang Shouzhe took out ten Qian Gold, "This is enough to buy a Little Pei Yuan Dan. Take it or leave it. If you add even a shilling more, I'm walking away."

The stall owner, after much hesitation, reluctantly sold at a painful loss, "Young Master, if this were in a bigger town or county, it would be worth twenty Qian Gold. Unfortunately, by the time I get it there, these bee pupae will all be dead."

If the bee pupae could live for another few days, the stall owner would earnestly consider the wearisome trip to sell it at the county, given the difference of ten Qian Gold. Once the bee pupae die off, the value of this Tiger Head Spiritual Bee Hive plummets.

After finalising the sale, Wang Shouzhe told Wang Yong to pack up the hive and carry it away, not bothering with any further haggling with the stall owner.

While this purchase couldn't be considered a real bargain, it wasn't a loss either. If he gave it to his fifth younger sister, Wang Luo Jing, to play with, there was a slight chance that a wonder could happen. If they really managed to cultivate Tiger Head Spirit Bees, that would add a unique industry to the family assets.

Sighting a Tiger Head Spirit Bee in the wild was practically impossible. One would only incidentally encounter them in extremely remote areas. Even with a concerted effort, finding one could take anywhere from six months to a year.

Afterward, they casually strolled around other independent cultivator stalls, but didn't come across any other items of interest. Without realizing it, they ended up at the center of the East Market, near one of their own family businesses—the Changning East Market Fishmonger stall.

Ping'an Wang Family Fishmonger

The six-character name spanned over three shops. Compared to the scruffy stalls, the tidiness and upscale ambiance of the fishmonger were noticeably superior.

Looking at this Wang Family fishmonger, memories overwhelmed Wang Shouzhe, instigating a powerful emotional surge.

These three storefronts, along with the private courtyard at the back, were the last remaining assets of the Wang family in Changning Guard City.

Ever since those two major battles fifty years ago, the prestige of the Ping'an Wang family plummeted. To support the family, and to raise a new Spirit Platform Realm powerhouse as soon as possible, the Wang family resolutely sold many of their fixed assets in Changning Guard City.

Unfortunately.

The highly expected Wang Dingtian met a premature death at the young age of twenty, leaving no offspring behind.

Wang Xiaohan, the sixth grandfather, did manage to reach the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm in his forties and attempted to impact the Spirit Platform Realm. Unfortunately, after depleting a massive amount of resources, his attempt was unsuccessful. Today, the sixty-five-year-old Wang Xiaohan is still stalled at the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

As for Wang Shouzhe's father, Wang Dingyue, his fate was even more tragic. At a time when the family's resources were not sufficient to support him in impacting the Spirit Platform Realm, he daringly ventured into the outer region in search of an opportunity. Regrettably, he ended up losing his life.

If the family were to continue selling off their assets, such as selling all three of their farms, they would undoubtedly gather enough resources for Wang Dingyue to impact the Spirit Platform Realm. But if they did so and failed, the Ping'an Wang family would be instantly reduced to penury.

Wang Shouzhe had a vague feeling that when he reached the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm, the family might indeed decide to sell off all their assets in a final gamble.

However, if they had to resort to that desperate measure, it would surely signify the failure of Wang Shouzhe, the transmigrator.

"Fourth Brother, what brings you here?"

While Wang Shouzhe was deep in thought, a surprised voice called out.

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Chapter 19 The Legendary Fiancee_1

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It was a robust man wearing coarse hemp clothing and busy at work. He put down the box of salted fish he was carrying on his shoulder with a 'clang' and walked over with great excitement.

Wang Shouzhe composed himself and recognized that it was his elder brother, Wang Shouyi, the second of his generation with the character "Shou" in their names. He immediately gave a respectful bow and flashed a smile: "Second Brother, why are you dressed like this and even handling the chores yourself?"

Wang Shouyi grinned helplessly: "You don't know, for some reason, Sixth Uncle has sent over the entire stock of salted fish from the Dingpu Warehouse for me to sell urgently. Even with the help of porters, it's too hectic. See, we are still unloading the goods."

As he spoke, he pointed at several horse carts loaded with goods that were lined up behind him, almost blocking the road entirely.

Eh... Hehe.

Wang Shouzhe, of course, knew the reason. Due to his suggestions and plans, the amount of fish caught by the fishing team this year was unprecedented. If the stock of salted fish is not sold as soon as possible, once the large amount of freshly caught fish hits the market, the unsold salted fish would be left to waste.

"Wang Zhong, Wang Yong, help with the unloading," Wang Shouzhe waved his hand.

"Yes, Family Head." The two house guards promptly put down their baggage to lend a hand. Both of them, one at the Qi Refinement Realm Level Four and the other at Level Five, had physical strength much stronger than ordinary people.

To top it off, Wang Shouyi was also at the Qi Refinement Realm Level Five. With these three martial artists unloading together, the speed shot up rapidly.

Of course, Wang Shouzhe was already at the High Level Six of the Qi Refinement Realm. If he were to help, it would be even faster. But him, the prominent head of the family, moving salted fish would surely tarnish the family's reputation if word got out, wouldn't it?

In less than an hour, all the fish from the horse carts were moved into the warehouse, and the road was clear again.

Afterwards, a freshly cleaned-up Wang Shouyi originally planned to entertain Wang Shouzhe in the backyard. However, he was turned down, which led them to find a place in the fish stall to chat over tea.

"Fourth Brother, our fish stall mainly sells salted and smoked dry fish, fresh fish, and live fish," Wang Shouyi personally poured the tea and explained, "The dry goods such as salted fish are mostly bought by traveling merchants in bulk and sold towards the northwest."

"The fresh fish is primarily sold to the vendors inside Changning Guard City, who come to our stall to pick up the goods every day early in the morning. Secondly, we supply fresh and live fish to several restaurants in the city. For these, we provide the delivery service but the price is slightly higher."

"Further, some prominent families and wealthy merchant houses also have a lot of fresh and live fish requirements daily. Therefore, every day from the early morning to noon is the busiest time for our fish stall."

With this explanation, Wang Shouzhe understood how the Wang family's fish stall operated. The main idea was to sell the fish caught by the fishing team at the highest price possible. The net income it could bring to the family was about two hundred Qian gold a year.

It was precisely because the net profit wasn't high that the seventh-generation clansman, Wang Shouyi, was assigned the responsibility here.

Wang Shouyi's talents were not outstanding, merely Grade D. Therefore, the resources he had enjoyed from the family since childhood could not compare with Wang Dingyue and Wang Shouzhe, which resulted in his cultivation being only in the early Level Five of Qi Refinement Realm at thirty-three years old.

Fortunately, Wang Shouyi was calm, hardworking and had no complaints about the family's allocation of resources. Instead, he conscientiously took charge of one of the family businesses and contributed to the family.

"Second Brother, you've worked hard over the years," Wang Shouzhe said gravely as he bowed his hand.

"What are you talking about, Fourth Brother?" Wang Shouyi hastily returned the formality. "As a direct bloodline of the Wang family, it's my duty to manage the family's businesses. What's there to be hard about? As long as one day you can break through to the Spirit Platform Realm, our Wang Family will surely have better days."

Spirit Platform Realm! Spirit Platform Realm!

Wang Shouzhe sighed inwardly. All of his clan members were placing their hopes on him. It was this hope that allowed them to work tirelessly.

"Don't worry, Second Brother. Our Wang Family is bound to get better and better." Wang Shouzhe confidently grinned, "By the way, I heard that nephew Zongsheng is quite gifted and has a Grade C talent?"

Upon mention of Zongsheng, a joyful smile appeared on Wang Shouyi's honest face, "That boy is pretty good, better than his father. It looks like my bloodline is pretty decent!"

"Hehe, Second Brother, that's because your wife has good bloodlines," Wang Shouzhe said, teasingly. "I know, Second Sister-in-law was a famous beauty when she was at the Xu Clan of Jingsha waiting for marriage, many families proposed marriage to her. Yet, unexpectedly, you managed to fight your way through and captured Second Sister-in-law's heart."

"You still remember that, Fourth Brother? Weren't you a child at that time? Hehe, your Second Sister-in-law doesn't like those flashy young masters, and instead took a liking to

your simple and honest Second Brother," Wang Shouyi said, recalling the past with evident pride. "Marrying your Second Sister-in-law was the biggest victory of my life.

By the way, you turned eighteen this year, didn't you, Fourth Brother? When do you plan to bring home the Liu Family's daughter?"

The Liu family's daughter?

Wang Shouzhe was taken aback. Had Wang Shouyi not brought it up, he had forgotten that he was already engaged to the eldest legitimate daughter of the Liu Family.

Under normal circumstances, the now declining Wang Family would not be able to forge a connection with the direct line of the Liu family. Their relationship only extended to occasional intermarriages between their direct lines. The last marriage between the direct lines of the Wang and Liu families was a few hundred years ago.

At that time, Liu Xuanfu, the daughter of the Liu family's direct line, married Wang Yu, Zhou Xuan's second son, and Wang Zhuwei, Zhou Xuan's second daughter, married into the Liu family's direct line.

It should be noted that Grand Aunt Zhuwei gave birth to two sons and a daughter in the Liu Family, and the two living old ancestors of the Liu family at the Spirit Platform Realm level, one was Grand Aunt Zhuwei's son, and the other was her grandson.

It also explained why the Liu Family in Shanyin always reciprocated the kindness owed to the Wang Family.

However, the most remarkable person in the Liu family was Liu Xuanfu, the daughter of Grand Aunt Zhuwei.

Liu Xuanfu and Wang Longyan of the Wang Family were both regarded as Heaven's Spoiled Girls and were concurrently admitted into the Purple Abode's academic palace, which caused a sensation in the entire region of Changning Weicheng.

They were known as the two beauties of Changning, and their reputations surpassed that of many families' Old Ancestors at the Spirit Platform Realm. Moreover, they both performed well at the Purple Abode's academic palace and had promising futures.

Regrettably,

Following the Wang Family's great tragedy, Old Ancestor Longyan had to abandon her position as an outstanding disciple in the Academic Palace and return to her family. Unfortunately, she suffered a severe injury and her lifespan significantly decreased. She has not left Changning ever since.

Liu Xuanfu, on the other hand, continued to develop in the Purple Abode's Academic Palace, and her recent status was unknown. However, the growing strength of the Shanyin Liu Family indicated that her progress in the Purple Abode's Academic Palace must be going well.

Therefore, Wang Shouzhe's engagement to the legitimate daughter of the Liu Family was proposed by Old Ancestor Longyan when she personally visited them. This was her way of leaving a final safeguard for the family.

Perhaps Old Ancestor Longyan paid an unknown cost, or perhaps the Liu family still holds onto past sentiments, in any case, the engagement was set.

"Fourth brother, Fourth brother, what are you thinking about?" Wang Shouyi laughed hehehe, "Could it be you're thinking about your unbetrothed wife - Liu Ruolan, Miss Liu?"

"Hehe~ Second Brother, let's focus more on how to strengthen our family," Wang Shouzhe diverted the topic, "If Uncle Six's fishing fleet produces double the yield compared to previous years, can your fish stall handle it?"

"What, double?" Excitement colored Wang Shouyi's face as he exclaimed, "Fourth Brother, is the family willing to expand the fishing boats? This is a good thing for the family. If it really happens, I'll make sure not to drag us down."

"What about twice that?" Wang Shouzhe said with a smile.

"Sigh~" Wang Shouyi inhaled deeply, "Fourth Brother, don't tease your Second Brother."

Just as Wang Shouzhe was about to explain, a sinister laughter echoed from outside, "Is Wang Family's Second Brother, Wang Shouyi, in? It's Ding Youde, the second shopkeeper of the Wealth Casino. Your nephew owes our gambling house money, when will he pay it back?"

Wealth Casino? Gambling debt? Nephew?

At the same time as Wang Shouyi's face changed drastically, Wang Shouzhe's smile also froze on his face, and his eyes became sharper.

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Chapter 20 Teaching the Younger Generation_1

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All Profound Martial prominent families have diligent members who contribute to their clan. Just as well, they may also have rotten members. Luckily, the clan regulations in the Ping'an Wang family are strict, and there's also the pressure of the family's hard fight for

survival and ancestor's glory. Thus, the majority of the clan members usually behave in accordance with their roles.

However, the eighth generation of the Zong generation has produced a layabout who doesn't strive to advance.

"Fourth brother, you're now the Clan Leader, so it's inappropriate to get involved," said Wang Shouyi with a cold face, "Wait a bit. I'll be back soon."

After saying this, he walked out in a rush.

Before long, Wang Shouyi came back in, dragging a youth of about twenty into the room. The youth, with a swollen and bruised face, was sobbing uncontrollably, "Second uncle, I was wrong, I really know I was wrong. Please spare me this time and don't tell my father!"

"You bloody wild creature!" Wang Shouyi, consumed with anger, gave the youth a kick sending him rolling, "You've fallen so low, but still refuse to reflect on your mistakes. You shamelessly beg for mercy, expecting me to cover for you?"

Oh no!

After the youth howled a couple of times, he raised his head and saw an extraordinarily graceful youth sitting motionlessly, looking at him expressionlessly.

The youth immediately shivered, like struck by lightning, his eyes reflecting the terror of doomsday: "Fo-fourth Uncle! You, you, you..." His body wobbled and he seemed to be about to faint. At this point, he would have preferred to confront his father, but definitely not his Fourth Uncle.

His father would merely give him a sound beating, and after being locked up for a few months, he would be back on his feet.

But this guy...

"How much did you lose?" asked Wang Shouzhe coldly.

"This bloody wild creature. He has only been here for a little over a month and owes twenty Qian Gold to the gambling house, and with his mother's money and a Cultivation Pill that he secretly sold off, his total losses amount to forty Qian Gold!" Wang Shouyi's anger flared up.

Under normal circumstances, twenty or thirty people toiling day and night for a year, would be able to earn just over two hundred Qian Gold.

This lad, on the other hand, managed to gamble away forty Qian Gold, an amount that could buy four Cultivation Pills.

"Fourth Uncle, I was wrong, I was really wrong." The youth, collapsing onto the floor, began to repeatedly kowtow to Wang Shouzhe, "I beg Fourth Uncle to give me one more chance."

"Chance? I've given you far too many chances already." shouted Wang Shouyi, "The family had originally assigned you to the Xinmao Silkworm Farm to work under your eldest brother and learn something useful. But you've spent all your time with bad company, even daring to harass good women!

Subsequently, your grandfather and mother sought mercy for you and allowed you to work under your sixth uncle's ship team. But you found it too laborious, so you sneaked over here. I was wrong. I really shouldn't have taken you in! The charms of the outside world have completely blinded you."

After pondering for a moment, Wang Shouzhe slowly said, "Zongwei, being the eldest among the Zong generation, you should be setting a good example for your younger siblings, but you turned out to be so disreputable. As your eldest brother's son, it's his responsibility to educate you.

But since I, Wang Shouzhe, am of the direct line and presently the Clan Leader, I also have a right and duty to discipline wayward clan members."

"Fo-fourth Uncle!" cried out Wang Zongwei, collapsing into a heap of mud in fear, "For my father's sake, for my, my, my great grandfather's sake..."

"Let's do this. Since you like to gamble, I'll gamble with you." Wang Shouzhe said, his face devoid of any expression as he took out a Qian Gold coin and squeezed it in his palm, "Let's gamble to see which hand I have the Qian Gold coin in. If you guess right, we'll consider today's matter as not having happened. If you lose, I won't be excessively harsh, I'll just take one of your hands.

Out of respect for your great grandfather, you can then live a peaceful life in the clan as a parasite."

"What?" Wang Zongwei froze in fear, the tears in his eyes drying up, "Fo-fourth Uncle, I don't want to gamble, I don't."

"The fourth..." Wang Shouyi changed his countenance and was about to plead when Wang Shouzhe waved his hand to cut him off. In a cold voice, Wang Shouzhe said, "Even if Wang Xiaohui, your grandfather Wang Dingchuan, or your father Wang Shouxin were present, it would make no difference."

Wang Shouyi shivered and instinctively closed his mouth, not daring to plead any further.

Although they were all members of the Wang clan and brothers of the Shou generation, Wang Shouzhe, as the direct line successor and currently the Wang Clan Leader who had been cherished by the Old Ancestor Longyan since he was young, naturally held a different status.

For the Wang clan, even ten of such worthless scoundrels like Wang Zongwei would not equal a single finger of Wang Shouzhe's in importance.

After intimidating Wang Shouyi, Wang Shouzhe turned his gaze back to Wang Zongwei and said coldly, "If you don't want to gamble, then I'll take it as your surrender. Hold out your hand."

"No, no, no, I'll bet, I'll bet." Wang Zongwei insisted frantically, "I bet the Qian Gold is in Fourth Uncle's right hand."

"Hehe~" Wang Shouzhe's eyes flashed a cold glint as he slowly opened his empty right palm, "Zongwei, you lost."

"No, no! Fourth Uncle, give me another chance, just one more!" Wang Zongwei started to scream hysterically, "It's in your left hand, the Qian Gold is in Fourth Uncle's left hand."

"Are you sure?"

"I'm sure, I'm sure!"

Wang Shouzhe slowly opened his left palm, which was still empty. His gaze, sharp as a blade, fixed on Wang Zongwei, "Zongwei, you should uphold your credibility, if you are willing to bet, you should be willing to accept loss. Wang Zhong, Wang Yong!"

"Yes, Family Head."

The two head of households emerged, holding up a trembling Wang Zongwei who had collapsed like a pile of mud, mumbling, "Fourth Uncle, spare me, spare me."

"Clang!"

Wang Shouzhe's sword was unsheathed, its cold glint flickering.

Wang Shouyi could no longer bear to watch, turning his head away.

"Swoosh!"

Wang Shouzhe's sword slashed, a flash of light and then back in the sheath.

"Ah~~~~" Wang Zongwei screamed tragically, "My hand, my hand is gone, is gone..." The smell of urine filled the air.

The faces of Wang Zhong and Wang Yong, the two head of households, twisted in disgust as they dropped him. Pitying how drastically different this young master Zongwei is from the family head when they both come from the same bloodline of old ancestor Zhou Xuan. It's hard to believe Zongwei is already twenty, even two years older than the family head.

"Smack!" Wang Shouyi stepped forward, slapping his wailing short, scolding angrily and disgustedly, "Enough, stop howling, you disgraceful dog. Quickly thank your Fourth Uncle."

"My hand, my... it's still there, it's still there..." Overjoyed, Wang Zongwei began yelling amid tears and snot, quickly bowing down to Wang Shouzhe, "Thank you, Fourth Uncle. I will, I will become a better person, start anew."

"Remember, you owe me a hand and I reserve the right to reclaim it at any time. In addition, your cultivation resources and salaries will be temporarily confiscated, and transferred to, um... transferred to Wang Luotong." Wang Shouzhe, not wanting to see anymore, turned and walked away, with the two head of households closely following behind.

"Thank you, Fourth Uncle, thank you, Fourth Uncle." Wang Zongwei didn't dare argue and kept kowtowing.

Wang Shouyi shot Zongwei a fierce glance, quickly catching up to Shouzhe. With a sigh, he said, "Fourth Brother, I understand that you want to teach Zongwei a lesson, but..."

"But what?" Wang Shouzhe scoffed, "Could it be that Second Uncle or Big Brother will win for him?"

"I'm not worried about Grandpa and Big Brother." Wang Shouyi said helplessly, "As you know, sister-in-law Xu is of the direct bloodline from the Xu Family of Changning, having lived a pampered life her character is quite... You confiscating Zongwei's resources is deserved, she cannot nitpick about that.

However, you transferring the resources to sister Luotong might give sister-in-law an opportunity to cause a fuss."

"Regardless if sister-in-law hails from the Xu or Liu family, she's now one of our Wang Family." Wang Shouzhe stated calmly, "I believe being born in such a prominent family, sister-in-law is definitely a person who knows right from wrong. In due time, she will appreciate my good intentions."

Wang Shouyi opened his mouth wanting to counter but decided against it. He understood that although sister-in-law Xu is bold, she doesn't necessarily dare to oppose Shouzhe, and that relieved him significantly.

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