

Doctor 241

Chapter 241: Leave No Trouble Behind

"Little brother, what are you doing here?"

Fang Yun was both shocked and delighted when she saw that the young man was her own brother, Fang Bai. She stood up from the ground.

"I came back from Yanjing today and went to pick you up from school. When I heard an old Taoist priest had taken you, I tracked you down all the way here... Sister, are you alright?"

Fang Bai turned his head and looked at his sister Fang Yun with concern.

"I'm fine. It's just that my arm still hurts from that lunatic old Taoist grabbing it!"

Fang Yun said, and shot Taoist Qingling a glare.

"Just wait, sister. I'll teach that damned old Taoist a lesson!"

Fang Bai's gaze shifted to Taoist Qingling, and his expression turned icy. Without any noticeable movement of his body, he suddenly appeared in front of Taoist Qingling like a ghost, then raised his right palm and struck towards the Taoist's chest.

His palm strike seemed light and effortless, but in the eyes of Taoist Qingling, it was like an enormous mountain bearing down upon him, swift and heavy, unstoppable, as if the very space in front of him was being compressed and created a slight ripple with the force of the palm.

Taoist Qingling's face was filled with horror, and he quickly retreated backwards.

However, no matter how fast he retreated, he couldn't outpace Fang Bai's palm.

Thud—

A muffled sound, and Fang Bai's palm firmly struck Taoist Qingling in the chest.

Taoist Qingling let out a muffled groan, feeling an overwhelming force, vast as the ocean, surging wildly into his chest from Fang Bai's palm, instantly spreading throughout his entire body, not only destroying all his meridians but also severing his heart meridian.

Taoist Qingling's body flew backwards for several meters, collapsing on the ground without making another sound.

Although Taoist Qingling was a martial artist of Profound Level Perfection, and Fang Bai was equivalent to an early Earth Level martial artist, the gap between them was vast, like an insurmountable chasm.

Moreover, Fang Bai's combat power far surpassed his cultivation level, so Taoist Qingling was simply unlucky to encounter him.

Although Fang Yun knew her brother was formidable, she was still shocked to see him send a man flying several meters with a single palm strike. However, she did not know that under her brother's palm, Taoist Qingling had already lost all hope of survival.

"Sister, wait here for me, I'll be back in a moment!"

Fang Bai stepped forward, grabbed Taoist Qingling's corpse, and dashed off into the distance.

In a place out of Fang Yun's sight, Fang Bai set down Taoist Qingling's body and then took out a jade bottle from his spatial ring. From the bottle, he poured out some pungent powder and sprinkled it onto Taoist Qingling's body.

After about fifteen minutes, Taoist Qingling's body visibly shrunk at a speed visible to the naked eye, eventually turning into a puddle of clear water.

The pungent powder in that jade bottle was the "Corpse Disintegrating Powder" that Fang Bai had brought back from the Hidden Sect with Baili Zhan's help, made from blending spiritual medicines. He hadn't expected it to come in handy here.

After all, Qingcheng Temple was a significant faction in the Ancient Martial World, and now that its Temple Master had been killed by him, if the body was discovered, it would cause quite a bit of trouble.

Although Fang Bai was not afraid of such troubles with his current strength, adhering to the principle that less trouble is better than more, he used the "Corpse Disintegrating Powder" to make Taoist Qingling's body disappear between heaven and earth, leaving no troubles behind.

Such actions, in the eyes of ordinary people, would seem extremely cruel. Fang Bai didn't want his sister Fang Yun to witness such a dark scene, which is why he didn't let her follow him.

"Little brother, what happened to that old Taoist?"

Seeing Fang Bai return without a trace of the old Taoist, Fang Yun asked curiously. She had just witnessed the old Taoist being knocked down by Fang Bai and thought he had only been injured, but unexpectedly, he had died upon hitting the ground.

"I scolded him a few times, then let him go."

Fang Bai casually replied, as he certainly wouldn't divulge his more ruthless actions.

Fang Yun had no reason to doubt her brother's words and said, "That old Taoist was so annoying, letting him go like that is too lenient!"

Fang Bai chuckled, "Hehe", snuffed out the bonfire, and then said to Fang Yun, "It's getting late, mom and dad must be worried about us at home, let's go back!"

"Mhm."

Both were martial artists, and although Fang Yun's strength was still weak, walking through the mountain paths was not a struggle for her.

They traversed the mountains swiftly and reached the roadside where the car was parked.

Fang Yun knew that this car was recently purchased by Fang Bai. After getting into the car, she couldn't help but ask about it.

Upon learning that her younger brother was also planning to buy a car for her, Fang Yun shook her head and waved her hands in refusal, saying she was still a student, and while there were students who drove to school, those were daughters of wealthy families, and she did not dare to compare herself with them.

"What's wrong with being a lady of a wealthy family? In the future, our Fang Family will also be wealthy and prestigious. Whatever others have, we will have too! Sister, just listen to me about the car! If you don't want it, I'll just buy it and give it to someone else!"

After seizing this body, Fang Bai had sworn to ensure a good life for the original owner's family. Buying a car was a trivial matter in his eyes.

Hearing this, and knowing that he had made a fortune by practicing medicine in Yanjing, Fang Yun no longer declined and her joy was evident in her words.

After returning home, Fang Gang and Yang Mei inquired what had happened. Fang Bai simply recounted the incident, which turned Yang Mei pale with worry, and she cursed the Taoist Qingling thoroughly.

After Taoist Qingling's death, being cursed by someone would surely not allow him to rest in peace in the afterlife.

The family enjoyed a lavish dinner together, and after the meal, Fang Bai took out three "Marrow Cleansing Pills" and one medium-grade "Creation Pill". He gave one medium-grade "Marrow Cleansing Pill" and the "Creation Pill" to his sister Fang Yun, and two low-grade "Marrow Cleansing Pills" to his parents.

Fang Yun possessed an innate Fire Spirit Root, and her constitution was already outstanding. After using the medium-grade "Marrow Cleansing Pill" for Marrow Cleansing and with the assistance of a medium-grade "Creation Pill," not only would her physical constitution be elevated to a new level, but she could also hope for a breakthrough to the next realm.

The reason he did not give his parents the medium-grade "Marrow Cleansing Pills" but instead the lowest-grade ones was because both of his parents had ordinary constitutions that simply could not withstand the powerful medicinal impact of the medium-grade pills; giving them those would not be helping them but harming them.

Fang Gang, Yang Mei, and Fang Yun took the "Marrow Cleansing Pills" given by Fang Bai, listened to the precautions needed for the Marrow Cleansing process, and then each went back to their rooms.

Fang Bai walked to a corner of the courtyard and checked on the "Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus" and "Blazing Flame Scarlet Heart Fruit" – the two types of spiritual medicines he had planted.

After two or three months, both types of spiritual medicine had matured. Fang Bai's return to Zhongzhou this time also aimed to harvest these two types of spiritual medicine and take them back to Yanjing.

The "Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus" and the "Blazing Flame Scarlet Heart Fruit" were both extremely special and rare spiritual medicines, essential in refining "Golden Essence Pills" and "Fire Yuan Pills".

And the "Golden Essence Pills" and "Fire Yuan Pills" could help Fang Bai enhance the Golden System True Yuan and Fire System True Yuan within his Qi Sea.

Chapter 242: Marrow Cleansing

Although the valley Fang Bai had previously discovered, which resembled a paradise, was filled with various spiritual medicines, it did not contain the "Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus" and the "Blazing Flame Scarlet Heart Fruit," so Fang Bai attached great importance to the cultivation of these two spiritual medicines in his own small courtyard.

Faint essences of gold and fire lingered around the two plants. Fang Bai sat cross-legged beside the spiritual medicines, closed his eyes, and began to circulate the "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique", absorbing the essence energy from the two plants.

After more than an hour, Fang Gang, Yang Mei, and Fang Yun inside the house had successively completed the Marrow Cleansing, and Fang Bai also emerged from his cultivation state. He casually uprooted the "Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus" and the "Blazing Flame Scarlet Heart Fruit", storing them in his spatial ring for later use.

After using the "Marrow Cleansing Pill" to cleanse the meridians and marrow, impurities would be expelled from the body through the pores to the surface of the skin. Therefore, when Fang Gang and the others stepped out of the room, their bodies seemed covered with a layer of black mud.

The three of them glanced at each other, couldn't help but laugh, and ran to the bathroom to wash off the impurities from their skin. They put on clean clothes and then returned to the courtyard.

"Dad, Mom, Sister, how do you feel now?"

Fang Bai asked with a smile, looking at the three family members standing in front of him.

"Refreshed and invigorated, as if I've grown ten years younger!"

Fang Gang shared his feelings.

"It's like I have endless strength all over my body!"

Yang Mei added.

"I feel like I'm so light I could float away."

Fang Yun said excitedly.

After their Marrow Cleansing, their bodies had become quite different from ordinary people, and they exuded a refined and transcendent aura.

In particular, with the assistance of a medium-quality "Creation Pill," Fang Yun's strength had already reached the mid-level Yellow Level.

In the Ancient Martial World, a mid-level Yellow Level martial artist might not be considered strong, but in the secular world, basically no one would dare to provoke Fang Yun anymore.

"Dad, Mom, from now on, just focus on cultivating the techniques I've taught you, and you'll surely enjoy good health and long life."

Fang Bai said with a smile to Fang Gang and Yang Mei.

It was true what Fang Bai said; although the cultivation techniques he taught his parents were the most basic and at the lowest level, as long as Fang Gang and Yang Mei earnestly cultivated them, aside from martial artists, it would be hard for ordinary people to outlive them in the secular world.

"Sister, now that your constitution has improved following the Marrow Cleansing, the speed at which you advance in your cultivation will be much faster than before. But you can't be lazy. Cultivation is like rowing a boat against the current; if you don't advance, you'll fall back. You must remember this!"

Fang Bai then advised Fang Yun.

Fang Bai had repeatedly discussed cultivation matters with Fang Yun, and she committed it to heart, making sure to take time each day to practice the cultivation methods and never slacking off.

The entire family, practicing special cultivation techniques, had mental and physical strengths far beyond those of ordinary people, thus they felt not the slightest bit of sleepiness. They sat in the courtyard chatting well into the early hours, from two to three in the morning, before resting briefly in their rooms. Upon waking early in the morning, they were still spirited and uplifted.

Although Fang Bai's eldest cousin Fang Wu's wedding was not until the next day, because they had always been very close with their eldest uncle's family, Fang Bai's family planned to return a day earlier to see if there was any way they could help out.

After breakfast, Fang Bai thought about the matter he had yet to attend to for the Lu Family, so he asked his family to wait at home while he contacted Lu Xinghe using his cellphone, planning to treat this senior official of Zhongzhou City and then head back to his hometown.

When Fang Bai was calling Lu Xinghe's cellphone, Lu Xinghe was in the municipal building's conference room, presiding over a meeting.

Since the meeting was very important, and Lu Xinghe had instructed everyone attending not to bring their cellphones inside, he also temporarily handed his own phone to his secretary for safekeeping and told the secretary not to answer any calls unless they were important.

The so-called "important calls" referred to by Lu Xinghe meant calls from his own family, bosses, and close friends. He had made special note of these contacts, and when they called, the words "important call" would display on the phone screen.

Midway through the meeting, while Lu Xinghe was speaking, he saw his secretary, Xiao Wang, hurriedly enter with a cellphone, causing his brows to furrow slightly.

"Mayor Lu, there's a call from someone named 'Doctor Fang,' which you've marked as 'very important'... Do you want to take it?"

Xiao Wang walked up to Lu Xinghe and asked in a low voice next to his ear.

Lu Xinghe was somewhat annoyed by the interruption of his speech, but upon hearing the name "Doctor Fang," the irritation on his face immediately disappeared, replaced by excitement and respect.

Lu Xinghe let one of the deputy mayors continue to chair the meeting while he took the cellphone and quickly left the conference room to accept the call outside.

Secretary Xiao Wang watched the back of the respectfully regarded Mayor Lu as he hastily left and couldn't help but stare in astonishment, thinking that even when senior leaders from the provincial government called, Mayor Lu had never been so excited—just who was this Doctor Fang, and what kind of master was he?

"Doctor Fang, this is Lu Xinghe."

Outside the conference room, Lu Xinghe suppressed the excitement in his heart and spoke respectfully, even using the honorific "you" in his tone.

On Lu Xinghe's last trip to Yanjing, he had made the acquaintance of Fang Bai and knew that despite his youthfulness, Fang Bai's medical skills were no less than those of the four great national doctors of Huaxia. Furthermore, his own elder referred to Fang Bai as a sworn brother and had utmost admiration for him, so Lu Xinghe dared not show any disrespect.

Besides, a few days ago, his elder had called to say that Fang Bai had already agreed to treat him. It was said that Fang Bai had agreed quite readily, seemingly very confident in curing his condition.

Lu Xinghe had been married for five years, but due to a problem with his own health, he had no children, an issue that had always troubled him and even at times affected his work mood. Now that he heard there was hope for his condition to be cured, it was natural for him to feel excited.

"Mayor Lu, I'm currently in Zhongzhou City. If you have time, choose a place, and let's meet up," said Fang Bai cheerfully.

A common person speaking with a mayor in charge of millions of people would usually stutter from nervousness and excitement, but Fang Bai was as calm as a breeze, without feeling any pressure.

After all, martial artists like Fang Bai with such a level of cultivation were hardly bound by the secular laws, so even the highest officials could hardly impress them. Moreover, if pedigree were to be considered, Lu Xinghe would essentially be from his younger generation!

Upon hearing that Fang Bai was in Zhongzhou, Lu Xinghe was overjoyed and said immediately, "Then let's meet at 'Xianyun Teahouse.' Doctor Fang, where are you now? I will send a car to pick you up immediately."

"No need, just tell me the address, and I'll drive there myself."

Lu Xinghe gave Fang Bai the address of "Xianyun Teahouse," and the two agreed to meet there in half an hour.

Chapter 243: Unspeakable Secrets

After ending his call with Fang Bai, Lu Xinghe instructed his secretary Xiao Wang with a few reminders, then had his driver take him to the "Xianyun Teahouse." On the way, he shared the news with his wife, Zhou Xianyun.

Half an hour later, Fang Bai arrived at the "Xianyun Teahouse" as promised.

After getting out of the car, Fang Bai saw from afar that Lu Xinghe and a middle-aged beauty, around thirty-five years old, were standing side by side at the entrance of the teahouse.

"Doctor Fang, welcome!"

Lu Xinghe, seeing Fang Bai, immediately walked forward with the middle-aged beauty, extended his right hand, and shook hands with Fang Bai, his attitude humble.

"This is my wife, Zhou Xianyun."

After shaking hands with Fang Bai, Lu Xinghe pointed to the middle-aged beauty beside him and introduced her.

"Hello, Doctor Fang!"

Zhou Xianyun had met Fang Bai once before in Yanjing, and knowing that he was prized and respected by Old Master Lu, did not dare to slight him. She greeted with a smile.

Fang Bai nodded to Zhou Xianyun and said with a smile, "Madam Zhou's name is Xianyun... and this teahouse is also called Xianyun. Could it be that the owner of this teahouse is Madam Zhou?"

Lu Xinghe laughed heartily and said, "Doctor Fang guessed right, this teahouse is indeed run by Xianyun."

The three of them entered the "Xianyun Teahouse" with smiles and laughter. Fang Bai saw that the environment was serene, the architecture classical, and the waitresses inside were all pretty and beautiful, with extraordinary temperament, dressed in blue and white porcelain cheongsams with an ancient charm. He nodded inwardly, knowing that Zhou Xianyun was a woman of great taste in life.

The trio went into an exquisitely designed small loft. On the third floor of the loft, they sat down in a private room where two attractive waitresses with pretty appearances served tea and fruit, then gracefully exited.

"I still have matters to attend to and can't stay here for long, so let's get started now!"

Fang Bai had to return to his family's old home to help arrange his cousin's wedding, so after sitting down, he had a few sips of tea and then went straight to the point.

Lu Xinghe and his wife, Zhou Xianyun, exchanged a glance, both showing embarrassed expressions, unsure of how to begin.

Seeing this, Fang Bai knew they had something difficult to share and, smiling, said to Lu Xinghe, "Give me your left hand, and I'll diagnose you."

Hearing this, Lu Xinghe placed his left arm on the table in front of Fang Bai.

Fang Bai's fingers rested on his wrist pulse for a moment, and the True Yuan wandered through the meridians and blood vessels in his body. He had quickly come to understand his illness.

"Doctor Fang, my illness..."

Seeing that Fang Bai retracted his hand, Lu Xinghe asked somewhat anxiously.

"Does Mayor Lu perhaps experience a lack of vigor in matters of men and women and find it difficult to maintain endurance?"

Fang Bai looked at Lu Xinghe and asked with a smile.

As soon as these words were spoken, both Lu Xinghe and his wife Zhou Xianyun's faces turned red, but their eyes also revealed a look of surprise and joy.

They were surprised that Fang Bai could discern Lu Xinghe's problem just by feeling his pulse.

They were joyful because if Fang Bai could diagnose Lu Xinghe's condition, perhaps he had a way to treat it.

"Illness fears not the physician, there's nothing to be embarrassed about."

Seeing that the couple in front of him both looked embarrassed, Fang Bai said in earnest.

Lu Xinghe quickly recovered his composure, sighed, and said, "What Doctor Fang says is true, I indeed have those issues..."

These matters, related to a man's pride and dignity, were significant for Lu Xinghe to admit, which was commendable.

Fang Bai nodded and asked again, "When Mayor Lu was a child, did he ever get injured there?"

Lu Xinghe was startled, then his eyes lit up as he recalled, "That's right, back in the sixth grade, I was playing and messing around with a group of classmates when someone kicked me there. It hurt for several days, and later the doctor said it wasn't serious, so my family and I didn't give it much thought... Does Doctor Fang mean..."

Fang Bai said, "That's it. The problems you are experiencing now are most likely a result of aftereffects from that kick you received as a child. The meridians in that area were damaged, causing poor blood flow, which of course makes it difficult to perform and disrupts marital affairs."

Lu Xinghe never imagined that the roughhousing from his childhood would cause him so much pain now, and if Fang Bai was unable to cure his condition, this pain would accompany him for the rest of his life.

"Doctor Fang, is there hope for curing Xinghe's condition?"

Zhou Xianyun set aside her feminine reserve and asked anxiously.

Lu Xinghe leaned slightly forward, his eyes fixed unwaveringly on Fang Bai's face, his heart suspended on a thread.

Whether Fang Bai nodded or shook his head would determine whether the couple could hope to have children in the future, so after posing the question, both of them looked at Fang Bai full of anticipation.

"Yes."

Fang Bai smiled and nodded.

Whew—

Lu Xinghe and his wife both let out a long sigh of relief, followed by ecstatic joy. Had it not been for his status, Lu Xinghe would have jumped for joy.

"Please, Doctor Fang, work your magic and heal me."

"If Doctor Fang can cure Xinghe, we would be eternally grateful, with a generous reward!"

Lu Xinghe and his wife Zhou Xianyun both stood up and bowed deeply to Fang Bai.

"I have a connection with your Lu Family, so no need for thanks."

Fang Bai beckoned Lu Xinghe over, indicating that he should stand in front of him. He then swiftly tapped a few points on his lower abdomen, channeling a strand of Chaos Origin Energy into his body.

To Fang Bai, Lu Xinghe's condition was hardly a big deal, and he didn't even need to use the Five Elements Acupuncture Set.

The strand of Chaos Origin Energy entered Lu Xinghe's lower abdomen and began repairing the damaged meridians there, clearing the stagnant blood in the blood vessels.

Lu Xinghe felt a warm current slowly moving around his lower abdomen, and after a short while, his body began to respond strongly.

Lu Xinghe knew what this change signified. He looked down and, far from feeling embarrassed, he was overjoyed.

Zhou Xianyun also noticed the change in her husband. Her face flushed like a cloth, but her heart raced uncontrollably.

"Mrs. Zhou, can you bring me some paper and a pen? I need it."

Fang Bai said to Zhou Xianyun with a smile.

Zhou Xianyun's gaze shifted from her husband, and she hurriedly turned and left. She returned in less than two minutes and handed the paper and pen to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai wrote swiftly and powerfully on the paper, jotting down a prescription before handing it to Zhou Xianyun. He said, "Get this prescription filled at the pharmacy and have Mayor Lu drink it for a

week straight, and there should be no problems. As long as Mayor Lu diligently works in the bedroom from now on, I guarantee that you'll conceive a baby within the year."

Lu Xinghe and Zhou Xianyun, being experienced adults, naturally knew what "diligently works" meant, and they couldn't help but blush again.

"Thank you... Thank you, Doctor Fang!"

Zhou Xianyun repeatedly expressed her gratitude, carefully taking the prescription from Fang Bai and securing it.

Chapter 244: Hometown and Relatives

"Remember, no intimacy for a week! After that, you're free to do as you please. But don't go overboard, keeping it to three times a week is best,"

Fang Bai instructed, then stood up and said to Lu Xinghe, "If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave now."

"Doctor Fang, why don't you stay for lunch before you go!"

Zhou Xianyun said hastily.

"Yes, I've asked Xianyun to arrange a hotel, and at noon I'd like to share a few drinks with Doctor Fang."

Lu Xinghe said as well.

"No need. A cousin of mine is getting married tomorrow back home, and I need to go help out with the family. Mayor Lu, since it's not convenient for you to walk, you don't need to see me out... Rest assured, in half an hour, you'll be back to normal,"

he said, striding out.

Lu Xinghe's manhood was still maintaining its proud and erected stance, making it really inconvenient to move. Watching Fang Bai leave, he gave his wife a look, suggesting that she see Fang Bai out on his behalf.

After seeing Fang Bai off, Zhou Xianyun hurried back to the loft where Lu Xinghe was, found her husband standing by the window, looking out at the scenery, and walked over lightly to hug his waist tightly from behind, her cheek pressed against his shoulder, tears involuntarily flowing down.

"Why are you crying? You should be happy that Doctor Fang has cured my illness,"

Lu Xinghe said, turning around, holding his wife by the shoulders, and asking softly.

"I am happy!"

Zhou Xianyun said, crying and laughing, choking up, "Doctor Fang said I could get pregnant within the year, is that true?"

"Have you forgotten, when elder brother's son Jianfeng was severely injured in a car accident, one foot almost in the Ghost Gate, Doctor Fang not only saved his life but now he's bouncing around without any sequelae. With such medical skills, it's simply miraculous! So, I believe what Doctor Fang says! Xianyun, we'll be waiting to hold our son next year!"

Lu Xinghe said, and kissed his wife on the forehead.

"Doctor Fang said after your illness is cured, we must work hard... I hope it lives up to expectations!"

Zhou Xianyun said, looking down at the bulge on her husband's body with a trace of anticipation in her eyes.

Lu Xinghe laughed heartily and said confidently, "It surely will! Don't believe me? Touch it and see, this little guy is harder than iron right now!"

Zhou Xianyun gently punched him on the chest, blushing and spat out, "Tsk, the mayor should watch his words a bit..."

"What's wrong with the mayor? The mayor is human too! Heh heh, if it weren't for Doctor Fang's advice against intimacy within a week, we'd be heading home to try it out right now!"

"Xinghe, if we really do have a baby, how should we thank Doctor Fang?"

Zhou Xianyun, hearing her husband getting more inappropriate, knew that if they continued this topic, his proud member might not calm down anytime soon, so she changed the subject.

After thinking for a while, Lu Xinghe said, "Doctor Fang is an extraordinary person; he said no thanks are needed, so let's leave it at that. However, I've heard that Doctor Fang's father has opened a traditional Chinese medicine clinic in Zhongzhou City. In the future, we should refer more business to them."

"Hmm, that sounds good."

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Fang Bai's hometown is in a small town called Fang Temple under the jurisdiction of Zhongzhou City. The town has a population of tens of thousands and is one of the poorer towns.

Fang Temple Town was over fifty miles from downtown Zhongzhou City. Fang Bai drove his parents and sister, and they arrived at Fang Temple Town around eleven o'clock at noon.

Fang Gang had a total of four siblings, with two older brothers above him, and a younger sister below.

Both older brothers lived in the town and were slightly better off than Fang Gang, with only the younger sister married off to a rural area, living a life even less prosperous than Fang Gang's.

Fang Gang's eldest brother, Fang Qiang, was just over fifty this year. He studied Western medicine and owned a pharmacy in Fang Temple Town, where he saw patients and sold medicine. Although he was not rich, his family was moderately well-off.

During Fang Gang's paralyzing car accident, his elder brother, Fang Qiang, provided a lot of help, for which Bai's family felt grateful.

Fang Gang's second brother, Fang Xiong, was forty-five years old and also lived in Fang Temple Town. He operated several shops and was the most affluent of the siblings. However, Fang Xiong was somewhat selfish and stingy, and his wife was even more sharp-tongued and critical, looking down on the other three siblings of the Fang family.

Fang Gang's sister, Fang Ying, married a simple and honest farmer in a nearby village. She tended to a few acres of land and lived a life of poverty. Brothers Fang Qiang and Fang Gang occasionally provided financial support to this sister.

Fang Qiang's pharmacy was located in the bustling center of town. When Bai's family arrived in front of the pharmacy, they found the door closed with a wooden board hanging on the outside, inscribed with the words "Temporarily Closed." It seemed Fang Qiang was too busy with his son's wedding in recent days to attend to the pharmacy business.

The storefront of the pharmacy was self-built by Fang Qiang, and their home was right behind the shop, a two-story bungalow.

Bai's family of three walked past the pharmacy to the front door of their uncle Fang Qiang's home. They saw the outside decorated with lights and festivity, with large red 'happiness' characters posted on either side of the door, presenting a cheerful sight.

Fang Bai pushed open the gate and found his uncle's family sitting in the courtyard talking with his second uncle and aunt.

Contrasting with the festive atmosphere outside, Fang Qiang's family all had worried looks on their faces; the eldest cousin, Fang Wu, was particularly angry.

When Fang Gang's family arrived, Fang Qiang and his sister Fang Ying, along with their families, all stood up to greet them. Only Fang Xiong's family remained seated, merely nodding their heads at Fang Gang and his wife.

Fang Xiong's wife and daughter looked at Fang Gang's family with eyes full of disdain they could not hide.

Over the past few months, "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" had become renowned in Zhongzhou City, with a monthly net income exceeding one hundred thousand. Fang Gang had not shared this information with his three siblings. Otherwise, given Fang Xiong and his wife's disdain for the poor and love for the rich, their attitude toward Fang Gang's family would certainly make a drastic one hundred and eighty degree turn.

"Third brother, the last time I went to see you, your legs were not very nimble when walking, but now it seems you are completely recovered! The doctor who treated your legs, he is really a miracle worker!"

Fang Qiang measured Fang Gang up and down, expressing his relief.

After Fang Gang's legs were healed, Fang Qiang and Sister Ying had visited him in the city. Fang Gang remembered his son's caution and only mentioned that his legs were cured by a famous doctor, without revealing his son's involvement.

"Third brother, you are blessed. Now that your legs are healed, everything at home must go smoothly, getting better day by day!"

Sister Ying said.

"Fourth sister, I'll take your kind words!"

Fang Gang said cheerfully.

"Sister-in-law, you look younger every time I see you after two months! Alas, I just keep getting older..."

Sister Ying walked over to Yang Mei and started chatting. Seeing Yang Mei's radiant face, she couldn't help but express her feelings.

Yang Mei had undergone Marrow Cleansing the previous night, and the transformation in her appearance was evident. She looked several years younger, her skin turned fair, rosy, and radiant, far more effective than any skincare product. Sister Ying's compliments were genuinely heartfelt.

Chapter 245: Hold One's Head High

Yang Mei and her snobbish sister-in-law hardly spoke, but she got along very well with her sister-in-law Fang Ying. Upon hearing, she affectionately took hold of Fang Ying's hand and said, "Fang Bai brought me back quite a lot of cosmetic and skincare products from Yanjing this time. They work really well after I use them. I'll give you a few bottles later."

Of course, Yang Mei wouldn't reveal that her son had used elixirs to perform the Marrow Cleansing for their family. She decided that after returning to Zhongzhou City, she would buy some expensive skincare products from a beauty store to give to Fang Ying. After all, they had money now, and spending a few hundred or a thousand wasn't really a big deal.

Fang Bai also had a good impression of his little aunt and interjected with a smile, "Exactly, little aunt, I'll bring them to your place. I guarantee that after you use them, you'll be as young as my mom!"

"Sister-in-law, what brand of makeup are you using? I'll go buy some to try another day!"

Fang Bai's second aunt, named Sun Xiuzhen, was mean-spirited, selfish, and stingy. Upon hearing Yang Mei's words, she scrutinized Yang Mei carefully, noticing that indeed Yang Mei's skin looked much better than before. Envious, she couldn't help asking.

Yang Mei glanced at Sun Xiuzhen and ignored her.

Seeing that Yang Mei was ignoring her, Sun Xiuzhen felt both embarrassed and angry, and snorted before rolling her eyes.

Fang Xiong saw that his wife was getting angry and, worried she might cause a scene that would make things awkward, hurriedly changed the topic, asking, "Younger brother, did you and your family come by bus?"

Before Fang Gang could speak, Fang Xiong immediately added, "I just bought a new car a few days ago, it's parked outside... You must have seen it when you arrived, right? Sigh, if I had known you were coming today, I would have driven to pick you up."

Fang Yun saw the expression and tone of her second uncle brimming with obvious showing off, and couldn't help but say, "We came by car!"

"You came by car?"

Fang Xiong was taken aback for a moment but then realized and said, "Oh, you mean a battery-operated tricycle, right? Well, buying one is also good, it's quite convenient for getting around, though charging is a bit of a hassle!"

Fang Xiong knew his younger brother's family was poor; for them to spend a few thousand yuan on a battery-operated tricycle was already quite good.

"We drove here in a sedan!"

Fang Yun couldn't stand the condescending, self-righteous attitude of her second uncle's family and said loudly, "It's a car the kid bought for over a hundred thousand in Yanjing!"

The girl must be bluffing!

Everyone in Fang Xiong's family looked at Fang Yun with faces of disbelief.

His daughter Fang Xiaojuan especially ran outside to check and actually found a brand-new black sedan parked next to their own car.

Fang Xiaojuan, a graduate from a vocational school in Zhongzhou City who currently worked as a secretary for a female deputy town mayor in Fang Temple Town, inherited her parents' vanity and disdain for the poor. She looked down on her oldest uncle, third uncle, and little aunt's families.

In the eyes of ordinary people, securing a job in the town government was equivalent to having an "official identity," placing one above others, which made Fang Xiaojuan very proud. Fang Xiong and his wife would often boast in front of others about their daughter, fearing that others wouldn't know that their daughter was a town government employee.

"Third uncle, is that black Volkswagen outside really bought by your family?"

Fang Xiaojuan was worldly and knew that the black sedan was more expensive than their family's car. She couldn't believe that her third uncle's family had bought it, thinking that maybe it belonged to someone else, parked there by chance.

Although Fang Gang was also somewhat annoyed by his niece, he nodded indifferently and said, "Fang Yun is right; that car was indeed bought by Fang Bai. He did an internship at Yanjing Hospital and made some money..."

Upon hearing Fang Gang's words, Fang Qiang, Fang Xiong, Fang Ying, and the others walked outside to see Fang Bai's sedan.

"My nephew, money is hard to come by, don't spend it recklessly! If you ask me, you should save the money and give it to your parents, so you can use it later to buy a house or get married!"

Seeing that his nephew Fang Bai's car was even better than his own, Fang Xiong felt both incredulous and embarrassed, with a hint of sourness in his voice as he spoke.

He thought that even if Fang Bai had made some money, it couldn't be that much, and buying a car was just trying to "swell one's face to fill out a fat man".

When Yang Mei saw Fang Xiong's family eyeing her son's new car with complex expressions, she felt a surge of vindication and proudly said, "Fang Bai is able to earn money now. We don't have to worry

about the funds for him to buy a house and find a wife! Hehe, Fang Bai also plans to have his dad learn to drive in a few days, and is thinking of buying him a car too!"

"Me too!"

Fang Yun interjected, "My little brother also wants me to learn to drive and is going to gift me one as well!"

Yang Mei retorted, "Go on! What does a student like you need a car for?"

"What's wrong with being a student? There are lots of students at our school who drive to campus!"

Fang Yun muttered under her breath.

"Fang Bai, I heard you're interning at a big hospital in Yanjing? How did you manage to get in there?"

Fang Ying asked enviously, then couldn't help but cast a somewhat disappointed glance at her son standing next to her.

Fang Ying's son, Li Hu, had always performed poorly in school, so after finishing middle school, he didn't continue his studies and stayed at home to help with farming and occasionally looked for odd jobs. Throughout the year, he hardly made any money.

Seeing her son was nearing the age to marry but without money to build a house or find a wife, Fang Ying grew anxious and set out to find a way to help her son make a living.

Fang Ying had heard of Yanjing Hospital and knew it was a large hospital in the capital. To get an internship there, connections were definitely needed. If Fang Bai had some contacts inside, she planned to ask her nephew for help to find some work for her son.

"I was able to intern at Yanjing Hospital thanks to a favor from a friend!"

Fang Bai answered casually.

Fang Ying's eyes brightened, then she sighed and said, "You're so much more accomplished than your cousin Tiger. He didn't get into college, nor did he learn any professional skills, making it hard to find a job!"

Fang Bai was aware of the situation at his aunt's house and turned his gaze to his cousin Li Hu, asking with a smile, "Tiger, have you been idling at home?"

Li Hu was a year older than Fang Bai, a man of honesty and simplicity, and Fang Bai had always called him Brother Tiger since they were kids.

Li Hu scratched his head with an embarrassed look and muttered a muffled "Hmm."

"That's him, helping out at home during the busy farming season and doing odd jobs with your aunt's husband during the slack season. Barely making a few bucks in a year... Fang Bai, since you have friends in Yanjing, could you find your cousin Tiger some stable work? As long as it pays, it doesn't matter if it's dirty or tiring!"

After speaking, Fang Ying gave her husband Li Tiezhu a meaningful look and tugged at her son's sleeve, signaling the father and son to quickly say something nice.

"Nephew, please help out with your cousin Tiger's situation!"

"Fang Bai, I... I'm strong, I can do any kind of work!"

Li Tiezhu and his son Li Hu, neither eloquent, struggled for a while before each managing to say just that.

Chapter 246: Cousin's Wedding

"Fang Bai, if there's anything you can do to help your aunt's family, just help out!"

Fang Gang knew his son was now capable and knew quite a few important people, so he spoke up on their behalf.

"No problem, I've got Tiger Brother's job covered!"

Fang Bai patted his chest, readily agreeing, and seeing that Li Hu was tall and strong, he added, "I have a friend in Zhongzhou who runs a beauty salon company. I'll talk to her about letting Tiger Brother join her security team as a deputy captain. The job is easy, and the salary isn't bad either... Auntie, Tiger Brother, what do you think?"

When Li Hu heard the words "deputy captain," he felt quite imposing and nodded vigorously with a goofy smile on his face.

"Fang Bai, as a deputy captain, can you make one or two thousand a month?"

Li Ying didn't care what kind of job her son had, she was most concerned about the salary.

"Five thousand a month, he should be able to get that much!"

Fang Bai answered with a smile, thinking Xia Chenyu wouldn't offer Li Hu too low a salary for his sake.

"Five... five thousand? They pay that much?"

Fang Ying was taken aback, thinking she had misheard. In her mind, it would be good enough if her son had a stable job that paid a couple of thousand a month.

"The five thousand I mentioned is just the base salary. If Tiger Brother does well, he should get a bonus by the end of the year!"

Fang Bai added with a smile, thinking that since he had profit-sharing at Beauty Company, he could just give up a part of his end-of-year profits so Xia Chenyu could award it to Li Hu as a bonus, helping his aunt's family to get out of poverty sooner.

"Fang Bai, what's the name of the beauty salon company your friend owns?"

Fang Xiaojuan, who was working at the town government and earning around two or three thousand a month—a high income in the town—scoffed at the idea of a deputy security chief earning five thousand, disbelieving Fang Bai and thinking he was bragging.

Fang Xiaojuan had spent a few years studying in Zhongzhou and was somewhat familiar with the more famous companies there. She believed that any company willing to pay five thousand to a security guard must be a major company. If the company Fang Bai mentioned was one she had never heard of, she was ready to mock him thoroughly.

"Zhongzhou Beauty Company Limited... What's the problem?"

Fang Bai glanced at Fang Xiaojuan indifferently, his tone neither warm nor cold.

"Beauty Company? Impossible!"

Fang Xiaojuan almost jumped up in shock.

Beauty Company originally wasn't very well-known in Zhongzhou, but recently their three new skincare products had been hugely successful and warmly received by consumers, nearly selling out.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that almost every woman who cared about beauty knew of Beauty Company.

Even in the small Fang Temple Town, there were two stores dedicated to selling Beauty Company's products. Fang Xiaojuan herself used several of Beauty Company's skincare products and had become a loyal fan of the brand.

It was said that Beauty Company's CEO was an incredibly beautiful woman of charm and grace. How could such a beautiful and wealthy woman be friends with Fang Bai?

Fang Xiaojuan, looking at the plainly dressed Fang Bai in front of her, simply didn't believe him.

Fang Bai saw Fang Xiaojuan's dismissive and scornful attitude and knew she didn't believe him, but he was also too lazy to explain.

Although Fang Ying was also skeptical, since Fang Bai had already said so, she still held onto a glimmer of hope.

"Big brother, what were you discussing in the yard just now?"

After everyone returned to the yard, Fang Gang remembered the scene when his family had arrived earlier: his older brother Fang Qiang with a worried frown, his nephew Fang Wu looking furious, and he couldn't help but ask.

"We had already agreed with the Jiang Family on the details, with Fang Wu and Jiang Han's wedding set for tomorrow. But early this morning, the Jiang Family suddenly changed their tune, making all sorts of unreasonable demands, and even said that if we don't agree, they will call off the marriage... Can you believe it? The Jiang Family is blatantly bullying us,"

Fang Bai's grandaunt Liu Caifeng was quick to speak and hurried to explain the situation upon hearing Fang Gang's question. By the end, tears were streaming down her face.

"Ah..."

Fang Qiang shook his head in distress from the side and heaved a long sigh.

"Nephew, I remember that you and that girl from the Jiang Family had a good relationship. How could such a thing have happened all of a sudden?"

Yang Mei furrowed her brows and asked Fang Wu.

"I have no idea what's going on! I just went to see Jiang Han, but she refused to meet with me!"

Fang Wu clenched his fists, his expression filled with sadness and pain.

"What unreasonable demands did the girl's family make?"

Fang Bai asked, suspecting that the requests made by the Jiang Family must have been beyond his uncle's family's capacity to meet, otherwise they would not be so depressed.

"In addition to the dowry they've already taken, the Jiang Family wants my brother to come up with another hundred thousand in cash. What's more, they want Fang Wu to buy an apartment in the city, get a car, and transfer to a school in the city for work... The Jiang Family is so greedy! If Fang Wu had such good conditions, he could be selective about finding a wife in the city, so why would he settle for their daughter?"

Fang Ying, having talked with his brother and his family earlier, knew the details and began to take up the injustice for his uncle's family.

Fang Gang and his wife Yang Mei also repeatedly denounced the Jiang Family after hearing this.

But after the denunciation, the group fell into a comparative silence.

Now that the Jiang Family had laid out their terms, if their demands weren't met, the wedding would be off.

The marriage of their son was set for tomorrow, and Fang Qiang and his wife had already notified all their relatives and friends; everything was ready except for the bride to be brought home the next day. But now, with this turn of events, Fang Qiang's family didn't know what to do.

Considering the demands made by the Jiang Family, putting aside everything else, just an apartment in Zhongzhou City would cost at least five to six hundred thousand at the cheapest. Even if Fang Qiang sold everything he owned, he could not afford it.

Furthermore, Fang Wu is currently a primary school teacher in the town. With no connections or path, moving to a school in the city isn't such an easy matter.

But if they refuse the Jiang Family's demands, the son's marriage would fall through.

Fang Qiang's biggest concern now was that his son Fang Wu was so infatuated with Jiang Han that a rejected marriage would be the greatest blow to him.

Fang Qiang could sense that his son was very emotional today and worried that he might lose control and do something foolish.

"You should be able to come up with the hundred thousand cash dowry and the money for the car, sister-in-law. But a house in the city is too expensive; it's beyond your means. Besides, transferring to a school in the city is even harder than buying a house... Hmph, I think the Jiang Family is just looking for an excuse to back out of the marriage!"

Yang Mei said indignantly to Liu Caifeng.

Liu Caifeng sighed and said, "Actually, Fang Wu and Jiang Han always had a good relationship, and her parents originally liked Fang Wu a lot too. Them suddenly making these demands today really took me by surprise!"

Chapter 247: The Face Change

Fang Gang furrowed his brows and said, "Could something have happened in the meantime? Big brother, did you clarify things with the Jiang family when you were there?"

Fang Qiang replied in a muffled voice, "I've made it clear. The parents of Jiang Han were very adamant; they basically said that if their demands aren't met, they will absolutely not marry off their daughter!"

"Big bro, how about this."

Fang Gang glanced at his second brother, Fang Xiong, and an idea struck him. He said, "Let's each of us two brothers take out two hundred thousand, consider it a loan to big brother, and then have big

brother figure out how to gather some more from other places... Anyway, let's first get together the money to buy a house and satisfy the girl's family!"

After a pause, he continued, "As for Fang Wu's job transfer, I think that's something we can negotiate further with the Jiang family... Big brother has everything ready; we can't just call off the wedding, can we?"

Fang Xiong had not yet responded when his wife, Sun Xiuzhen, began to shake her head like a rattle-drum, saying, "Although our family has some money, it's all tied up in the business, and we've just bought a new car recently. Where are we supposed to get any money?"

"Little brother, you just casually suggest two hundred thousand. Where can we find so much money?"

Fang Xiong looked at Fang Gang with surprise, his face full of skepticism.

Fang Xiong didn't contact his youngest brother even once in a year and a half, so naturally, he had no idea about the flourishing business of "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic."

Initially, Fang Qiang's eyes lit up at his youngest brother's suggestion, thinking that if his second and third brothers each lent him two hundred thousand, and he borrowed some more elsewhere, he could buy an apartment in the city for his son. But after hearing what his second brother and his wife said, he knew they definitely wouldn't lend the money, and he felt completely disappointed.

"Fang Bai, if you have the means, would you please lend some money to your uncle?"

Fang Gang had always been close to his big brother, Fang Qiang, and couldn't bear to see him in a difficult situation. Knowing that his son had money, he turned his head to discuss with Fang Bai.

Seeing that her second brother and sister-in-law were tight-fisted, and her husband was willing to take on the responsibility, Yang Mei was somewhat reluctant deep down. She was dominant at home but still listened to her husband in public.

"No problem!"

Fang Bai saw his first cousin, Fang Wu, looking at him eagerly. He patted his shoulder and spoke earnestly, "First cousin, don't worry. Whatever amount you're short for the wedding, I've got it covered! In any case, we must ensure your wedding goes off without a hitch!"

He then said to his uncle Fang Qiang, "Uncle, wait a moment. I have some money in my car; I'll go get it for you right now!"

As he spoke, Fang Bai hurried out, entered his car, took one million in cash out of the Spatial Ring, put it into a large plastic bag, and then returned to his uncle's yard.

"Uncle, here's one million in cash. Use it first, and if it's not enough, just let me know," Fang Bai said as he placed the bag filled with cash in front of his uncle and opened it, pointing at the bundles of brand-new hundred-yuan bills with a beaming smile.

With Fang Bai's capabilities, becoming a billionaire was easy. Additionally, with his profit share from Beauty Company and given the explosive sales of the three new skincare products recently launched, Fang Bai knew that in no time, the wealth in his bank account would swiftly grow to the billions.

Fang Bai, a Martial Artist, treated Martial Dao Cultivation as his utmost priority. He accumulated worldly wealth solely to ensure a better life for his family and friends. Thus, while he referred to the one million as a loan to his uncle's family, he had no intention of ever having it repaid.

At the sight of the bag full of cash, aside from Fang Bai's family, everyone else in the courtyard was stunned.

Although Fang Xiong's family assets were also worth millions, he had never seen a million in cash, and Fang Ying, who came from poverty, was even more astonished, his mouth agape for quite a long while before he could snap it shut.

Fang Qiang felt his throat go dry. He reached for a stack of bills, looked it over to confirm it wasn't counterfeit, and asked Fang Bai with a trembling voice, "Fang Bai, where did this money come from?"

"Of course, I earned it!"

Yang Mei, seeing everyone's shocked expressions, felt indescribably thrilled. Any slight dissatisfaction she had felt before had vanished, and she proudly said, "Our Fang Bai learned some skills from a master a while ago, and he earned this money by treating people in Yanjing! Big brother, sister-in-law, rest assured and use this money—no rush to pay it back."

Fang Qiang, never imagining that his younger brother's son would lend him a hand in tough times, couldn't help his eyes welling up with tears, nodded at Fang Bai, and said, "Fang Bai, I thank you for this!"

Fang Bai quickly responded, "Big uncle, we're all family here, don't mention it!"

Seeing Fang Bai produce a million in cash, the family of three — Fang Xiong's household — were all stunned, looking at each other in disbelief.

"I always said that boy Fang Bai was smart from a young age, and he'd definitely make something of himself. Look now, he's able to make big money, right? Third brother and his wife will have better days ahead!"

Fang Bai's second aunt, Sun Xiuzhen, changed her tune incredibly fast, having earlier been all high and mighty, full of contempt and scorn, now she was all smiles.

Second Uncle Fang Xiong was also nodding incessantly, heaping praise on Fang Bai.

Second cousin Fang Xiaojuan was even more saccharine, calling him "little brother" with such endearment you'd think they were the closest of kin.

Fang Bai had no fondness for second uncle Fang Xiong and his family and couldn't be bothered with them, turning instead to chat with his little aunt Fang Ying and her family.

But Fang Gang felt that Fang Xiong, being his second brother after all, shouldn't be given the cold shoulder completely, so he made some idle conversation with them.

Having received the million cash lent by Fang Bai, Big Uncle Fang Qiang finally had some backing. He told his second and third brothers and his youngest sister to sit in the courtyard and chat, while he went with his wife Liu Caifeng and son Fang Wu to the west side of the town to the Jiang family, ready to renegotiate the marriage arrangement.

With a million in hand, buying a car or a house was no longer an issue. As for Fang Wu's job transfer, it couldn't be resolved overnight and would have to be handled gradually. If the Jiang Family continued to use this issue as an excuse to be difficult, it would be thoroughly unreasonable of them.

After Fang Qiang's family of three left, Fang Xiong and his wife Sun Xiuzhen eagerly chatted up Fang Gang and Yang Mei, seemingly desperate to bridge the gap between the two families, which had previously been quite distant.

Meanwhile, Fang Bai and Fang Yun chatted with Little Aunt Fang Ying and her family.

"Little aunt, uncle, why don't you come work at my friend's company along with Tiger? You could earn some money and buy an apartment in the city to live in. That way, you could see my parents often and look after each other."

Fang Bai knew that his little aunt's family was struggling, and now that he had the means, he wanted to give them a helping hand.

The little aunt and her husband were both in their forties and in good health. Arranging a relaxed job for them at the Beauty Company, earning a few thousand a month, should be enough for them to get by.

Chapter 248: Sister Xia is Truly a Divine Being!

Hearing what Fang Bai said, Fang Ying was quite intrigued and cautiously asked, "Nephew, can this really be done? Your aunt's husband and I can handle some manual labor, but we're no good at anything else!"

Fang Ying had her doubts about Fang Bai arranging for her son to work at a big company in the city, but after Fang Bai suddenly produced over a million in cash, those doubts vanished without a trace.

To Fang Ying, having her son work at a big company in the city with a monthly salary of several thousand was already more than enough for her. If she and her husband could also get jobs and be by their son's side every day, it would be like a pie falling from the sky.

"How about this, I'll give my friend a call first to see how she can arrange it."

Fang Bai thought about it and decided to give Xia Chenyu a heads-up.

While it was true that Xia Chenyu wouldn't have any objections to him arranging for a few people to work at Beauty Company, Xia Chenyu was the owner of Beauty Company after all. Giving her a heads-up was also a form of respect.

Fang Bai, keeping some distance from his aunt and the others, took out his cell phone and dialed Xia Chenyu.

Fang Xiaojuan, standing to the side, noticed Fang Bai using the latest model of the Fruit phone, and her eyes lit up again, thinking that this cousin she always looked down upon had truly made something of himself.

"Hey, my Boss Fang, you still remember to call your sister, huh? I thought you had completely forgotten about me!"

Xia Chenyu quickly picked up the phone, her soft and bone-melting voice coming through the receiver, making one unconsciously feel a bit warm all over.

If there was nobody around, Fang Bai would definitely have joked around with Xia Chenyu for a bit, but with his sister and aunt's family staring right at him, Fang Bai naturally wouldn't speak carelessly.

After a light cough, Fang Bai spoke earnestly, "Sister Xia, I heard that the new products your company launched have been selling really well. Congratulations!"

"It's all thanks to your secret formula!"

Xia Chenyu was clearly in a good mood when Fang Bai brought up the new products of her company, saying, "The sales of the three new products since their launch can be described as explosive. In just the first month, the sales reached ten billion, and that's without us doing any major advertising..."

The president of the company, at the other end of the phone, sounded like a quick-witted little girl, chattering non-stop. As Fang Bai imagined Xia Chenyu's expression at that moment, a smile couldn't help but appear on his lips.

"Hello, why aren't you saying anything?"

Xia Chenyu had been talking for a while but hadn't heard Fang Bai speak, so she couldn't help but ask.

"You're talking like a Gatling gun; I didn't have a chance to get a word in!"

Xia Chenyu giggled, her voice playful as she chastised, "Are you saying I ramble on too much? I don't like you anymore!"

After a pause, she continued, "You, the hands-off shopkeeper, are really at ease, not caring about anything and just waiting to collect money, but it's tough on me! Sigh, I've been running all over the place for the launch of the new products these past few months, almost to the point of death from exhaustion!"

Fang Bai responded with a laugh, "Sister Xia, you've worked hard!"

Xia Chenyu gave a 'hmpf', then said, "Just saying 'you've worked hard' will do? No way! Boss Fang, when are you coming back to Zhongzhou? Remember to take me out for a meal when you're back, as a treat for all my hard work!"

Fang Bai replied, "Sister Xia, I'm already in Zhongzhou!"

"Really?"

Xia Chenyu's tone immediately filled with delight as she asked, "When did you come back? Are you at home right now?"

"My cousin is getting married tomorrow, and my family and I have already made it back to our hometown here."

"Oh. Your hometown is in Fang Temple Town, Taihe County, under the jurisdiction of Zhongzhou City, right?"

Xia Chenyu asked.

"Yes."

Fang Bai remembered that he had mentioned to Xia Chenyu once where his hometown was, and was surprised that she still remembered it so clearly.

"I guess you're calling me now because there's something you need. Am I right?"

Xia Chenyu asked.

"Sister Xia is truly a divine figure!"

Fang Bai said with a smile, "I indeed need to ask for Sister Xia's help."

"Ah, I knew it, you wouldn't call your sister here for no reason, it's so heartbreaking... Come on, what is it?"

Xia Chenyu's tone was full of a playful grievance, like a deeply aggrieved wife abandoned at home by her husband.

Even though he knew Xia Chenyu was joking with him, Fang Bai still felt a bit embarrassed.

Xia Chenyu was not wrong; after parting in Yanjing last time, Fang Bai had indeed rarely initiated contact with Xia Chenyu, preoccupied with his own cultivation and various matters. On the other hand, it was Xia Chenyu who frequently called him, asking about issues related to cultivation and chatting about everyday life.

"This time I return to Zhongzhou, I might stay a few extra days. I'll definitely visit Sister Xia's company to see it and have a chat with Sister Xia."

Fang Bai quickly said something pleasing, to comfort President Xia at the other end of the phone brimming with playful grievances.

"Let's agree on that then!"

Xia Chenyu's voice became cheerful, clearly very happy.

"It's like this, I have a few relatives who'd like to find something to do at your place..."

Fang Bai briefly explained the situation of his aunt's family of three to Xia Chenyu, and then said, "I remember your company has a dedicated security department, right? My cousin is in his early twenties, over one meter eighty tall, and as strong as an ox, he'd definitely be up to the job of a deputy security chief! Sister Xia, what do you think..."

"Boss Fang, you are my great benefactor, let alone just placing a few relatives, even if you came to be the president, I would gladly give up my seat to you, then be your personal secretary... if there's work, the secretary does it, if there's no work, do the secretary... how about that, Boss Fang, are you tempted? Giggle..."

Xia Chenyu emphasized the words "do the secretary" specially, and after saying it, she giggled flirtatiously.

This woman is teasing me again!

Fang Bai felt his body heat up, his blood boiling, wishing he could crawl through the phone right then and there and punish this temptress on the spot.

After the last trip to Yanjing, the relationship between Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu had taken a great leap forward, as if breaking through some taboo, their friendship no longer pure.

During their calls, Fang Bai would occasionally tease Xia Chenyu, and Xia Chenyu would flirt with Fang Bai. If it weren't for the consideration that prematurely breaking Xia Chenyu's Primordial Yin Body would affect her future Martial Dao path, Fang Bai would have taken matters into his own hands long ago.

Fang Bai was now eagerly looking forward to the day when he and Xia Chenyu could both reach the Innate Realm. At that time, dual cultivation would not only be worry-free but would actually benefit them both.

"Ahem... Sister Xia, let's talk business!"

Fang Bai looked somewhat sheepishly at his aunt and the others, then said in a serious tone, "The job for my aunt and uncle is in your hands, see how you can arrange it properly..."

Chapter 249: A Man's Tears are Not Lightly Shed

"Well, I'm free right now, so I might as well go there. We can talk face to face, and I can also meet your aunt and her family. Okay, I'll hang up now and contact you again after I arrive at Fang Temple Town!"

Xia Chenyu said this and, without waiting for Fang Bai to reply, ended the call.

"This woman, she said she was busy to death just now, and now she's saying she's got nothing to do... Whatever, if she's coming, that's fine. It would be good for my aunt to meet her in advance, so they can get to know each other."

Fang Bai returned to his aunt and the others and, seeing their expectant faces, smiled and said, "The job thing should be no problem. My friend might come here later, and then I can discuss it with her in detail."

Hearing that their nephew's boss friend was coming over, Fang Ying's family felt a bit nervous, worried that they wouldn't know what to say and would make fools of themselves.

"Aunt, my friend is very approachable. You don't have to worry at all. How about this, when the time comes, I'll talk with her, and you just listen," Fang Bai said, smiling in reassurance to his aunt and her family.

Half an hour later, Uncle Fang Qiang, Aunt Liu Caifeng, and older cousin Fang Dai returned from outside, all of them wearing furious expressions.

Fang Bai, with his sharp senses and keen observation, noticed that his uncle's family of three was disheveled, and his older cousin even had footprints on him, seemingly as though they had been in a conflict.

Fang Bai's face darkened immediately as he greeted them and asked, "Uncle, did you get into a fight?"

Fang Qiang stomped his foot furiously and said, "I thought the Jiang family was just having second thoughts about the wedding, but it turned out to be that bastard Fang Kun stirring up trouble! Fang Kun, this is too much, too much!"

Seeing his uncle shaking with rage, Fang Bai frowned and said, "Uncle, calm down and tell me what happened."

"Let me do it!"

Fang Wu, his eyes red and fists clenched, calmed his emotions and then recounted the events that had occurred at the Jiang Family's home.

Turns out, Fang Wu and his parents went to the Jiang Family with the betrothal money to discuss the marriage. But no sooner had they set foot in the Jiang Family's home than the Town Mayor's son, Fang Kun, arrived with a group of cronies.

Fang Kun evidently knew Fang Wu and declared on the spot that he and Jiang Han were in love and had reached a mutual understanding. He had already proposed to Jiang Han's parents, who had agreed. Then, he threatened Fang Wu, telling him to call off the engagement immediately and to stop bothering Jiang Han in the future.

Fang Wu couldn't believe Fang Kun's words. Seizing an opportunity to speak to Jiang Han alone, he pressed her until she broke down and confessed the truth -- that Fang Kun, enamored by her beauty, wanted to marry her. Upon learning that she was already engaged to Fang Wu, he enticed her parents to call off the engagement.

Fang Kun's father was the Town Mayor of Fang Temple Town, a powerful figure who could do as he pleased. Jiang Han's parents, being honest and upright folks, couldn't withstand Fang Kun's threats and bribery, which led them to make those unreasonable demands to Fang Qiang, like buying an apartment in the city and getting a job transfer for Fang Wu to the city's schools.

They knew that Fang Qiang couldn't possibly meet these demands and hoped that he would back down from the marriage on his own.

After hearing the whole story from Jiang Han, and knowing that she still loved him, Fang Wu was so infuriated that he went to confront Fang Kun.

Accustomed to throwing his weight around with his father's power, Fang Kun didn't bother reasoning with Fang Wu and immediately had his cronies beat up Fang Wu and his parents, driving them out of the Jiang home and threatening to break Fang Wu's legs if he dared to come back, ensuring they couldn't get by in the town.

Fang Wu had wanted to charge in and fight Fang Kun to the death but was held back by his parents, who dragged him back home.

"So the Town Mayor's son can just act so arrogantly? Big brother, let's go talk some sense into that Fang Kun together! If he dares to hit someone, we'll call the police!"

Fang Gang still had some hot blood in him and, upon hearing this, his eyes rounded with rage as he spoke out indignantly.

"Bullying men and oppressing women, is there no law anymore?"

Fang Ying was also very angry.

"Uncle, is that Fang Kun still at the Jiang Family's place? Take us over; I want to give him a beating to let off steam for you!"

Li Hu had a combative spirit deep in his bones, and as he spoke, he had already rolled up his sleeves.

The crowd was riled up, but only the family of three from Fang Xiong stayed silent.

The Town Mayor's son, they definitely didn't dare to provoke, especially with Fang Xiaojuan working in the town government. Her future promotions might very well depend on the Town Mayor's support. Offending the Mayor's son was tantamount to cutting off her own career path.

"Big brother, the Town Mayor's son is not someone we can afford to mess with! In my opinion, you should call off this marriage! There are plenty of women out there; we can always find another one for Fang Wu later on."

Fang Xiong advised.

"Aside from Jiang Han, I won't marry anyone else!"

Fang Wu, a primary school teacher, usually quite gentle and well-mannered, now revealed his stubborn side, his face flushed red as he yelled loudly.

"My dear nephew, you're a teacher at the town's primary school. If you offend the Town Mayor, you'd better watch out or you might not even be able to keep your job! Ah, those who don't listen to their elders will suffer right before their eyes!"

Fang Xiong shook his head, the very picture of 'I've said my piece; it's up to you to listen or not.'

Fired up with anger, Fang Qiang was ready to take Fang Xiong and Fang Gang's families back to the Jiang Family to confront Fang Kun. But after hearing his younger brother Fang Xiong's words, it was as if a bucket of cold water had been poured over him, leaving him chilled to the bone.

His brother had a point. If they made a big fuss and the Town Mayor took offense, it was hard to say if his son's job would be secure, and without a job, finding a wife in the future would be even harder.

After hesitating for a moment, Fang Qiang sighed and said to his son, "Fang Wu, maybe... let's just forget about it..."

Previously, in his impetuous anger, Fang Wu had disregarded everything, intent on confronting Fang Kun, even ready to risk his life. But now, having calmed down and thought about the potential consequences of offending the Town Mayor, he suddenly clutched his head in his hands and crouched on the ground, beginning to sob like a child.

Just then, a hand landed on Fang Wu's shoulder and gently patted it a few times.

"Big cousin, is Fang Kun still at the Jiang Family's?"

The icy tone of Fang Bai's voice reached Fang Wu's ears.

Fang Wu nodded, continuing to cry.

"Men do not shed tears lightly; crying won't solve any problems. If you're a man, wipe your tears and come with me to the Jiang Family's place to take back what's yours!"

As Fang Bai spoke, he strode out.

Fang Wu glanced at Fang Bai's retreating back, stopped crying, and suddenly stood up with a resolved and determined look in his eyes. He quickly wiped away the tears on his face and hurriedly caught up with Fang Bai.

The family of Fang Gang and the family of Fang Qiang, seeing this, scrambled to follow.

Fang Ying and her husband exchanged a look and then followed suit.

As Li Hu left, he casually picked up a wooden stick from the yard, ready to use it in case a fight broke out.

Fang Xiong and his wife and daughter looked at each other. Although they had decided not to get involved, since everyone else had left, it would be awkward if they didn't at least go and watch from a distance. They could just stand far enough away to avoid being seen by the Town Mayor's son.

Chapter 250: The Profligate Evil Youngster

Fang Qiang's family and the Jiang Family lived in the same town, which was only a ten-minute journey away.

By the time Fang Wu and Fang Bai arrived at the Jiang residence with a group of people following them, they bumped into Fang Kun and others just about to leave, with Jiang Han and her parents following behind, apparently seeing them off.

From a distance, Fang Wu saw Jiang Han's eyes red and swollen, as if she had just cried her heart out, and he couldn't help but feel a pang of heartache, rushing forward quickly, wanting to take Jiang Han into his arms to comfort her.

"Damn it, not this guy again!"

Fang Kun, upon seeing Fang Wu, who had only left a while ago, running back accompanied by a bunch of people, burst into an angry laugh, stretched out his arm and blocked Fang Wu's path.

"Fang Wu, I told you before, come to the Jiang's again and I'll break your legs, are you deaf or what? Tsk tsk, bringing so many people, do you want to fight? Oh, I'm so scared!"

Although Fang Kun's mouth said "I'm so scared," where was there even a slight trace of fear in his expression?

Among Fang Kun's entourage, which included a few fair-weather friends, were two Martial Arts School graduates, each capable of taking on several men, while Fang Wu's group, despite having larger numbers, seemed like pushovers to Fang Kun, except for the tall and muscular Li Hu.

Furthermore, Fang Kun knew people at the town police station; if he really couldn't overpower Fang Wu's group, one phone call would bring the cops over.

Are Fang Wu and his crew so bold as to confront the police?

Fang Wu, seeing the several muscular men standing behind Fang Kun, knew that if a fight were to break out, his side stood no chance; out of sheer frustration, his gaze involuntarily turned to Fang Bai.

In Fang Wu's eyes, Fang Bai, who had driven back to his hometown in a sedan and casually taken out a million in cash, was now a capable man, and he had begun to regard Fang Bai as his rock.

Fang Bai gave Fang Wu an assured smile, then walked up to Fang Kun, looked him straight in the eye, and asked coldly, "Was it you who said just now that if my big cousin comes to the Jiang's again, you'd break his legs?"

There was a disdainful and contemptuous look in Fang Bai's eyes, as if he were looking down on a lowly insect, which made Fang Kun feel quite uncomfortable. He sized up Fang Bai from top to bottom and then spat on the ground with a "Ptooeey," saying sarcastically, "And what are you supposed to be?"

"Heh..."

Fang Bai chuckled, then raised his hand and struck towards Fang Kun's face.

Fang Kun could clearly see Fang Bai aiming for his face and desperately wanted to dodge, but he found himself frozen in place as if under a spell, unable to move an inch.

Slap—

A crisp sound echoed in everyone's ears as Fang Bai's palm landed firmly on Fang Kun's face, leaving five bright red finger marks.

Everyone on the scene was stunned; no one had expected the seemingly gentle and refined Fang Bai to initiate a strike, slapping the son of the Town Mayor.

Fang Xiong and his family, who were watching from a distance, were even more shocked.

"Crazy... he's gone crazy... That's the son of Town Chief Fang..."

Fang Xiaojuan's eyes widened as she mumbled to herself, as if Fang Bai's action against the mayor's son would lead to unimaginable severe consequences.

Fang Kun was stunned by the slap, his hand pressed against his cheek, his expression blank as he stared at Fang Bai, at a loss for words.

Seeing this, the few sycophants behind Fang Kun were enraged, swearing as they advanced towards Fang Bai, ready for a group beating.

Li Hu let out a low growl, rushed forward with a stick in hand, and stood shoulder to shoulder with Fang Bai, emanating an air of "one man stands in the path, none shall pass."

Fang Wu was a teacher, who generally disliked fighting, but after being bullied by Fang Kun, he felt the need to let out his frustration. Seeing his cousin Fang Bai clashing with Fang Kun, he knew the matter couldn't end well, and the adrenaline rushed to his head. Clenching his fists, he rushed to Fang Bai's side, ready for Fang Kun's assault.

As for the risk of losing his job, Fang Wu didn't consider that at all anymore.

The three cousins stood shoulder to shoulder, united against their common enemy, their presence imposing. For a moment, they even managed to intimidate Fang Kun's fair-weather friends.

"You fucking dare to hit me?"

Having regained his senses, Fang Kun's expression was ferocious, his face twisted as his eyes gleamed with malice. He bellowed and swung his right fist, aiming a blow at Fang Bai's face.

Although Fang Kun had never learned martial arts, he had been skipping school and getting into fights since he was a youth. Over the years, he had actually developed some formidable combat skills. Usually, two or three average men were no match for him.

That slap from Fang Bai had thoroughly enraged Fang Kun, and so he threw his punch with all his might. If an ordinary person were struck by that punch, their nasal bone would surely shatter.

Fang Kun's punch was too fast, and neither Li Hu nor Fang Wu could intervene in time.

Among all the people present, only Fang Gang, Yang Mei, and Fang Yun were certain that Fang Bai would be unharmed.

With Fang Bai's help, the three of them had undergone Marrow Cleansing, which made their physiques and sensory acuity far surpass that of ordinary people.

To others, Fang Kun's punch seemed fast and ruthless, but to the three family members, it was as slow as an old lady performing Tai Chi Fist, posing no threat at all.

It wasn't just Fang Bai – any one of them could easily take down Fang Kun.

The family of three smiled, as if they could already see the forthcoming misfortune that awaited Fang Kun.

Indeed, Fang Kun's fierce and powerful punch did not land on Fang Bai's nose; instead, it was firmly caught by Fang Bai's outstretched right palm.

"The mere glimmer of a grain of rice daring to compete with the splendor of the bright moon! Truly overestimating oneself!"

With a cold smile, Fang Bai softly uttered those words and then slightly closed his hand that was gripping Fang Kun's fist.

Ah—

Fang Kun felt as if Fang Bai's palm were made of steel. Even that slight tightening caused him excruciating pain, making him grit his teeth, sweat profusely, and let out a scream like a pig being slaughtered.

He struggled to pull his fist back, but found that he could not move it at all.

This was just a small punishment from Fang Bai in response to Fang Kun's earlier insults.

If this had been before his reincarnation and return to the Cultivation World or the Immortal Realm, with someone insulting him like that, Fang Bai would have already punched them, or thrown a Spiritual Artifact, blowing the offender to ashes.

However, in this world, Fang Bai's current strength was not yet sufficient to disregard all rules and laws, and he did not want to cause trouble for his family and friends. Therefore, as long as others did not cross his bottom line, he was not keen on a killing spree.

To Fang Bai, this incident with Fang Kun was just a minor matter, not worth mentioning. He planned to teach Fang Kun a lesson so that he would not dare provoke his uncle's family again in the future.

If Fang Kun had become submissive and begged for mercy at this point, Fang Bai might have let him go, and the matter would have been settled. But Fang Kun's mind was consumed with hatred, and he was not willing to let bygones be bygones.

"You little bastard, you better let me go, or I'll make sure you can't walk out of Fang Temple Town!"

Enduring the pain, Fang Kun glared at Fang Bai, his tone filled with loathing as he spat out the words.

"Is that so?"

Fang Bai smiled once again as his right palm, still holding Fang Kun's fist, suddenly tightened even more.