

Teacher 1131

Chapter 1131: This Start Is Really Dangerous!

In the following week, nothing exciting took place in Sun Mo's life. He also gradually got to familiarize himself with this game character's identity.

This character was also called Sun Mo. He had become a recommended-candidate [1] at the age of 20 and was now teaching in a school in a county. He came from a poor family and had a wife who was his childhood friend.

The two of them were very lovey-dovey. Other than teaching, Sun Mo would spend the rest of his time at home revising his studies. He planned on heading to the capital to take the imperial examinations the year after the next, trying to get the advanced-scholar[2] title.

Sun Mo sat by the window, looking at the overcast moon, a little lost in his thoughts. What was the condition to clear this stage?

His character's background was too simple, and Sun Mo was unable to detect anything from it.

"Is it to bring prosperity to this Song Dynasty? Or to overthrow it?"

Sun Mo took a sip of tea.

The country he was in was also called the Song Country, but the emperor's surname wasn't Song. Moreover, the country hadn't gone into decline to a state where the people led horrible lives.

Taking reference to China's history, this Song Country would still have 30 or 40 more years to go.

"Husband, it's getting late. You'll still have to teach tomorrow. Let's rest early."

Mei Niang was urging him again.

"You can go to sleep first!"

Sun Mo felt a little troubled. He was a gentleman, so the greatest torment he felt was to have to share a bed with her every day. Although his wife in this game wasn't as beautiful as An Xinhui or Mei Ziyu, she could still be given a score of seven out of ten. Most importantly, she was gentle and virtuous and always placed Sun Mo first.

It could be said that Mei Niang's every day circled around Sun Mo. She went to great lengths to make sure he could eat and sleep well.

"If this goes on, I'm afraid that I won't be able to hold back!"

Sun Mo took in a deep breath and then was hugged from the back by Mei Niang.

"Husband, did I do anything wrong? Why have you been looking troubled over the past few days?"

Mei Niang's voice was filled with fear.

“Don’t think too much into it. It’s just things concerning the county’s school. Things aren’t going very well.”

Sun Mo lied.

“If you don’t like it, then you don’t have to go. I can just make a few more embroidery pieces every month.”

Mei Niang’s heart ached for her husband, and she hugged him even tighter. She even rested her face on his back.

“...”

Sensing Mei Niang’s love, Sun Mo suddenly felt a little immersed in this game.

“Husband, the water is getting cold. Come over and wash your feet!”

Mei Niang pulled Sun Mo to the bed. After having him sit down, she took off his shoes and socks, soaked his feet in the wooden basin, then helped him to wash his feet.

Her small hands were very smooth, making him feel intoxicated.

...

Sun Mo decided to make a move. No matter what, he should look for An Xinhui and the others first. Therefore, he decided to continue copying books.

Even if this was a world in the game, Sun Mo still believed that the Dream of the Red Chamber[3] would be a great hit.

After all, the reason such classics could be passed down until today meant that it had the charm that would never decline. It would always be a hit in any era.

In the classroom, the young children were shaking their heads and reading the Three Character Classic while Sun Mo was writing Dream of the Red Chamber. Since he didn’t leave, the students didn’t dare to slack either. All of them looked at Sun Mo with aggrieved gazes.

“Brother Sun, Brother Sun, your wife is in trouble!”

A distinguished-talent [4] who had been on friendly ties with Sun Mo and had drinks with him twice dashed in and shouted out with an anxious expression.

Sun Mo panicked and shot up to his feet. “Brother Wang, what happened to my wife?”

“I’m not sure either. Your family’s Uncle Yan has come to send the news!”

Distinguished-Talent Wang urged, “Hurry up and go take a look!”

Uncle Yan was the helper that Sun Mo had hired to take care of miscellaneous stuff at home after he had passed the examination and become a recommended-candidate. They didn’t have any other servants at home.

The moment Sun Mo stepped out, Uncle Yan started crying.

“Old Master, things are bad!”

Mei Niang had gone out today, wanting to buy a few new embroidery patterns. However, she encountered Pang Jili, a second-generation profligate son who was well-known in this county.

Mei Niang had been taken liberties with, and in her struggle to protect her chastity, he had used her hairpin to pierce Pang Jili. She had even hurt her own face in the process.

“What?”

Sun Mo was shocked and ran toward home while asking, “Is Mei Niang badly hurt?”

“Mei Niang isn’t badly hurt. Pang Jili’s injury isn’t serious either. However, it’s troublesome to have offended the people of the Pang clan.”

Uncle Yan’s head ached.

Pang Jili was Imperial Tutor Pang’s most doted youngest son. This time around, he had come home to pray to his ancestors. In less than a month, he became the county’s greatest devil and had harmed quite many unmarried ladies from noble houses.

Sun Mo rushed back home and saw many people crowding around the door, whispering amongst themselves.

It was over for the Sun family now that they’d offended that second-generation profligate.

“Mei Niang!”

Sun Mo dashed into the house.

A few of their neighbors were by her side, talking to her.

“Husband!”

Mei Niang’s tears flowed down at the sight of Sun Mo. “I’ve caused you trouble.”

“Don’t say that!”

Sun Mo hugged Mei Niang. There was a red scar on her face that was about six centimeters long. She could be said to be disfigured, and this made Sun Mo even angrier.

“Sun Dalang[4], hurry up and think of a solution. That devil isn’t someone who’d be willing to suffer a loss.”

“That’s right. Why don’t you guys go to the countryside and hide for a few days?”

“Hurry up and leave!”

Some neighboring aunties reminded them kindly.

“Dalang? What kind of address is that? It sounds so unlucky!”

Sun Mo frowned. but he knew that this was the way people from the Song Country addressed each other.

Hearing the severity of the issue from the women, Mei Niang felt even more scared.

“Let’s go to the government office to file a lawsuit against them!”

Sun Mo got up, planning to prepare a written complaint.

“Sun Dalang, you’re really foolish. That Pang Jili’s grandfather is the imperial tutor. How would our magistrate dare to accept your complaint?”

An auntie sighed. (This Sun Dalang has spoiled his head from all the studying.)

“I know!”

What if it was effective?

But before Sun Mo was done, constables had arrived at their door.

“Teacher Sun, we came on the magistrate’s orders to arrest the criminal who hurt Pang Jili!”

The middle-aged constable went straight to the point.

Sun Mo’s countenance instantly turned dark. Wasn’t this revenge too fast? He immediately went up and took out two pieces of shattered silver from his pocket, secretly stuffing them to the constable’s hand.

“I’ll go with you!”

Hearing this, Mei Niang panicked.

“Husband!” Mei Niang came pouncing over, grabbing onto Sun Mo’s arm. “Don’t!”

“Be good, I’ll be back very soon!” Sun Mo smiled.

“This…”

The constable frowned.

“I’m sure you understand what the situation was. I’ll go with you to meet the magistrate!”

Sun Mo spoke up.

The constable hesitated.

“You won’t get anything from helping Pang Jili. Moreover, I’m a recommended-candidate and am just 20 years old this year. Even if I become an advanced-scholar ten years later, I’ll just be 30 years old.”

Sun Mo lowered his voice and weighed the pros and cons for the constable. He seemed to be saying, (I have bright prospects. If you help me out now, I’ll definitely repay you in the future.) However, there was also a hidden meaning behind his words. (If you were to force me right now, then I’ll definitely repay you 100 times over in the future.)

“Teacher Sun, let’s go!”

The constable quickly made the decision. It was better not to offend a 20-year-old recommended-candidate. Moreover, they were only supposed to catch the suspect. In the worst-case scenario, they could just drag it out for a few days until the situation cleared up before they came again.

“Teacher Sun, if you have any connections, you better bring them up now! Your wife has really gotten into big trouble this time around!”

The constable reminded him..

Chapter 1132: I’ll Revolt!

“Don’t worry and wait for me at home. Don’t go running around!”

Sun Mo instructed Mei Niang and then went off with the constables.

If Sun Mo was an ordinary person, the constables would have chained him up and then thrown him into prison, only interrogating him when the magistrate remembered him.

However, they couldn’t do this to Sun Mo. It was because he had earned the meritorious title of a recommended-candidate. Moreover, he was also planning to beat the drums and file a lawsuit.

The constables had no choice. Moreover, Sun Mo had given them money. Therefore, they brought him to the back hall of the government office.

The magistrate had just bedded his concubine and was yawning as he called for Sun Mo listlessly. Before Sun Mo could say anything, he gave him a lashing.

To sum it up, Sun Mo’s recent work performance had been very bad and if the county school continued like this, it’d be a goner. Therefore, Sun Mo would have to assume responsibility for it.

“Old parents, I want to file a lawsuit!”

Sun Mo submitted his complaint letter.

‘Old parents’ was the respectful address for the local magistrate.

The magistrate’s goldfish-like puffy eyes squinted as he stared at Sun Mo, not taking the complaint letter.

The two of them froze like that.

Sun Mo frowned. He was in the posture with both hands reaching out, handing the complaint letter over. Therefore, if this continued, it’d be more tiring for him.

(F*ck your mom!)

Sun Mo cursed in his heart and looked at the magistrate. “I’d like to seek the old parents’ guidance!”

“Sun Mo, you’re a recommended-candidate and should know the power of authority!”

The magistrate took a sip of tea. “Putting aside if I have the ability to ensure justice for you, even if I were to play the role of a just magistrate once, what if Pang Jili continues to sue up to higher authorities? Imperial Tutor Pang doesn’t even have to do anything. He has countless students and if any one of them makes a move, it’ll be over for me as well, let alone you.”

Sun Mo fell silent and clenched his fists tightly. This must be what it felt like to experience an injustice that couldn't be raised up.

"If I were to accept this complaint letter, your relationship with the Pang Clan will be to the bitter end. Therefore, before things blow up, try to appease it!"

The magistrate persuaded.

Although he seemed as if he was having a heart-to-heart talk with Sun Mo, he was just trying to have fewer troubles on his plate. If he were to let a scholar who didn't know any better like Sun Mo make a fuss, his performance assessment would be affected, but nothing would happen to Pang Jili.

This was why he'd try to persuade Sun Mo.

"How do I appease things?" Sun Mo smiled coldly. "He wants my wife. Should I wash her up and send her over to him?"

"You're a recommended-candidate! You shouldn't just be looking at the things right before your eyes!"

After the magistrate said this, he picked up the teacup and took a sip.

This action was done with the intention of sending off the guest. The old servant who was waiting by the side immediately gestured that Sun Mo should be leaving.

Sun Mo's countenance was grim.

He understood the hidden meaning behind the magistrate's words.

Recommended-candidates didn't have to do corvée and could also receive a portion of government-issued rice. Moreover, they didn't have to pay taxes for their fields either. Why would one go crazy from happiness when Fan Jin[1] passed the provincial examinations?

It was because he had crossed this tier.

If Sun Mo were to go up against Pang Jili, he'd lose his status as a recommended-candidate and return to being a commoner. In worst cases, one might get exiled or be banished to penal servitude.

"Teacher Sun, you're a recommended-candidate after all. If you wish to have some concubines, women will come rushing over to get married to you. Why don't you understand?"

The old servant persuaded him.

Sun Mo didn't pay this guy any heed. His brain was moving quickly, thinking of various possibilities to break out from this situation. At the same time, he inevitably thought of Lin Chong[2].

In terms of status, Lin Chong was the instructor of 800,000 imperial guards, so it should be higher than Sun Mo's, right? However, he still had his family ruined because of the higher authorities and eventually was forced to go to Mount Liang.

"In the worst case, I'll revolt too!"

Sun Mo left the government office, and his path was blocked by a group of people when he had just taken a few steps.

The person in the lead was a young master dressed in embroidered clothing and holding a fan, looking wicked. To put it in simple terms, he looked like a bum and was clearly not a good person.

“Hey, I’m Pang Jili!”

The young master went straight to the point and reported his name, his tone filled with arrogance.

“Are you asking for a beating?”

The young master’s entourage immediately shouted out upon seeing Sun Mo’s cold attitude. “Our young master is giving you face by talking to you. Hurry up and greet him!”

Sun Mo threw a glance at these people, already having a plan in his heart. Therefore, he shouted angrily, “Pang Jili, don’t forget that law still exists in this world. I’m going to the capital and file an imperial lawsuit!”

Sun Mo was trying to numb Pang Jili and conceal his true intentions.

“Haha!”

Pang Jili laughed as if he had heard the funniest joke. “File an imperial lawsuit? If your complaint letter can reach His Majesty, I’ll take your surname!

“I can’t be bothered to talk crap with you. Wash up your wife quickly and send her to my house. If she were to serve me well, I might let you be a 7th rank official.

“It’s a great fortune that you’ve accumulated over ten generations to be able to share such a close relationship with our Young Master!”

The entourage mocked Sun Mo.

“I’m going to sue Imperial Tutor Pang as well!”

Sun Mo shouted, looking like a useless bum who could do nothing but fly into a rage.

“No problem! I’ll be waiting!”

Pang Jili waved his fan then got onto his tall steed. “Oh right, I heard that you’re a teacher? You don’t seem that capable. You can forget about being a teacher as well!”

As Pang Jili said this, he looked toward the old servant. “Go and tell the magistrate not to let such an incapable person delay the futures of the children.”

“Our Old Master also has the intention to put the county’s school through a reorganization!”

The old servant smiled.

Although he didn’t give a straightforward reply, the hidden meaning behind his words was clear. It was over for Sun Mo.

Pang Jili rode on his horse and went up to Sun Mo, looking down on him arrogantly. “No woman can escape my grasp if I want to sleep with them. Poor scholar, remember this, it’s your fortune that I wish to sleep with your wife!”

Pang Jili left with his entourage. The old servant looked at Sun Mo, spat out some thick phlegm, and then closed the door too.

“Next time this guy comes, there’s no need to notify the Old Master! Let him wait!”

The old servant instructed the guards.

“Young Master, should we send someone to keep watch over that poor scholar?” the attendant asked.

“Why? You guys are scared of a recommended-candidate?” Pang Jili said in disdain.

“Of course not!” His attendant smiled.

“You go and keep an eye on him!”

Although Pang Jili was a second-generation profligate, he wasn’t a fool. A poor scholar wouldn’t be able to create any ripples if he were to head to the capital and file an imperial lawsuit. But if his grandfather were to hear of this, he’d get a scolding. That wouldn’t be nice. “If he were to leave the city and run toward the capital, then knock him out and throw him back home. If he were to flee to the countryside with his wife, hehe, then ignore him!”

“I understand!”

The attendant broke into an understanding smile. His young master enjoyed having sex in the wild.

Pang Jili hummed a song, not feeling anxious at all. He was going to let Sun Mo and his wife give in to him, letting Sun Mo see with his own eyes as he played with his wife. That’d feel too exhilarating.

...

When Sun Mo reached home, he saw that Mei Niang’s eyes were swollen from all the crying. She was also holding a pair of scissors.

“Husband, are you alright?”

Mei Niang was very concerned and she sized up Sun Mo. She only let out a sigh of relief after ascertaining that he wasn’t hurt.

“Mei Niang, if I were to say that I’m going to kill an official and revolt, what would you do?”

Sun Mo said outright.

If Mei Niang didn’t wish to wander with him, then he could only think of another solution.

To speak the truth, the condition for clearing the stage wasn’t clear. Moreover, Sun Mo was just a recommended-candidate, and it was too difficult for him to climb up to higher ranks. Even if he were to pass the examinations in the year after the next, becoming an advanced-scholar, it’d be very long later for him to become a high-ranking official.

He must open up a new road for himself.

After hearing the words ‘killing an official and revolt’, Mei Niang’s body shook tremendously and her face turned completely pale. However, she hugged Sun Mo tightly.

“I’ll go wherever you go!”

Mei Niang buried her face into Sun Mo’s chest. “No matter if it’s to become a bandit or a beggar, in this lifetime, no, even in my next lifetime, I don’t wish to be apart from you.”

Sun Mo stroked Mei Niang’s head, feeling very touched.

This must be love.

“Alright, then pack up some necessities. We’ll set off in the morning the day after tomorrow!”

Sun Mo kissed Mei Niang on the forehead. “I’ll head out right now to buy some stuff!”

All scholars pursued to be a master in both the pen and the sword, being able to govern the world with the pen and also to lead troops out to war. Therefore, although the original owner of this body had the battle prowess comparable to a goose, he had a longbow at home as well as a Yanling Steel Blade. To put it simply, they were just there for show.

Sun Mo tried them out. The bow wasn’t bad and the blade was very sharp. He then flipped over the walls and left the house at night, heading straight for Apricot Square.

Although the name of this place sounded very elegant, the people who stayed here were in charge of forging weapons for the army.

These people worked a lot but got paid very little. If they wished for their families to lead a better life, they’d have to accept some private jobs secretly.

The higher-level ones would have some connections and would be able to forge weapons for the guards working at important families. Those lower-level ones would forge some arrows, short blades, or other things to the hunters from the mountains.

Sun Mo’s goal was their privately forged weapons. Even if the weapon was lost, they wouldn’t dare to make a big fuss out of it.

This body that he had taken over was really horrible.

Sun Mo was already panting a little after running for five minutes.

“I am thinking of getting two bows.”

Sun Mo mumbled. He picked a place in the Apricot Square and flipped over the walls.

“You horrible guy, why did you only come now?”

A voice suddenly rang out, almost scaring Sun Mo to death.

(What the hell?)

Did he encounter a couple who was supposed to meet for a secret affair?

A pair of soft arms immediately hugged Sun Mo.

“I’ve missed you so much!”

As the woman said this, she was already unable to hold back and was kissing and touching him. “He went out to drink today. You’ll be able to stay until 11 p.m. Huh, why are you so tall?”

The woman was clearly not a fool either and realized that this wasn’t the right person.

“Don’t scream. Otherwise, I’ll stab you to death!”

Sun Mo purposely spoke with a hoarse voice and covered the woman’s mouth with one hand. He held a short blade with the other hand against her waist.

Mmmmmmm!

The woman instantly panicked and her body trembled incessantly.

“I’m only here for money and not to kill. As long as you behave yourself, I won’t kill you!”

Sun Mo looked around and then dragged the woman into the room.

When he picked his target, he selected a small family like this who had some free money but couldn’t afford to hire servants and maids. This meant that the owner of this place had some means of getting side hustles.

Very soon, the woman took out the savings they had at home.

“It’s so little?”

Sun Mo pretended to look dissatisfied.

“Our... our money has been taken by my husband to spend at the brothels!”

The woman cried, “Look, I don’t even have many accessories!”

“Then what about weapons? You ought to have some short blades, crossbows, longbows, arrows, or things like that, right?”

Sun Mo smiled evilly. “You can’t possibly let me make a wasted trip, can you? At least, I’ll be able to get quite a bit of money from a crossbow!”

“Crossbows are prohibited weapons. Privately forging and selling them is subject to a death penalty.”

The woman sobbed softly.

“Stop crying. Hurry up and take out whatever weapons you have. Don’t try to lie to me. I know that you guys do engage in such trades all the time.”

Sun Mo thrust out strongly.

The woman’s body instantly froze up. She didn’t dare to put up any resistance and went to the woodshed. She then moved away the firewood and flipped up the flooring to expose a cellar.

There were a few boxes here. Sun Mo opened them up and discovered that these were weapons that were wrapped in animal skin.

There were short blades, daggers, longbows, and even crossbows.

Of course, Sun Mo had also seen quite a lot of arrows, which were the most important things.

"I'll tell you this, if I'm caught, I'll definitely tell the magistrate that I got my crossbow from this place.

Sun Mo threatened.

"I won't say anything!"

The woman cried.

"Good!"

Of course Sun Mo wouldn't be able to take away all of these weapons since there were so many of them. Therefore, he packed up some that he had urgent use for, then patted the woman's face.

"Remember, I'm called Swallow Li San. I kill the rich and help the poor. The reason I've come to your place this time around is just to get some weapons. After tonight, we won't know each other. How about that?"

"I'll remember that!"

The woman had just said this when she was hit on the head and passed out.

...

Sun Mo went back home and slept all the way until morning. He then started to perform maintenance on the weapons and get familiar with them.

Mei Niang was very docile, not asking anything at all.

A peaceful day passed by. That night, Sun Mo brought a sharp blade with him and flipped over the wall of his house.

The attendant who was tasked to keep an eye on Sun Mo was hiding in the alley and complaining about this job in his mind. Suddenly, he felt a pain in his head and he fainted.

When he woke up once again, he realized that he was lying in a woodshed. The scholar was standing in front of him.

"Where would your young master usually be at this time?"

Sun Mo asked.

"What are you thinking of doing?"

The attendant said with a fierce expression, "This is kidnap, you'll be beheaded... ahh..."

The attendant let out an agonizing cry. It was because Sun Mo had cut off one of his fingers.

"You have four more chances."

Sun Mo smiled and pressed the dagger on the attendant's index finger.

"I'll speak up, I'll speak up. At this time, our young master should be at the Drunken Smoke Brothel, drinking wine with prostitutes."

The attendant then continued to reply to all of Sun Mo's questions, including how many attendants Pang Jili had, what capabilities they had, as well as who amongst them could fight the best.

Sun Mo asked the questions three times, mixing up the order. He did so to ascertain that the attendant wasn't joking.

"Old Master Sun, please spare me. I'm just an attendant and was just following orders!" the attendant cried.

"You guys have done a lot of evil deeds, right?"

Sun Mo smiled coldly.

"We have no choice!"

The attendant smiled bitterly. There was no way to get rid of their bad reputation. When the young master got to eat meat, they'd be able to drink some soup too. He had played with women from good families as well and had also helped to deal with the corpses.

(F*ck! After the young master kills you, I'll definitely torment your wife!)

The attendant thought to himself fiercely.

"Mmm, I pity you for having such an evil master!"

Sun Mo nodded.

"That's right. For people like him, in their next life, his children will have no..."

Before the attendant could finish his words, a dagger was thrust into his throat and stirred vigorously.

"After you go down to hell, don't be in a hurry on your way. Your young master will be joining you very soon."

Sun Mo covered the attendant's mouth, wearing a cold gaze.

The attendant's eyes opened wide, his face filled with disbelief. That couldn't be. This guy was going to kill the young master?

Damn it!

He had rammed his toes into a steelboard. He thought that this guy was a poor scholar who was an easy pushover, and he didn't expect to encounter a ferocious beast who would choose its target to devour..

Chapter 1133: Blood Splattering in the Baimei Tower

Before the night curfew, Sun Mo rushed over to the Drunken Smoke Brothel. He didn't make a move recklessly but entered as a guest to observe the situation first.

"Sir, is there a lady whom you like?"

A middle-aged woman who had makeup on immediately came to welcome him. This person was Drunken Smoke Brothel's boss as well as the procuress.

Of course, the reason Sun Mo could receive special treatment from a character like this was that he was wearing the clothes of a recommended-candidate.

“I’ve heard from my classmate that your place’s Han Yan is excellent at playing the xiao[1] and thus I have come to pay a visit!”

Han Yan was the Drunken Smoke Brothel’s top courtesan. Ever since Pang Jili came back to his hometown to pay respect to his ancestors, he had hogged Han Yan to himself. Therefore, to find out where that bastard was, Sun Mo just needed to ask for Han Yan’s whereabouts.

“Han Yan is down with the flu these two days and is bedridden. Why don’t you change to another lady?”

The procuress smiled and recommended a few ladies to him.

“Is she really sick? Or is she attending to someone else?” Sun Mo stared at the middle-aged woman. “You don’t think I’m that easily fooled, right?”

“Oh my, you’ve misunderstood me. Am I a fool to not earn money that’s right in front of me?”

The middle-aged woman complained.

“Han Yan can’t be attending the Imperial Tutor Pang’s grandson, is she?”

Sun Mo let out a cold snort.

If an ordinary rich person were to ask this, the middle-aged woman would have lashed out directly. (Who are you to interfere in this?) However, in ancient times, scholars enjoyed dignified statuses, let alone a recommended-candidate.

Famous courtesans at brothels couldn’t be separated from these scholars if they wished to have a reputation. A famous poem could bring up the popularity of a famous courtesan.

“Go over there and take a look. Young Master Pang’s attendants aren’t around!”

The middle-aged woman pointed to the theater stage.

The attendants naturally didn’t have the right to enjoy the courtesans’ company in the rooms upstairs. Therefore, most of them would be on the first floor, watching the play.

Sun Mo’s brows raised slightly, and he sighed. “I’m only interested in Lady Han Yan. Since she’s sick, I’ll come again another day.”

As Sun Mo said this, he turned to leave. The middle-aged woman tried to persuade him otherwise but failed to do so. She couldn’t help but let out a soft curse.

Sun Mo left the Drunken Smoke Brothel and headed straight for the Baimei Tower.

This was a three-story restaurant that belonged to a merchant with the surname Gao on paper. However, it was actually the Pang Clan’s secret asset. After Pang Jili arrived, he modified this place into a private residence only for his use.

The women Pang Jili caught were mostly locked in here.

This was the information that the attendant had revealed.

Although he hadn't checked out the place in advance, Sun Mo wasn't a person with a poor sense of direction. He relied on this body's memories of this county and quickly located this exquisite wooden building.

The Pang Clan had chosen to set this restaurant up in a more secluded place to avoid people's eyes when doing bad things. However, this made it convenient for Sun Mo to commit murder now.

He climbed up a wall and looked inside.

The beef fat candle's light was very bright and it was very noisy inside. Sun Mo saw an attendant who came out to relieve himself, and he was one of the people who had been with Pang Jili a few days ago. He finally believed that Pang Jili was in the Baimei Tower.

Sun Mo hid in the shadows, waiting for night to fall while checking his weapons. He also simulated the night assault in his mind.

How was he going to kill and how was he going to escape? If he were to come into a sudden encounter, how should he deal with the situation...

Finally, it was past midnight and the noise in the Baimei Tower became softer too.

It was said that this place was called Fragrance Residence in the past, and Pang Jili was the one who had changed its name to its current one. He had planned to use this place to house 100 beautiful ladies.

Sun Mo changed into rough clothing, used a handkerchief to cover up half his face, and then crossed the wall, with a longbow on his back and the Yanling Steel Blade on his waist. He secretly infiltrated the building.

Those attendants and guards were all very drunk, and many of them were already knocked out and asleep on the tables. Only a few of them were still chatting leisurely.

"That lady who was captured seven days ago is probably going to die tonight. Sigh, if only she had resigned herself to her fate earlier."

"That's right. After entering the Baimei Tower, there are only two ways to leave it. One is to become the young master's woman, while the other is to be carried out as a corpse!"

"I wonder if we'll be able to drink some soup[2] tonight!"

Someone said in anticipation.

Pang Jili would normally reward them with some women that he had gotten sick of. This was also a means for him to get his attendants to be loyal to him.

"If this was in the past, I'd definitely be waiting eagerly. But ever since I saw that Recommended-Candidate Sun's wife, I've lost interest in this."

"Pui, what right does that poor scholar have to marry such a beautiful woman? Just because he's good at his studies?"

“To hell with him! We’ll all have a chance to play with his wife in a few days!”

As they said this, lewd laughter rang out.

Sun Mo had been hesitating whether he should spare these attendants and guards. But after hearing this, he decided to go all out.

“All of you can go to hell!”

Sun Mo pushed open the door softly.

Creak!

The door opened.

The attendants took a look and then drew their gazes back. One of the guards felt cold and thus walked over to close the door. However, his right hand had just landed on the door when he felt a chill in his chest. Then, an intense pain ran through his entire body.

Before he could let out an agonizing cry, a hand had covered his mouth.

The guy’s eyes opened wide as he looked at the bandit in horror. He was then quickly pulled out of the room.

(Who is this? To think that he dares to come to the young master’s manor to kill?)

“You must go through your reincarnation well. I’ll still want to kill you in the next lifetime!”

Sun Mo whispered in the guy’s ears. Then, he stirred his steel blade.

First one!

Sun Mo knew that after having killed someone, the stench of blood would attract attention. Therefore, he didn’t stop and quickly entered the room, arriving in front of the table in less than two seconds.

There were a total of 12 people, with five who weren’t knocked out yet. However, they were also very drunk and didn’t notice Sun Mo.

In fact, Pang Jili had been acting lawlessly for two years in this county, and even the constables no longer dared to come to them. This was why they were so relaxed.

Sun Mo swung his blade without saying a word.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Even though Sun Mo’s physical attributes had weakened, the cultivation arts and moves he had learned were still with him. Killing a few attendants was as easy as slaughtering chickens or dogs.

As he raised his hand and brought the blade down, heads rolled onto the ground.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

An attendant was in a daze as he saw a steel blade chopping off Old Miao’s neck, sending a large amount of blood splattering onto his face.

It was very wet and warm, with a strong smell of blood.

Someone had died?

The attendant instinctively wanted to scream, but at the next instant, his head was also chopped into two, his brain matter and half of his skull landing onto the floor.

Sun Mo ended these people in less than two minutes. He then headed to the second floor.

There weren't many sounds on the second floor. Sun Mo was worried that if he were to drag things out for too long, someone might discover the corpses on the first floor. Therefore, he headed straight for the third floor.

In his opinion, most noblemen or important people would be on the highest floor to enjoy themselves.

As expected, when he arrived on the third floor, he saw a big hall. There were cups and plates everywhere, and a maid was cleaning up the mess.

Sun Mo pounced over while she hadn't noticed him and covered her mouth from behind her.

"Don't scream! Otherwise, I'll kill you!"

The maid's body immediately stiffened up, not daring to move.

"Bring me to Pang Jili!" Sun Mo threatened, "If you dare to play any tricks, I'll kill you!"

The maid's legs turned to jelly from fright and couldn't move. Left without a choice, Sun Mo could only let her point to the direction Pang Jili was in before knocking her out with the handle of his blade.

In the second room of the western wing...

Sun Mo stood outside the door and was about to knock when a woman's agonizing cry rang out.

"You're awake? How does it feel?"

Pang Jili smiled evilly. He then swung his leather whip again.

Pa! Pa!

"I beg you! Stop hitting me!"

The woman pleaded.

Sun Mo didn't wait anymore and pushed open the door to enter.

"Which damned slave dares to disturb my fun?"

Pang Jili cursed. He then turned and saw a man who was dressed in rough clothing and had his face masked.

"Oh, a robbery?"

Pang Jili sized up Sun Mo. "But you seem to have come to the wrong place. If you scam now, I won't hold it against you. Otherwise, I'll eat your ears with my wine tomorrow!"

“I’m here to seek revenge!”

Sun Mo said outright.

“Seek revenge?”

Pang Jili was stunned for a moment before he laughed. “I’m sorry, I have so many enemies that I can’t remember which one you are.”

“I am...”

Before Sun Mo finished his words, Pang Jili suddenly swung his whip toward him. “Men...”

Pang Jili had underestimated Sun Mo. Before his voice came out, a teacup smashed hard onto his mouth, filling it with blood as well as shattered teeth. The cry for help was also stopped.

Swoosh!

Sun Mo swung the long blade and smashed it onto Pang Jili’s back. He then took a few steps to his side, drawing out the short blade he had on him, slashing Pang Jili’s wrist that was grabbing onto the window.

Kacha!

A broken hand fell off.

Pa!

Sun Mo reached out and grabbed Pang Jili’s mouth. He then pressed Pang Jili against the wall.

“Who are you trying to fool with such petty tricks? And you must not have expected that today will be the day you die, right?”

Sun Mo pierced the blade into Pang Jili’s shoulder and twisted it.

Bang!

The room was banged open and a middle-aged man with a blade dashed in.

His name was Tang Ji and he was Pang Jili’s bodyguard. He was skilled in martial arts and when he saw that his master’s life was in danger, he immediately let out a loud bellow and came pouncing over.

“Evil-doer! Die!”

Sun Mo was unafraid and swept out his short blade horizontally at great speed, slashing Pang Jili’s face. He cut Pang Jili’s left and right face, reaching his ears and also crippling his tongue.

It was impossible for him to cry for help now.

Ding! Ding! Ding!

Sun Mo and Tang Ji slashed at each other.

“This evil-doer is a difficult one! Young Master, hurry up and leave!”

Tang Ji urged, his countenance very solemn.

This evil-doer's strength was mediocre, but his blade technique seemed very refined.

They had only exchanged moves for a bit, but he had been slashed a few times.

"Holding a candle to the devil!"

Sun Mo's gaze was icy-cold. After making a slanted move, the short blade slashed this bodyguard's throat.

Ssss!

Fresh blood spurted very far, splashing onto Pang Jili's face.

Pang Jili didn't expect his bodyguard to die so quickly and his heart turned cold. He wanted to beg for mercy but was unable to say a word.

Sun Mo smiled, flicking up his steel blade with his toes. He caught it with his left hand and slashed it onto Pang Jili's arms, chopping them off.

After killing Pang Jili, Sun Mo looked toward the woman who had curled herself up in a corner of the bed.

"I'm going to light a fire. If you wish to run, hurry up!"

Sun Mo picked up the candle and tossed it onto the floor.

"May I ask for benefactor's name?" The woman kowtowed. "I'll never forget the indebtedness for saving my life."

"Swallow Li San!"

After saying that, Sun Mo left the room and planned on leaving. However, he gave it some thought and then went to the hall, bringing the maid whom he had knocked out along with him.

If he were to leave her alone, she'd get burned to death.

After walking through a few districts, Sun Mo heard the night watch ringing the gong. Flames rose in the direction of the Baimei Tower, turning the skies red.

Sun Mo put away his clothes and weapons before returning home.

"You haven't slept yet?"

Sun Mo was surprised.

"Husband!"

Mei Niang was very gentle and didn't ask where Sun Mo had been. Seeing that he wasn't hurt, she felt at ease. "Do you want to eat something?"

"No need. I'll go take a bath!"

Sun Mo went to the courtyard, got some water from the well, and then rinsed directly.

In the morning, when the sky had just lit up, Sun Mo and Mei Niang got on a horse carriage and headed out of the city.

The guards in charge of the city's defense were very lax. All of them were yawning and only asked Sun Mo a few questions such as why he was heading out so early. After hearing that he was heading to visit relatives, they let him pass.

Their main income came from the taxes they collected from the people entering the city. Therefore, they were very lax to people leaving, let alone that Sun Mo was a recommended-candidate.

After leaving the city, Sun Mo felt completely at ease.

He had chosen to make a move late at night, and it had only been four hours since then. By the time those people put out the fire and found the corpses, discerning that Pang Jili was amongst them, ascertaining if it was murder or an accident, as well as deciding on whether they should seal the city gates and apprehend the murderer, he'd have fled long ago.

The government officials' work efficiency in this era was extremely low.

It was great news!

"Husband!"

Watching the sun gradually rising, Mei Niang hugged onto a bag, looking unsettled.

"Don't be scared. I'm here!"

Sun Mo consoled her but scolded this trashy game in his heart.

(Why can't you let me be by myself? The more Mei Niang loves me, the harder it'll be for me to leave her alone. I'll be more restricted when I do things.)

Sun Mo planned to go to the woods and become an outlaw. His first choice was Mount Zhao's bandits who were located near Eight Hundred Miles Lake.

He had heard from others that these people were righteous bandits who robbed the rich and helped the poor.

However, Sun Mo didn't believe that. These days, how could people still be good when they had resorted to becoming bandits?

Take the bandits on Mount Liang for example. There were good people amongst them, but there were a lot of bad people too.

Seven days later, Sun Mo arrived at the borders of Mount Zhao.

There was a simple and rundown tavern at the foot of the mountain.

A few traveling merchants were drinking tea and having their meal, chatting leisurely amongst themselves.

"Did you hear? Imperial Tutor Pang's grandson was killed and his corpse was burned."

“A bad guy like that should have been dead long ago!”

“Heaven has finally done the right thing!”

When the waiter heard these people talking amongst themselves, he couldn't help but ask, “Which hero had done it?”

“Swallow Li San!”

A merchant replied.

Right now, the Pang Clan's attention wasn't on Sun Mo yet. It was mainly because Pang Jili had too many enemies, and Sun Mo's wife hadn't been harmed yet. Moreover, Sun Mo was a recommended-candidate. He was a person of status, and it was impossible for him to kill someone nor would he be capable of the feat.

“A hero!”

The waiter praised.

Sun Mo couldn't help but throw this guy a glance and then at the bun in his hand. (Why does a waiter like you have such a strong pugilistic air? This isn't a shop that kills and robs their guests, is it?)

After the merchants left, it was already afternoon. Sun Mo was still drinking tea, and the chef as well as the waiter went up to the lady boss, pointing toward Sun Mo.

“This young master, would you like more tea?”

The lady boss came personally.

Chapter 1134: Going To The Woods And Becoming An Outlaw

“May I ask sister-in-law if the Mount Zhao's bandits plunder from you guys?”

Sun Mo smiled and asked.

“What sister-in-law? Am I that old?” The lady boss lashed out at Sun Mo. “Moreover, I'm not married yet!”

“I've misspoken.”

Sun Mo apologized but was even more certain of his assessment now.

These people were definitely related to the Mount Zhao's bandits. Otherwise, why would a slightly older unmarried lady not be scared of being caught by the evil-doers if she set up a tavern here?

“The people from Mount Zhao are all good! They don't disturb the citizens and only kill the rich to help the poor!”

The lady boss, who hadn't wanted to be a busybody, couldn't help but speak up upon seeing that Sun Mo was handsome and good-looking. “Your wife is pretty and evil-doers will definitely hanker after her. Hurry up and leave. It's best if you can reach the station in front before the sun sets.”

The lady boss immediately noticed that the waiter and chef were looking over. She pouted. She felt very helpless too!

(It's because this scholar is so good-looking and is my type.)

"Didn't you say that the Mount Zhao's bandits don't disturb the citizens?"

Sun Mo asked.

"Uhh!"

The lady boss was stumped but then argued, "There are other bandit dens around the Eight Hundred Miles Lake!"

"Hey, you're a scholar who doesn't know anything, and our lady boss is kind enough to give you a word of advice, but yet you're speaking so sarcastically. Does this make any sense?"

The chef couldn't stand it anymore.

"Speaking sarcastically?"

Sun Mo smiled. "As expected, you guys are related to the Mount Zhao's bandits!"

"Do you now understand the human language? Didn't I tell you that we aren't related?"

The chef reproached.

"Shut up!"

The lady boss glared at the chef. As expected, illiterate people didn't have any brains. His accusation of Sun Mo speaking sarcastically to them was considered a confession.

After all, people who didn't have any relations to the Mount Zhao's bandits wouldn't care for Sun Mo's mockery.

Seeing that their identities had been exposed, the lady boss stopped the pretense. She kicked a stool with her foot and then took a seat in a forthright manner, looking straight at Sun Mo. "That's right, we're the Mount Zhao's bandits. What business do you have?"

The chef held onto his kitchen knife tightly, while the waiter was holding onto a stool.

"I want to join you guys!"

Sun Mo smiled, revealing eight white teeth, his level of friendliness shooting off the charts.

"Join... join us?"

The lady boss was stunned and his gaze subconsciously landed on Sun Mo. This was the clothing that only a recommended-candidate would have the right to wear!

A recommended-candidate did not need to pay taxes nor do corvée. Moreover, their social status was also many times higher than landowners in the countryside. Yet, he was saying that he wanted to become a bandit?

“Is there something wrong with your head?”

The lady boss was surprised.

“Erniang, this guy might just be trying to be a spy in Mount Zhao to eradicate our base!”

The chef’s countenance was solemn.

“That’s right! Kill him!”

The waiter suggested.

“It’s not that simple to join us! You’ll have to make an oath!”

The lady boss looked at Sun Mo and then at his wife. “You’ll also have to kill and rob!”

Mei Niang was very scared, and she held onto Sun Mo’s arm tightly.

Sun Mo patted the back of Mei Niang’s hand, gesturing for her not to be afraid. He then looked at the lady boss. “Kill how many?”

When Sun Mo asked this question calmly, for some reason, the lady boss and the other two men felt very cold even though it was the afternoon and the sun was very bright.

“This guy is a tough one!”

The lady boss’s mind cleared up, but when she looked at Sun Mo’s hands, she felt perplexed again.

That didn’t seem right.

His hands looked smooth and soft, with no calluses. It didn’t look like the hands of one who often held a blade.

Bang!

The lady boss slammed her palm on the table, saying furiously, “Are you trying to scam me?”

Sun Mo shrugged, turning his head away slightly, not caring to explain. The faint smile on his lips was mesmerizing.

The lady boss’s heart palpitated a few times, and she felt her face burning up.

(Is this how it feels to like someone?)

“Lady boss, I really wish to join the group. If I was a spy, why would I bring my wife along with me?”

Sun Mo took a look at the sky. “It’s getting late. Can we just get straight to the point?”

“Why are you getting yourself involved with the mess in Mount Zhao instead of staying as a recommended-candidate?”

The lady boss didn’t wish for Sun Mo to taint himself. After all, a bandit’s life was hard to sustain, and most of them wouldn’t have a good ending.

“I’ve killed someone!” Sun Mo felt helpless.

“Who did you kill?” The waiter felt curious.

“Pang Jili!”

After Sun Mo said that, the three of them cried out.

“Who?”

“Pang Jili!” Sun Mo repeated. “Imperial Tutor Pang’s beloved grandson!”

Sssss!

The lady boss and the two staff members drew in a cold gasp. Their gazes when looking at Sun Mo were as if they were looking at a monster.

These few days, the biggest topic in Jiangzhou was that Imperial Tutor Pang’s grandson, who had been involved in many evil deeds, had been killed.

Many people were glad to see this and praised Swallow Li San for his heroism.

The three of them didn’t expect that the person in question would appear in front of them!

“That must be a lie, right?”

The chef squinted his eyes. “I don’t believe that. You aren’t short, but you’re too thin and weak. I heard that Hero Li San had massacred several tens of lives in the Baimei Tower!”

“I’m a person who has muscles when I take off my clothes!”

Sun Mo explained.

Gulp!

The lady boss gulped and sneaked a look at Sun Mo’s chest muscles, which were blocked by his clothes.

“Lady boss!” The waiter called out.

“What’s the matter?” The lady boss frowned.

“Come over here!”

When the lady boss went over, the waiter said in a soft voice, “We can’t take this person in.”

“That’s right. Imperial Tutor Pang’s beloved grandson is dead. If it was known that the murderer is at our Mount Zhao, they’d definitely dispatch troops to wipe us out!”

The chef suggested, “Let’s just look for an excuse to reject him.”

“Why? Aren’t you Mount Zhao’s bandits self-proclaimed to be afraid of nothing in the world? But now that you’ve heard that I killed Pang Jili, you don’t dare to take me in?”

Sun Mo sneered.

“Hehe, Hero Li, don’t be looking down on us. We, the Mount Zhao’s bandits, aren’t a group that can be joined by anyone. Even if you were to make an oath, you’d still need to be able to handle my kitchen knife!”

The chef made his stance very clear that they’d need to fight it out.

He was going to test out this scholar.

“Alright!”

Sun Mo got up.

“Husband!”

Mei Niang didn’t let go and looked at Sun Mo worriedly.

“You’ve been put through suffering to be with me.”

Sun Mo felt very guilty.

At the sight of this scene, the lady boss’s heart warmed up for some reason, and her impression toward Sun Mo became better than before.

These days, women were like men’s appendages. If they were to become a concubine, they’d be a plaything.

The two guys stood on an empty land in front of the tavern, standing over ten meters away from each other!

“What’s your martial ranking amongst Mount Zhao’s bandits?”

Sun Mo felt curious. “Oh right, do you have a nickname?”

“I’m a person who won’t change my name wherever I go. I’m your Grandfather Zheng! Thanks to the great kindness from the older brothers, I have the nickname Expensive Pork!”

The chef used two kitchen knives.

“Expensive Pork?”

Sun Mo’s brows couldn’t help but frown. These words made him recall the hard life in the modern world where pork was really expensive.

“What weapons do you use?” The lady boss felt a little worried. “If you don’t have one, I’ll lend you one!”

“No need!”

Sun Mo interlocked his fingers and pushed them forward vigorously, warming up his joints. “I’m afraid that if I were to use a weapon, I’d end up killing him!”

“B*stard, you’re really arrogant!”

Expensive Pork was so angry that he was glaring fiercely. He held his knives, took his stance, and then pounced forth in huge strides. "Grandfather is going to take your life!"

Swoosh!

The kitchen knives slashed down at Sun Mo's head.

Sun Mo backed off and turned his body, avoiding the slash. By the time the second kitchen knife came slashing down, he had put out his hands rapidly, grabbing Expensive Pork's left wrist with his right hand and propping his elbow with his left hand, bending it hard.

Ah!

Under the intense pain, Expensive Pork let out an agonizing cry. His fingers loosened and he was unable to hold onto his kitchen knife.

Sun Mo, who had been waiting for this moment, grabbed the knife and slashed toward Expensive Pork's face.

Swoosh!

The kitchen knife stopped in front of Expensive Pork's nose. It still had the smell from being used to cut spiced beef earlier.

"He... he lost?"

The waiter rubbed his eyes. Expensive Pork had studied under a spear and staff master in Jiangzhou City for a few years, and his martial prowess was considered on the upper-middle tier amongst the Mount Zhao's bandits. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been sent to protect the lady boss. It was unexpected for him to be defeated in a single move!

How on earth did this scholar do that?

"Excellent!"

The lady boss couldn't help but praise loudly.

There was no helping it. Capable men were liked by others.

"Thank you for the match!"

Sun Mo gave a faint smile. He then shook his fingers, making a beautiful swirl with the knife and then handing it back to Expensive Pork.

Expensive Pork's countenance flickered between green and red.

The lady boss knew that Expensive Pork found it hard to put down his pride and she thus interjected, "Young master, do you really want to become an outlaw?"

"Of course!"

Sun Mo sighed. He then shared the story of how Pang Jili had taken fancy on his wife and he hadn't been willing to give in to Pang Jili. Therefore, he had gone to kill Pang Jili.

Given Sun Mo's eloquence as a great teacher, he told the story in an entertaining and life-like manner. Expensive Pork was a person with rich emotions and was straightforward. After hearing the story, he slashed down vigorously on the wooden table in front of him.

"That Bastard Pang deserves to die. Brother Sun, you did well!"

Expensive Pork put up a big thumb.

"It's been hard on you, sister!"

The lady boss sighed ruefully. These days, there wasn't a way for kind citizens like them to survive.

"Let's go back to Mount Zhao!"

The lady boss made the decision to recommend Sun Mo.

"Brother Sun, don't worry. I will definitely put in a kind word for you with the boss!"

Expensive Pork patted Sun Mo's shoulder.

His dirty hand left a big handprint on Sun Mo's recommended-candidate clothing.

However, Sun Mo didn't mind it at all. He patted Expensive Pork too. "Then I'll have to thank Brother Zheng for this!"

The lady boss and the waiter secretly nodded at the sight of this scene.

These days, there were strong distinctions between statuses. However, despite being a recommended-candidate, Sun Mo didn't despise the crude, rude, and lowly Expensive Pork. His character was very good!

Sun Mo drove the carriage and went off with Sun Erniang. That was right. The lady boss and Sun Mo shared the same family name, and she was the second child in the family. Therefore, her nickname was Sun Erniang.

The group arrived by Mount Zhao's lakeside. After that, the waiter took off his top and entered the water. Very soon, he returned with a small boat from the depths of the reed bushes.

"Brother Sun, let's get on the island first!"

Expensive Pork was someone who'd be convinced by capable people. Sun Mo was one of them. On the way, he asked a lot of questions on how Sun Mo had done the massacre at the Baimei Tower.

"En!"

Sun Mo helped Mei Niang out of the horse carriage and then took off the floorboard, taking out two longbows, three arrow quivers, two Yanling Steel Blades, as well as one short blade.

"..."

Sun Erniang and the other two men were stunned.

This was especially when these weapons still had dark red blood stains from when the blood coagulated.

To speak the truth, they still didn't believe that Sun Mo could massacre the Baimei Tower singlehandedly. But he finally believed it now after seeing these weapons.

"Brother Sun, you're this!"

Expensive Pork flashed a thumbs-up once again. He then looked at a steel blade, unable to turn his eyes away.

"You know your stuff! This is the blade belonging to Pang Jili's personal bodyguard!"

As Sun Mo said this, he picked up the blade and drew it out.

The bright saber blade could blind a person.

"Good blade!"

The three of them praised.

Sun Mo returned the blade into its sheath and then tossed it to Expensive Pork. "There, I'm giving it to you!"

Pa!

Expensive Pork received the blade but looked surprised.

"Huh?"

Expensive Pork was stunned for a moment and then quickly returned the blade. "That can't do. It's too valuable!"

"We get along well. Can our relationship not compare to a saber?" Sun Mo's countenance turned cold.

"Do you look down on me?"

"Brother, what are you talking about?"

Expensive Pork became anxious.

"Alright, since Sun Dalang is giving it to you, you can just keep it."

Sun Erniang teased, "Given Dalang's capabilities, he'd be able to get his hands on as many of such treasured blades as he wishes to in the future!"

On the small boat, Expensive Pork hugged the treasured blade, looking as happy as a child who was 1.8 meters tall.

When they arrived at the base of the Mount Zhao's bandits, Sun Mo heard from them that there were three people here who could call the shots. This meant that there were three bosses.

The First Boss's surname was Huang. He used to be a constable but had come running to Mount Zhao after getting into trouble. He was the type to loaf his life away. The Second Boss's surname was Qiu. After his fiancée was violated, he killed the landlord's family at the night and then came to Mount Zhao with his few brothers.

They were the fiercest and best at fighting, having the strongest desires to go out and plunder!

The Third Boss's surname was Lu. He was a peacemaker. He used to be a young master from a wealthy family, but his family was broken up and ruined due to being harmed by imperial officials. He was left with no choice but to come to Mount Zhao.

Hearing Sun Erniang sharing the stories, Sun Mo was speechless. (Is it really a good idea for you to tell everything to a newcomer like me?)

By the looks of it, this was a disorderly group too. There was a long way to go if he wished to rely on them to create a path for himself.

Mount Zhao was an island in the middle of the Eight Hundred Miles Lake. If there wasn't anyone to lead the way, one would definitely get lost in the reed bushes.

This was also a major reason why these bandits hadn't been eradicated.

"Erniang, you're back?"

A few guys who were fishing by the pier greeted Sun Erniang. Their gazes then landed on Sun Mo and Mei Niang.

"En!"

Sun Erniang had a higher status here.

Of course, it could also be because she was prettier. She was only a little worse off compared to Mei Niang but had an additional hint of wild beauty.

The group had just landed on the steps and entered the mountain stronghold when a guy with a strong physique came out to welcome them

"Erniang, you're finally back!"

The man was wearing clothing that scholars would wear, but his behavior didn't seem like a person who would study.

"Second Boss!"

Sun Erniang greeted.

"These two are..."

The Second Boss looked toward Sun Mo. His gaze then landed on Mei Niang and lit up uncontrollably, feeling astonished by her beauty.

"This is Brother Sun and his wife. They wish to join us!"

Sun Erniang introduced Sun Mo's background in a soft voice.

When Second Boss Qiu heard this, he sized up Sun Mo. His countenance gradually sank before he broke into a smile. "This matter will need to be decided by the First Boss!"

"We must keep a person like Brother Sun who values kinship and friendship!" Expensive Pork interjected, "I'll go talk to the First Boss!"

...

With Sun Erniang and Expensive Pork's help, Sun Mo spent a decent night in the mountain stronghold. However, he didn't get to meet the First Boss.

"The rules are the same. You must kill to earn the right to join us!"

When Sun Erniang saw Sun Mo again the next day, she said solemnly, "If you wish to leave, you can still do that!"

If it wasn't because she liked Sun Mo, why would Sun Erniang repeatedly try to dissuade him?

Becoming a bandit was really a path of no return!

Chapter 1135: Bandit Sun's First Performance

"Sister Sun, I know that you're saying this for my own good, but I can't turn back anymore."

Sun Mo smiled. "Moreover, to be honest, these days, I don't feel that there's anything bad about being a bandit. Of course, the prerequisite is that one must have a lofty ambition!"

"Ambition?"

Sun Erniang was confused by Sun Mo's words.

"Sister Sun, I want to trouble you to help me gather information on every one of Mount Zhao's bandits, especially those who have had great feuds with their landlords."

Sun Mo pleaded.

"What are you thinking of doing?"

Sun Erniang's expression immediately became wary and suspicious.

"Don't misunderstand. I just feel that since I want to become a bandit, I'm going to become the best one in the world!"

Sun Mo explained in a soft voice, sharing his plan with her.

The more Sun Erniang listened, the more surprised her expression was. In the end, she looked at Sun Mo with a gaze filled with disbelief.

It was just a kidnap. Did he need to plan things out so well?

"I'll be troubling Sister Sun!"

Sun Mo cupped his fists together.

"Leave it to me!"

Sun Erniang assured.

As she was a woman and was beautiful, Sun Erniang had a good relationship with the Mount Zhao's bandits. It was very easy for her to find out information.

In the past, Sun Erniang didn't care about other people's matters at all, and her image was a little cold and aloof. Now, to help Sun Mo, she took the initiative to get close to those bandits.

Two days passed by. Ye Biao sat on a chair in an unrestrained manner to drink tea. He looked at the bandits, who were going to take part in this operation, coming in successively.

There wasn't a need for many people to be involved in a kidnap like this. 20 would suffice.

A bit later, Ye Biao put down his teacup.

"Is everyone here?"

Ye Biao was the second boss's subordinate and was very good at fighting. He was a hot-blooded and brave man.

"That scholar didn't come!"

"He can't be scared, right?"

"I heard that his nickname is Swallow Li San and that he has killed Pang Jili and massacred the people at the Baimei Tower. Could this be fake?"

Everyone talked amongst themselves.

"Don't talk gibberish! There's no way that Brother Sun will be scared. He's just... just overslept!"

Expensive Pork became anxious and explained loudly.

Although everyone was a part of the Mount Zhao's bandits, they were split into different factions. Expensive Pork would usually go out on missions together with Sun Erniang, but the reason he joined Ye Biao this time around was to take care of Sun Mo.

Seeing that Sun Mo was being looked down on, Expensive Pork looked displeased.

"Oh, you're already calling him your older brother?"

Someone sneered.

"We'll give him one more cup of tea's time. If he doesn't come..."

Ye Biao didn't finish his words, but everyone understood what he meant.

If Sun Mo wished to look for an excuse to run away from this operation, he'd have his head chopped off and tossed into the lake to feed the turtles.

"I'll go take a look!"

Expensive Pork headed out of the hall.

"Brother, where are you headed to?"

Sun Mo had come. His smile looked even brighter under the late morning sun.

"This bastard is f*cking good looking!"

Many people cursed softly when they saw how handsome Sun Mo was. (You're a person who can rely on your looks for a living, so why did you come to Mount Zhao?)

(You think it's fun to be a bandit?)

Pa!

Ye Biao slammed his palm on the table, looking at Sun Mo with a dark countenance. "Although we're bandits, we have rules to follow! Otherwise, if things go wrong, everyone's lives will be on the line!"

Ye Biao didn't care who Sun Mo was. He decided to give him a scare first before doing anything else.

Bandits were loyal to their brothers, but those who could be leaders were those who were good at fighting and had experience.

"Brother Biao, don't be angry. I only came late because I wanted to get more money out of this. I didn't do it intentionally."

Sun Mo explained.

To speak the truth, it was on purpose that he had come late. Otherwise, how would he be able to attract everyone's attention?

As expected, upon hearing that they'd be able to get more money, everyone became interested.

"Go on, how can we do that?"

"You really believe him? He's just finding an excuse so that he won't be punished!"

"Xiaoliu, why are you here instead of staying with your mother?"

Everyone bickered away, not showing any discipline at all. Someone saw a delicate young man standing next to Sun Mo and felt curious.

He was called Zhong Xiaoliu and was a filial son.

Everyone came to the Mount Zhao with nothing on them and would at most bring their wife and children with them. However, this person had carried his blind old mother on his back to join them as an outlaw, not complaining that she was a burden.

"Go on!"

Ye Biao wore a hint of mockery on his face, wanting to test out Sun Mo's capabilities. If he was spouting gibbering, his fists wouldn't stand on ceremony.

"I heard that our Mount Zhao volunteer army's main source of income is from kidnapping. Our targets are mostly the children of the landlords from the countryside. Some people are willing to pay up, some aren't. But even the landlords who pay the ransom would only pay a few hundred taels. To date, the greatest sum you've received is 1,000 taels."

Sun Mo said fluently.

He even intentionally referred to the bandits as a volunteer army because it sounded nicer.

“Tsk, what do you know? This is to cast a long line to catch a big fish. What will we live off in the future if we were to take everything from the landlords?”

Ye Biao said in disdain, mocking Sun Mo for being short-sighted.

“It’s not as if the landlords’ estates can run off anywhere. Their money will be ours sooner or later!”

The bandits cheered and applauded.

“Heh, yours? You guys are just afraid that they’ll take desperate measures when driven to a corner!”

Sun Mo pursed his lips. “And I’ve always thought that money only belongs to me when it’s in my hands.”

Everyone fell silent.

Everyone understood that what Ye Biao said was just an excuse to console themselves. They really didn’t dare to drive those landlords into a corner.

These days, landlords didn’t lack wives and sons. Other than those who couldn’t have any children, who didn’t have a bunch of them?

Only a fool would be willing to pay up if you were to kidnap one of them and ask for half of their family assets!

Therefore, everyone didn’t go overboard and only asked for a few hundred taels. The landlords would just take it as if they were paying to avert disasters, while the Mount Zhao’s bandits wouldn’t look for trouble for at least a few years.

“You make things sound so easy. Even if we were to snatch it, money doesn’t come easily!”

Several people sighed.

Even though they didn’t need to fork out anything in this trade, it wasn’t as if they could rake in big money. Even if things didn’t go awry, they had to live with very little money.

“That’s in the past!”

Sun Mo poured a cup of cold water and sipped on it slowly. “In the future, we’ll have to change the way we earn money. Take this time for example. If we were to take down an estate and take over a landlord’s accumulated wealth for over 100 years, it should be enough for us to lead a good life, right?”

To get others to put their lives on the line, one had to entice them with benefits.

Many people were tempted, but some were worried.

“Kidnapping is too low. I’m not doing it. This time around, I’m going to take down an estate. Those who wish to strike it rich can come over and sign up with me!”

Sun Mo looked toward Ye Biao. “Other than the 30% to be paid to the mountain stronghold, all participants will split the rest of the money equally!”

Everyone immediately discussed amongst themselves.

“Sun Mo, don’t be reckless!”

Ye Biao was a little surprised.

“How can making big money be called reckless?”

Sun Mo pretended to be aggrieved. He then looked toward the others. “I know that some of you had brought your family along when you took to the woods and became an outlaw. Some of you had no other choice. I’m not going to force you guys. We’ll do this voluntarily. Right now, go tell your friends that we’re going down the mountain to earn big money!”

Everyone hesitated.

“I’ll say one last thing. We’ve all become outlaws. If we’re caught, we’ll be executed. However, we don’t get to eat the most expensive food and sleep with the most beautiful ladies. Don’t you think that it’s a losing deal?”

Sun Mo said with great passion, smashing the cup onto the floor.

He was a great teacher, and he was very good at striking a deep chord in people’s hearts.

“F*ck it! I’m doing it!”

“What will come will come! I’m doing it!”

“F*ck his mom!”

Everyone immediately went to call their friends.

“...”

Ye Biao saw that the situation had gone out of control and felt troubled. However, he was now sure that Sun Mo wasn’t a spy.

Whose spy would dare to be so crazy?

That mustn’t do. He must hurry up and inform the second boss!

...

“Take down an estate? Pay 30%?”

Boss Qiu chuckled. “Let him go do it!”

Only a fool wouldn’t want to get free money.

“Let him do whatever he wants!”

Boss Qiu instructed.

At the same time, the first boss was also informed of this matter. He felt hesitant and thought that Sun Mo was a troublesome guy.

As for Third Boss Lu, he rushed over to the meeting hall directly.

By the time he arrived, he saw that over 50 people had gathered here. Most of them were people who didn't have any family, and a few of them were those who wanted to let their family have more food to eat. Therefore, these people were planning to do a big job with Sun Mo.

"Brother Sun, you mustn't!"

Boss Lu went up straight to Sun Mo. "If you do this, the imperial court will send troops to wipe us out."

Kidnapping was a small problem, but attacking an estate would be a rebellion.

"Third Boss, judging from the way you address me^[1], you can't possibly still be thinking about your identity as a distinguished-talent, are you? Remember, we're bandits now!"

Sun Mo understood after seeing Boss Lu. This guy was probably forced to become an outlaw and was still hoping to clear his name. Therefore, he was trying not to get into trouble.

Swoosh!

Boss Lu's countenance turned pale, looking very awkward.

"Our brothers have become bandits, and we might just get caught and be beheaded tomorrow. Yet, we're still eating poorly. Life is too harsh!"

Sun Mo's words caused everyone to become agitated.

"This time around, we aren't seeking great wealth and riches. We only seek to fill our stomachs and have a woman to sleep with!"

Sun Mo bellowed loudly, "Brothers! Let's go down the mountain!"

"Go down the mountain!"

"Go down the mountain!"

"Go down the mountain!"

All the bandits cheered, looking spirited, and their voices rang through the air.

Sun Mo took the lead while the others followed him.

"Brother Sun!"

Expensive Pork was so agitated that his face was covered in sweat. He squeezed through the crowd and followed behind Sun Mo, feeling that this was an idol worthy of chasing.

Sun Mo heard the footsteps behind him and felt bitter.

Wasn't it a joke to be talking about ambitions and to overthrow the imperial court to a bunch of people who hadn't received much education?

Who'd be able to understand?

Silver and women were the motivation that could keep people going.

A total of 56 people went with Sun Mo, using a total of 12 fishing boats.

“Sun Mo, is it too reckless to do this?”

Sun Erniang had come too. She looked at those bandits worriedly. “These people have always been an unbridled bunch. You should select the ones you can use for the job.”

The hidden meaning behind her words was that these people couldn’t be controlled.

“There’s no need. What I need are such tough people!”

Sun Mo explained, “Taking down an estate doesn’t just require a plan but also relies on hot-bloodedness and valiance. I need these great men!”

Great men were a good way of putting things. They were actually just a bunch of evil-doers who couldn’t hold back from robbing and plundering. These people had the greatest destructive force.

This was Sun Mo’s first battle, so he was naturally aiming for victory. Only after building up his reputation would he have the right to pick people and form his own team.

During the boat ride, Sun Mo called Zhong Xiaoliu to his side.

“It’ll depend on your performance to see if you can avenge your father and younger sister!”

Sun Mo had gathered some information. Zhong Xiaoliu’s family had borrowed money from the landlord and was unable to pay back the exorbitant interest rates. Therefore, the landlord took away all their farming land and they became the landlord’s sharecroppers.

Later on, in order to let his mother get treated for her illness, they were unable to return the borrowed money and his younger sister was taken away.

His father naturally wasn’t willing to see his beloved daughter falling into the hell pit and during the tussle, the landlord’s butler accidentally inflicted him with serious injuries.

A few days later, his father died.

After a few more months passed, he heard that his younger sister hadn’t been well-behaved and had scratched the landlord when attending to him. She ended up being sold to a brothel.

Zhong Xiaoliu went to ask them for an explanation but was given a harsh beating. In a rage, when the butler came to ask him for money, he hacked the butler with a kitchen knife and then brought his mother with him to Mount Zhao.

“I understand!”

Zhong Xiaoliu gritted his teeth. “Brother Sun, if you can help me with my revenge, I’ll sell my life to you!”

“Don’t say that. Your life will always be yours. You must let your life become even happier. That’s the greatest retaliation you can make to those people who’ve harmed you!”

Sun Mo patted Zhong Xiaoliu on the shoulder.

“Brother Sun!”

Zhong Xiaoliu was stunned and felt extremely touched. No one had said such things to him before.

“Thank you!”

Sun Erniang’s beautiful eyes were gleaming too. “Xiaoliu is a filial child.”

“There’s no need to stand on ceremony. It’s a natural thing to be helping a brother to take revenge!”

Sun Mo thought to himself that he actually had a few backup plans. The reason he had decided to pick Xiaoliu was that people like him wouldn’t betray him. Moreover, the Zhong Clan’s estate was only 20 over li away from the Eight Hundred Miles Lake.

When they were nearing the shores, Sun Mo didn’t let them get to the land but had the fishing boats enter the weed bushes to have a meeting.

“This is the floor plan for the Zhong Clan’s manor. It’s definitely not accurate, but that doesn’t matter. When the time comes, we can just randomly grab a servant or maid and ask them for the concrete location!”

Sun Mo took out ten pieces of paper and handed them to everyone.

“Erniang, you’ll lead some men to take over the stable at the first instant. We aren’t going to just prevent the people from the Zhong Clan from escaping. These horses will also be the transportation tool for our retreat.

“Expensive Pork, you’ll lead one group of people and will be in charge of the backyard. Don’t let anyone escape.”

“Brother Biao, our two teams will kill everyone in the front courtyard first. I’ll then leave the treasury to you. “Be careful that they might set off a fire to burn the food supplies.”

Sun Mo gave out orders in succession.

The bunch of bandits had been spurred by Sun Mo’s speech previously, but after sailing for a few hours, they had calmed down. They were also starting to consider if this operation could succeed.

Seeing that Sun Mo seemed to have everything under control and planned out, they felt good.

“Then who will be responsible for Landlord Zhong?”

Ye Biao frowned.

The one to kill Landlord Zhong would definitely get the most rewards.

“This is my proposal, so I’ll definitely be the one to do such a dangerous job!”

Sun Mo looked at Ye Biao. “Of course, everyone can be assured that for this operation, I won’t take a single cent from the things we get.”

“Sun Mo!”

Sun Erniang was shocked and wanted to persuade him not to make promises recklessly.

Everyone fell silent too. After all, the reason they came out to plunder was for wealth.

“I’m treating everyone as my brothers and showing my sincerity. I hope that everyone can also cooperate well. We’ll still be taking on big jobs in the future!”

Sun Mo said.

“Alright, I’ll believe you this one time!”

Ye Biao stared hard at Sun Mo. This person was either one with great ambitions but little talent or was extremely ambitious.

There was a stretch of forest three li away from the Zhong Clan’s estate. To not attract attention, Sun Mo’s group arrived at the place in batches.

At the same time, they also had Sun Erniang go and collect some information.

Two days later, everyone was gathered. Sun Erniang also brought news that things were normal in the Zhong Clan’s estate.

Evening came.

After eating dried rations, Sun Mo stood up.

“Brothers, today is the day that decides whether we’ll be eating meat or drinking soup. Come, let’s go and rob the rich to save the poor, to uphold justice!”

Sun Mo’s first performance had started.

“Brother Biao, this just occurred to me. We still have no idea how Big Brother Sun’s fighting skills are.”

An underling got up behind Ye Biao and reminded him in a soft voice.

“If he can’t fight, then he’ll just die!”

Ye Biao didn’t care. Sun Mo’s plan was well-thought-out. Even if Sun Mo were to die, he’d still be able to carry it through. However, why had this underling started to call Sun Mo as big brother?

(Do you have any respect for me, who is your sworn brother?)

Chapter 1136: This Scholar Is So Brutal!

The environment of farming villages in the ancient days wasn’t that secure, leading to wild beasts being able to roam freely. Furthermore, there were no electric lights, and this led to there being no one outside when night came.

Despite this, Sun Mo was still very wary. He led a group of people with the best vision in front. Once they encountered strangers, they’d take them down immediately to avoid them from alerting the people.

Three li of land passed by very quickly

Sun Mo lay ambush at the bottom of a slope, looking at the Zhong Clan’s manor.

“I’ll repeat this one more time. We’re seeking money and not lives. Other than the guards, people who put up resistance, as well as Landlord Zhong’s family, try not to implicate the women and children. If I see anyone not being disciplined and trying to harm those women, my blade won’t show mercy.”

Sun Mo let out a low bellow, wearing a stern expression.

Some of the bandits didn’t think much of it.

“With money, we can go to the brothels. Don’t harm those pitiful women.”

Sun Erniang chipped in.

“Let’s stop talking and hurry up to get moving!”

Ye Biao urged.

“Go according to plan and split up. After the killing sounds from the front ring out, the other groups will then take action.”

Sun Mo said as he took a piece of red cloth to cover his nose and mouth.

“Go!”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The bandits immediately crouched over and ran toward the locations they were respectively in charge of.

The Zhong Clan’s manor was covered with walls that were three meters tall. It looked very impressive but couldn’t stop the bandits.

Sun Mo quietly calculated the time. After everyone arrived at their spots and had a few minutes of rest, he took out the longbow he was carrying on his back.

“Brothers, come! Let’s go get rich!”

After saying that, Sun Mo took the lead and leaped out from behind the slope.

The Zhong Clan had guards on the night shift. However, most of them only had their guards up against the wild beasts that had come from the mountains or foolish robbers who were here to steal. They didn’t expect that there’d be so many bandits attacking the manor.

Right now, they were all squatting by the door, throwing dice and betting money.

“I think I heard footsteps?”

A guard’s ears twitched and he probed his head out of the door to take a look. Seeing a group of bandits flipping across the walls, he was shocked.

“Thieves...”

Swoosh!

Before he finished shouting, an arrow shot into his eye, piercing through his head.

Ba-thump!

The corpse fell to the group.

“F*ck, isn’t his accuracy too good?”

Ye Biao was given a fright. There was a distance of over 40 meters and most importantly, it was nighttime with a small wind blowing. However, that guard still died the moment he probed his head out.

The other two guards panicked as they quickly went to grab the gong when they saw their companion die. However, they were next to be killed by arrows.

“F*ck your mom! Consecutive shots?”

A few of Ye Biao’s underlings were about to go over and kill the two guards to prevent them from raising the alarm. However, they were stunned by this scene.

“Why are you in a daze? Hurry up and move!”

Sun Mo urged.

The guards’ reactions were the fastest. Some of them had just fallen asleep. They didn’t have time to put on their clothes and came charging out with their weapons.

Those who didn’t see the bandits ran toward Landlord Zhong’s bedroom. Those who did gush forth with strong fighting wills.

Sun Mo raised his arms and sent out two consecutive shots, killing the one who took the lead first.

“Kill!”

Ye Biao was also a tough guy. He let out a loud bellow and led a few underlings to charge forth, engaging in a fight with the guards.

The situation was chaotic and Sun Mo was unable to continue shooting arrows for fear of hitting one of their own. He could only draw his Yanling Steel Blade and join in the fight.

If they weren’t short of time and afraid that the target might slip away, Sun Mo wouldn’t put in so much effort.

“Sigh, it’s just a bunch of NPCs in the Black-White Game anyway. There’s no need to care too much about them!”

Sun Mo looked at the guard who had half his arm chopped off by him and then tried to console himself.

“The guards aren’t easy to deal with!”

Ye Biao frowned and bellowed, telling everyone to be careful. However, after Sun Mo joined in the fight, he took the enemies down with each slash, bringing down a number of guards. He was really ferocious.

“That can’t be true. He’s not just amazing in archery but in his blade as well?”

The bunch of bandits thought back on how Sun Mow was looking like a scholar the day before. They almost thought that they were dreaming.

“Who is the real bandit here?”

Ye Biao was speechless. Were the scholars these days so brutal?

“Ye Biao, go ahead and charge forward first! I’ll pull back!”

Sun Mo instructed.

If it was any other time, Ye Biao would have flown into a rage if a newcomer dared to call out his name like this. But now, he didn’t say a word and charged forth.

Sun Mo’s performance had convinced him. Moreover, he knew that Sun Mo had superb archery skills. Rather than wasting his energy slashing people, it’d be more meaningful for him to conserve his energy to shoot down important targets.

Right now, the Zhong Clan’s manor was in a complete mess. When the guards at the back heard the killing sounds coming from the front courtyard and came rushing over, the other bandits who were lying in ambush started making their moves as well.

Very soon, Ye Biao arrived at Landlord Zhong’s manor while holding a maid hostage. The door was opened and a fat man stood there, giving out orders.

There were eight guards with burly figures around him.

“I’m going to kill you!”

When enemies met, their eyes would blaze with hatred. Zhong Xiaoliu’s eyes turned red, and he wanted to charge over.

Pa!

Sun Mo pulled Zhong Xiaoliu back. “Are you trying to court death?”

Both sides raised their longbows in unison when they met.

However, the bandits only had three who knew archery, including Sun Mo. Despite this, it was sufficient as Sun Mo was on their side.

Beng! Beng! Beng!

Each time the bowstring strummed, an arrow would shoot out like a shooting star, hitting on a guard’s face. It’d either be their mouth or their eyes.

The ones who were hit by the arrows died on the spot.

After both sides shot out two rounds of arrows, the guards started to panic.

This archery skill was too f*cking scary.

“Kill him! I’ll give a reward of 100 silver taels!”

When Landlord Zhong saw that the morale on their side had plunged, he quickly called out reward offerings. “I’ll pay ten taels for every bandit killed! I’ll give 100 taels for a bandit leader’s head!”

Ten silver taels were enough for a family of three from a farming background to live happily for an entire year. Therefore, the guards went crazy and charged forth while bellowing loudly.

Landlord Zhong, on the other hand, turned to run into the house.

There wasn't a need to think about this. Sun Mo knew that there must be an escape route inside and he drew his bow once again.

Pffft!

The arrow pierced through Landlord Zhong's upper thigh. He let out an agonizing cry and fell to the ground, hurting his mouth.

These guards were all elites, especially the leader. He impressively swung his blade, killing three bandits consecutively.

"Brother Sun! Come and help!"

Ye Biao was a schemer. He purposely called out Sun Mo's name, wanting to expose his identity and cutting off the possibility of him leaving the mountain stronghold.

Of course, Ye Biao wasn't doing this with bad intentions either. He felt that the mountain stronghold would be able to develop better with someone like Sun Mo.

"Stupid! Go and catch the landlord first! Catch the ringleader to take down their followers!"

Sun Mo scolded.

Ye Biao's adrenaline level was shooting up and he wasn't thinking well. Hearing this, he felt that Sun Mo's words made sense and immediately pounced for Landlord Zhong.

However, he didn't consider that the leader of the guards wouldn't agree to this.

Even if the manor were to fall, they must bring their master with them. Therefore, they started to go all out too.

"As expected of one who is called Brother Biao. He's really a little stupid."

Sun Mo's mouth twitched.

Ye Biao and the opponent's leader were on par with each other. After they were both seriously wounded and were a little worn out, Sun Mo suddenly came in, swung his blade, and slashed down.

Clank! Clank!

The leader wasn't able to block the attack and had his hair chopped off.

"How is it? Do you want to come to our mountain stronghold to become an outlaw?"

Sun Mo invited.

The leader's countenance flashed between red and green. He knew that Sun Mo had held back. Otherwise, if this attack were to hit him, his head would have rolled on the ground.

“I have a wife and children!”

The leader explained.

“I understand. You can leave!”

Sun Mo let him off and then looked toward the other guards. “You guys won’t be able to win. If you don’t wish to die, hurry up and throw away your weapons to surrender!”

“Brother Sun, we mustn’t let them go! They’ll report this!”

Ye Biao couldn’t understand. (You’re clearly much stronger than they are. Wouldn’t it be less hassle if you were to kill them?)

Sun Mo glared at him. “Who calls the shots here?”

“Uhh!”

Ye Biao quickly lowered his head, not daring to look Sun Mo in the eyes.

On the other side, Zhong Xiaoliu had caught Landlord Zhong.

“You guys are biting the hand that feeds you! I spent a lot of money on you guys every month!”

Landlord Zhong cursed.

Zhong Xiaoliu raised his hand and gave him three punches.

“Brother Biao, act according to plan!”

Sun Mo urged, telling him not to cling to this leader.

“May I ask for your name?”

The leader cupped his fists together. “I’ll repay the favor of you sparing my life today!”

“Swallow Li San!”

Sun Mo said half-heartedly, but his words caused all the guards to draw in a cold gasp. Even Landlord Zhong couldn’t help but look over.

This nickname was the most well-known in Jiangzhou at the moment. It was the person who had taken the lives of Pang Jili as well as several tens of others’ in the Baimei Tower.

Not long later, Landlord Zhong’s wife, concubines, and seven children were all caught and brought over.

“Tell us where you hide your money!”

Sun Mo persuaded, “You don’t wish to see your entire family going down to hell together, right?”

Landlord Zhong put up a struggle. That was the wealth that his ancestors had accumulated over many generations.

“After you tell me, your family will be able to live and have a chance to start afresh. If you don’t, your entire family will die and this wealth will benefit others for no reason.”

Sun Mo analyzed the pros and cons for him.

Landlord Zhong couldn't bear to part with his wealth.

"I have limited time. Men, light an incense! After the incense is done burning, kill his entire family!"

Sun Mo's tone was very cold.

There were sounds of crying for help at the manor's residential area.

"Brother Biao, I'm going to clean things up. Do you want to join me?"

Sun Mo invited.

"Huh?"

Ye Biao was stunned. After understanding Sun Mo's meaning, he felt that Sun Mo was making a big deal out of this. Wasn't it normal for them to sleep with a few women?

"I said that we're seeking wealth and not lives! Since there are people who don't listen, then they'll die!"

Sun Mo said this and headed out of the door.

Ye Biao wanted to persuade him. After all, things like this were very normal amongst bandits. However, his underling pulled him back.

"Big Brother, don't provoke him! His eyes are filled with killing intent!"

"Brother Sun is a good person. If he wasn't forced by Pang Jili, how could he have become an outlaw?"

"With money, how would it be a problem to get women? There's no need to infuriate Brother Sun for such a small matter!"

All the underlings had switched sides.

They had killed all the way together with Sun Mo, and they had seen how amazing he was. All of them felt great admiration toward him.

In a room, three bandits were violating two maids.

"Go on and cry! Cry louder! I like that!"

A bandit teased while taking off his clothes. However, he suddenly saw the head of the companion next to him rolling off his neck. Then, warm blood splattered on his face.

"That's such a coincidence! I like girls who can cry very loudly too!"

Sun Mo chuckled.

The two bandits were stunned. One of them dropped to his knees with a plop, while the other one gritted his teeth then bellowed.

"I'm one of the First Boss's men! The first batch of men who came to Mount Zhao..."

Before this guy finished his words, Sun Mo sent his blade slashing down.

Kacha!

A head rolled.

“Noisy!”

Sun Mo frowned.

Ah!

The last bandit shivered in fear and kept on kowtowing, begging for mercy.

“Carry the two heads and follow me!”

Sun Mo ordered. He took a look at the maids who were curled up together and left.

“My God, what kind of killer god has our mountain stronghold got involved with?”

The bandit who managed to survive didn’t dare to say a word. He carried the two heads, clenched his butt tightly, and then followed behind Sun Mo, feeling unsettled.

On the way, Sun Mo would just chop off the heads of the bandits who were violating women, not listening to their excuses. After going one round, he returned to the main residence. The bandit behind him was already holding 11 heads.

At the sight of this scene, Ye Biao and the others broke out in cold sweat.

Did he need to be so vicious?

These were their brothers!

“Did he confess?”

Sun Mo asked.

“No!”

If it wasn’t because Sun Mo didn’t allow them to kill, Ye Biao would have started killing the landlord’s family members to force him to confess.

“Time is very tight. I’m not going to wait anymore. So are you going to confess? Or are you going to seek death?”

Sun Mo’s tone was very calm, unlike how the other bandits were filled with desire toward gold and silver.

“I... I’ll confess!”

Landlord Zhong gave in. A bandit leader who killed even his own men was too brutal. However, he had a bottomline. Maybe he could trust this person.

Landlord Zhong confessed where he hid his money.

“Bring everything onto the horse carriages and mule carts! Hurry up!”

Sun Mo urged and then looked toward Landlord Zhong. "I'll let your family off, but you've done too much evil. It'll be left to your fate to see if you'll be able to survive. Brother Biao, hand him a blade!"

"Xiaoliu! It's your own revenge, it doesn't matter if he lives or dies!"

...

The people from the Zhong Clan's estate weren't blind and had seen long ago that a fire had broken out in the manor and agonizing cries for help kept ringing out. However, they didn't dare to go over to help. Furthermore, Landlord Zhong had always been oppressing and exploiting them too much. As a result, the villagers hoped to see the Zhong Clan be gotten rid of.

It'd be even better if the promissory notes and title deeds were all burned!

Many people were praying that these bandits would burn the entire Zhong Clan's manor and their debts would all disappear.

The village chief wanted to report to the officials, but his path was blocked before he even stepped out.

"Are you guys crazy? Aren't you guys afraid that those bandits would come targeting us after they are done with Landlord Zhong?"

The village chief scolded.

"We're all poor people who can't fill our stomachs. What's there to snatch from us?"

The men said in self-mockery.

The reason why these people blocked the village chief was because Sun Mo had Zhong Xiaoliu come here to persuade them.

After the robbery was a success, they'd burn down all the promissory notes. However, if someone were to report them, then they could forget about it and he'd hand the promissory notes to the landlord from the neighboring village.

With Zhong Xiaoliu, who was an extremely filial son, as the guarantor, these men decided to bet on this and had taken control over the village's entrances as well as holding back the village chief.

Two hours later, the Mount Zhao's bandits started to retreat.

"Brother Sun!"

Zhong Xiaoliu, who was covered in blood, found Sun Mo. Other than the exhilaration of having sought revenge, there was also a feeling of loss on his face.

"In the future, we'll kill all the evil landlords so that kind people like you won't get bullied!"

Sun Mo gave him a pointer.

When Zhong Xiaoliu heard this, his eyes lit up. It was as if he had found a new life goal and he nodded vigorously.

"If Brother Sun asks me to head to the east, I'll definitely not head to the west!"

“Alright!”

Sun Mo wiped away the blood on Zhong Xiaoliu then patted him on the back. “Go on! We’ll go according to plan!”

“En!”

Zhong Xiaoliu ran toward the village.

“Brother Sun, what are you getting him to do?”

Ye Biao was curious..

Chapter 1137: Shooting To Fame After One Battle

Sun Mo didn’t explain things to Ye Biao but looked toward the hostages who were kneeling on the floor.

“You guys are free now. The one who did this is me, Swallow Li San. The reason for doing this isn’t for anything else but to enforce justice on behalf of heaven.”

Sun Mo said in a loud voice, “Landlord Zhong is greedy, brutal, and does a lot of evil acts, causing many families to be broken up and destroyed. Take Zhong Xiaoliu’s family for example. Their lands were seized and his younger sister who was below the age of 20 was raped and then sold to a brothel. Who should die if not someone like this?”

Sun Mo listed out Landlord Zhong’s evil deeds as if he was in great pain.

The servants who had been sobbing softly earlier on didn’t dare to make another sound. It was true that Landlord Zhong had done a lot of bad deeds, but as servants, how would they dare to shoot their mouths off for no reason?

In the beginning, they felt that these evildoers were very bad. But now, it seemed that they were really enforcing justice on behalf of heaven.

“We don’t kill recklessly, so we’ll let you guys leave!”

After saying that, Sun Mo planned to leave. However, a servant bellowed out.

“You guys killed my older brother!”

“Is he a guard? If he is, then shut up!”

Sun Mo stared at him. “If you feel aggrieved, then I’ll go investigate if your older brother had helped Landlord Zhong in his evil deeds, forcing women into prostitution. If he did do that, then your entire family would die! If not, I’d pay you with my life!”

“Dalang!”

Sun Erniang came running over to check out the situation when she didn’t see Sun Mo coming to the front door. When she heard him say this, she was immediately given a fright.

The bandits’ expressions all changed a little.

That servant shrank his neck back, seeming hesitant but not daring to say another word.

How could a guard dare to go against their master's orders?

Therefore, they'd definitely have done some bad deeds before.

At the sight of this scene, all the bandits shouted out. This was the first time they felt that they weren't in the wrong after having killed and committed arson. A lot of the sinfulness they were feeling disappeared.

"As for these ill-gotten gains, other than keeping some for ourselves to recruit men and purchase horses, we'll donate the rest out to help the poor."

Sun Mo looked toward those bandits. "Since we're eating these foods, we mustn't let the people who had grown them down."

"Brother Sun is right!"

"Fourth Boss, we'll do as you say!"

"We're righteous bandits! We don't do bad deeds!"

The bandits shouted out, feeling very good.

Ye Biao looked a little surprised when he saw that quite a number of people had started to call Sun Mo the fourth boss. These outlaws were arrogant people, but they were all convinced by Sun Mo after just one operation with him.

He could only say that Sun Mo's charisma was very strong.

"Come, let's head back to the mountain stronghold!"

Sun Mo didn't continue to have those servants take any responsibilities for their actions and turned to leave.

The reason he had said so much was to spread their reputation as righteous bandits. They'd only be able to attract more people by saying that their actions were intended to enforce justice on behalf of heaven.

Even though the sky had turned dark and it was hard to travel, the bandits who had just accomplished a great operation went on their way energetically without Sun Mo's orders.

After all, they'd only be safe after returning to the mountain stronghold.

"Brother Sun, why didn't we burn down the manor?"

Ye Biao couldn't understand. Killing and arson were often grouped. Without having committed arson, he kept having the feeling that something was missing.

"There'd be people who'd do it for us!"

Sun Mo smiled and looked in the direction of the Zhong Clan's manor.

As expected, it wasn't long before a fire started to burn, reflecting an orange-red color onto the sky.

“Huh? Who did that?”

Ye Biao was stunned.

“The villagers. It could be those servants as well!”

Sun Mo guessed. It didn’t matter anyway.

“They wouldn’t dare to do that, right?”

Ye Biao didn’t believe that. Sharecroppers and servants were all lowly people. How would they dare to burn down their master’s manor?

Sun Mo smiled, not saying anything.

After a short while, a black figure suddenly darted out from the forest. It gave everyone a big fright and all of them drew their blades.

“Don’t fight! It’s me! Zhong Xiaoliu!”

Zhong Xiaoliu panted heavily, running up to Sun Mo and saying, “Big Brother, I’ve told them according to your instructions.”

“You’ve come back slightly later than planned. You must have come back only after seeing them snatching the food and setting the manor on fire, right?”

Sun Mo gave Zhong Xiaoliu a tight hug. “You’ve been very thoughtful!”

“It’s my honor to be able to give my life to serve Brother Sun!”

Zhong Xiaoliu felt extremely touched.

He was worried that those sharecroppers wouldn’t dare to snatch the food and wouldn’t set the place on fire either. Therefore, he waited there secretly. He didn’t expect that they would really do it. It was exactly as Brother Sun had said.

“Dalang, you really have a black heart!”

Sun Erniang understood now.

The landlord’s house had too much food, and it’d be impossible for them to bring everything with them. Sun Erniang wanted to burn them up, but Sun Mo’s intention was clearly to share them with those villagers.

Moreover, because the villagers had it over their head from all the snatching, they were trying to destroy the evidence, so they burned down the manor. With that, they’d be partners in crime.

It’d then be harder for the government officials to investigate the case.

“Can you please not call me Dalang?” Sun Mo’s lips twitched. “It sounds unlucky!”

Sun Mo had thought further than that. As long as those sharecroppers had snatched the food, even if they didn’t burn down the manor, Zhong Xiaoliu would do it.

Think about it. Xiaoliu and the Zhong Clan had such a great feud. How would it be possible for him not to set the place on fire?

This was all within Sun Mo's plan.

Moreover, when he came down from the mountain in the future, leading a volunteer army across Jiangzhou, these sharecroppers who had a taste of plundering would have a high chance of joining him, adding to their strength.

Of course, they wouldn't have any choice to reject!

It was because he'd expose them of having seized the food reserves and burned down the manor. Also, the reason Sun Mo hadn't killed Landlord Zhong's family wasn't just because he didn't wish to kill the innocents, but because he wanted to let them seek revenge.

Even though it was dark and no one saw the sharecroppers seizing the food, the Zhong Clan's members weren't fools. Could they not hate the sharecroppers? To get more wealth and live the good lives they used to, they'd definitely increase rent and interests. With all these factors, the people who couldn't hold on would end up becoming an addition to Sun Mo's strength!

This was perfect!

"I'm really smart!"

Sun Mo felt a little happy.

"After this battle, our volunteer army's reputation should spread far!"

Sun Erniang was very happy.

Deep inside, she still wanted to be a good person. Therefore, she couldn't stand watching how some people from the mountain stronghold were stopping people on their paths, robbing them, and killing them to get their goods. After all, those traveling merchants hadn't done anything wrong.

It felt better to be killing landlords who were tyrants, enforcing justice on behalf of heaven.

...

In the meeting hall on Mount Zhao, the three bosses were drinking wine.

"Do you guys think that Sun Mo will be successful on this trip?"

The First Boss chugged down a mouthful of wine, looking at the lake in the distance, wearing a solemn expression.

There were over ten groups of bandits around the Eight Hundred Miles Lake. The Mount Zhao's bandits weren't the strongest amongst them. If the people who went with Sun Mo were wiped out, causing the mountain stronghold's strength to plummet, the other bandits would definitely take the chance to take over them.

It'd also be troublesome if Sun Mo turned out successful. It was because the First Boss was one with great ambition but little talent, and he was also very fearful toward things.

He wanted to do big jobs but was also worried about being targeted by government officials.

“Things won’t go too bad with Ye Biao going along!”

The Second Boss took big bites of meat and then a mouthful of wine before he smiled. “Scholars are all just empty talk. Although Sun Mo managed to trick some brothers to go down the mountain with his glib tongue, robbery is something that relies on how fast and vicious a person’s blade is!”

“What do you mean by that?”

The Third Boss had been a distinguished-talent and he was unhappy upon hearing this.

“Adviser, don’t get angry! I’m not talking about you!”

The Second Boss said. To speak the truth, if it wasn’t because this guy had brought a lot of money and food up the mountain, and he still had some of his father’s connections in Jiangzhou which would allow them to save their men through bribing with money, he’d have killed this guy and toss him into the lake to feed the fish.

“That poor scholar will probably die in this operation. What will happen to his wife?”

The Second Boss had seen Mei Niang before and to be honest, he was very tempted. “Sun Mo hasn’t contributed anything to the mountain stronghold, so we have no reason to let her stay!”

“Shameless!”

The Third Boss cursed softly.

“Drink up, drink up!”

The First Boss spoke up to have them drink up, not really trying to stop the quarrel between them. If these two bosses didn’t have any conflicts between them, how would he be able to remain on his seat as the First Boss steadily?

Before they finished their drinking sessions, a bandit came over excitedly to report to them.

“Our brothers have returned! The fishing boats are filled to the brim!”

Clank! Clank! Clank!

The three bosses shot up to their feet in unison, wearing different expressions.

“How are the casualties?”

The First Boss asked.

“To heck with that. As long as they’ve seized enough money and goods this time around, it won’t be a loss!”

The Second Boss was very excited and walked out of the pavilion quickly to receive the boats. “Oh, right, what about that Sun Mo? Did he die?”

“I don’t know. I came over to report the news when I saw the boats coming back.”

The underling had no idea either.

When the boats reached the shores, the bandits who received the news had all come. When they saw the boats filled with money and food, their eyes gleamed.

“Why are you guys all standing there? Hurry up and move the stuff!”

Ye Biao stood at the front of the boat, waving his big hand.

“Brother Biao, you’re amazing!”

“Brother Biao, please bring me along when you go plundering next time!”

“I was saying from the start that with Brother Biao, things will definitely be a success!”

The bandits all curried up to Ye Biao.

“Haha!”

Ye Biao was enjoying all these praises, but when he saw Sun Mo coming out, his expression froze and he immediately explained, “Don’t be talking gibberish. This is all thanks to Big Brother Sun!”

“Big Brother Sun?”

The bandits were all stunned. When was there a Big Brother Sun in the mountain stronghold?

Ye Biao was a person who had status in the stronghold and thus was referred to as Brother Biao. There were less than ten people whom he’d address as his older brother.

“It’s Sun Mo! The recommended-candidate who came to the mountain a few days back!”

Ye Biao explained.

The bandits exchanged glances, wanting to ask if he was having a fever and spouting gibberish.

(I know that recommended-candidates would definitely be good in studies but robberies? Would he be able to swing a blade?)

But they soon found out that Ye Biao wasn’t joking. It was because Sun Mo had come out with the mountain stronghold’s top beauty, Sun Erniang, who followed behind him and treated him with great courtesy.

Usually, Sun Erniang wouldn’t care for men like them.

The bandits who had gone with Sun Mo in this operation were starting to boast as well. After all, this was a great operation that was worth flaunting.

“Biao, what happened?”

The Second Boss called Ye Biao over. This didn’t seem right!

(Why did you guys become so respectful toward Sun Mo after one trip?)

“Second Boss, that Sun Mo is this!”

Ye Biao flashed a thumbs-up. "With him around, we'll definitely be able to enjoy a good life in the future. We might even get to try out the emperor's throne!"

"..."

The Second Boss wanted to scold. (What the hell are you thinking?)

The First Boss smiled and received Sun Mo, but in his heart, he felt a great threat. This guy could threaten his position as the leader of the mountain stronghold..

Chapter 1138: The Red Turban Army That Enforces Justice On Behalf of Heaven

That night, a celebratory banquet was held in the mountain stronghold. Sun Mo was naturally the main character and was given many toasts.

Sun Mo didn't really have much interest in drinking wine, but if he wished to build up a good relationship with these people, it was impossible to not drink. Therefore, he could only take them on the drinks.

Sun Erniang's heart ached a little seeing Sun Mo struggling to handle the drinks. She stood up for him. "He's just a scholar and can't drink. I'll do it!"

Her words caused an uproar. Some men who had a crush on her felt very complicated and at a loss.

But no one said any dampening words.

Even in the modern days, if someone from a village managed to get into a university, it'd be considered a great glory, let alone in the ancient days when scholars enjoyed high statuses.

Someone like Sun Mo, who was a recommended-candidate and was also good at fighting, in addition to being able to lead them to riches, was idolized by everyone.

"Brother Sun is very amazing. I say that we let him become the fourth boss and lead us to riches!"

Expensive Pork had too much to drink and he also had a loud voice. His words caused the meeting hall to become silent.

Many gazes looked toward the three bosses.

The second and third bosses drank wine, clearly not planning to get involved in this. After all, the one who was the most afraid to let Sun Mo assume a high position should be the first boss.

"Cough, cough, Brother Sun has just come and everyone can see his enthusiasm. As for being the fourth boss, we can make the arrangements for it."

Sun Mo had returned victorious and the First Boss felt bad to refuse this proposal. Therefore, he tried to drag things out.

"First Boss, what other discussions are required? Let's just decide it like that. You didn't see how Brother Sun had commanded the operation with great something and ease."

Expensive Pork boasted.

“That’s great skill and ease!” Sun Erniang rolled her eyes.

The First Boss felt awkward.

“Brother, I’ve just come to the mountain stronghold and haven’t shown any performance. What you’re saying is making things hard for the First Boss. Let’s wait until I’ve led everyone on a few more operations.”

Sun Mo saw that things seemed to be going well and said, “Moreover, I’m not interested in becoming a leader and only want to enforce justice on behalf of heaven, also letting everyone have good food and wine. Even if we die, we must die as ghosts with a full stomach.”

“I like what Brother Sun said!”

Many men immediately toasted to Sun Mo’s words.

Expensive Pork had wanted to say more but Sun Erniang glared at him.

(Foolish. You think that it takes only a few words for one to become a boss? It must depend on one’s capabilities!)

After Sun Mo continued the plundering and kept on bringing money and food back, he’d be able to get on the seat as the first boss, let alone being just a fourth boss.

Sun Mo first went to drink with the bandits who had gone on this operation with him and spoke to them. He then looked toward Sun Erniang. “Erniang, can I trouble you to introduce all these good men to me?”

Even though Sun Mo mentioned all of them, Sun Erniang understood what he meant and introduced those who had more influence on Mount Zhao or were better at fighting.

It was futile to be talking pointless stuff without any substance to a bunch of coarse men. Therefore, Sun Mo only talked about plundering, wanting to find more helpers.

After the celebratory banquet ended, Sun Mo and a few leaders had decided on the next operation, pulling in six small groups.

Over 200 people were involved. To a 1,000-men mountain stronghold, it was considered quite a big operation. This caused the First Boss to frown deeply.

...

In the following days, Sun Mo had left Mei Niang by herself and would be gathering intelligence daily, ascertaining goals, and coming up with plans. In one month, they went on four operations.

Four estates were taken down. With Sun Mo leading the team, they had never failed. Putting aside the antique calligraphies and paintings, there were over 10,000 taels of gold and silver.

It could be said that what Sun Mo had gotten within a month was enough for a 2,000-men mountain stronghold, with the old and weak included, to live for a year without any worries.

Sun Mo didn't kill and only sought wealth. Even if he did kill, he'd only kill the tyrants who had done a lot of evil deeds. Moreover, he'd also share the excess food that they couldn't bring with them to the poor. Therefore, the reputation of Swallow Li San and Mount Zhao's righteous bandits started to soar near Mount Zhao.

There'd also be good men who would specifically come to join Sun Mo occasionally.

In the meeting hall, Sun Mo was discussing things with a few leaders he was on familiar terms with when a strong man with an exposed upper body came.

"What are you guys talking about? Let me listen too."

The strong man laughed and sat down. "Brother Biao, you're looking very good. You've clearly been leading quite a good life recently!"

Ye Biao quickly got up and greeted him, "Brother Meng!"

This person was called Lu Meng, and he was the Second Boss's blood-related brother. He could be considered to be ranked fifth in the stronghold.

"Brother Sun, I've recently been so poor that life's a struggle. I wish to join you in one operation, can I?"

Lu Meng made his purpose clear and caused all the leaders present to be very stunned.

(You lack money? You're someone who follows the Second Boss! When others are struggling with poverty, you'd still get to eat meat. Hold on!)

He probably just wanted to have a share of the pie after seeing Sun Mo's continuous success.

"You're the Second Boss's right-hand man. How would I dare to snatch someone else's talent?"

Sun Mo refused.

Lu Meng had guessed that Sun Mo would do this and thus pleaded. "Everyone is brothers in the mountain stronghold, and we shouldn't differentiate between each other. It'd still be working no matter who we work for."

The hidden meaning in his words was that if Sun Mo didn't let him join, it'd mean that Sun Mo didn't see him as his brother!

To speak the truth, it was the Second Boss's idea to let him join the group. He wanted to know why Sun Mo could be successful on every operation and would have extremely low casualties.

As the second boss, he naturally had to assume airs and not ask for help from people of lower statuses. Therefore, he sent Lu Meng.

"Thank you Brother Lu for thinking so highly of me. Then you can join us next time!"

Sun Mo wore an elated expression as if he had another great warrior joining his group. However, this wasn't what he actually thought. It'd be a waste to not use the free manpower that had come knocking on his doors.

Sun Mo was the one who had come up with all the plans. Therefore, he had many chances to leave the most dangerous jobs to Lu Meng.

(What?)

(You don't want to do it?)

(This means that you only want to eat meat and not put in the effort?)

(Then we can't be brothers anymore.)

...

Another month passed but Sun Mo hadn't gone out on an operation. He picked out 50 men and had been training them daily.

There was nothing else but physical training and swinging blades.

Sun Mo had learned a lot of cultivation arts. After a careful selection, he came up with eight blade techniques and had everyone swing them 1,000 times.

In the beginning, everyone only came to watch the fun since the blade techniques were too simple. However, people gradually realized something and thus would practice privately or join Sun Mo's team.

"These blade techniques might not be good for fighting one-on-one. However, they are definitely top-notch techniques when killing enemies as a group."

The Third Boss felt emotional.

Sun Mo seemed to be skilled in the art of war too! He was really amazing!

One afternoon, during lunch, Lu Meng finally couldn't hold it in anymore and came to look for Sun Mo.

"When will we be heading out?"

"Hold on a little more!"

Sun Mo was in no hurry.

In order to defend the authority he had, he needed a spear. Sun Mo had just joined the mountain stronghold as an outlaw and didn't have any reputation. Even if he were to recruit comrades, no one would come. But things were different now.

The five victories had not only allowed him to gain a sum of money, but Swallow Li San's reputation had also spread. This proved that he had the right to become a leader.

Most of the people who were training with Sun Mo had been picked by him and didn't belong to any small groups. They'd naturally be convinced by him.

Moreover, in places other people couldn't see, such as every night, Sun Mo would have heart-to-heart talks with the group members in small batches, talking about aspirations as well as a wonderful life.

Sun Mo came from the modern world and was also a great teacher. His vision was a lot broader compared to these natives. He had a glib tongue and made these people feel that he was extremely

knowledgeable like someone who deserved to be in a position of great authority. Therefore, they felt great admiration for him.

“If we continue to wait, those landlords’ security will get even tighter.”

Lu Meng complained.

Due to the plundering operations by Sun Mo’s group, the landlords in the vicinity had not only built taller walls around their manors but also spent large sums of money to hire mercenaries who were skilled in the blade.

“You know that the security has become tighter too?”

Sun Mo smiled. “That’s why we have to wait. We need to wait until they let down their guards!”

There was a saying that there would only be people who’d be thieves for 1,000 days, but no one who would be on their guard against thieves for 1,000 days. The landlords would drop their guard after some time had passed.

Another seven days passed by and on a certain day, a batch of goods was transported up the mountain stronghold.

The bandits were curious and came crowding over. They soon knew that these were things that Sun Erniang had helped to buy for Sun Mo.

“These must be writing tools or famous paintings. I heard that all scholars like these things!”

“It could be a famous blade too!”

“I heard that Brother Sun’s archery is amazing!”

Amidst everyone’s guesses, Sun came and opened up the boxes to check the goods.

“Hmmm? Why are they clothes?”

The Third Boss came to watch and felt puzzled when he saw this.

“Go and call the others!”

Sun Mo instructed Expensive Pork.

The ones he was referring to were the bandits who had been training with him.

These people came very quickly.

“Line up!”

Sun Mo bellowed.

The scattered bandits immediately stood in rows of ten.

Even though it was a simple formation, Sun Mo had trained them hard to achieve this.

“I’ve said that we’ll be enforcing justice on behalf of heaven. That means that we’ll need an identity to reward the good and punish the evil on behalf of heaven. In the past, there’s the Great Teacher’s[1]

Yellow Turban Army, and now, there's Great Teacher Sun Mo's Red Turban Army! We'll fight for justice in this world!"

Sun Mo bellowed loudly.

"Justice!"

"Justice!"

The bandits started to shout with agitation.

Many of the people who came here to become outlaws had been put through grievance and were left with no choice. Even some of the evildoers didn't think that they had done wrong.

As many people had just thought, they felt that the world was the wrong one.

Therefore, the word 'justice' mentioned by Sun Mo could rouse them up.

"The names that I'll be calling, please step forward to receive the uniform. Zhong Xiaoliu!"

Sun Erniang had quietly stood next to Sun Mo. When he called out the name, she picked up a set of clothes and handed them to Sun Mo with both hands.

Similarly, Sun Mo wore a solemn expression and handed the uniform to Zhong Xiaoliu.

"Enforce justice on behalf of heaven!"

Sun Mo didn't forget to say the slogan.

"Enforce justice on behalf of heaven!"

Zhong Xiaoliu had felt a little awkward at the beginning, but after seeing the red uniform and Sun Mo's solemn expression, then hearing these words, a sense of calling rose in his chest.

The First Boss came. At the sight of this scene, his brows furrowed so tightly together that they could clamp a crab to death.

The Third Boss had just been watching the fun, but his mentality also changed when he saw this. He started to suspect if Sun Mo was planning to start up a rebellion.

This was a great crime that could get one's nine generations executed. He must persuade Sun Mo otherwise.

Half an hour later, the uniforms were all distributed.

"We'll set off tomorrow! Our target will be Zou Village!"

Sun Mo looked at his team, feeling very satisfied. It was time to let the emperor feel some fear!

Chapter 1139: Heavenly King Sun

In the evening, the setting sun cast down across Jiangzhou, emitting a layer of blurriness.

In Fang Clan's estate, the villagers who had their dinner started to patrol the streets.

This was what Landlord Fang asked for. If anyone were to notice traces of the Red Turban Army, they would be rewarded with one dou^[1] of rice if they were to report this.

“Doggy, hurry up!”

The young man whose nickname was Erniu squatted on the top of the wall and urged his good friend.

“Why are you in such a hurry?”

The young man called Doggy was biting onto a strand of straw and carrying a fishing basket, planning to head off to catch fish.

“Of course I’m in a hurry. If I could be the first to discover the Red Turban Army, I’d be able to get one dou of rice. My younger sister will be able to have a few filling meals.”

Erniu licked his lips.

“You’re better off going to catch fish!”

Doggy said in disdain.

“Even if I catch fish for three months, I can’t trade it for one dou of rice!”

When Erniu saw that his friend wasn’t interested in patrolling, he instantly felt dejected. As they were good friends, he was willing to share half the rice with Doggy.

The two of them walked quietly along the field.

“Do you have something troubling you?”

Erniu suddenly spoke up. Doggy was usually talkative and would keep trying to find out about his sister.

“I...”

Doggy hesitated for a while before eventually saying, “I’m planning to head to Mount Zhao and join the Red Turban Army!”

“What?”

Erniu was given a fright. “You don’t want your life anymore? Those people are bandits. If the government catches them, they’d be beheaded.”

“But they are a volunteer army who does things that enforce justice on behalf of heaven!”

Doggy looked toward the far distance. “Do you know? For the past one month or so, the increase in the Red Turban Army’s reputation has made life a lot better for our family.”

Doggy’s father had borrowed quite a lot of money from the landlord so that his mother could get to see a doctor for her illness. They had been so pressurized and were left with no choice, thus were planning to sell Doggy to Blacksmith Li in the county as an apprentice. However, the Red Turban Army’s appearance had caused the landlord to not dare to pressure them to pay their debt.

“If it wasn’t for the Red Turban Army, I’d be slogging to death in the blacksmith shop my entire life.”

Doggy knew that apprentice was just a nice way of putting things. The truth was that they'd be selling him off as a slave to Blacksmith Li's family. Other than blacksmithing, he'd also have to serve the entire family.

As for the pay, there was no such thing. It'd be good if he could have three meals a day.

Many people who were struggling to make ends meet would choose this path and send their children out.

Erniu fell silent.

His family was Landlord Fang's sharecropper and he heard from his dad that they used to have six mus of paddy fields in the past, but because they had borrowed money from the landlord's family for an emergency, they were in their current state.

It was really impossible to pay off high-interest loans.

"Pui, even if I were to see the Red Turban Army, I wouldn't notify the Fang Clan."

Doggy spat out a mouthful of saliva.

The two of them were planning to take a shortcut and thus entered a bamboo forest. However, their bodies soon stiffened up. It was because over 100 men were resting in the bamboo forest.

They were wearing red clothes and had red turbans on their heads. Under the setting sun, they look like flames.

"Red... Red Turban Army?"

Erniu was so scared that his legs were shivering.

"Hurry up and run!"

Doggy let out a low bellow and gave Erniu a push while he stayed behind. At the same time, he grabbed tightly onto the hatchet that was hung on his waist.

This was purely an instinctive reaction.

Although the Red Turban Army proclaimed to be enforcing justice on behalf of heaven, many people hadn't seen it with their own eyes. What if it wasn't true?

"Ho? This young lad is so righteous despite being of such a young age. He'll definitely be a great man in the future!"

Expensive Pork's voice was very loud and he looked at Doggy with admiration. "Young man, do you want to come to Mount Zhao to become an outlaw?"

"You're Swallow Li San?"

Doggy summoned up his courage and asked.

"Do you think that he deserves to be a swallow when he's so fat?"

Someone teased, bringing about a series of laughter.

“I’m called Expensive Pork!”

Expensive Pork sized Doggy up. “Come, I’ll bring you to meet the leader!”

Doggy followed him. He thought that the leader of the Red Turban Army would be someone with broad shoulders, a thick waist, and a flabby face. He didn’t expect to see a handsome young man.

He sat on a big rock, holding onto a book, and was concentrating on his reading. The light from the setting sun landed on his sharp face, giving him a graceful and dignified aura.

To think that this was a bandit leader?

Doggy was stunned. His family was poor and couldn’t afford to send him to a school. However, he had sneaked there to listen to the classes. The teacher’s disposition astonished him, but it was nothing worth mentioning when compared with this young man.

Very soon, Doggy saw that young man reproaching Expensive Pork.

He said that advising people to become outlaws was harming them. A young lad like him should go and study, learning morals and principles, or learn a skill. Even if he couldn’t serve the country, he should at least be able to ensure that his family didn’t have to fret over food and clothing.

For some reason, Doggy felt touched upon hearing these.

“Go back home! Don’t run around at night!”

Sun Mo smiled at the young lad, taking out a silver ingot and tossing it at him. “I’m giving it to you. Young lad, you must study. If you haven’t started studying yet, then go to school. If you have, then use this money to go to Jiangzhou City to take a look, broadening your horizons!”

Doggy looked stunned.

Even his father hadn’t touched a piece of shattered silver before. This silver ingot should be at least 50 taels, right?

(It’s enough to sell me ten times over!)

“Dalang, it’s about time.”

Sun Erniang came over.

“En, inform the others to get prepared to set off!”

Sun Mo closed the book. When he passed by the young man, he hesitated for a moment before handing him the book. “This is a copy of the [Records of the Grand Historian]. You can take a look at it in your free time. After all, reading makes one smart!”

Ba-thump!

Doggy dropped to his knees and gave him three hard kowtows.

“Leader, I’m willing to become an outlaw and follow you!”

After saying that, Doggy realized that the countenance of the young man sank.

“Youngsters should set long targets and seek to be conferred a rank of nobility or to become a minister. Why do you want to become a bandit?”

Sun Mo rejected.

At the sight of this scene, Sun Erniang’s beautiful eyes gleamed, filled with respect.

Other leaders would want to keep young death warriors and would keep persuading others to become outlaws. However, Sun Mo was considerate toward them.

It was no wonder he would call himself the Great Teacher Sun Mo of the Red Turban Army.

Landlord Fang was very scared of death. During this period, the number of guards at his manor had doubled. Moreover, in order to have them put their lives on the line, he doubled their salaries as well.

It was a pity that Sun Mo’s Red Turban Army had evolved long ago. It had been three months since their first expedition and having been through over 20 operations, it wasn’t overboard to say that they had been tempered by blood and fire.

They carried out their familiar night assault, attacking in progression. By the time the Red Turban Army killed their way into the landlord’s house, the battle had basically ended.

The guards wanted money, but they wanted their lives even more. When they saw these bandits dressed in red, seeming to be unafraid of death and having excellent blade skills as the rumors claimed, their morale plunged rapidly.

Of course, some skilled guards and mercenaries weren’t afraid of death. However, all of them crumbled as Sun Mo led the elites to launch a round of fierce attacks.

“If only there are explosives!”

Sun Mo looked at the few members of the Red Turban Army who were lying in pools of blood, feeling very upset. He knew the proportion for making explosives, but it wasn’t an easy feat to get his hands on the materials.

Sun Mo’s group was very massive now and was sufficient to empty the entire food storage. However, he still left one-third as he always did, distributing them to the villagers.

The villagers moved the food happily with their faces masked up. They then set the landlord’s house on fire.

When the sun rose, several tens of youngsters and young men went after Sun Mo’s Red Turban Army, either under their parents’ agreement or secretly running off by themselves.

The bandits were used to such matters and arranged for them to carry the food reserves without needing Sun Mo to say anything.

...

“Fourth Boss is back.”

When the boats appeared near the mountain stronghold, a bandit shouted out. Then, they came out in groups to receive them.

“It’s another rewarding trip!”

“I also want to follow the Fourth Boss to have a great life!”

“I wonder if they’ll still allow people to join the Red Turban Army?”

The bandits looked at the goods that were being unloaded from the boats, feeling very jealous.

The First Boss stood on the slope, watching the other brothers smiling and receiving Sun Mo. His countenance turned increasingly dark.

He had yet to decide if Sun Mo would become the fourth boss, but the other bandits had started calling him that. This meant that Sun Mo’s reputation had surpassed his.

The most troublesome thing was that Sun Mo would always bring back a new batch of people each time he came back.

These newcomers only recognized the Red Turban Army and not him, the first boss.

“If this continues, my mountain stronghold will be taken over.”

The first boss didn’t wish to just sit and wait. He felt that he must think of a way to suppress Sun Mo, letting Sun Mo know who the boss was.

“Brother Sun, shall we have a drink together?”

The third boss came and invited Sun Mo to a drink.

At the table, the third boss tried hard to persuade Sun Mo.

“I heard some news. You’ve gone overboard and Jiangzhou’s Inspector General has decided to send troops out to wipe out the Red Turban Army!”

Sun Mo’s mouth twitched, not commenting.

“Sun Mo, stop it!”

The third boss sighed. “Although the Great Jing Country is being ruled by an incapable ruler and officials are throwing their weight around, I feel that it’ll take at least 50 years before this country goes into a decline. Can’t we just live a peaceful and quiet life?”

“What’s the reason you’ve studied so much?”

Sun Mo asked.

“Of course it’s to watch over and govern a place, taking care of the people!”

Although the third boss was only a distinguished-talent, he had lofty ambitions.

“The reason I studied is to establish societal values, to give meaning to people’s lives, to spread the knowledge passed down from our predecessors, as well as to create a foundation for long-lasting peace! Even if I’ve become a bandit, my original intent hasn’t changed!”

Sun Mo drank a cup of wine and said firmly.

The third boss was completely stunned. These four lines were like a bolt of lightning that had struck his head, making him astonished beyond words.

“Since the incapable emperor has no morality, then why not change to a capable emperor?”

Sun Mo let out a soft laugh.

Clank!

The third boss stood up from fright. Such words were a great disrespect and one would have nine generations of their family executed for that.

“Since we’ve become bandits and will have to die anyway, what’s there to be afraid of?”

Sun Mo shrugged.

“Hold on, change to another? You’re thinking of...”

The third boss thought of a possibility.

“To build up the Red Turban Army’s reputation and then force the imperial court to enlist the rebel soldiers by offering amnesty. When that happens, our men can help to support a capable emperor to the throne!”

Sun Mo was lying to the third boss.

“Although it’s very difficult, it’s not impossible to achieve.”

The third boss was no longer in any mood to drink. He frowned and thought about this. He had craved to have his name cleared and to enter the imperial court. Being a government official was something that held a great attraction to him.

“The Inspector General wants to kill me?”

Sun Mo laughed. “How many bandits are hidden in this Eight Hundred Miles Lake? Some groups have been creating trouble for over a hundred years. What do you think will happen if I were to help him wipe them out?”

The third boss’s eyes gleamed. This would be a great meritorious achievement.

“And my Red Turban Army that can fight will eventually abide by the Inspector General’s orders. What do you think he’ll do then? Of course, if the Inspector General doesn’t want us, we can just turn to someone else. I don’t believe that everyone in this imperial court is a steel board!”

Sun Mo had long since thought of their future development paths.

“I heard that Prince Qi is young, intelligent, quick-witted, and has high values and morals. Why not we...”

The third boss became agitated. But at the thought of the difficulty in wiping out the other bandit groups, he felt dejected again.

“Don’t worry, I’ll do it. But this time around, I’ll need the government’s cooperation. Should you be getting help from people for this?”

Sun Mo lowered his voice and told the third boss of his plan.

The next day, with the support from the third boss, Sun Mo became Mount Zhao’s fourth boss. At the first moment he assumed the position, he proposed to send out an invitation to all the bandit leaders in Eight Hundred Miles Lake, requesting for them to come to Mount Zhao to discuss a great matter half a month later.

This caused a great stir in the Eight Hundred Miles Lake.

...

Xu Hong had been a bandit for many years, and the power he belonged to was called the Mountain-Passing Dragon. Their reputation was very frightening, but they only had around 500 people.

“Boss, could this be a gathering that was planned with a malicious intent?”

An underling was worried.

“Are you a fool? Although the Red Turban Army has a great reputation, it’s still very difficult for them to take over so many powers.”

Xu Hong scolded, “And don’t be saying such things recklessly.”

The fishing boat got close to the dock. Xu Hong saw that the bandits standing on the wooden dock were all wearing red turbans, each of them standing upright with their chests puffed out, looking energetic.

“F*ck, they look sharper than the imperial guards.”

Xu Hong felt a little scared.

He stepped onto the dock and saw a few familiar faces. They were all the secondary leaders from other powers but not the chief.

“Everyone, this way please!”

Sun Erniang was in charge of receiving the guests and making arrangements for their food and accommodations.

That night, Xu Hong and the others were able to eat soft and fluffy rice as well as large pieces of pork.

“Boss, I’ve checked. Even those old and weak are also eating these!”

An underling mumbled softly.

Usually, people from mountain strongholds would only get to eat such a delicious meal before they were to head out for a plundering operation. They’d usually scrimp and save at other times. Those who were old, weak, sickly, or crippled would eat even worse because they couldn’t make any contributions.

“It seems that the Red Turban Army has been striking it rich recently!”

Xu Hong felt envious. “Forget it, regardless of what that Heavenly King Sun wants to do, let’s have our fill first. Even if we were to die, we must die with a full stomach.”

After finishing his food, Xu Hong went to ask for second servings before walking away unwillingly.

It was because this female cook who was helping out was very beautiful.

“Tsk, to think that such a beautiful woman is doing such tough chores. If she was in my mountain stronghold, she’d definitely be the first boss’s wife!”

Xu Hong was eating while thinking of how to chat up to her when a strong man beat him to it.

He had drunk wine and was talking about lewd stuff while trying to take liberties with her. That young woman had no choice but to back off incessantly.

“This is atrocious!”

Xu Hong wanted to play the hero and save her, but he knew this strong man. He was called Zhang Kui and was a ferocious man who was the best at fighting, second only to Second Boss Lu amongst the Mount Zhao’s bandits.

It was someone he couldn’t afford to offend.

“What the hell are you doing?”

An explosive bellow rang out by Xu Hong’s ears and then he saw a big bowl flying over. If Zhang Kui hadn’t been fast enough in dodging, his face would have been smashed.

A ferocious man then came charging over.

“Expensive Pork, have you not gotten a bad enough beating from me the other time?”

Zhang Kui let out a cold snort.

“Sister-in-law, are you alright?”

Expensive Pork paid Zhang Kui no heed and checked if Mei Niang was alright.

“I’m fine!”

Mei Niang didn’t wish to create trouble for Sun Mo.

“Bullying my Brother Sun’s wife is bullying Brother Sun! Even if I have to throw away my life, I must let you pay for it!”

Expensive Pork broke out in rage.

“Why? We’ve been brothers for so many years, but you want to fall out with me over a woman?”

Zhang Kui reproached.

Xu Hong understood it now. This woman was Sun Mo’s wife and Zhang Kui should have received the orders from a certain boss to intentionally create trouble for Sun Mo, causing him to feel humiliated.

There was going to be a good show to watch!

Chapter 1140: Enlisting By Offering Amnesty

In ancient feudal society, there was a strong preference for males over females. Women were just a type of commodity back then.

In the Three Kingdoms, Liu Bei wrote a classical quote that women were like clothes and men were like one's limbs. If clothes tore, they could be mended, but if one's limbs broke, they couldn't be joined back.

This showed that women were nothing between brotherhood!

Right now, Zhang Kui's questioning was sarcastic toward Expensive Pork, saying that their relationship couldn't be compared to a woman.

Zhang Kui's target was Sun Mo. He had received orders from the first boss to intentionally make things difficult for Sun Mo.

"This is Fourth Boss's wife. How dare you do this!"

Expensive Pork's eyes were filled with rage and he picked up a bench.

"Don't fight! I'm fine!"

Mei Niang tugged at Expensive Pork's clothes, wanting to appease the matter. It was because she was afraid to mess things up for Sun Mo.

"Sister-in-law!"

Expensive Pork was about to console her when Sun Mo's voice rang out. "I'll be the one to decide if it's fine!"

"Oh? That's imperious!"

Xu Hong turned his head and saw an extremely young man pushing through the crowd and entering.

"Fourth Boss!"

Mount Zhao's bandits all lowered their heads and greeted him.

Hearing this way of address, Zhang Kui spat out thick phlegm. He had been in the mountain stronghold for five years and in terms of seniority, he should have been the one to take this position.

"Mei Niang!"

When Sun Mo saw Mei Niang trying hard to hold back her tears, he felt very bad. The wife of a recommended-candidate should be able to live without worrying about food and clothing no matter how bad life was. However, she had to come to this mountain stronghold and suffer because of him.

"Zhang Kui, if you have anything against me, just come at me. Why are you bullying my wife?"

Sun Mo reproached.

“Brother Sun, you’re making things sound too serious. I was just trying to have a talk with Sister-In-Law, but she despised my identity as a bandit and wasn’t willing to pay me any heed. Therefore, we had a bit of an argument.”

Zhang Kui was no fool.

He intentionally changed the fact that he had been trying to take liberties to that he had been viewed with despise. If Sun Mo continued to pursue this matter, it’d make him appear narrow-minded.

But if Sun Mo didn’t pursue the matter, he’d definitely feel horrible as if he had eaten feces.

“If she despised bandits, she wouldn’t have followed me into becoming an outlaw!”

Sun Mo let out a cold snort. “Other than spending your life idling away, you only go and rob some small traveling merchants who go through hardships to earn money. Even I look down on you, let alone my wife. If you’re capable, go and rob those landlords and rich merchants!”

Zhang Kui’s countenance instantly turned bad to be lashed out at in public. “I dare you to say that again!”

Pui!

Sun Mo spat out a mouthful of saliva and said fiercely, “I don’t quarrel! I only kill!”

“Fourth Boss is imperious!”

The spectating bandits cheered.

“If it’s a fight you want, then a fight you’ll get! Don’t complain if I were to kill you by accident!”

Zhang Kui smirked.

The first boss had said that if he were to kill Sun Mo, not only would he be given the position of the fourth boss, but the Red Turban Army would also fall under him in the future.

What a wonderful thing!

Zhang Kui had long since wanted this group. With them, he’d be able to attack any estate he wished and sleep with any woman he wanted!

“Is Boss Sun being too careless?”

Many people looked doubtful.

Zhang Kui had broad shoulders and a round stomach, his height almost reaching 1.9 meters. In ancient days, he’d be a ferocious general who could hold up against many people by himself. On the contrary, Sun Mo only had a scholarly vibe to him.

“This guy is doomed!”

Expensive Pork chuckled. He had seen Brother Sun’s capabilities before.

“Are you ready?”

Zhang Kui held onto a big blade and couldn't wait. After Sun Mo nodded, he dashed out. His massive body brought about a gust of strong wind, blowing up the sand and dust on the ground.

“Die!”

Zhang Kui let out an explosive bellow and slashed his blade down.

Sun Mo dodged elusively like a ghost, avoiding the attack. He then appeared next to Zhang Kui and his Yanling Blade sent out a stream of silver light.

“What?”

Zhang Kui was very surprised and couldn't care about his face as he retreated and dodge the attack rapidly. However, he was still half a step late.

Swoosh!

The steel blade slashed his neck and blood immediately gushed out.

“F*ck your mom, he's so ferocious?”

The spectators were all shocked.

Swoosh!

Sun Mo sent another slash down, chopping off Zhang Kui's arm.

“Have... have mercy...”

Zhang Kui was scared out of his wits and kept pleading for mercy.

It was because one could only sense how terrifying Sun Mo was when pitting against him.

“Trash!”

The first boss who was watching the situation from a dark corner rushed out. “Brother Sun, stop it!”

Zhang Kui was his trusted aide who helped him sustain his position in the mountain stronghold. Therefore, he couldn't watch Zhang Kui be killed.

Swoosh!

Sun Mo's steel blade stopped on Zhang Kui's neck.

“Brother Sun, we're all brothers. Why do you have to go so far?”

The first boss seemed as if he was perplexed, but he was actually hinting to everyone that Sun Mo didn't treat everyone as his brothers.

“Zhang Kui, why did you harass my wife?”

Sun Mo's tone was icy-cold, piercing through one's bones like the freezing winter. It almost froze Zhang Kui's skin. “Don't be in a rush to reply! You only have one chance!”

Zhang Kui looked at Sun Mo's eyes and the lies that reached his mouth were swallowed back.

"The First Boss made me do it!"

Sun Mo's gaze when looking at him was as if he was looking down on a wild dog or an ant, without any hint of pity. It was as if he could crush him to death easily.

"What are you talking about?"

The first boss panicked.

"I... I don't have a choice!"

Zhang Kui was really scared. Turned out that death was such a horrifying thing.

"First Boss, if you have any dissatisfaction, just tell me straight. Don't come up with all these tricks."

Sun Mo smiled bitterly, looking like a victim, wanting to earn some sympathy.

"Brother Sun, I had taken you in when you had nowhere to go!"

The first boss's hidden meaning was that he had done Sun Mo a great favor. Sun Mo would be an ingrate to be targeting him now.

"First Boss, I don't like the way you said that. If you didn't let Brother Sun stay, there'd be others who would! We are the ones who are benefitting a lot from it!"

Expensive Pork's voice was very loud. "Without Brother Sun, would our stronghold be able to afford to have white rice every meal?"

Gulp!

Many people gulped upon hearing this. Turned out that Mount Zhao's bandits were having such an extravagant life!

"First Boss, it's pointless to say more. Let's decide things with the blade."

Sun Mo suggested.

"Uhh!"

The first boss subconsciously looked toward Zhang Kui, thinking to himself, (Even if there was something wrong with my head, I wouldn't fight with you.)

Sigh!

He had schemed so much, but didn't expect that Sun Mo was so good at fighting!

Zhang Kui felt that the blade Sun Mo was resting on his neck was pushed down a little. He instinctively raised his head and happened to meet Sun Mo's gaze.

In that instant, Zhang Kui understood.

If he wished to live, he'd have to kill the first boss. He had no other path to take.

Just as Zhang Kui was hesitating, Sun Mo kicked out at him.

Bang!

Zhang Kui rolled toward the first boss and then leaped up agilely to his feet. He then slashed his blade out toward the first boss's neck.

"It's all your fault! You are the one who incites disharmony between us brothers!"

Zhang Kui let out an explosive bellow. "I was really blind to be viewing you as my big brother!"

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Zhang Kui kept on swinging his blade.

"How can you live up to the position of the first boss without any morals? How will you be able to carry the several thousand lives in the mountain stronghold?"

Expensive Pork let out an explosive bellow and came attacking too.

Many Red Turban Army members were in the crowd. They had long since felt dissatisfaction toward the first boss and didn't talk any crap. All of them just drew their blades and came charging over.

The first boss panicked and his face turned completely pale.

"Sun Mo... I'm willing to give up my position as the first boss!"

It was too late. Several tens of blades slashed and dismembered him, chopping him up into minced meat.

Most of the spectators were just watching the fun and cheered. However, people like Xu Hong who had some brains understood that great trouble was coming.

A vicious person like Sun Mo would definitely be unwilling to lay low in a small mountain stronghold.

As expected, Sun Mo came to visit after the banquet.

"Do you want to join our mountain stronghold?"

Sun Mo went straight to the point.

"I'm currently doing well now!"

Xu Hong rejected.

"Oh, there's no helping it then. It seems like I can only have a chat with your third boss then."

Sun Mo shrugged.

Hearing this, Xu Hong's countenance changed. "What do you mean by that?"

"If you kill your first boss and lead everyone from the mountain stronghold to come to join me, I'll give you a leadership position. When that time comes, we'll get rich together."

Sun Mo smiled. "Of course, if you aren't willing, then I'll go discuss things with the other bosses."

Xu Hong broke out in cold sweat.

This Sun Mo was too brutal!

How many people amongst bandits had a good brain? There were really people who'd believe Sun Mo and come to join him. After all, the current Red Turban Army was doing very well.

Every few days, everyone would be able to hear news that the Red Turban Army had attacked a certain estate, getting a lot from their operations. Who wouldn't want to lead a life like that?

"Can I think about it?"

Xu Hong tried to drag things out.

"You can, but I'll only wait for a week at most before I contact the other people in your mountain stronghold. And the time you take to bring your first boss's head to join us will determine your position in the mountain stronghold!"

Sun Mo patted Xu Hong's shoulder. "You're a smart guy. You should know that you don't have a choice!"

Xu Hong smiled bitterly.

It was true that he didn't have a choice.

It was because if he didn't do it, others would.

Sigh!

Damn that Pang Jili. Why did he force Sun Mo into becoming an outlaw?

There wasn't going to be any more peace in the Eight Hundred Miles Lake in the future.

The time that followed turned out as Xu Hong expected.

Some bandits felt that the Red Turban Army was leading too good a life and thus assassinated their first boss to come to join them, together with people who shared the same sentiments.

There were also loyal bandits who exposed Sun Mo. However, it was useless as there were other people in their mountain stronghold who obeyed Sun Mo.

The various factions in each mountain stronghold started to hold doubt against one another. All the contradictions that existed long ago erupted.

Some people spent a large amount of money on Sun Mo's life. But the Red Turban Army's numbers had surpassed half of the number of Mount Zhao's bandits now. The remaining people were also training hard, hoping to be able to join them.

As the Red Turban Army continued to plunder, their military strength and reputation grew rapidly. The people within the borders of Jiangzhou all started to address Sun Mo as Heavenly King Sun.

With that, there weren't any outlaws who'd dare to accept the job of killing Sun Mo.

With reputation, there would come the power to rally in supporters. Moreover, Sun Mo's slogan was to enforce justice on behalf of heaven, with upright perspectives.

In the past, bandits didn't dare to announce their real names as it'd bring shame to their parents and ancestors. But now, everyone felt that they shared the glory instead.

It was because the people they killed were tyrannic landlords. They also robbed the rich and helped the poor. They were a righteous volunteer army!

With Sun Mo's group getting bigger and bigger, the ones who had it bad were naturally the government troops.

Jiangzhou's Inspector General had given the orders to wipe out these bandits.

The Eight Hundred Miles Lake was so big. Where were they supposed to go to catch them? Moreover, the Red Turban Army was terrifyingly strong. They were now starting to attack some smaller counties.

In order to deal with the Inspector General's blame, these government troops started to spend a large amount of money to buy heads from Sun Mo.

The owners of these heads were the bosses from the various mountain strongholds. They were the proof of loyalty the people who came to join Sun Mo had brought with them.

These were rare goods and there was no fretting that they couldn't be sold. Therefore, Sun Mo didn't ask for money and only asked for military weapons.

When the Inspector General heard the many reports, he felt that the bandits' influence was being suppressed and things were turning for the better. However, at this moment, Sun Mo took over close to half of the bandits and then took down Sanjiang County.

This was the most important food production place in Jiangzhou. At the same time, they were responsible for 10% of Jiangzhou's taxes. But now, all the food supplies had been wiped out by Sun Mo.

With food supplies, Sun Mo didn't stop attacking. Instead, he continued to press forward and at one point, even led 2,000 men and horses all the way to Jiangzhou City.

Even though they hadn't attacked the cities, the officials and landlords in the city were all given a bad fright.

...

A dinner banquet was held in the evening at the mountain stronghold.

"No one mentioned the matter of enlisting us by offering amnesty?"

Sun Mo ate a peanut, feeling very displeased.

"Inspector General Zhang is a hot-blooded warmonger. Moreover, enlisting outlaws by offering amnesty is very troublesome. He doesn't wish to be our guarantors!"

The third boss explained.

Being the Inspector General of an administrative division but unable to wipe out the bandits and eventually even offering to enlist them by offering amnesty. This would be the greatest denial to

Inspector General Zhang's capabilities. Therefore, he had been trying to suppress the various reports that were being sent to the imperial court, wanting to wipe out Sun Mo in the shortest time possible.

However, Sun Mo didn't go head-on against the Inspector General's army. After all, his goal was to be enlisted by being offered amnesty.

"Hmph, we'll teach this Inspector General a lesson tomorrow!"

Sun Mo smiled coldly.

Three days later, Sun Mo led his men to the Zhuo Commandery that was near Jiangzhou. They robbed the money meant for taxes—a total of one million taels.

This sum of money wasn't considered a lot, but it was enough to stir up a commotion in the imperial court.

Inspector General Zhang might be able to suppress his subordinates to not write reports, but he couldn't stop Zhuo Commandery's officials. Therefore, the Red Turban Army's reputation skyrocketed.

To push the blame, Zhuo Commandery's magistrate said that it was due to Inspector General Zhang's incompetency that allowed the bandits to become stronger.

Therefore, the emperor removed Inspector General Zhang from his post and sent over a new one. The new Inspector-General was tasked to wipe out this rebellious army within a month and to get back the tax money.

Sun Mo was very satisfied with this outcome.

If they didn't build up their impressiveness and make the enemies scared, why would they want to enlist you by offering amnesty?

Sun Mo started to be the one to make the first move, starting up guerrilla warfare and not taking the imperial court's army head-on. At the same time, he had people disseminate news that the army had decided to kill all the farmers and villagers who had taken food from the landlords' houses for military credit.

Killing the good and passing it off for gaining credit was a traditional skill that the imperial court's generals had. Therefore, more people started to join the Red Turban Army.

Of course, some people continued to watch by the sidelines. However, being the schemer he was, Sun Mo added more fuel to the flames for them.

He had his trusted aides put on the uniforms worn by the imperial court's soldiers and had them catch and kill people, committing all kinds of bad deeds. After massacring a few villagers, the hearts of the people in the Jiangzhou region became completely unsteady.

Finally, after becoming an outlaw for seven months, Sun Mo had himself a 100,000-man army.

The autumn harvest was delayed. Without food to eat and seeing that the winter was coming, the farmers were left with no choice but to join Sun Mo. Therefore, his influence grew even more.

After one winter, the entire Jiangzhou City was shattered by Sun Mo completely.

Not only were they unable to pay the taxes, but they also needed aid from the imperial court. Sun Mo was very lucky. It so happened that a locust plague had broken out in the north and the other ethnic group there wanted to head south to plunder.

Finally, a major character spoke up. If giving these bandits a few government positions could solve the problem, why should they waste food and money to continue the battle?

The Third Prince even wrote a report that the leader of the bandits, Sun Mo, was forced by Imperial Tutor Pang's doted grandson and was left with no choice but to become a bandit. Otherwise, given his talents, it'd be very likely that he would become an advanced-scholar if he were to take part in the examinations this year.

Strife broke out between the factions in the imperial court, and Imperial Tutor Pang stepped down from his position. The Third Prince headed to Jiangzhou as a representative to enlist Sun Mo by offering amnesty.

With that, Sun Mo was only one final step away from his goal..