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## Chapter 861

In the early morning, Andrius' sleep was much sounder than usual.

Even though he provoked the Swallows, a formidable enemy, the elimination of the fake emperor served as an explanation to the Lycantroops generals and countless innocent people.

However, when he walked out of the palace, a group of people were already waiting for him there. The person in the lead had white hair and a cold expression.

It was none other than the Seventh Elder of the Swallows, who had been hysterical yesterday and threatened to make Andrius pay.

"Andrius Moonshade!"

The Seventh Elder had been waiting for a long time. When he saw Andrius come out, he immediately stepped forward and said, "I told you that you would pay for your foolish actions."

Andrius frowned slightly.

"Be good and come with us obediently." The Seventh Elder curled his lips up, his words filled with arrogance. "Don't think about resisting. It'll only bring you more suffering!"

Swoosh!

What he got in response was two punches from Andrius.

"Brat!"

The Seventh Elder instantly sneered. He never thought that Andrius would dare to attack first under these circumstances.

"You're just an early-stage Martial Lord, but you dare to attack me, a Martial King? You must be the boldest Martial Lord in the world!"

Whoosh!

Andrius sped up. However, it was simply nothing in front of a Martial King.

The Seventh Elder only shifted slightly and dodged Andrius' fierce punch. After he broke past Andrius' attack, he launched a fierce counterattack.

He thoroughly suppressed Andrius.

Andrius was in grave danger.

"Tsk." The Seventh Elder laughed triumphantly. "If not for those seven experts yesterday, you wouldn't have been able to act so arrogant in front of me!

"I told you that they can't protect you forever! Now, retribution has come for you."

The Seventh Elder forced Andrius back while insulting him. He was as arrogant and triumphant as could be.

"Fweet..."

At that moment, Andrius pulled away and blew his flute.

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Suddenly, countless insects came from all directions, carrying a strong evil intent and a hissing sound of death. They were like an army or a tidal wave rushing toward the Seventh Elder.

"What the hell is this?"

The Seventh Elder's eyes widened as he struck his palm out, instantly turning many of the insects into powder.

However, more of them hissed and continued to pounce on the Seventh Elder. Some of the larger and bloodthirsty ones absorbed the inner energy from the Seventh Elder's palm strike and became even more active.

It was the first time the Seventh Elder was facing these creatures, so he was momentarily flustered.

Chitter...

Click...

Suddenly, a few insects landed on the Seventh Elder's neck and began to bite without hesitation. Although they did not pose a fatal threat to him, the intense pain and discomfort made him suffer.

"Andrius Moonshade! Damn you!" The Seventh Elder was furious and immediately waved his hand. "Take him down!"

The Swallows experts who came with him began to surround Andrius. These people were all in the martial realm and were not much weaker than Andrius in terms of strength.

Andrius was alone and soon became overwhelmed.

Bam!

Crack!

Thud!

In one careless moment, one of them punched Andrius, and various techniques followed in quick succession, causing him to cough up blood.

"Ugh..."

Andrius was forced into a corner.

"Stop!" Registus heard what was happening and yelled angrily, "The Swallows always claim to be superior, yet you're picking on him with numbers?"

The many experts paused and looked at the Seventh Elder.

"Picking on him?" The Seventh Elder finished dealing with the insects and snorted. "Registus, look closely. We're not having a martial competition here!

"Andrius acted insolently and even dared to kill a member of the Swallows. He must be prepared to face death!

"This is not a negotiation or notification. It's a judgment from the Swallows!"

They were domineering and arrogant.

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They were actually passing judgment on someone in front of the emperor.

Registus was infuriated, but he lacked the power to speak up.

"Take him away!"

Seeing Registus' silence, the Seventh Elder instantly felt pleased and signaled to the Swallow experts who stepped forward and restrained Andrius.

Andrius was heavily injured and could no longer defend himself. However, he continued to glare at the Swallows like a wolf willing to fight to the death.

"Stubborn." The Seventh Elder snorted coldly and struck Andrius' chest, causing him to faint. Then, he gestured for the experts to take Andrius away.

"You..."

Dennis saw this and wanted to stop them.

"Dennis!" Registus knew that Dennis' strength was no match for the Swallows at all, so he told Dennis to step back in a low voice.

"Heh..."

The Seventh Elder sneered.

The group took Andrius away.

When Andrius opened his eyes, he found himself in a courtyard. Strong lights shone down from above, making it difficult for him to open his eyes.

Rustle...

Andrius tried to move but realized that his limbs were bound with chains as thick as fingers. He could not escape at all. His silver needles and flute lay about two meters away. They were visible but out of reach.

"Fweet..."

Andrius whistled, and insects immediately flew out, biting through the chains that bound him Then, he collected his silver needles and flute. After looking around, he prepared to escape this place

"Where do you think you're going?"

At that moment, an elderly figure suddenly appeared in front of Andrius. The person appeared so quickly that Andrius did not notice him standing there.

The old man had a strange and cold expression on his face.

Whoosh!

Andrius attacked without hesitation

"Hmph."

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The old man was not worried about Andrius' attack at all. He stood there with one hand behind his back, waiting for Andrius to approach before suddenly striking.

With just one punch, Andrius was sent flying backward, crashing to the ground and coughing up blood.

"Weak," the old man said expressionlessly and slowly walked toward Andrius.

Andrius glared at him and struggled to stand up. However, before he could make a move, the old man suddenly struck and crippled the meridians of Andrius' body.

Crash...

Andrius could hardly stand and fell heavily to the ground. However, he did not admit defeat.

Fweet-

A series of whistles sounded, and insects flew toward the old man.

"You're like an ant trying to shake a tree."

The old man spoke and glared at the countless insects.

Hiss...

Chitter

The insects were intimidated by him and trembled with fear, not daring to approach as if facing an endless dread.

Andrius sighed. This old man was too powerful.

The old man stood still in the distance, looking down at Andrius from above with a hint of admiration in his eyes. "Andrius Moonshade, you really are a genius.

"You broke through to the martial realm by yourself in your twenties. Now, you even possess such an exquisite technique for controlling insects. You're extremely rare among the younger generation. However..."

The old man's tone suddenly changed, and he said arrogantly, "In the face of absolute

strength, all your tricks are in vain. They can only delay your death at most."

Andrius did not respond. As the weaker one, he had nothing more to say.

"Heh"

The old man did not mind and simply stood there looking at him. Then, two Swallows walked over and brought Andrius over to him.

"Let me ask you." The old man stared into Andrius' eyes, his gaze filled with a hint of coldness. "You've been investigating the corpses of the Klein family members for a while now. Did you find the Klein family's secret map?"

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The map!

Andrius knew that the four great ancient martial families had not given up.

He did not respond. It was as if he did not hear the old man speaking at all. Thud, thud!

A cold glint flashed in the old man's eyes, and he suddenly tapped two points on Andrius' body.

Two icy forces of inner energy pierced his body, ruthlessly destroying his already shattered meridians. A sharp pain immediately shot through his heart.

In just three seconds, beads of sweat covered his forehead, and his veins bulged, making him look extremely fierce and terrifying.

Crack, crack, crack....

Andrius clenched his teeth, refusing to answer the old man's questions or make any sounds of pain.

"Impressive stubbornness!" A sinister smile flashed in the old man's face when he saw how good Andrius' endurance was. "Andrius Moonshade, your lips are sealed quite tight. However, I have plenty of ways to pry it open!"

He gave Andrius a deep look and signaled for the two beside him to watch over Andrius. Then, he turned and left the courtyard.

In the main hall of the Swallows' residence, a figure stood with his back to the entrance. He was tall, imposing, and awe—inspiring.

It was none other than the head of the Swallows, Norvin Swallow.

"Sir..." The old man stopped several meters away and bowed slightly, reporting, "Andrius is very tight–lipped and hasn't spoken yet.'

"There's no rush." Norvin turned around, his face filled with confidence, and said calmly. He's already in our hands, so it's only a matter of time before he speaks."

The old man nodded slowly. He felt the same.

"However..." Norvin looked out of the window toward the blue sky and white clouds. "News of Andrius falling into our hands will surely be known to the three great clans very soon. Thus, today's interrogation must be kept completely secret. No leaks are allowed.

"Otherwise, no matter if Andrius talks or not, the Sheppards, the Fullers, and the Anders will think that the Swallows have already learned about the treasure map through him.

"That will be disadvantageous to the Swallows."

The old man nodded and replied, "Understood!"

Soon, the message was passed on News of Andrius being captured by the Swallows was forbidden to be disclosed.

In the Forbidden Palace, Registus immediately contacted Old Hagstorm after the Seventh Elder took Andrius away.

"Master! Andrius has been captured by the Seventh Elder of the Swallows. The Swallows brought many experts, and each of them was in the martial realm. I couldn't stop them..."

Registus was also helpless.

The ancient martial world had been established for many years in Florence and was not something that a single emperor could compete with. It would be hard for any change in this short time.

"Since the Swallows have chosen to make a move, they will do so with great force and won't leave any opportunities for us.

Old Hagstorm looked toward the north and sighed softly. "If we want to rescue Andrius, our only option is to seek the assistance of the Medicine Sect."

The Medicine Sect!

Registus smiled wryly. "But the Medicine Sect has distanced itself from conflicts for many years. They never stepped forward even when the Klein family was annihilated by the four great clans in the past.

"Will they break their long-standing rule and intervene on Andrius' behalf?

"That clearly doesn't benefit them and goes against their interests."

Registus' analysis was reasonable. The Medicine Sect had long stayed out of conflicts. Trying to involve them now seemed impossible.

"It won't be up to them." Old Hagstorm muttered to himself, "I have a way to force their hand."

Registus could not help but look at him in surprise.

Old Hagstorm did not speak and simply revealed a mysterious smile.

Mount Cura was made up of continuous mountain ranges and towering ridges.

The roars of tigers and cries of cranes could often be heard. The area was shrouded in mist, making it seem like paradise.

It was the territory of the Medicine Sect in Florence.

In the treasure repository..

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As a vital location of the Medicine Sect, it was guarded vigilantly all day and night regardless of season, 365 days a year.

A five—person patrol team had just passed by the main entrance when a shadow slipped past them from behind and silently opened the door.

The entire process was incredibly stealthy, and no noise was made.

"Found it!"

The figure moved inside the treasure repository before finally stopping at a certain spot. He picked up something heavily guarded and tucked it away.

Then, he slipped out while remaining hidden from the patrol team's view.

The Medicine Sect were completely unaware of this.

In the main hall, an old man and a young woman sat across from each other, drinking tea.

The old man had a ruddy complexion and was full of vitality. His eyes showed no signs of the cloudiness of old age. Instead, they were bright, clearly belonging to a highly accomplished martial arts cultivator.

He was the sect master of the Medicine Sect, Wade Klein!

Sitting across from him was a stunning young lady. Her eyes were equally lively and elegant, filled with a clear charm. She was Wade's granddaughter, Kate Klein!

"There's unrest in Kiyoto!" Wade took a sip of tea and sighed. "The last remaining bloodline of the Kleins, Andrius Moonshade, has fallen into the hands of the Swallows. I'm afraid the last branch of my older brother is coming to an end."

Even though Wade and the head of the Kleins had a falling out in the past, their bloodline had not changed. He still felt sorrowful when he heard that Andrius was captured.

"Grandpa…" Kate put down her cup, her eyes showing a complex expression. She felt curious and lamented.

After all, she and Andrius were distant cousins.

Although he did not stand out much in the martial world, as the Wolf King, he was a legend among the common people of Florence! He was admired by countless people and considered unparalleled in the world!

Thus, Kate had always been curious about her cousin. His tragic background and outstanding achievements made him 'excellent' no matter how one looked at it.

Now that he had fallen into the hands of their greatest enemies, Kate could not help but sigh

She looked at Wade and asked, "Andrius is Granduncle's last bloodline Should we help hun

Wade shook his head. "The Medicine Sect has distanced itself from worldly affairs for many years. We haven't been involved with the four great families for over two decades.

"If we openly go to rescue Andrius today, it would be seen as us supporting him in violating the rules. The Medicine Sect will become the next Klein family The other families will unite

against us, and it'll be difficult for us to survive."

The Medicine Sect was powerful and surpassed any one of the four great families.

However, if the four families joined forces, there was only destruction left for the Medicine Sect.

Furthermore, the four great families had always been on guard against the Medicine Sect. They just had not found a reason to act against them.

Getting involved would be easy, but extricating themselves would be hard. That was the decision Wade made after careful consideration.

Kate was silent for a moment before asking, "Grandpa, what should we do next?"

"We wait." Wade lifted his teacup and took a sip, saying, "We'll be fine as long as we guard the treasure map and not make any mistakes.

The treasure map was what the four great clans truly desired. Protecting the map was the Medicine Sect's biggest mission.

"Sir!"

As soon as he finished speaking, a disciple of the sect rushed in and knelt before Wade. He said while panting, "Sect Master, bad news! There are signs of someone breaking into the treasure repository!"

Wade and Kate were shocked and stood

up.

"Let's go!"

Wade brought Kate and arrived at the entrance of the treasure repository with a few swift leaps.

There was already a large group of people gathered.

"Sect Master!"

Everyone bowed upon seeing Wade.

Wade ignored them and pushed open the door, quickly entering the treasure repository.

Three seconds later, he stood there with an extremely gloomy expression. In his line of sight, a wooden box had already been opened and was currently empty.

The treasure map had been stolen!

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Swoosh...

Kate was one step later, but she also saw the empty wooden box.

At that moment, the grandfather and granddaughter's faces turned ashen.

The treasure map was immensely important and was the most heavily guarded treasure of the Medicine Sect.

Now, it had been stolen!

"Find it!" Wade spoke through gritted teeth, his tone extremely cold. "Use all our resources to investigate immediately. I want to know who dares to steal the treasure map of the Medicine Sect!"

"Yes, sir!"

The guard-in-charge immediately went to carry out the order.

After giving the instructions, Wade's expression remained unchanged for a long time. He did not say a word and led Kate back toward the main hall.

"Grandpa..." Kate's bright eyes flickered. "Someone who could secretly steal the treasure map under the noses of so many guards must possess extremely high skills and be very familiar with the ins and outs of the Medicine Sect."

Wade nodded slightly, indicating for her to continue.

"Moreover, this person chose to act at this crucial moment. It makes me wonder..."

Kate's words made Wade raise his brows. That made sense.

Wade narrowed his eyes and said, "You mean..."

"Grandpa, I suspect that someone is deliberately setting up a situation and using the Medicine Sect's treasure map as bait to get us involved."

Kate's tone was confident as if she had seen through everything.

Wade was shocked, but after careful consideration, Kate's suggestion was very possible.

Wade's eyes flickered for a moment as he looked at Kate again. "Kate, based on your speculation, who do you think is behind this scheme?"

"We have too little information now for me to tell." Kate shook her head and said, "However, Andrius obtained the bodies of the Kleins through the Grand Medicinal Competition, and there's a good chance that he has already obtained most of the map from there

"The map of our Medicine Sect is the missing core part. By combining the two, a relatively complete treasure map can be obtained.

"However, he has fallen into the hands of the Swallows."

"As long as the Swallows aren't foolish, they'll surely interrogate him immediately to obtain the part of the treasure map from him.

"We don't know if they'll succeed, but in the current situation, the Swallows benefit the most

from stealing the Medicine Sect's treasure map!"

Kate's analysis was reasonable and factual.

Wade nodded in agreement. "That makes sense, Kate."

He pondered for a moment and instructed, "Issue my order. No one is to leak the news of the stolen treasure map. Violators will be charged with treason!

"The person who stole the treasure map will surely take further action. We'll wait and see who is plotting behind this!"

After saying that, a cold glint flashed on Wade's face.

Although the Medicine Sect stayed out of worldly affairs, they were not to be trifled with.

In a secret chamber in Kiyoto, Luna was pacing anxiously.

Not long after that, an elderly figure walked into the secret chamber. It was none other than Old Hagstorm. Luna hurriedly went up to him.

"Master, you said that Andrius has been captured by the Swallows?"

"That's right."

Luna was even more anxious and gritted her teeth. "No, I have to go save him!"

"You can't!" Old Hagstorm stopped Luna and shook his head. "The Swallows lead the four

great families and have grown much stronger over the years. Their power is far beyond your imagination.

"Even if you mobilized the entire Dragon Manor, it might not be enough to challenge the Swallows. Openly trying to save Andrius is useless. In fact, it might even backfire."

Hearing this, Luna felt like she had returned to the past when she was useless. She was at the point of tears.

"Then, what should we do? I can't just watch Andrius fall into their hands."

Old Hagstorm was much calmer than Luna. He explained, "Don't worry. Andrius is still useful to the Swallows, so they won't harm him for now."

Nevertheless, how could Luna calm down?

Old Hagstorm's gaze was distant as he said in a low voice, "The voice now is to unite the Sheppards, the Fullers, and the Anders to pressure the Swallows.

"The four great families seem united, but they each have their own agenda. No one wants to see one family dominate, and no one wants one party to take the entire treasure map of the Kleins

"Thus, we can use these three families now"

Ever since becoming the Dragon Manor Lord, Luna had learned a lot about Andrius and the Klein family. She also discovered many secrets.

After hearing Old Hagstorm's words, her expression improved slightly, and she turned to ask, "How do we pressure the Swallows?"

Old Hagstorm took out a mask and put it on Luna personally. "From now on, you're the granddaughter of the Medicine Sect Master, Kate Klein!"

Kate Klein of the Medicine Sect!

Luna did not know what Old Hagstorm was planning.