

# I Am Supreme

## Chapter 26: Heartbroken Departures. Keeping Watch

"If there's anything more mysterious than a woman's mind, I don't know what it is..." Yun Yang mumbled ungraciously under his breath.

"I've decided to name the baby wolf Little Moon! What do you think?" Ji Ling asked excitedly.

"Little Moon?" The corners of Yun Yang's lips quivered with derision even as he replied with artificial enthusiasm, "Marvelous! I've never heard of a better name!"

Ji Ling, sensing the sarcasm that lay very close to the surface of the sly and perfunctory man's words, glared at him. She lacked the heart to reply with a witty rejoinder but soon forgot about her ire as her excitement shone through yet again. "With Little Moon's cooperation, I'll be able to win the tournament with ease! No doubt I'll be the big sister this time!"

"No doubt indeed!" Yun Yang exclaimed with profound skepticism. That is if your mystical beast tournament measures victory by how playful your pets are, and how they are trained! You dared to claim that it was a marvelous and superior tournament just before this?

"Definitely a victory!" Ji Ling was confidence personified.

"If you are so certain of your success," Yun Yang was somewhat puzzled, "Why aren't you leaving? Why do you still insist on lingering on here?"

The smile that had been playing happily on Ji Ling's face froze in mid-speech. Somebody up above certainly had a divinely twisted sense of humor! She had never met such an imbecile who was too thick to get the hint!

"You are not... attracted to me, are you?" Yun Yang took a fearful step back. "Lady, please take into account my youth, I am still..."

"Why don't you just find a way to end your own life?"

Ji Ling was mortified with embarrassment. Yun Yang leaped up as he cradled his right foot and hissed, "We were talking courteously, why did you have to hit me?"

Ji Ling looked at him with gritted teeth and suddenly roared, "There's no one lingering, I'll be taking my leave right now!"

With her head lowered to hide her red-rimmed eyes, she charged out of the room, hugging onto her baby wolf.

This bastard! This despicable...

"Hey, wait up!" Yun Yang called out frantically from somewhere behind her.

Despite herself, Ji Ling slowed down her steps, a faint light of hope blossoming in her heart. "What else do you want from me? Weren't you chasing me away?" She was absolutely certain that he had chased her down to apologize.

"I just wanted to remind you; don't forget about our deal!" Yun Yang said in all seriousness, "You'll have to fulfill them if you win. It's absolutely crucial!"

Her delicate figure trembled like a leaf caught in a heavy wind before she fled, her words nasal and distant, coming as if from afar, "I, Ji Ling, am not one to shamelessly cheat!"

And then she was gone.

Yun Yang stood quietly for a moment before he murmured softly to himself, "Just as long as you remember... I was just concerned that you might forget..."

Lao Mei, who had been standing behind Yun Yang and had witnessed the entire spectacle groaned and smacked his forehead in frustration.

Young master, this is the very reason why you'll stay alone for the remainder of your life.

You could have said goodbye, but did it have to be in such an unpleasant manner?

...

Witnessing Ji Ling's departure, Yun Yang's eyes glinted with an unreadable light before his expression turned somber, as if he had suddenly donned a mask and strapped on a burden that weighed down his entire being.

"Young master..." Lao Mei sighed behind him, "You have hurt Lady Ji's feelings..."

Yun Yang exhaled and managed to keep his tone light, "Nothing to be heartbroken about, my good man. We are obviously people from two very different worlds. The young lady may still be innocent but I have to practice sensibility at all times."

Lao Mei was puzzled, "Sensibility?"

Yun Yang's rebuke was gentle, "Lao Mei, what do you know of Lady Ji's background? I'm sure you have been able to arrive at some observations."

Lao Mei nodded with a sigh.

"If the two parties were genuinely involved with each other, we both know what would be the outcome, don't we?" Yun Yang asked with a tinge of bitterness.

Lao Mei heaved another sigh of reluctant agreement.

"Besides, at least this Lady Ji has not yet formed an attraction to me. At most, it's just a vague, juvenile interest... just a passing fancy, am I not right?" Yun Yang stated.

Lao Mei sighed for the umpteenth time; Yun Yang was right. It was just that; not even a mild attraction, but merely a general sense that Yun Yang was an interesting character. Love was definitely out of the question! However, these things could be slowly developed...

"So, pray tell, why should I pursue this and bring further heartache to myself?" Yun Yang smiled with cynicism, his gaze far away and chill enough to bring a nip of frost into the air.

"Young master's words do make a certain amount of sense." Lao Mei's sigh was as deep as it was sincere.

Yun Yang continued, "Status quo... it's the perfect state to be."

His heart was at peace but his mind was awash with a thousand thoughts, "I have not avenged my brothers; my eight brothers and eight hundred comrades who passed on just recently. I am at a loss as to how to claim vengeance, how could I even start to think of romance?"

"Romance, at this juncture, would be a luxury."

Yun Yang's flickered with sudden bloodlust, the glimmer vanishing as soon as it came. "Lao Mei, I will be away for a bit."

Lao Mei replied, "Please allow me to accompany you, young master."

"That will not be necessary."

"Marquis Yun will be back soon..." Lao Mei blurted out the first thing that came to his mind as he looked at Yun Yang who was about to take his first step out of the residence.

“Oh, really?”

With that, Yun Yang was gone.

“Sigh!”

Other than sighing, Lao Mei was at loss as to what to do. He had served Marquis Yun for a decade, but he had never known when Marquis Yun had taken a wife and fathered a child.

It was until three years ago when he brought Yun Yang back and claimed that he was his son. Lao Mei was completely aghast at that time, going on to stay at Tiantang City and became a butler for three years. Of course, what had stunned Lao Mei, even more, was that Marquis Yun had only stayed for a month upon bringing Yun Yang back before leaving without a word for three years as if he had vanished into thin air. They were both equally matched in the nonchalance, and Lao Mei had never seen another pair of father and son with such a peculiar relationship in his life!

This young master was still normal two years ago. Other than disappearing for a few months at a time, and voiding his appearance for two to three times a year, everything else was still normal.

However, he was completely different when he came back this year!

...

Yun Yang strolled leisurely dressed entirely in purple. His handsome face attracted attention along the way; women and ladies had all sneaked a peek at him and immediately flushed red.

He did not walk fast, his steps carefree yet collected; it was a lazy aloofness that came from within. His cheeks were rosy, his mind peaceful.

He turned a few corners after coming out from the Residence of Yun into the main street of the city and headed towards Tiantang Square.

Before the Lionheart Pavilion, there were bountiful people paying their tribute, the scent of candles filling the air.

Yun Yang followed the crowd to the front of the memorial; he straightened his body as he lit the candle and held it in his hands, bowing respectfully low;

“Brothers, keep me in your blessing so that I may seek hints of the enemy and avenge your death!”

“Brothers, keep me in your blessing so that I may spot the treacherous in court and eradicate them!”

“Comrades, your heroic souls are with me, witness how I take revenge for all!”

“Comrades, worry not. As long as I, Yun Yang, stand, even if I have to exhaust my resources, even if I have to rob this world blind... I shall never allow your family to feel wronged!”

Yun Yang straightened up and pushed the three joss sticks into the censer firmly, his head lifting to give a long stare at the memorial before turning to leave without a second glance.

He turned into an alley briskly, disappearing from view. When he reappeared once again, he was already somewhere not unlike a slum. What was different was that even though the people here looked poor, they were content. Some silver-stranded old folks could be seen sitting at the roadside chatting, their faces that were etched with vicissitudes of life were content and happy as laughter came about occasionally.

Once in awhile, a few handicaps – some missing an arm, some an eye or a leg... could be seen walking past, holding onto each other. Their scarred faces were also filled with hope for life.

“Li the fourth, did your house get silver taels yet?”

“Yes, we received them. You?”

“Us too.”

“I wonder which charitable person it was to have been so generous. These silver taels... I received them with a shudder. What kind of wealth must one possess to be able to keep performing charitable deeds like this...”

“Exactly! I am a recipient of a person’s kindness, and I don’t even know who it is... such shame.”

A ghost of a smile tugged at the corners of Yun Yang’s lips as he slowly walked by, his eyes barely glancing about.

Behind him, a person with only one arm who had his voice lowered attracted Yun Yang’s attention.

“Brothers, I keep feeling that...” The one-armed man was obviously on the lookout as he lowered his voice as much as he could, “I keep feeling that this seems to be related to the nine great sirs...”

“The Nine Supremes?” The rest of them exclaimed simultaneously.

“Hush!” The one-armed man reminded them to speak softly. “All those years, the nine sirs had always distributed silver taels to us but that was when we were in the military. Each time our brothers were discharged be it from old age or injuries, someone would always be quick to react – regardless the number of people who were discharged and sent home, everyone would get at least five hundred silver taels...”

“It was only much later that we knew that these silver taels did not come from the military... Do you all still remember?”

“Of course we do! The immense kindness the nine sirs have bestowed upon us crippled veterans, how could we forget it?”

“During those years, the people sent to distribute the silver taels by the nine great sirs were dressed all in black and masked...” The one-armed man’s voice was shaking, “That night, I ate something bad and could not sleep the entire night. I could faintly see a few shadows, masked and garbed in black, throwing silver taels into my room and disappearing.”

“These men dressed in black, and the subordinates of the Nine Supremes last time... they were similarly attired...”

The others who were listening trembled, standing up with strongly shaken expressions as they asked, “Can what you said be true?”

The one-armed man’s voice quavered, his eyes glowing with moisture. He continued in a choked voice, “Do you think... could it be that the nine sirs are not dead after all”

His voice held great hope, his Adam’s apple bobbing up and down distinctly as he wished with all his might, “Nine sirs, please be alive...”

“Other than the nine great sirs, who else would always have us handicapped veterans in their hearts?”

...

Yun Yang took in a breath and left with wide strides. The discussion continued behind him, the emotion-filled voices growing increasingly excited.

“How I hope that the nine sirs are still here!”

Yun Yang picked up his pace, turning a few corners until he got to a quiet, isolated place. Standing still, he leaned against an old wall as he took in deep gulps of air...

His heart ached like it was being wrung dry. "I've done exactly what my brothers did all those years. How could their responsibilities and insistence be gone once it came to me?"

He would think that his eight late brothers would be comforted to see him carrying on their previous efforts.

After some time, he blew out a deep breath and departed.

## **Chapter 27: The Guardian and the Popinjay in Green**

Yun Yang moved forward.

Handicapped and raggedly-clothed people were everywhere but everyone here felt warm and content as if they had no other wish other than to be alive.

"Compared to our brothers who had fallen on the battlefield, we are indeed fortunate."

This was what a blind veteran who had lost one of his legs told an armless veteran beside him as they lounged under the sun by the corner of a wall. His voice was low and his eyes were closed, as he continued to reminisce. Sunlight poured upon them, illuminating the serenity that was exclusive to a world without strife.

As Yun Yang walked past them, he stopped to take the scene in, his gaze envious.

On the street were also fierce-looking thugs who had their clothes left loose, roaming around with idle hands.

Yun Yang's gaze shifted onto them as well, and the envy that was there turned icy cold in contempt. These were healthy and well-built individuals who possessed strength and martial skills, yet they took the despicable path to feed their family. Not only did they refuse to serve the nation nor volunteer themselves in the battlefield, they did not care to settle down peacefully nor help to maintain the safety of a less fortunate group. What they did instead were to steal and rob with their brute force, bullying the weak. These people had no consciences whatsoever.

They did not commit large sins but small, collective crimes and their deaths would be the first to be warranted in this world!

...

It was a plain courtyard. The wall was made of stacked rocks, five rooms were inside in addition to side-rooms on both the left and right. There was also a storeroom for junk on

the south side. This family was not rich by the looks of it but it was obvious that they were better off than most of the others.

The door was half-opened, a girl of about two to three years was seen squatting on the block of stone by the door; her face rested on her hands, the thoughts in her mind solely her own.

A young, beautiful woman dressed in a plain robe came out from inside the house. "Nannan, come back inside. Why did you run out to sit here again?"

The little girl did not move, her childish voice ringing out shrilly, "I'm here to wait for daddy to return. Mummy, where did daddy go? Why isn't he back yet?"

The young woman froze, her eyes started to tear immediately as she lifted her head to look at the black evocation bell hung by the door. She murmured, "When my Nannan grows up big and smart, daddy will be back again."

"Oh..." The little girl pouted and retorted, "But Nannan has already grown up..."

The young woman nodded forcefully, holding in her sobs as she said, "Yes, Daddy will be back soon..."

As she spoke, the dam finally broke, and her tears streamed down soundlessly.

Yun Yang stood concealed in a corner, feeling his eyes prickling at the sight of the mother and daughter pining after their husband and father. This young woman was the one he had saved the other night – Assistant General Wang Zhuang's wife, Juan'er. However, the little girl had suddenly cheered in delight, "Hey, where did this kitten come from? It's adorable!"

Somehow, a snow-white fur ball of a kitten had appeared by their doorway. The kitten was sparkling clean, not a single speck of dust was on its body; its round emerald eyes looked at the girl curiously from where it sat not far away from her.

The little girl Nannan instantly fell in love with it, tottering over. "Hey kitty, are you here to be friends with me?"

The kitten's fur stood rose in alarm but then it abruptly grew relaxed as it looked at Nannan and actually nodded elegantly.

The girl crowed loudly with glee, "Wow, wow, this is great!"

Her mother was about to chide her, feeling amused from her child's innocent words. The kitten's just gotten here and it means that it wants to be friends with you? Does it even understand what you said?



What happened next had the young woman's eyes widen like saucers; she clearly saw the kitten nod, as if in reply to her daughter. It then walked gracefully towards Nannan and extended a snow-white paw to shake her hand.

"Oh my..." The young woman simply could not believe her eyes.

"Great! You'll play with me from now on, alright?" Nannan hugged the kitten happily, stroking it gently like it was a gem, her eyes turning into little crescent moons.

It was obvious that the kitten was rather reluctant but somehow, it did not resist and stayed in Nannan's arms. Its delicate little paw raised hesitantly and lowered, as it mewled.

Nannan was absolutely taken with the kitten, hugging it all the way back to her house. "Mummy mummy, is there anything to feed it? Do we still have my biscuits? Do we still have my fish jerky? My..."

The kitten wrinkled its nose.

The young woman quickly followed, her voice faintly heard, "There, there, Nannan, put it down. Whose cat is this? Maybe it has an owner, you can't simply take it, although I must say this kitten looks really adorable..."

Yun Yang smiled, leaving without a single word.

A pitiful meow could be heard emanating from the house.

"Henceforth, you shall be the guardian of this home... Whoever or whatever threatens to harm this place, I need you to attack without mercy."

"This place, where the families of my brothers and my handicapped brothers stay... I need you to preserve its safety. Every night, you're allowed to come back to the courtyard, I'll double all the cultivation resources and food for you. But the moment you complete a mission badly, even if it's just once, all these will be taken away forever! Do you understand?"

"Meow..."

"If any of those scoundrels threaten anyone, don't hold back. Understood?"

"Meow!"

"Good."

This cat was the same Eclipse Panther that had achieved the third level of a mystical beast. Yun Yang directed a flow of air of vitality and added another layer of camouflage

before assigning it such a heavy task. Following on the execution of cultivation, this Eclipse Panther would improve by leaps and bounds. With a future ninth level mystical beast here to protect the families of his brothers, Yun Yang felt vastly more relieved.

Before he could take on the external forces, he had to protect and stabilize the internal ones first.

“My abilities are still weak, I am only doing what I can. My brothers, please do not judge me harshly. If I succeed in avenging you and remain alive in the process, I shall continue protecting my brothers’ families. If I were to fail... what I can do now is to have them live carefree for these five years and not worry about their safety for at least a hundred years with this panther here!”

“I’m so sorry, brothers, for this is all I can do for now.”

Yun Yang left, resolute and with conviction. As the Endless Divine Art surged through his body, Yun Yang felt energized, his blood boiling with power. Although only at most a fifth of his ability was recovered, Yun Yang felt impatient.

If I can’t beat them, my scheme will surely work against them.

...

Ji Ling had left the Residence of Yun, feeling wronged and so saddened that her tears dropped all along the way.

“What a nuisance! Such an absolute jerk! I’m ignoring you next time!”

The more she thought about it, the more she felt maligned; she became increasingly saddened and grew increasingly convinced of Yun Yang’s unreasonableness.

“You think I’m attracted to you... Hmph! Pfft! You’re even worried that I’d stick around you!”

“Is it so very impressive that you’re Dugu Chou’s disciple? Hmph...”

“It’s people like you that I hate the most in life!”

Even when she had reached the tavern, she was still very much angered, her tears could not stop flowing like a gushing tap.

She had only the slightest liking towards Yun Yang, far from the deep depth of love that women felt for potential husbands. Yun Yang’s attitude, however, annoyed her beyond belief and made her feel inexplicably wronged.

“You dare to bully me? I’ll show you! Hmph!”

Even as these events transpired, waves of people from the martial arts world were headed towards Tiantang City.

...

A man dressed all in emerald green, emerald green robe, emerald green shoes, emerald green hat, emerald green belt, and even had an emerald green bamboo stick sticking out of his head, swaggered through the city gate with an emerald green rucksack on his back and a long emerald green object clutched in his hand.

This person looked young, he was only about twenty years of age but insolence could be felt seeping through each and every pore of his skin.

He was green from head to toe. The only other color was the small black lion by his side. What made the difference even more startling was that the black lion had two heads. It was obvious that it was just a baby mystical beast but it still had an extremely ferocious look.

Such strange clothing on a man was a rare sight, turning heads wherever he passed. He was surprisingly unperturbed by the attention, making his way through the city with haughty arrogance and actually heaved a large sigh of relief when he arrived at his destination.

“F\*ck this! Tiantang City, your father<sup>2</sup> is finally here!”

Two middle-aged men who were walking beside him with straight faces the entire time could take it no longer and said, “Now young master can avenge the previous humiliation here, and take off this... this...”

Both men were wary that their words would offend their young master.

“Why do you feel embarrassed to say it?” The youth snorted, “This time, your father must win! Your father lost the last time and wore this clothing for a year; I admit my defeat, this is nothing! But if your father wins this time, none of them can even dream of being let off lightly, all of them have to wear this! F\*ck! Your father will not have endured such misery this whole year for nothing! They should also taste what your father has gone through this year!” The man spat mercilessly, a look of absolute menace on his countenance.

The two middle-aged guards were speechless.

Let’s not talk about other things, just your catchphrase of ‘your father’... Couldn’t you use some other form of reference? It doesn’t bother you in the slightest that you’ve been beaten up so often...

The last time you addressed yourself as your father when speaking to your elder brother, you were beaten until you couldn't get out of bed for three days; the head of the family then came to see you, your insolence infuriated your father, the twenty-four slaps almost gave you a concussion but you still didn't change. Your great grandfather then came to see you, you 'your father is fine' had your father's father's father – your great grandfather leave right away.

Even though you are ungrounded and can come out to roam, you're still an endless pit of 'your father'...

This madman is indeed one of a kind.

"Quickly find a place to eat and drink." The green-clothed youth waved his hand, "Your father is starving, your father is about to die of thirst as well!"

The two guards were sullenly silent; they really itched to beat him up even though he was far more superior. Who the f\*ck are you calling your father?

"Your father's baby is also hungry!" The green-clothed youth patted the two-headed black lion beside him; the cub actually shook its head to fend off his hand, both its furry faces wore the same look of contempt for him.

"Even this bastard despises your father!" The man in green was livid with anger, "If you weren't the least bit useful, your father will braise you tonight!"

The small lion roll all of its four eyes at once, quickened its steps and ran to the front.

"F\*ck!" The young man in green cursed, "Your father's own pet actually behaves like this! When your father's ability advances, I shall beat it to death and eat it! Do you hear me? Braise it into soup today, chew on its hind leg tomorrow, the day after tomorrow..."

"Woo!"

The two-headed lion charged over fiercely, tearing a big hole in the green-clothed youth's robe near the buttocks with a howl and turned to run away.

"F\*ck you!"

The man jumped up while covering his bare bottoms, fuming. "One day, your father will eat you..."

The two-headed lion turned and growled, charging towards him menacingly; its aim this time was clearly his crotch. The young man in green took on a frightened mien, "Dear sir, dear sir, your father calls you dear sir... have mercy... Owner! I'll call you owner, alright? Alright?"

The cub rolled its eyes and swaggered proudly to the front while the youth in green covered his buttocks and walked at the back with a pale face. “Find your father an inn or buy a new set of clothes... What is the meaning of this, exposing half of my buttocks?”

Both guards gave each other a side-long glance; they had nothing to say. Is this not your own fault, you loon? Are you simply too free, to provoke that aggressive lion?

You really have nothing else better to do!

The youth in green was continuing his journey when he looked towards the front with a questioning sound.

“This... is quite interesting.”

...

Yun Yang was making his way back. He would reach the main street in front of him and arrive at the Residence of Yun right after the next turn.

Just as he was about to move along, shouts of chiding and scolding burst out from nowhere and a shadow of a figure was thrown out from the door in front of him with a loud swoosh. The person fell solidly on the ground, and lay still, unable to pick himself up.

Yun Yang angled his body subconsciously and took a step back, his eyes sweeping his sides and back while one of his hands already gripped the hilt of the Divine Edge.

Translator Note:

1Nannan (囡囡nān nān): term of endearment used to address a child, typically a girl; used here as a term of endearment and nickname of Assistant General Wang Zhuang and Juan'er's daughter.

2your father (老子lǎo zi): used as a first person pronoun/ to refer to oneself in arrogance and contempt.

## Chapter 28: Let Us Reason This Out

Tilting his body to the side was his first attempt to avoid the attack; if he failed to evade the strike, he could still prevent it from inflicting damage on his vital parts; finally, he could use his arms, thighs, buttocks, or any less critical and less lethal body parts to block incoming blades or hidden weapons.

The single step backward was to ensure his safety while glancing towards the side and rear was to position himself correctly – if the attack that had seemed to originate from the front was but a ruse to divert his attention, the real assault would come from either the back or side.

While his torso automatically shifted into a defensive stance, his hand had already gripped the saber hilt, ready to distribute his body weight to prepare for a merciless attack.

These were all Yun Yang's spontaneous reflexes from waging war in innumerable battles!

It was only until he straightened up did he realize that the person thrown out was a one-armed man; blood spewed on the street as the man twitched in a fit, trying his best to pick himself up with his single left hand.

Yun Yang frowned and peered upwards above the door. The crimson painted plaque that rested there was emblazoned with four large words – "Residence of Halcyon Marquis".

"Residence of Halcyon Marquis..." Yun Yang immediately began to recite quietly in his heart, "Halcyon Marquis, Xie Wuyuan; Deputy Minister of the Board of War and a civil official; his father-in-law is Grand Tutor Liu Wei of the present dynasty; he used to serve as an ordinary officer but had leaped straight to being the Board of War's Deputy Minister due to stellar performance and exemplary achievements in the military field."

There was no doubt regarding the authority that was present here. However, despite rapidly climbing the ranks with the salutations of warriors and generals, in addition to receiving a military marquis title from the Imperial Court and serving as an official of the Board of War, Yun Yang had no love lost for those that served in the military.

Since time immemorial, the civil sector and the military had always been at odds! It was the same as in the imperial courts, but there was only a handful who dared to declare their allegiances as openly as Sir Xie.

"Sir Xie!" The man had obviously fallen down hard; blood oozed from both his nose and mouth. He seemed to only have raised his guard as he shouted, "This lowly one stands wrongly accused! We're both militants of this nation, why do you seek to drive me away?"

Both militants of the nation? Yun Yang frowned. As if in response to the man's proclamation, three figures slowly stepped out from the building, a man, and his two guards. Descending the staircase, the man had his arms behind him as he pursed his lips and spoke while watching the man on the ground, "Chen San, I was kind and benevolent enough to grant you this chance, yet you squander it by stealing from your

workplace. I have already shown mercy by awarding you a pardon, seeing as to how you have served in the army before. Now, leave quickly unless you wish to die!”

Chen San got to his feet with great difficulty, “Young master have mercy, please allow this lowly one’s wife to return with me. Please be wise, Sir Xie be wise, this lowly one has always lived an upright life and has never done anything deceitful. This lowly one is being wrongly accused!”

“Scram!” Young Master Xie glared, “You say you have been wrongly accused? Do you deny that the jade pendant was found on your person?”

Chen San replied with despair, “Somebody must have framed me! Young master, young master please judge wisely!”

Young Master Xie smirked, “Of all people, somebody chose to frame you? Is it because of your striking looks?”

Chen San’s hopes began to shatter as he hissed, “Even if it was this lowly one’s doing, it does not concern this lowly one’s wife! This lowly one is willing to accept the punishment, young master, please let my wife go!”

“Chase him out!” Young Master Xie commanded, disregarding what the wretch had said, “If he utters any more nonsense, send him straight to the courts!”

“Young Master Xie!” Chen San shouted in grief, “This lowly one has long known that you are charmed by my wife’s beauty! However, one should have some shred of conscience! Where is yours, that you accuse me of theft?”

Young Master Xie’s expression darkened; he issued his orders without a further glance at the man and turned to head back inside.

Chen San attempted to push past the guards. “Let my wife go!”

The two sentries adamantly blocked his way. “Chen San, cease your rantings and attempts to despoil a man’s good name. Any more words from you, and we can’t save you from the courts!”

Chen San’s lips trembled. “But... my wife... my wife...”

One of the guards threw a solid punch straight into his face, sending blood splattering everywhere. “What about your wife? Begone!”

Chen San fell writhing to the ground and let out a hopeless cry. “God! Is there anywhere else in this world that is reasonable? Is this not Tiantang City, under the watch of the Emperor?”

Passersby stayed far away; they skirted the scene by walking along the walls, even as they threw sympathetic gazes over at the unfortunate man.

“This Chen San... The Residence of Halcyon Marquis is beyond his abilities to offend.”

“He hasn’t done too badly... He came out alive, didn’t he?”

“Sigh, if he continues to keep up with his rantings, he’ll be lucky to keep his life!”

“A woman will be the death of him yet.”

These people were indeed omniscient; they knew the whole story by just listening in on a simple conversation. Yet who would dare speak a word against the influential Residence of Halcyon Marquis?

Yun Yang pulled a long face and walked over. The guards, who saw his approach, cocked back a fist, ready to let loose at this unwanted irritation.

Thud!

He blocked the other guard’s punch precisely with his extended arm as his other hand was already pulling Chen San up. “Veteran? What has happened here?”

Chen San’s face dribbled with both blood and tears. “Yes, yes... Handicapped from the war at Yangwu Fortress four years ago... Young master, who are you?”

Yun Yang repeated his question gently, “What’s going on?”

Before Chen San could reply, both guards had surrounded him, menace clear in their eyes. “Fool, don’t poke your nose into another man’s affairs!”

Yun Yang did not even bother to turn his head, but his legs were already moving in response.

With two heavy thuds, both guards lay sprawled on the ground, breathless from his kicks. He moved his left leg back and propped both of his feet perfectly against each of the guard’s chests.

The two guards felt like the weight of a mountain had landed upon them as they struggled to breathe. Their eyes felt as if they were about to pop out of their sockets. They struggled violently but to no avail.

Chen San wiped the blood on his face as he explained his grievances, “A month ago, Young Master Xie sent his men to me, inviting me to be one of the residence’s guards and for my wife to perform some sewing. We were unable to say no to the salary; it was enough to cover our expenses and have some spare change. I was of the impression



that Young Master Xie sympathized with our lives and specifically given us jobs out of generosity. We were unprepared for what would happen next..."

"Just as I finished my duty today, the young master found his missing jade pendant under my bed... This is an absolutely false accusation..."

Yun Yang nodded, "Say no more." A murderous aura sprang up from within his eyes.

"I care nothing about right and wrong." Yun Yang pulled Chen San along. "But I take umbrage at the unlawful detention of a man's wife. Follow me!"

He took big strides towards the door of the Residence of Halcyon Marquis.

The guards had finally picked themselves up from the ground and staggered over, "Stop right there!"

Yun Yang frowned, turned and delivered two lightning-quick backhand blows. Blood spurted from the guard's mouths as they spun away. "It would be acceptable for anyone else, but by looking at both your actions and bearing, are you two not from the army as well? Your comrade is being oppressed and his wife is being held against her will in another man's house, what honor do you fellows have by being accomplices? You both are lesser than animals!" Yun Yang scolded harshly.

The guards laid on the ground, guilt written all over their faces. The injustice of this incident was clear, even more so when they were involved.

"Yun Yang!" Young Master Xie, hearing the commotion, had finally come out, looking displeased. "This has nothing to do with you, don't stick your nose where it doesn't belong!"

Yun Yang smirked and pulled Chen San along, striding along with large steps and stood in front of Young Master Xie.

"Xie Qingyun, what if I wanted to?" Yun Yang asked in a voice suddenly gone quiet and cold.

Xie Qingyun angrily replied, "What right do you have to meddle with my affairs?"

Yun Yang gave a single nod, then raised his hand. Before anyone could stop him, a harsh slap sounded as his palm landed right across Young Master Xie's face. His head snapped back as two teeth flew away, blood gushing out of his nose.

"Release his wife." Yun Yang's expression was colder than Death itself.

"You dare lay hands on me?" Xie Qingyun was stunned, his eyes glared disbelievingly.

Slap!

Yun Yang slapped him again, the blow spinning Xie Qingyun's head around, even as his face remained oddly impassive. "I said, hand the woman over."

Xie Qingyun had collapsed onto the floor, woozy after the abrupt strikes. With the quickness of a desperate man, he got up and hollered hysterically, "Guards! Servants! Guards! Seize this madman!"

Yun Yang took several strides forward as his limbs flowed into graceful action, sending the four guards who had surrounded him to the floor. He grabbed a fistful of Xie Qingyun's robe and lifted him up. His left hand delivered a powerful jab to his nose.

Crack!

Young Master Xie's nose showered blood as the fragile bones collapsed under the vicious blow.

"Capture me? Even your father would not dare talk to me like this! I'm only asking you this one last time; are you or are you not handing over the woman?"

Only whines and odd groans could be heard coming from Xie Qingyun; the man was unable to speak coherently with a devastated nose.

A dignified voice called from inside, "I was wondering who it was. I see now that I have the dubious company of Marquis Yun's young master. No one else would dare cause such a ruckus in my Residence of Halcyon Marquis!"

As the voice continued to ring out loud, a middle-aged man in a black scholar's robe walked out with an impassive expression. Looking at his son, half dead in Yun Yang's hands, a sliver of heartache flashed across his face. "Young Master Yun, this has nothing to do with you, please let him go."

Yun Yang spoke coldly, "Ask your son to release the woman and I'll let go."

"Let us all be reasonable." The man was the Deputy Minister of the Board of War, Xie Wuyuan. His expression was dark as he spoke, "You didn't ask the right and wrong nor the cause and justification, yet you decided to intervene with violence. How is this reasonable?"

Yun Yang snorted with disdain, "Reasonable? I would like to ask how the Xie family practices reason! Let us not argue if Chen San really did commit a crime; even if he did, why hold his wife captive? What reasoning is this? To catch adulterers, you catch them by a pair; to catch a thief, you catch them with the spoils – one does things with proof. What cause have you to apprehend his wife?"

“Is this reasonable then, Sir Xie?” Yun Yang smiled lightly and said, “Since you men are without reason, why should I reason with you? I have only one question to ask of Sir Xie; are you or are you not releasing the woman? I do not care about the cause and effect, I won’t belittle myself by discussing reason with you either. I only ask for the woman to be released, even if it has nothing to do with me!” Yun Yang straightened up as he spoke, “Now, are you letting her go or not? For your own sakes, please answer clearly.”

Xie Wuyuan looked at Yun Yang with a grim face. He did not know about this incident nor did he know if his son would actually do something like this but how could he back down now, under the scrutiny of so many pairs of eyes?

“What would happen if I refuse?” Xie Wuyuan asked coldly.

“If you refuse?” Yun Yang chuckled with grim delight, “Why, I’ll just go on in and get her myself.”

Even as he spoke, he released Xie Qingyun to fall heavily onto the ground and prepared to charge into the residence.

“Guards, stop him!” Xie Wuyuan exploded. “Seize him! Even if I have to enter the palace to meet the emperor with you, I need to make things clear; even if your Residence of Marquis Xiaoyao is influential and all-powerful, justice must be served!”

“Allow me to save you the trouble, and serve you justice... right now!” Yun Yang smirked as he caught hold of Sir Xie, pulling him close as he lifted his knee straight up in a vicious blow.

Bam! Bam!

“Reason? I’m reasoning with you right now! Didn’t you ask for this? Come on, let’s reason this out!” Yun Yang spewed profanities like a raving madman, his normally calm demeanor evaporated even as his fists flew in a flurry of blows. Although he did not use any mystical energy, Sir Xie was of a slight and dainty physique, and he collapsed after only a short assault.

“Let the woman go! You think to threaten me with the emperor? Even if we were to meet the king of hell, you would have to let the girl go first!”

Those spectating felt their eyelids twitch in outrage. This ruffian had not stopped at the son, but had also assaulted the father!

...

Translator Note:

1Lowly one (小人 xiǎo rén): Used as a first person pronoun in regarding oneself as a person of lower status or more inferior to the other party.

## Chapter 29: You're My Idol!

"Stop!" Xie Qingyun had picked himself up, wiping the blood off his face, his expression minacious as he ordered, "Hand the woman over to him!"

Then he glared at Yun Yang murderously as he spat, "Yun Yang, you're doomed! To assault an officer of the imperial court, you are doomed I say!"

Yun Yang sneered coldly, "My doom has nothing to do with you. I'll count to three. If nobody is handed over, then it is your doom that you should be concerned about." Yun Yang's gaze was icy, piercing right into Xie Qingyun.

Xie Qingyun could feel the deadly intent within Yun Yang's eyes. Somehow, he knew that his death would be near at hand should he not hand the woman over!

This man in front of him was a lunatic! He was utterly confused. This was but a crippled veteran who lost an arm and had other injuries on his body; there was nothing on him that was worth salvaging. Moreover, he was not even related to Yun Yang. What madness would compel this man to turn berserk as he had? His actions were as violent as his decisions were rash. It was almost as if it were Yun Yang's own wife that had been taken captive.

Was there really a need to resort to such violence? Xie Qingyun could not comprehend the entire episode and why it had even occurred.

Shortly, a distraught but beautiful young woman was brought out, breaking into tears as soon as she saw Chen San. Chen San went forth quickly and took her into his embrace, comforting her gently, "It's alright, don't be scared."

A throng of guards and servants of the Xie Residence looked on, none of them daring to move a muscle. Chen San and his wife then turned and kneeled down on the ground. "Thank you, young master, for your kindness that is high as the heavens and as thick as the earth!"

Yun Yang frowned and told them curtly, "Leave, quickly. Bring your wife home and live well. You are a man among men, your obeisance is unbecoming."

Chen San puffed out his chest and said, "Chen San will not leave! Young master has put himself at great risk Chen San today, how can Chen San just leave? Whatever you have done, it was caused by Chen San. Don't worry, young master, I, Chen San, shalt not let young master assume this responsibility for me!"

Despite the tense atmosphere, Yun Yang could not help but chuckle, "What is this about assuming responsibility? Would I have dared to make such a big fuss if I didn't have any background to fall back on? If I were afraid of them, would I have been as presumptuous? Don't you understand this? Now, quickly, go home!"

The more that Chen San thought about it, the more he realized that the young master was right, but he was still worried. "Alright, this lowly one will take his leave first. I will report to the Residence of Yun once I have seen my wife home safely. Whatever happens, Chen San will not run."

He bowed deeply and left holding on to his wife. Those who stood around watched Chen San leave with a dozen troubling emotions. He had really met his savior who had saved him and his wife's lives from utter ruination. One thing he had been right about though, this Young Master Yun had indeed gotten himself into dire circumstances.

Looking at the couple's departure, Yun Yang crossed his arms as he walked leisurely towards the door.

"Hold up!" Xie Qingyun wiped at the blood on his face as he spoke in incredulous tones, "Yun Yang, you're leaving just like this?"

Yun Yang turned, speaking with confusion, "You do not want me to go? Do you wish me to stay for a meal?"

It was right about then that Xie Wuyuan arose from his stupor as he let out a long moan of pain. "Yun Yang, your Residence of Marquis Xiaoyao and I, shall forever be irreconcilable!"

A murderous glimmer flashed across Yun Yang's eyes as he spoke, "You speak as if I had enjoyed the co-existence with your family. Bring on all that you have! I shall be ready for you."

Xie Wuyuan was huffing anger, "Just you wait! Just you wait!"

Choking on his anger, he spat blood amidst his furious tirade.

Yun Yang only rolled his eyes and continued to saunter out. Before he stepped out of the door, he spat on the floor as he mumbled, "This is what I think of your family. I don't need to waste any brain power on the likes of you."

With those terribly insulting words, he left.

"Well, I never!" Xie Wuyuan cried out in rage as he collapsed in a dead faint.

...

Just as Yun Yang stepped out of the Xie family's door, a man dressed in green came walking towards him.

Covered in green from head to toe, he sported green robes, green pants, green shoes, and a green belt. Yun Yang felt the corners of his lips twitching in amusement. There was even a green bamboo shoot on this fellow's green hat!

How f\*cking much do you like the color green?

The curious fellow came forward with an earnest mien, his laughter rang loud and clear, "Oh my, oh my! How astoundingly marvelous! My admiration for you is unparalleled... hmm, Young Master Yun I believe? That was so very, very impressive! So impressive in fact, that I even feel awestruck just by watching!"

Yun Yang was stunned. What ailed this man? He found him impressive? Did he not understand the seriousness of what had just transpired? Yun Yang did not know this, but this green-clothed youth had been watching with shiny eyes since the moment he went head to head with Xie Qingyun and was slapping his thigh in glee throughout the drama!

"It's so satisfying... so fulfilling! Look at him!" The youth in green chattered endlessly, his gaze towards Yun Yang admiring as if he had seen his ultimate idol.

"Not even words, right! Unreasonable, so what! Your father can't stand the sight of it! So what he says! He's too remarkable! Too... F\*ck, this fellow's got guts! He really gave them a trashing! It's impressive, not only does he lay into the young one, he doesn't spare the old one either! This... this is my idol!"

The young master bedecked in green had been gesturing wildly and commenting, impressed beyond himself as he exclaimed to the two guards beside him, "Did you see... did you see? This is what a popinjay truly is! Such a pity! I've been titled popinjay for so many years but have only understood the true meaning of it upon coming to Tiantang City today."

"What was I doing previously, being a popinjay... This is the true founder of the popinjays... As a citizen of Tiantang and descendent of a marquis, he dares to trash these imperial court officers once they come to a disagreement. This is so much harder than me bullying people. What's more, he beats them up as just as he said he would with such directness. The most incredible thing of all? He doesn't even bother about the consequences! This is gratifying indeed, tsk , tsk..."

"A role model of my time!"

"It is such a pity that I, Guileless Young Master Dong Tianleng, have only discovered this after so many years. All my days before have just gone to waste!"

This youth in green continued to natter on; his two guards' faces slowly turning black as coal as they listened to him.

You're already lawless enough, now you are actually admiring this rogue who had assaulted people so openly?

If you do the same when you go back, assaulting people just because you can't stand looking at them... your days would indeed be numbered.

Young Master Dong Tianleng had actually intended to go to Yun Yang's aid when he started walloping the men but was forcefully held back by his two guards. Now that he saw Yun Yang had completed his affairs, he had quickly attached himself to him.

"Young master, you are..." Yun Yang was still somewhat dumbstruck by this colorful maniac.

"Your fa... I'm Dong Tianleng!" The youth in green introduced himself with a serious expression. "Dongtian's Dong, Dongtian's Tian, Dongtianleng's Leng."

Yun Yang rolled his eyes. "Alright, winter... is indeed not hot."

"My name is Dong Tianleng!" Dong Tianleng explained in exasperation. "My family name is Dong, my first name is Tianleng."

"Good name!" Yun Yang's compliment was genuine.

I have to say, I don't know this fellow, so I'd naturally have to give him the benefit of doubt, but the person who gave him this name, now; I'm really impressed!

What kind of intelligence did the person have to possess to come up with 'Dong Tian Leng'? ... Are the winters where you live not cold?

Dong Tianleng was beside himself with joy. No one he had met had passed up the chance to mock his name but this paramour in front of him had actually complimented it without hesitation. He was overjoyed but managed to retain his composure as he asked, "What's so good about it?"

What's so good about it?

Yun Yang scratched his head and finally said, "It's good because it's... simple! Brutal! Direct! And it has a significant meaning in addition to being easy to remember. No matter who it is, no one would ever forget once they see you and hear your name! That, my friend, is the hallmark of a great name!"

The more he spoke, the more convinced Yun Yang felt that it was a brilliant name. "F\*ck, this really is a good name."



“Hahahaha! I never knew my name is actually this great... I wrongly held my father to blame for so many years...” Dong Tianleng chortled and slapped Yun Yang’s shoulder, “Not bad, brother! Very well! Even-tempered, just, and clear-minded! Let me buy you a drink!

Yun Yang had no intention or inclination to drink. He immediately rejected the offer politely, “Apologies, I have to retire to my home, as I still have many errands left undone...”

“No problem at all! I will just go back to your residence with you to drink! We can do so after you’ve completed what you need to do.” The great young master Dong Tianleng had finally found someone to his liking; how Yun Yang handled things and spoke matched his tastes to a T; how could he be parted from him so quickly?

Yun Yang rolled his eyes, “What can I do if you choose to follow me?”

“Why not drink together when we have nothing else better to do?” Dong Tianleng wrapped his arm around Yun Yang’s shoulder, beaming as he spoke with false melancholy, “Brother, in this life, it’s hard to find a friend who knows you well.”

You and I are not friends, and I wouldn’t confide anything in you!

“Honestly, I have encountered many popinjays in my travels, but to find someone who can be more simple, brutal, unreasonable, quicker to anger, and more inclined to poke his nose into other’s business than you?” Dong Tianleng spoke with reverent awe, “Why, I’ve never been able to do so! Brother, you can be considered the head of popinjays in the whole Tianxuan Continent!”

Yun Yang felt a terrible headache coming on.

What is this maniac going on about? Why don’t I understand anything?

Popinjay?

How am I a popinjay?

I had intended to create some sparks from the ashes, the father and son pair from the Xie family convenient sent themselves straight to my door so I just started with them... Besides, I was standing up for a veteran... how am I a popinjay?

I wanted to ignite the fuse of conflict between the civil sector and the military; to create chaos in the imperial court. I’ve thought out all the steps, and this is only the beginning. I still have a series of plots up my sleeves.

Who knew it would sound so trivial when it comes from your mouth?



Head of popinjays?

If I were to carry this honorific, my title as the think tank of the Nine Supremes will become a joke! I still have a brain, nonetheless.

“Leng is ashamed to pale in comparison to brother’s tactics. But this episode of yours today seems to have gotten rather serious.” Dong Tianleng had his arm around Yun Yang’s shoulder. “But don’t you worry, you can’t possibly go wrong with big brother, me, here! At most tonight...”

He lowered his voice conspiratorially, “Tonight, we wipe them out...”

Yun Yang hummed with joy in his heart, he was surprised that this fellow shared the same view as him – great minds did think alike after all. He had the same idea himself.

Dong Tianleng’s guards followed behind two of them with dark expressions on their faces, feeling a hundred kinds of disbelief.

Such a tumultuous affair.

Young master’ is going to attach himself to it just like that?

Yun Yang had attempted to fend off the loon politely with all his wits and tactics but it was to no avail. Dong Tianleng kept his arm on his shoulder and off they went all the way back to the Residence of Yun.

When he got home, Yun Yang had simply instructed Lao Mei to set the table. “Prepare alcohol and dishes. Tonight, Brother Dong and I are... going to have a good drink together.”

Lao Mei’s gaze was filled with questions, and his expression grew worried.

I have just got word that you entered the Residence of Halcyon Marquis and attacked the father and son duo.

Now you are coming home to celebrate? Have a good drink?

Do you have any idea how much trouble you have gotten yourself into?

Translator Note:

1 Dong Tianleng(冬天冷 dōng tiān lěng): used here as a full name with Dong as family name and Tianleng as first name; the words as a phrase means cold winter day, i.e. 冬天 (dōng tiān) means winter day, 冷 (lěng) means cold.

## Chapter 30: Reverent Awe. Beyond Comprehension

The wine and dishes were served.

Young Master Dong Tianleng then began the meal that would leave the biggest impression in his life.

“Are you able to consume so much? In a single sitting?” Dong Tianleng was shocked, his face a look of terror as he pointed to the big pile of mystical beast meat in front of Yun Yang.

“I’ve reduced my appetite by half now,” Yun Yang replied pleasantly. It was true. He had eaten about fifty to sixty catties in the previous days; he estimated that he would be full tonight with just twenty catties. This was terribly good news for him.

Judging by this, he assumed that Emmie, too, should be about done with her energy absorption. It seemed that there was still hope for the day that he would return to normal.

How he longed for the days where he could be full from seven or eight meat patties!

“Reduced by half...” Young Master Dong Tianleng repeated in a voice that held a hysterical edge. His jaw was in danger of dropping off as well.

He was eating some twenty catties of meat per meal, together with other food and wine... and this was an appetite reduced by half!

“This is nothing.” Yun Yang said nonchalantly, “Previously, my appetite had even scared myself!”

“You’re indeed the idol of popinjays!” Dong Tianleng was impressed beyond his wildest expectations.

Look at him! Consuming mystical meat for every meal!

I’m a young master from one of the f\*cking influential eight families but even I wasn’t treated this well. Spending ten thousand of silver taels for a meal he’s having all by himself... That’s some character we have right here!

This is extravagant indeed!

“Since you’re here, why not drink without restraint! Come, come!”

Clink!

Yun Yang placed a large wine jar in front of Dong Tianleng; the latter's eyes bulged in shock again.

This jar has got to be at least fifteen catties!

God, do all of you drunkards at Tiantang City drink like a fish?

Yun Yang then brought over another jar and waved invitingly at the two guards. The guards shook their heads to politely decline the kind offer; they had duties to carry out – such as ensuring their young master's safety! They had no assurances they could do so if they started to imbibe recklessly. They might even stick a sword in their own young master and not know it at all if they ended up roaring drunk!

"I'll just go ahead then." Yun Yang opened the clay seal with one palm and lifted the wine jar to his lips.

Under the amazed stare of Dong Tianleng, he gulped the liquid down; within a breath, half the jar was gone!

"Wonderful!" Yun Yang put down the wine jar and spoke, "Drink up, what are you doing just staring at me?"

Dong Tianleng's eyes continued to bulge as his jaw hung open, "Idol, do you all drink like that?"

Yun Yang rolled his eyes and said, "I do not know about other people but I've been drinking like this for a year."

"My lord!"

Dong Tianleng's lips were trembling and his eyes actually teared up as he held Yun Yang's hands, forgetting himself in his reverence. "From now on, you are my lord! You are my blood brother! You are simply astonishing! So flamboyant, even if it's just drinking wine... nobody in the past nor future could hope to surpass it! You must teach me..."

Yun Yang looked at the fellow speechlessly.

Whether it be eating or drinking, do you really think I wish it to be this way? Flamboyant? Flam my ass flambo- ...

He was sorely tempted to drop his chopsticks and stop eating, feeling oddly dispirited.

It was then that Young Master Dong Tianleng cried out and lifted the wine jar in an attempt to emulate Yun Yang's manly gulping.

“Young master, don’t...” Just as the guards spoke, Dong Tianleng was already choking on the fiery liquid, “Cough! Such a lowly popinjay like myself really can’t hope to be as flamboyant as you are... gah!”

“Your Lion Dog is not all that bad.” Yun Yang changed the topic, looking at the two-headed lion that was sitting obediently beside the dining table and continued to shower praise. “It’s two-headed as well, and obedient to boot. Marvelous!”

“This is a Double-headed Elysian Lion...” Dong Tianleng glowed warmly as he spoke, “It is an eighth level mystical beast...”

“Uh-huh.” Yun Yang pulled a bone that he had sucked clean out of his mouth and threw it to the supposed ‘Double-headed Elysian Lion’, saying, “You eat bones?”

“It doesn’t eat bones...” The corners of Dong Tianleng’s lips twitched. My lord, it’s a Double-headed Elysian Lion; at home, it eats only the best. Even if it eats meat, it eats a complete piece of mystical meat, and would never stoop to eating something half-eaten by others... eh?

Dong Tianleng stared wide-eyed, looking at the Double-headed Elysian Lion that was chewing on the bone and happily wagging its tail beside the table. His eyeballs were in danger of popping clean out of his head.

You must f\*cking pulling my leg.

“Doesn’t eat bones?” Yun Yang looked at Dong Tianleng like he was looking at an idiot. “What do you suppose it’s doing now?”

Dong Tianleng felt like digging a hole and burying himself in it. Looking at his Double-headed Elysian Lion that was chewing the bone with extreme contentment, great Young Master Dong Tianleng felt like his face had been soundly slapped.

Each crunch it took was two loud smacks across his face.

Why the f\*ck won’t it save your father some dignity?

Thinking of this, Young Master Dong Tianleng had a sudden realization, “Odd, this isn’t right, why didn’t I address myself as your father when I’m with this fellow?”

“This is obviously a Lion Dog.” Yun Yang said with affirmation, “The only difference is that it’s two-headed.”

Dong Tianleng was unable to come up with a reasonable objection to the observation.

I’m f\*cking looking at this thing chewing its bone and wagging its tail and I’m thinking that it’s a Lion Dog too!

“This dog looks good.” Yun Yang extended his arm to catch the Double-headed Elysian Lion by its tail.

“Don’t...” Dong Tianleng immediately cried out in warning. This Double-headed Elysian Lion would eat people! Especially if its tail was threatened, no one could touch it at all. There were a few poor souls in the past who had wanted to touch it but the Double-headed Elysian Lion had gone berserk and left no parts of their bodies unharmed.

However, before he could even call out ‘Young Master Yun’, he choked on his words that had almost left his lips.

Yun Yang had moved incredibly swiftly; he had already gotten the fat tail in his hand with a swoosh, rubbing and patting it before lifting it a few times and said seriously, “This dog is really not bad at all!”

Dong Tianleng could only stare and could not get a single word out. He saw that the Double-headed Elysian Lion could still afford to look obsequious while it was chewing its bone and had even grovelingly pushed its rear end over as if afraid that this Young Master Yun could not get a good grip on its tail.

Was this still an eighth level Double-headed Elysian Lion? This was exactly how a Lion Dog would behave!

There was only one word for it; cheap!

Dong Tianleng could only wonder about his own state of being.

Am I f\*cking ill? Or are my eyes going bad? Did I get hysteria? How could I imagine something so outrageous?

The two guards were also similarly startled and wondered what exactly was going on.

This Double-headed Elysian Lion had always been the ultimate darling back home. Without any regard for others, even its owner Dong Tianleng would have to pander to it and work hard just to give it a pat. Even then, the lion would only barely allow him to pat it lightly for a short while.

Just a short while!

However, it showed such obedience in front of this Young Master Yun Yang whom it had only met for the first time today! Both the guards were sure that even if it were dogs that they had taken care of since they were young... they would not be as obedient as the two-headed lion was right now in front of Yun Yang!

“Have another bone?” Yun Yang was still playing with it. “This one? There’s still some meat on it, I just had two bites...”

“Here’s a peanut... Come, jump to catch it...”

Swoosh!

Yun Yang tossed the peanut as the Double-headed Elysian Lion jumped up gracefully and caught the peanut in midair before landing and wagged its tail at Yun Yang to ask for its reward.

“Good boy!” Yun Yang handed over a bone that he had stripped clean.

Dong Tianleng was utterly bewildered.

The Double-headed Elysian Lion now had him wanting to reprimand the beast, “How could you offer yourself so cheaply!” The bigger question, however, was, “Why?”

Dong Tianleng slowly turned his numb neck in a stupor and looked at Yun Yang. “My lord... Oh, my idol... No... Big brother! Blood brother! How did you do that?”

Yun Yang looked at him in confusion. “Do what?”

Dong Tianleng let out a cry and suddenly stood up to lower his head in worship. “Big brother! Please, take me in! Little brother’s admiration towards you is like the river of Tianxuan, flowing endlessly, and like the borderless ocean, its waves roiling for eternity...”

Both Yun Yang and the guards were rendered speechless by his frankness and cringe-worthy admiration.

That night, Dong Tianleng drank until he was completely inebriated, hugging Yun Yang’s leg as he cried and blubbered with tears streaming down his face. At the end, Yun Yang was half pushing and half pulling to try to get the young master out of his door.

“Big brother, my lord, blood brother! Let me stay, I wish to learn from you... learn to be a popinjay... I’m absolutely sincere... don’t chase me away, blood brother!” Dong Tianleng practically wailed in drunken desperation.

Sometime later, with the help of two very embarrassed guards and the intoxication of the alcohol in Young Master Dong Tianleng’s system, he was finally carried away like a pile of logs.

“Peace, at last.” Yun Yang could not help but sigh in relief, then chuckled humorlessly, “This fellow is remarkable indeed.”

Lao Mei, who stood behind him, looked at him with a wondering gaze.

Yun Yang turned. "Lao Mei? What is it?"

Lao Mei breathed deeply and said, "I am uncertain how to say this, young master."

Yun Yang replied warmly, "My good man, you know you can always speak your mind."

Lao Mei composed his thoughts and said, "Well, I get the feeling that young master seems to have passed up on too many opportunities within these past few days."

Yun Yang frowned, "Whatever do you mean?"

"First, Lady Ji Ling arrived at our Residence of Yun. She obviously concealed the fact that she is from an illustrious family. Even if she wasn't, it couldn't hurt for both of you to be friends. In the end, however, young master totally did not bother to garnish your words. Even if not for her beauty but for something else, you could at least have pretended to be civil... This is my first uncertainty."

"Young master, you had already intimidated the four great young masters with your identity before they arrived here; if an alliance were to be forged, it would be possible to claim these four families' help, or at least one of two of them. This would be of great benefit to a family in Tiantang City but young master did not do so. Young Master Ma, Young Master Qin and the others have been swindled by young master a few times already. This time round, young master gave them ample profit to cover what they've lost and to earn even more. It should be the best timing to further improve your relationship with them but you have given up on this chance, even ignoring what happened after that day."

"Fourth on the list, the injured person can already move around now. Young master has mentioned that you would like to recruit him but you have just left him to lie, without even going in to see him for the past three days."

"Lastly, this Young Master Dong has obviously thrown himself at young master's feet in admiration. With some flattery, young master, you could immediately have him as an underling. Again, young master did not do what I would have expected you to do."

Lao Mei had said all of this in a rush of words, and was rather short of breath as he admitted, "Young master, Lao Mei really can't comprehend any of this at all!"