

History's Strongest Son-In-Law - History's Strongest Son-In-Law Living With The In-Laws

Chapter 36: First Time In History

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

"Heavens is blessing me with a huge credit!"

Tian Heng's foster son, Tian Nineteen, as the manager of the casino, felt that his good luck had struck.

He gave the cashier of the casino a glance, and the cashier ran out immediately to tell Tian Heng about the good news.

Meanwhile, Tian Heng was in Xuanwu City discussing matters with Master Xu.

"I thought about playing a few rounds suddenly and did not bring money with me, can I borrow some?" asked Shen Lang.

"Sure, sure..." Tian Nineteen was even more excited.

He was worried that Shen Lang would not borrow money. It would be best if he loaned 10,000 gold coins and lost all of them.

Then, Tian Heng could head to the Palace of the Earl to ask for the loan. The Earl would then beat Shen Lang to death.

"Can I borrow 1000 gold coins for a start?" asked Shen Lang, "What's the interest?"

"You are an extremely important VIP, the interest is 10% annually. It won't add up," said Tian Nineteen.

The interest was considered extremely low. Even if there was no interest involved, Tian Nineteen would be willing to loan Shen Lang money.

How else would he be able to sabotage Shen Lang?

Anyway, the money would not be able to leave the casino.

"Alright, then write the loan receipt and state the interest and terms clearly," said Shen Lang.

"Sure, I will listen to you," said Tian Nineteen.

When the loan receipt was written, 1000 gold coins were placed in front of Shen Lang. Without any hesitation, he exchanged them into chips.

Tian Nineteen said slyly, "Young master Shen, what would you like to play?"

Shen Lang said, "What's the easiest game?"

"Big or small," said Tian Nineteen.

"Alright, then I shall play big or small!" said Shen Lang.

Tian Nineteen immediately brought Shen Lang to the table of the game.

Then, Shen Lang started enjoying the treatment of a celebrity; many of the customers had also stopped their games and came to watch.

"Is this Shen Lang?"

"He was the live-in son-in-law of the Xu Family before becoming the live-in son-in-law of the Palace of the Earl."

"He is indeed handsome!"

"I think I am handsome too, why can't I become the son-in-law of the Palace of the Earl?"

"I have known you for ages but didn't realize that you are such a dishonest person. When you pee, did the toilet bowl not tell you the truth?"

"Shen Lang dares to come to the casino; is he courting death? Whether he wins or loses, the Earl would probably cripple him!"

Shen Lang ignored all these discussions. He said to the game master, "Let's start!"

Tian Nineteen nodded.

While dealing with a useless person like Shen Lang, he did not even bother to cheat.

The game master behind the table began to shake the dice. After about 30 seconds, he placed the cup on the table.

"Big or small?"

The sum of the three dice would be considered small if it was lower than nine and big if it was greater than nine.

Shen Lang used his x-ray vision and quickly saw the number inside.

13!

“Big!” Shen Lang threw all his chips into the betting pool.

Instantly, everyone became excited.

Impressive, he took such a massive bet in the first round?

Shen Lang had taken those 1000 gold coins from a loan, and he placed all of them into this bet!

The other customers all stopped playing and watched while holding their breaths.

It was too exhilarating.

“The bet is placed on big,” said the game master.

“Open, open, open...”

The game master opened the cup.

13!

Shen Lang won!

“He actually won.”

“Shen Lang is fortunate. He won 1000 gold coins in his first bet.”

The onlooking gamblers were extremely excited.

Tian Nineteen’s expression did not change at all, and he continued smiling.

Everything depended on luck. That was nothing.

To be honest, Tian Nineteen was worried that Shen Lang would lose during his first bet since he might stop playing because of that.

He would only continue playing if he won a few consecutive rounds.

Winning the first round was the start of the misery of a gambler.

The second round began. It was still the game of ‘Big or small.’

The gamemaster began to shake the dice again. He looked earnest as he shook the dice for a minute before slamming it on the table.

Of course, that was only to intensify the mood and make the gambler feel pressured.

However, to Shen Lang, it would be the same even if he shook it for a hundred minutes.

Shen Lang used his x-ray vision again. It was still big: 15.

“Big!”

Shen Lang threw all his chips worth 2000 gold coins into the betting pool.

This time, everyone in the room held their breaths.

Was the live-in son-in-law of the Earl insane? Why did he place such a huge bet?

Tian Nineteen’s expression changed slightly.

If Shen Lang won again, that would be 4000 gold coins.

To Tian Heng, it was considered an enormous sum.

Although the casino was extremely grand, the monthly profits did not exceed 2000 gold coins.

4000 gold coins were equivalent to ten million yuan in modern China[1.This amount is calculated based on the price of gold, small adjustments were made].

The gamemaster’s hand began to tremble.

“Open, open, open...”

The gamemaster opened the cover quickly.

15, big!

Shen Lang won again!

4000 gold coins!

All the onlookers were extremely excited.

4000 gold coins was an extraordinary amount.

It was enough money for them to live for the rest of their lives.

Meanwhile, Tian Nineteen’s expression changed drastically.

Shen Lang was really crazy. No matter the amount, he would throw in everything.

Moreover, his luck was pretty good. He managed to win both rounds.

This was the largest amount that the casino had lost in three years.

For ordinary gamblers, it was already sporadic to see them lose 400 to 500 gold coins. They were usually wealthy foreign gamblers.

They could not let Shen Lang win anymore. Tian Nineteen would now manage the game personally.

Once he goes down, Shen Lang would definitely lose!

Tian Nineteen smiled, "Come, come, come, Young Master Shen, I will throw the dice for you personally."

He was an expert in throwing dice. He could make the sum either big or small, depending on his wish.

That was nothing.

The better thing was that he could change the number on the dice after they were placed on the table.

This was a skill that only Tian Nineteen, amongst the crew of the entire casino, knew. Therefore, he became Tian Heng's foster child and the manager of the casino.

...

Shen Lang could understand that Tian Nineteen was about to cheat.

"No, no, no..." Shen Lang smiled, "I suddenly don't feel like playing this game anymore. It all depends on luck and does not depend on skills at all. I want to play pai gow."

Tian Nineteen smiled, "Sure, you are the young master, you can choose whatever game you like. Let's play pai gow then."

How could he let Shen Lang leave like that?

If his foster father knew that Shen Lang did not lose terribly but won 4000 gold coins, he would definitely kill him.

His gambling skills were extremely high, or he would not become Tian Heng's foster child and the expert of the casino.

Throughout Xuanwu City, nobody managed to defeat Tian Nineteen in terms of gambling skills.

Especially in a game like pai gow, which involved skills, Tian Nineteen could make sure Shen Lang would lose.

Therefore, he definitely had to win.

The game of 'big or small' depended on pure luck.

However, pai gow involved some level of skills. At least it involved judging the opponent's cards if one should continue betting as well as their strategy.

Anyway, Tian Nineteen had absolute confidence that he could thrash Shen Lang with his eyes closed.

Tian Nineteen could quickly tell the number from the back of the cards since every card had a mark. However, the mark was hidden extremely well.

Shen Lang said he wanted to play this game. He was basically courting death.

Tian Nineteen had to make Shen Lang lose so that he could continue to loan the young master money and owe them 10,000 gold coins.

In that case, to not repay the casino, the Palace of the Earl could only kick Shen Lang out and cut off all connections with him.

Of course, that meant that Shen Lang would definitely die.

...

In this world, the rules of pai gow were straightforward. It was way easier than that on Earth.

Basically, one had to put 32 cards of pai gow onto the table facing downwards.

Everyone could pick two cards, and the winner would be decided by the definition of big and small!

They did not have to shake the dice to draw the cards. One could take any two cards one wanted before comparing.

The pair of 3+9 was the biggest hand one could get. Although each card's individual value was small, once grouped, their value became huge.

Following that, the combination of two cards that combined to a total of 12 was the biggest, followed by two cards of 2.

The rules need not be explained in detail since they were not necessary anyway.

When the game was about to begin, Shen Lang suddenly said, "I don't trust your cards, send someone to get a new deck of cards. I will only continue after I check them!"

After hearing this, Tian Nineteen frowned slightly.

The deck they were using now had a hidden mark behind each card. He could tell what the card was from the back.

"If that's not alright, then I shall leave. Please give me 4000 worth of gold coins." Shen Lang stood up and was about to leave.

"Hold on, hold on..." Tian Nineteen said, "Sure, we will buy new cards."

How could he let Shen Lang leave like this? If Shen Lang left, he would be doomed.

Then, Tian Nineteen instructed a staff member, "Go and buy ten new decks of pai gow, remember not to buy them in our shop."

The person ran out and returned with ten new decks of pai gow.

When he returned, Shen Lang used his x-ray vision to check. Six of the new decks of cards did not have any markings.

He chose the ordinary deck of pai gow, which did not have any secret markings. The inner markings and density were very even, and it was impossible to cheat.

"This deck then." Shen Lang pointed to that deck of cards.

"Sure."

Tian Nineteen was fine. He was the best gambler in Xuanwu City, and nobody had defeated him before. Even if he did not cheat, he could definitely win!

The game between the two of them officially began!

"Why won't you take your cards first," said Shen Lang.

Tian Nineteen nodded and took two cards from the 32-card deck.

Shen Lang used his x-ray vision and saw his cards effortlessly.

Tian Nineteen's luck was not bad. He got two clubs, it was the sixth biggest amongst all the combinations.

"100 gold coins." Tian Nineteen placed his bet.

Since Tian Nineteen had the sixth biggest combination, Shen Lang picked the fifth-biggest combination.

Moreover, he placed the cards on the table without looking.

“1000 gold coins!” Shen Lang placed his bet.

He really had the charisma of a gambling god.

Everyone gasped in shock when they saw Shen Lang placing his bet of 1000 gold coins without even checking the cards.

He was really a wealthy gambler. They had never seen someone play so big before.

Tian Nineteen hesitated slightly. His cards were excellent, and it was worth betting.

“I will bet 1000 gold coins too!”

“Open!”

Both of them opened their cards. Shen Lang won!

Tian Nineteen started to break into a cold sweat!

However...

That was just the beginning!

What followed after that was his nightmare!

An unprecedented nightmare...

That was because, for every round, Shen Lang did not check his cards and placed 1000 gold coins as his bet.

Then...

He kept winning and winning and winning!

He won until Tian Nineteen trembled and shuddered. He was giddy, and he questioned his life.

What on Earth...

This is absurd... absurd!

...

Chapter 37: Shen Lang Impressed the Audience, Tian Heng was Stunned!

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

Tian Nineteen was very sure that the deck of cards had no secret markings, and Shen Lang could not have possibly cheated.

However, Shen Lang won every single round. What... What kind of luck was that?

He merely just entered the Palace of the Earl; could he be so lucky?

The main point was that the pretty boy did not even look at the cards once and immediately threw in 1000 gold coins as a bet. Occasionally, he would be stubborn and throw in 2000 gold coins at once.

Where did he get the bravery from?

Who gave him that bravery?

“This is my casino, why are you winning like you are sweeping money into your pocket with your eyes closed?”

Shen Lang would definitely win because he could see every single card clearly.

He won effortlessly.

Meanwhile, the gamblers were fixated on the game!

Impressive! They have never seen such an exciting game before.

Of course, they saw cases where gamblers won a few rounds or more than ten rounds in one go before.

That was because anything could happen in a casino.

However, winning eight rounds effortlessly like Shen Lang, especially winning more than 10,000 gold coins, was an unprecedented event.

He was really too impressive!

Finally, when Shen Lang won the ninth round, Tian Nineteen was about to break down. He was drenched in a cold sweat, and his hands were frozen.

“How is this possible? I am the gambling god of Xuanwu City, how can I lose?”

“I am dead... I am dead...”

He kept mumbling while Shen Lang already won 13,000 gold coins. In addition to what he won earlier, minus the 1000 gold coins he had loaned, Shen Lang won 16,000 gold coins in total.

“Shen Lang, you are too much!”

‘You did not bring any money, and you are winning 16,000?!’

That was an extraordinary amount. Tian Nineteen’s foster father would slaughter him.

“I-I am suddenly feeling dizzy... I will leave first...” Tian Nineteen said with his trembling voice.

He really could not lose anymore.

Initially, he thought that he would not lose anymore, but he was unwilling to stop.

After losing, he would want to win and earn back his loss; he tried to sabotage Shen Lang.

Unknowingly, he lost 16,000 gold coins. That was almost the entire year’s profit from the casino.

If he continued to lose, he would die!

When Tian Nineteen got up, he stumbled and almost fainted. Then, he left the gambling table immediately and ran to the Xu family.

He had to report this to his foster father immediately.

The situation was out of control; he would be doomed!

However, when Tian Nineteen left, that was the beginning of disaster for the casino.

After that, Shen Lang swept every single gambling table.

He won every single game in the casino, causing the staff and gamemasters to quake in fear.

Meanwhile, the gamblers were going crazy.

They had never seen such a dramatic scene before; it was too intense and exhilarating!

Shen Lang watched them and said, “Why are all of you standing and watching? Bet along with me!”

The few hundred gamblers were initially stumped but went totally crazy afterward.

The few gamblers followed Shen Lang in the betting.

They followed Shen Lang in his bet.

The casino's doomsday had come!

Initially, Shen Lang was the only one winning. Now, the entire casino's customers were winning.

The only party who lost was Tian Heng's casino.

"Ah..."

Another gamemaster could no longer take the stress... He clutched his chest and fainted with foam coming out of his mouth while his entire body spasmed.

"Gambling god... gambling god... gambling god..."

"All hail Young master Shen..."

The entire casino was going crazy; Shen Lang became the hero of a few hundred gamblers.

Initially, no matter whether Tian Nineteen or the manager of the casino was present, they could immediately stop the games and close the casino down temporarily.

However, Tian Nineteen had already fled due to fear and went to report to Tian Heng. He was in a rush to announce what had happened.

Therefore, Shen Lang swept all the games along with the few hundred gamblers.

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In the courtyard of the Xu family, Tian Heng was laughing out loud.

"Hahaha..." Tian Heng said, "Do you know? That day, Shen Lang told me to break my own arms and break Thirteen's legs. He even swore that he would do that if I wouldn't; don't all of you think it is hilarious?"

Master Xu said, "He said that? After he became the live-in son-in-law of the Earl, was he becoming really brazen?"

Tian Heng said, "Indeed, I don't dare to do anything to him once he becomes the live-in son-in-law of the Earl. Even when he came to extort, I could only cut my meat. If he wants me to sever my arms, he must be daydreaming. The situation now is clear. The monarch wants to seize the power of the old generation of aristocrats, and the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu cannot meddle in regional affairs. While I make no mistake in the territory of the Palace of the Earl, nobody can do anything to me."

He seemed to have bragged a little too much.

If not for the City Lord and the Governor who backed him up, he would ask Shen Lang for forgiveness long ago.

The night Shen Lang married the daughter of the Earl, Tian Heng gave Zhang Pu a large sum of benefits. That allowed him to get protection from the Zhang family and hence became fearless.

“Initially, after marrying into the Palace of the Earl, we did not dare to touch him even though we were itching to kill him,” said Tian Heng, “However, I didn’t expect this useless brat to court his own death. He came to our casino.”

Master Xu said, “Cocky bastard.”

Tian Heng said, “What is my casino? It is a demon’s cave! Even if Shen Lang is an expert, he will lose terribly. If he doesn’t lose tens of thousands of gold coins, I will not let him off.”

Master Xu said, “Once he loses more than 10,000 gold coins, we don’t have to take action. The Earl of Xuanwu would chase him out and sever all ties with him.”

Tian Heng said, “Or, he might be beaten to death! No matter what, Shen Lang is doomed. He sought his own death; what an easy game!”

Master Xu said, “A useless person is doomed to be useless. He will never be able to accomplish anything! Let’s wait for the Earl to punish him and beat him to death!”

However, at this moment...

Tian Nineteen rushed in. His face was drained of blood, and he looked extremely pale.

He fell to his knees and spoke with a trembling voice, “Foster father... foster father, something bad has happened!”

However, he realized to his horror that he could no longer make any sounds. It was like his throat was stuffed with something.

Tian Heng never liked Tian Nineteen since he was weak in martial arts and was not cruel enough. He could never match up to Tian Thirteen, his favorite foster son.

However, Tian Nineteen was excellent in gambling and was extremely useful since he could manage the casino on behalf of Tian Nineteen. That was the reason why he became one of Tian Heng’s foster sons.

At this moment, when Tian Heng saw how Tian Nineteen was panting heavily, he raged and scolded Tian Nineteen, “Why are you behaving like this? You only know how to mess around with women! Why are you so weak? You are panting like a dog after a few kilometers and can’t even speak properly. How embarrassing!”

Tian Nineteen heard that and immediately kowtowed to Tian Heng.

Master Xu said, "Brother Tian Heng, your foster son is really filial."

Tian Heng said, "Why are you pretending now? Where's Shen Lang? Have you settled the business with him? How much did he lose? If it's lesser than 10,000 gold coins, I will tear you apart."

Tian Heng had calculated that 10,000 gold coins were the limit of the Palace of the Earl.

After all, their family was a hundred-year-aristocrat and had quite some reserves.

However, the Palace of the Earl also lacked money as they lost 80 percent of their wealth when the land was sealed.

Today, the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu had to support an army of nearly 3000 soldiers with the remaining 20 percent of their wealth. The level of stress must be high.

Moreover, the Earl of Xuanwu loved the citizens and nearly did not exploit the citizens at all.

Although the economic status of the Palace of the Earl was a secret, based on Master Xu and Tian Heng's calculations, the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu should not be making any profits and was surviving on past reserves.

10,000 gold coins were considered quite a considerable sum for the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu.

If Shen Lang lost this sum of money, he would either be evicted by the Earl or would be beaten to death.

When he heard the arrogant claims of his foster father, Tian Nineteen was overwhelmed with fear and did not dare to speak at all.

If he said that Shen Lang won 16,000 gold coins, his foster father would probably kill him.

Master Xu said, "Brother Tian Heng, what if the Palace of the Earl doesn't pay up?"

Tian Heng sneered, "Shen Lang loaned the money from us to gamble. The loan receipt had it written clearly. Moreover, Shen Lang came to my casino willingly! I didn't force him or lure him. Many people were there as witnesses. Even if this issue is brought up to the governor, I will be able to defend myself."

Master Xu said, "In that case, you would have completely offended the Palace of the Earl."

Tian Heng sighed; he did not want that to happen too.

After all, he was the leader of a gang; although he had the official position amongst the civilian army of Xuanwu City, he was still the leader of a gang and had many past records.

Although they were running under the new governance system, the Earl of Xuanwu, as one of the old generations of aristocrats, did not dare to interfere in regional affairs. If it was in the past, Tian Heng would definitely be afraid to offend the Palace of the Earl.

Even now, Tian Heng did not want to mess around with the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu.

However, he had no choice. Shen Lang came with full force, and he was forced to take action.

He definitely could not possibly break Tian Thirteen's legs. If he did that, he would no longer be able to live in Xuanwu City guilt-free

Tian Heng would never articulate these feelings.

Instead, he said gently, "The City Lord and the governors are all backing me up now." Tian Heng said this with a sharp tone, making him appear extremely patriotic. "The country is promoting the new governance system, and that is the way to defeat the Palace of the Earl. Now that we are most likely the winner, why should we be afraid of offending them?"

"That's right," said Master Xu, "Why was the new government's campaign unable to continue? It is all because of the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu, who is in the way. We can make use of Shen Lang as a breakthrough. The Palace of the Earl is really unlucky to have Shen Lang as their son-in-law."

Tian Heng laughed.

However, he was the only one who knew how painful it was.

That was because he had utterly offended the Palace of the Earl, and to let Zhang Chong back him up, he paid tens of thousands of gold coins every year. That was even more than half of his income.

Five casinos, 35 percent of profits had to be paid to Zhang Chong, the governor.

The person who handled the money was Xu Guangyun, the person standing in front of him.

Master Xu said, "Rest assured, brother Tian, Governor Zhang Chong will definitely stand by your side for this matter. You can go ahead and ask the Palace of the Earl for money with Shen Lang's loan receipt!"

Of course, Tian Heng knew that he became the weapon that the governor used to fight against the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu. However, he had no other choice.

"Alright!" Tian Heng laughed out loud, "I don't have many skills, but I have courage. Later on, I will go to the Palace of the Earl with the loan receipt to ask for money. I would like to see the expression on the Earl's face and how Shen Lang is going to die."

"Hahaha..." Master Xu laughed loudly, "That brat doesn't deserve anything more than that."

Tian Heng asked, “Tian Nineteen, have you caught your breath? Tell me, how much did Shen Lang lose? How much does he owe us?”

After a few minutes, Tian Nineteen finally caught his breath and could talk. When he heard Tian Heng’s question, he replied directly, “16,000 gold coins.”

“Hahahaha...” Tian Heng laughed loudly, “Excellent, excellent!”

Master Xu was also over the moon. “16,000 gold coins, that’s a huge sum. Shen Lang is dead meat! The Earl is really blind to find someone like Shen Lang as his son-in-law. Too bad!”

Tian Heng got up. “Come, let’s go to the Palace of the Earl to ask them to pay up.”

Master Xu said, “Rest assured, the City Lord will send three officials with you. If the Earl decides to kill Shen Lang, then it’s alright. If he doesn’t, we shall continue exerting pressure. With Sir Zhang Chong, we have every right to do it. It is reasonable to collect money from someone who owes us.”

Tian Heng said, “Nineteen, where’s Shen Lang’s loan receipt?”

Tian Nineteen felt chills down his spine. At this moment, anything he did was incorrect.

He slammed his forehead on the ground, and blood flowed from his wound.

“Foster father, Shen Lang did not lose 16,000 gold coins. We... we are the ones who lost 16,000 gold coins.”

After he said that, Tian Nineteen nearly fainted.

However, Tian Heng was still smiling, although he was in a daze as he froze.

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Chapter 38: Shen Lang Slaps, Tian Heng Goes Crazy

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

He was caught off guard.

He... he must have misheard it?

Were his ears playing a trick on him?

Then, Tian Heng looked at Master Xu.

Master Xu was also in shock.

“What did you say?” asked Tian Heng, “So, did Shen Lang lose or win money?”

Tian Nineteen said, “Shen Lang won. He won 16,000 gold coins!”

That was clear.

Instantly!

Tian Heng felt as though he was struck by lightning. He couldn’t react to that.

16,000 gold coins?

That was an astronomical number!

That was the earnings his casino made in a year.

Moreover, the total profits of the other four casinos could not even match up to that single casino’s earnings.

Now, Shen Lang won everything?

Instead of sabotaging Shen Lang, he was the one who was going to get skinned.

How... How was that possible?

Tian Nineteen’s gambling skills were insanely good, and nobody could defeat him in the entire Xuanwu City.

Moreover, in the casino, Tian Nineteen owned everything. He could win with both his eyes closed.

Even if a gambling god came to visit, the gambling god would still lose miserably.

No matter how well Tian Heng’s imagination was, he would not know that Shen Lang had an x-ray vision and could see through all the cards.

“How did you do that? You lost to a useless brat?” Tian Nineteen grabbed Tian Nineteen’s neck and shouted.

He lifted him off the ground by holding his neck.

Tian Nineteen could not breathe. He said as tears flowed out of his eyes, “I don’t know! I thought it was crazy too. Shen Lang won every single round.”

Tian Heng said, “He cheated?”

“No, that is why it is crazy,” Tian Nineteen cried.

Tian Heng immediately looked at Master Xu and spoke with a trembling voice, “Brother Xu, didn’t you say that Shen Lang was a useless brat? Why is he so good at gambling?”

Tian Heng’s face was spasming.

“Why isn’t this bastard dead yet?” roared Master Xu.

At this moment, Xu Qianqian walked out. “Father, Leader Tian, there’s no use raging here. Why not head over to the casino to take a look? Then, we can work out a plan there.”

That was right.

Tian Heng got up and left immediately to his casino. He did not want to delay any further.

What did Shen Lang do to his casino?

Then, Xu Qianqian’s voice could be heard from behind.

“Leader Tian, don’t forget that the City Lord and the Governor are backing you up!”

After hearing this, Tian Heng felt slightly more assured.

That was right! With these two supporters, he could still make a comeback.

He immediately got onto his horse and rushed to the casino.

After 15 minutes, his horse had reached the grand looking casino.

At that moment, the entire casino was packed with people.

When they saw Tian Heng, the gamblers and onlookers swarmed towards him and said, “Leader Tian is back! He can make the decisions, pay up, pay up!”

The handsome Shen Lang walked out and smiled at Tian Heng, “How are you, Leader Tian? You came at the right time. I won 19,000 gold coins from your casino. Please exchange the coins now.”

“Oh yes, these few hundred people also placed their bets with me and won 7,000 gold coins. Please exchange the coins for them too.”

What?

Wasn’t it 16,000 gold coins?

Why did it become 19,000 gold coins?

These few hundred gamblers also won 7,000 gold coins with Shen Lang?

So in total, the amount was 26,000?

When he heard this, Tian Heng felt dizzy and almost fainted.

26,000 gold coins!

To be honest, that was more than half of his savings.

That was right, he earned a considerable sum.

However, he did not earn all of that for himself. He had to split the money with many people.

Moreover, he had to account for a few hundred people, and that was a sizable expenditure.

His casino lost 26,000 gold coins. If he had to exchange it now, he would become... almost bankrupt.

However, if he did not exchange the coins, his casino's reputation would be gone. In the future, nobody would come to gamble again.

Tian Heng finally regained his senses after a while and could finally see Shen Lang's handsome face clearly.

Why was this bastard so cruel?

The day before Shen Lang threatened Tian Heng, Tian Heng did not really care.

He was thinking, what could Shen Lang do to him? Tian Heng thought about many methods, but all of those seemed too deep and incredible.

However, he did not expect Shen Lang to attack him using such a direct method.

Did he cheat to play the blame game?

In the past, Shen Lang would have had his legs broken and chased out before he even won 100 gold coins.

However, now, he was the young master of the Palace of the Earl; nobody in Xuanwu City would dare to touch him.

At this moment, not only were the four warriors guarding Shen Lang behind him, but the few hundred gamblers were also protecting him.

What a despicable man Shen Lang was.

Winning by himself was not sufficient; he had to drag a few hundred gamblers with him.

Now, Shen Lang became their hero. The few hundred gamblers would stand by Shen Lang's side to get their money.

"Pay up," said Shen Lang, "Gang Leader Tian Heng, don't tell me that you are trying to find a way not to pay up?"

Tian Heng's face spasmed. He had the impulse to slap Shen Lang's face.

However, he did not dare to do so.

He could not do so!

Afterward, Tian Heng's expression changed drastically, smiled vibrantly, and said, "Young Master Shen, shall we head in and talk?"

Shen Lang thought for a while before nodding and said, "Sure."

Then, Tian Heng and Shen Lang walked into the casino.

The few hundred gamblers were furious. What if Shen Lang and Tian Heng reach a secretive deal? They would be cheated then!

"No, you can't leave! You can't leave! You can only leave after paying up," the gamblers shouted and demanded.

Usually, they would scurry off like rats when they see Tian Heng. However, with the power of their numbers and Shen Lang, the young master of the Palace of the Earl, on their side, they were no longer afraid.

Moreover, gamblers would sacrifice their lives to get money.

When gamblers won money, they were not afraid of anything.

Shen Lang said, "Rest assured, I will not betray anyone. I will make sure all of you are satisfied at the end of the day."

"Yes, trust, Young Master Shen."

"Young Master Shen is the Young Master of the Palace of the Earl! He will definitely not trick us!"

"Young master Shen, I love you!"

What the f*ck was that?

Shen Lang and Tian Heng walked inside of the casino.

The four warriors followed them into the casino, and the door shut.

...

After entering the casino, Tian Heng's smile disappeared immediately, and he looked extremely cold.

"Young Master Shen, you are indeed very vicious," sneered Tian Heng, "to force me to sever my own arms and break Tian Thirteen's legs, you are willing to come and gamble. Are you not afraid of your reputation as the son-in-law of the Earl?"

"Of course, I care about the reputation for the Palace of the Earl," said Shen Lang seriously, "but I can lose my own reputation!"

"What is the reputation for someone like me? A burden! If my reputation is good, I will lose everything if I made a mistake. If I do something good, people will praise me and say it's an amazing thing because I turned over a new leaf."

These sentences stunned Tian Heng.

Numb, he could not refute Shen Lang.

Tian Heng said, "Don't you just want to force me to break Tian Thirteen's legs?"

Shen Lang nodded and said, "Yes."

Tian Heng said, "You are using these 19,000 gold coins to force me to sever my arms? How laughable. Do you think I am a person like this? If I broke Thirteen's legs, not only will he lose his legs, I will lose my reputation."

Tian Heng had been ruling the gang for years. He was not stupid and knew how scary things could turn out to be.

"Once I did that, everyone will know that I, Tian Heng, lost to you, a live-in son-in-law. My reputation will be gone," said Tian Heng coldly, "for someone like me, once I lose my reputation, nobody will be afraid of me anymore! I can earn back the money I lost, but once my reputation is gone, I am doomed."

Tian Heng had calmed down completely. After drinking a sip of water, he said, "So Shen Lang, you want to use 19,000 gold coins to exchange for my breaking of Tian Thirteen's legs? Then you must be daydreaming. I am not stupid."

Seeing Tian Heng finishing his water, Shen Lang refilled the cup for him with a sincere expression. He said with a concerning voice, "Gang Leader Tian, you wronged me. Since when did I plan to do that?"

Tian Heng sneered. He crossed his arms and looked at Shen Lang with a cold expression.

“I shall see what other tricks you have! I will watch you play your tricks.” Tian Heng seemed to have read Shen Lang’s mind.

The bastard would forget about everything else once money was concerned. After making so much money, he was only concerned about exchanging the coins and completely forgot about the matter of breaking Tian Thirteen’s legs.

Tian Heng decided that Shen Lang couldn’t take the 19,000 gold coins. 1900 was the limit. Moreover, Shen Lang had to beg him to get the coins.

“I did not think of using the 19,000 gold coins to exchange for Tian Thirteen’s legs!” said Shen Lang, “What I mean was, not only do you have to pay me 19,000 gold coins, but you also have to break Tian Thirteen’s legs!”

“What the f*ck! I will kill you!”

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Chapter 39: Driving You Into Dead Ends

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

Tian Heng nearly jumped up from his chair.

Although the four warriors behind Shen Lang pretended to not hear anything, they were stunned by what he said.

“Shen Lang, are you insane? What on Earth are you saying?” roared Tian Heng.

Besides him, the four warriors also felt that Shen Lang was daydreaming and humiliating himself.

Tian Heng couldn’t break Tian Thirteen’s legs. He was also not planning to pay up the 19,000 gold coins.

It was already perfect if he could agree to one of the conditions. However, Shen Lang wanted both!

Was he stupid or something?

“Hahaha...” Tian Heng laughed out of anger, “So I am striking a deal with a lunatic?”

Shen Lang swayed his body slightly and crossed his leg.

Tian Heng said as he stared at Shen Lang, “I told you that Tian Thirteen wanted to kill your entire family, and I sent him. However, I won’t hurt him at all. You want me to break his legs and make me lose my reputation? Dream on! Moreover, I will not give you any gold coins.”

Since they had fallen out, they already had nothing to lose.

Tian Heng continued, “If you are capable, ask the Earl to get the money from me! I wonder if he will break your legs?”

Shen Lang was brazen, but the Earl still wanted to maintain his reputation.

To ask him to ask for the 19,000 gold coins on behalf of Shen Lang? That was impossible. It made more sense for him to break Shen Lang’s legs.

For hundreds of years, the rules of the Palace of the Earl had been stringent; none of their family members dared to go to a casino.

If the Earl asked for money on behalf of Shen Lang, the news would spread like wildfire and people would say that the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu was in financial crisis and needed their live-in son-in-law to gamble to win money for them.

Therefore, Tian Heng decided to play cheat.

“You want to stir things up with the few hundred gamblers outside?” laughed Tian Heng, “Dream on, I will pay them the 9000 gold coins they won. However, I will not pay you any money that you have won. What can you do to me?”

When he said that, Tian Heng opened the window and shouted to the few hundred gamblers who were waiting downstairs, “Since I opened a casino, I will be able to pay up. I will pay every single cent that all of you have won. Come, pay the customers accordingly!”

When he said that, the few hundred gamblers went crazy with excitement.

Then, the accountants of the casino started to exchange money for the gamblers.

After 30 minutes, all the 9,000 gold coins were exchanged.

“All hail Gang Leader Tian!”

"You are amazing, Gang Leader Tian!"

"You are the best, Gang Leader Tian!"

"I love you, Gang Leader Tian!"

It was that person again. He really craved for love.

As he heard these, Tian Heng sneered, "Shen Lang, did you see how these people curried favor? I have already paid them their share of the money. Do you think they will still stand by your side and help you?"

Of course not.

Once these gamblers received their gold coins, some left, and some continued to gamble. Everyone went their own ways, and nobody would care about Shen Lang.

"The money these gamblers have won does not even belong to them. They are merely safekeeping it for me," said Tian Heng, "do you believe it? In less than half a month, the 9000 gold coins would return to me. I might even get more."

Of course, Shen Lang believed that. The time they needed was perhaps even lesser than two weeks. Seven to eight days was sufficient.

The money of gamblers would never stay with them for long.

The outcome of a gambler would be to lose everything. They would never realize their mistakes.

Winning was merely the process, and the outcome was a loss. The only difference between gamblers would be the amount of money they lost.

"They don't want to stir up a drama with you, and the Earl would definitely not ask me for money on your behalf," sneered Tian Heng, "so what if you won 19,000 gold coins? I will not give you any of them, so what can you do to me?"

"And you still wanted me to break Tian Thirteen's legs, dream on!"

"Clap, clap, clap, clap..." Shen Lang applauded with strength. "Good job, Gang Leader Tian, I appreciate your shamelessness, but..."

Shen Lang took a sip of tea.

"It's useless," said Shen Lang, "you think you can escape this by cheating?"

"Gang Leader Tian, there's no point in struggling any further. I can win all the games in the casino. Do you think I care about the 19,000 gold coins?"

“Hahaha...” Shen Lang laughed with a sharp voice like a revel. “Come on, as long as your casino is open, your money is mine. I can win as much money as I want to. Not only will I win, but I will also bring the gamblers along.”

“Unless you close your casino or you go bankrupt, I will think of it as a good deed, I don’t need any coins, but I will make the gamblers win your entire fortune.”

“Unless you would block me from entering the casino! Do you dare to send people to block me from entering? Would you dare to hurt me?”

Then, Shen Lang shouted to the gamblers downstairs, “Don’t leave yet, I will help all of you win more money. Let’s make Gang Leader Tian bankrupt!”

“Gang leader Tian, I will take my leave first...” Shen Lang turned and left.

...

Then, Shen Lang returned to the casino and continued to win money.

Like swarm locusts, he led several hundred gamblers in the win.

It had been proven that Shen Lang was not lying! He could rule over the casino and win every single round!

Therefore, everyone in the casino lost miserably.

Nobody could stop him!

The few hundred gamblers went insane. That was easier than picking up money from the floor.

As long as they followed Shen Lang’s bets, they would definitely win.

Therefore, everyone working in the casino could no longer stand the immense pressure. They began to spit out white foams and fainted.

The staff members kept reporting the current situation to Tian Heng.

“Master, we have lost 3000 gold coins.”

“Master, we have lost 5000 gold coins.”

“Master, we have lost 7000 gold coins. Shen Lang only won one gold coin every round. The rest is won by the other gamblers.”

Tian Heng’s face was pale, and he began to tremble.

Tian Fourteen rushed over and roared, "Foster Father, I will chase Shen Lang out now."

After saying that, Tian Fourteen rushed downstairs and was about to chase Shen Lang out and go into a fight.

Shen Lang covered his forehead and said, "What are you doing? Are you trying to hit me? I am not fit, and I will fall immediately once you touch me. Whoever dares to hit the young master of the Palace of the Earl will see their whole family dead soon thereafter."

Tian Heng heard this conversation clearly from upstairs.

He could not imagine how Shen Lang managed to say such shameless things.

He was seriously not ashamed at all!

In anger, Tian Fourteen pointed at Shen Lang's head and roared, "So what if I hit you? Come, chase Shen Lang out now!"

In the next instant...

The four warriors surrounded Shen Lang and drew their swords.

Hehe, the gangsters from the Black Clothes Gang wanted to fight with the warriors from the Palace of the Earl? Why were they even trying to hurt the young master of the Palace of the Earl?

Indeed, under the new governance, the Palace of the Earl would not be able to interfere in regional affairs or catch people from the Black Clothes Gang.

However, if they offended Earl, they would die.

Before a minute could pass, the four warriors would begin to fight.

Even if the team of warriors from the Black Clothes Gang attacked and defeated the four warriors from the Palace of the Earl after ganging each warrior with twelve opposing soldiers on their side...

Then... The Black Clothes Gang would be in greater trouble.

After that, the cavalry of the Palace of the Earl would attack and take down the entire casino.

The Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu did not stir troubles, but they were definitely not afraid.

If nobody offended them, they would not hurt others.

If anyone offended them, they would make sure that those people would die.

That was Shen Lang's amulet.

Those who came forward to defend were not only the warriors of the Palace of the Earl but also countless gamblers who swarmed and protected Shen Lang in the center.

"What are you doing?"

"Is the owner of the casino afraid to lose?"

"Trying to hurt young master Shen? Over my dead body, cough, cough, cough..."

These groups of people would sway their loyalty according to their gains. Earlier on, they hailed Tian Heng for exchanging coins for them.

Now, when Shen Lang led them to win more money, they hailed Shen Lang.

So what now?

Would they chase an entire group of gamblers out?

Tian Heng was still sitting on his chair. He had never hated someone so much before in his life. He really wanted to tear Shen Lang into a million pieces.

He regretted it so much!

If he could go back in time, he swore to kill Shen Lang immediately, chop him up into pieces, and feed him to a dog. He would definitely not listen to Shen Lang at all.

Indulging one's enemy was to ask for trouble.

Unfortunately, there was no such thing as regret on Earth!

What should he do with the current situation then?

Tian Heng closed his eyes and said, "Close the casino temporarily."

"Roger!" Tian Fourteen and the cashier replied in agony.

After that, the cashier's voice could be heard from downstairs.

"Today, the casino will temporarily close. Please return tomorrow to exchange for the money you have won."

After that, Shen Lang said, "Gang Leader Tian has four more casinos in Xuanwu City, let's go and win in every single one of them, alright?"

"Yes!" the few hundred gamblers replied excitedly.

Then, Shen Lang brought the few hundred gamblers and headed towards the next casino like a swarm of locusts.

Tian Heng closed his eyes in agony.

After a long while, he replied with a hoarse voice, "Temporarily close all the casinos."

"Roger!" Tian Fourteen replied while gritting his teeth.

Everyone knew it was a painful decision to make.

The five casinos made up more than 60 percent of his daily income.

Now that he had to close all of them, how much loss would he suffer?

Only the heavens knew!

However, he would rather endure such a significant loss than complying with Shen Lang.

If he broke Tian Thirteen's legs, his reputation would disappear. The spirit of the Black Clothes Gang would also leave.

In the future, who else would be afraid of him?

"Shen Lang, you want me to sever my arms? Dream on!"

However, the trouble for Tian Heng merely just began.

That was because he was not the only one who owned the casinos. Many people were earning from the casinos too.

In merely half an hour, someone had looked for him.

"Sir Zhang Pu wants to make a trip over since he wanted you to do something!"

Tian Heng had a terrible headache. The thing he was most worried about had happened.

Indeed, the ones who would put the final nail on your coffin are those close to you.

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Chapter 40: Lifelong Disgrace

Tian Heng was once again welcomed to Xu Guangyun's house.

He did not see Zhang Pu but saw Master Xu instead.

"Gang Leader Tian, I heard that you have closed all your casinos?" asked Master Xu.

"Yes," said Tian Heng.

Earlier on, you called me brother Tian. Now, you are calling me a gang leader. How practical.

Of course, Master Xu did not ask this question for himself. He did not obtain profits from the casino. He was asking that question on behalf of Zhang Pu.

After offending the Palace of the Earl, Tian Heng gave Zhang Pu and the Governor 3/5 of the stocks of the casino to obtain their protection.

However, before the casino could make any profits, he closed them.

Didn't that mean the Zhang family wasn't able to earn money?

'You closed the casino because you didn't want to pay me? What's the matter? Do you have something against the Governor or my family?'

Zhang Pu would definitely not appear since the money was handled by Master Xu before sending over to the Zhang family as a "dowry."

"Why do you have to close the casino?" said Master Xu.

Tian Heng replied, "If we don't close the casino, we will make a complete loss."

Master Xu's expression turned bad, "Is Shen Lang's gambling skills... that good?"

"Yes, very. I don't know why," said Tian Heng.

Master Xu kept silent.

Shen Lang was from the Palace of the Earl, and hence, they could not touch him. If not, Master Xu and Tian Heng would have killed him long ago.

"You looked for the trouble yourself," said Master Xu.

Tian Heng was the one who let Shen Lang off back then; he would have been buried alive if he didn't do that.

Tian Heng shot Master Xu a cold look, "We can just kill him secretly."

Master Xu said, "Is it worth it? Do you dare?"

Did he dare?

Yeah!

Was it worth it?

The warriors from the Palace of the Earl were following Shen Lang; the only way he would kill him was to send a mighty expert.

However, once Shen Lang was killed, they would have to face the Palace of the Earl.

No matter how Shen Lang died or who killed him, the Earl would definitely put the blame on Tian Heng and Master Xu.

If their son-in-law was killed for no reason, the Earl had the right to flare up and investigate the matter.

Once the Earl flared up, he would kill mercilessly.

"What does Shen Lang want?" asked Xu Guangyun.

Tian Heng said, "He wanted me to break Tian Thirteen's legs in public."

Master Xu's face trembled a little before he spoke in a hoarse voice, "Then promise him and break it. You have many foster sons anyway."

Master Xu could not believe that he had said that himself.

Tian Heng snarled, "Tian Thirteen is one of my most talented foster sons. If I broke his leg in front of everyone, my reputation would be ruined."

Tian Heng had guts.

He would rather lose money than his reputation. That was how he rose to where he was.

However, noises were heard from the next door.

"Agree to his condition."

Zhang Pu made that sound. He represented the Governor and the Zhang family.

He was Tian Heng's direct backup.

“Don’t wait any further,” said Zhang Pu, “the more you wait, the more loss you will suffer. It will be better to agree earlier.”

Tian Heng was trembling entirely, and he gritted his teeth, causing his gums to bleed. His mouth was filled with blood.

Zhang Pu said, “I promise. I will kill Shen Lang one day, and I will let you cut him too.”

Tian Heng remained silent.

Zhang Pu said, “Shen Lang is an insignificant character. Our target is the Palace of the Earl. Once we get rid of the Palace of the Earl and successfully get their territory and soldiers, you will accomplish a huge task. By then, the deputy city lord’s position will be yours.”

Tian Heng got up and said, “Roger!”

...

Tian Heng came to look for Shen Lang again.

“I... agree with your condition. I will break Tian Thirteen’s legs in front of everybody. Cease this commotion and stop messing around, please,” said Tian Heng.

Shen Lang shook his head, “No, that was the condition earlier on. It has changed since then. Your other foster son, Tian Fourteen, dared to roar at me and threaten to beat me up. Moreover, he pointed at my head. I want you to break his arms and legs too.”

“Shen Lang, what the f*ck!”

“Why don’t you go and kill yourself?”

When he heard what Shen Lang said, Tian Heng felt a wave of anger flow to his head.

“I am going to kill you... I am going to kill you...”

He repeated this line in his mind.

However... He could only say it out loud.

“Are you not agreeing?” Shen Lang sneered, “then my condition will change again. Not only do you have to break Tian Thirteen’s legs and both Tian Fourteen’s arms and legs, but you also have to break the legs of all of the members of the Black Clothes Gang who went to my house that day...”

Tian Heng closed his eyes as he felt dizzy from anger.

He really wanted to tear Shen Lang into pieces. However, if he did that, he was doomed, and the business he had established for decades would be gone just like that.

He really did not want to agree with the conditions that a bastard like Shen Lang had offered.

However...

He had no choice. If he did not agree, Shen Lang would bring several hundreds of gamblers to win money at his casino every day.

... Unless his casino remained closed forever. However, if he closed his casino, the Governor would not let him off.

“Shen Lang, just wait... just wait...” Tian Heng said this line in his head repeatedly.

When he opened his eyes again, Tian Heng said word for word, “Alright, I will break Tian Thirteen’s legs and Tian Fourteen’s arms and legs in front of the public.”

Shen Lang said, “Besides that, you have to evict them from the Black Clothes Gang. You are not allowed to pay them a visit or send anyone to visit them, nor can you send a physician to treat their injuries. You are not allowed to send them money too. Just let them be. Once I feel that they are not suffering enough, I will return to your casino to gamble again.”

“I agree with anything you say...”

...

At the door of the casino...

Tian Thirteen and Tian Fourteen knelt on the ground with frustration on their faces.

More than 1000 people had surrounded them, and the number was still increasing.

Something massive had happened.

Tian Thirteen and Tian Fourteen were the most outstanding foster sons of Tian Heng. Moreover, they were the civilian soldiers of Xuanwu City. Usually, nobody would dare mess with them.”

Now, both of them were kneeling on the ground. Who did they offend?

Seeing the crowd, Tian Heng wanted to dig a hole in the ground and hide inside of it.

However, he could not do it. He had to continue acting; if not, then Shen Lang would definitely pester him again.

“Tian Thirteen, Tian Fourteen, you are my foster sons, and I regard all of you highly,” said Tian Heng, “however, because you offended Shen Lang and offended him without my awareness, you almost caused a huge offense.”

When the public saw this, they surged forward to see what was going on. They also began to look at Tian Heng with a strange look.

It was because of Shen Lang?

Tian Heng felt that he was being forcefully shamed.

However, he had to continue. The winner gets it all while the loser suffers. There was nothing wrong with that.

“Young Master Shen Lang is not only the young master of the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu but also my good friend. How dare both of you to offend him?” roared Tian Heng angrily, “if I don’t punish you severely, how can others follow the rules? Come, bring me the stick.”

Instantly, another foster son brought over a thick and hard stick.

Tian Heng took several deep breaths before walking to Tian Thirteen.

“Thirteen, don’t blame me,” said Tian Heng softly.

Tian Thirteen did not reply and showed a calm expression.

That frustrated Tian Heng... Would he go against me; was he not following my instructions?

Tian Heng raised his stick and hit his legs hard.

“Crack!”

Tian Thirteen’s legs broke.

“Urgh!”

Throughout the entire process, he only made a soft groan and did not make any loud noises.

He was like an injured beast who groaned softly but did not shout loudly.

On the other hand, Tian Fourteen was not like him. He began to tremble.

He was indignant.

He had offended Shen Lang because of his foster father and the benefit of the Black Clothes Gang. However, now, his foster father wanted to break his arms and legs?

This... Was it even justified?

His foster father was the person who offended Shen Lang and lost to him. Why must his foster father sacrifice him and brother Thirteen?

“Foster father, is that how you show your love for your foster sons?”

“Where is the loyalty that you mentioned?”

Instantly, Tian Fourteen roared, “I am indignant... indignant...”

Tian Heng was mad. Tian Fourteen’s roar exposed his true colors. He took the stick and swung it at Tian Fourteen’s legs immediately.

“Ah...”

With a loud cry, Tian Fourteen’s legs broke.

Then, Tian Heng swung the stick again.

Tian Fourteen’s arms broke. In fact, his bones were smashed.