

Martial Arts 661

Chapter 661: Lend Me a Helping Hand (Part 2)

Voices rang out, full of momentum.

As if they were the victors.

Chang Fei and others didn't know what to do.

However, Carl grew increasingly panicked.

He looked at the excited group of Song Family members.

Are these fools? They don't want to live, but I do!

If they anger that young man and he kills all the Song Family members, then slaps me to death, what then?

"Shut up, all of you!"

He roared, like a raging wave, directly suppressing the voices of the Song Family members.

"You useless bunch, you have no skills, only dragging people down!"

He cursed, "If I had known you were so useless, I shouldn't have come with you in the first place. I'm in this situation all because of you!"

The Song Family members looked at each other, their previous momentum gone.

"M-Mr. Carl."

Song Tian apologized, "I'm truly sorry, this time it really was our mistake, we've burdened you, please forgive us."

"What's the point of saying this now?"

Carl raged, "I want to live, to live, do you know? I don't want to die here like you bunch of losers!"

Song Wu and others clenched their fists upon hearing this.

Did they wish for things to reach this point?

Of course not!

But that Chen kid is too strong, Seventh Ancestor has been gone for so long, he's probably already been killed by him.

Faced with such an absolute disparity in power, what chance of survival do they have?

"Mr. Carl, please calm down."

Song Tian took a deep breath, glanced at Chen Fan and others, and said, "Given your special status, they wouldn't dare do anything to you."

Perhaps, in his heart, he hoped Chen Fan would kill Carl too.

If that happened, he, and the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association behind him, would have to face not just his Song Family, but also Revival Association's revenge!

Even a family within the Elder Council would be troubled by such a situation.

Carl opened his mouth.

He also thought that with his status, these Yan Country people wouldn't dare touch him.

But, what if?

"I know what you're planning."

Chen Fan spoke.

"You know you have no way out, so you want me to kill you, leaving a good name for yourself. You intentionally say I wouldn't kill him, to provoke my rebellious psychology and make me kill him, completely offending Revival Association, right?"

"So what if you know?"

Song Tian remained calm, even smiled.

"What can you do?"

Shi Tao and others fell silent.

Indeed, what could be done?

The powers behind both sides are vastly different.

"Good question."

Chen Fan's voice rang out, not in the anxious rage that Song Tian expected.

"I won't kill you all."

Song Tian and the surrounding Song Family members were shocked.

"Kid, are you trying to curry favor with us?" mocked Fifth Brother of the Song Family. "Do you think by doing this you can pretend those previous events never happened?"

"Kid, it's too late for you to think about surrendering now." Song Wu's eyes flashed with pride. "When you killed my third brother, you and our Song Family became sworn enemies."

"I haven't finished speaking."

Chen Fan shook his head.

"I'm not sparing you to curry favor, but to let you see how your Song Family Ancestor is killed by me after he arrives."

"!!!!"

At these words, the proud expressions of the Song Family members vanished instantly.

They became agitated one after another.

"Arrogant! Do you know what strength my Song Family's other two ancestors possess?"

"With just you, dreaming of killing our two ancestors!"

"Hahaha, kid, if you really have the ability, go ahead, we would like to see if you can do it when the time comes!" Song Tian laughed.

Chen Fan not killing them was definitely for the best.

When their two ancestors arrive, they can rescue them.

Not only them, even Shi Tao and others dared not believe it.

They knew Chen Fan was very strong, likely comparable to mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artists.

But the opponent has two mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artists. If they come, it won't be as easy to separate them as in this instance.

"Indeed, my current strength is insufficient. Therefore, I need your help."

Chen Fan said blandly.

"Your help?"

Song Wu sneered.

What a joke, he couldn't wait to stab him.

No, just killing him with one stab would be too cheap.

At least dismember him, quarter him!

"Chen Fan."

Shi Tao couldn't help but speak, "Whatever you need help with, tell us, even if it's climbing a mountain of swords or diving into a sea of fire, we won't frown."

"Yes, yes."

Chang Fei and others nodded repeatedly.

"President, you're mistaken. Only they can help."

Chen Fan shook his head.

"Only they?" Shi Tao frowned, not understanding what Chen Fan meant.

Chen Fan did not explain, walked up to Song Tian.

"Come on, do it!"

Song Tian stared into Chen Fan's eyes.

Chen Fan extended his palm, placing it a few centimeters from the opponent's brow.

Suddenly, a pure inner strength was absorbed from the opponent's dantian through the brow, transmitted into Chen Fan's palm.

"Star Absorption Technique!"

Song Tian exclaimed as he convulsed.

"What! Star Absorption Technique!"

"Star Absorption Technique!"

At that moment, everyone was stunned.

Star Absorption Technique, known to all Martial Artists at True Essence Realm and above, and even dreamed of by many who wish to learn it.

Because it can absorb the lifelong power of others as one's own, the deeper the power of the other person, the more the Star Absorption Technique user's power increases.

However, this cultivation technique is very dangerous; the more inner strength absorbed, the harder it is to control. A slight mistake could result in inner strength backlash, bursting the body.

Moreover, this technique has a bad reputation, usually only used by notorious individuals.

"Brother Chen knows Star Absorption Technique?"

Shen Si felt a chill in his heart.

Because it means that as long as Chen Fan wishes, he could absorb the inner strength of everyone present, including them.

But then he relaxed.

Brother Chen is not that kind of person. If he intended to do so, why wait until today?

Moreover, when the president asked earlier about needing help, he said their help wasn't enough.

Shi Tao's gaze was complex as he watched.

He also had reservations about the Star Absorption Technique.

Because absorbing others' inner strength conflicts with his principle of progressing step by step.

But he understood well that extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary measures. The events here wouldn't be kept from certain people in the city, and once news spreads, Chen Fan would face the Song Family's crazed retaliation.

"Stop! Stop it!"

The Song Family members panicked.

They didn't fear death, nor torture.

But they feared losing their lifelong power, becoming useless. Even if they could keep their lives, it would be far worse than death.

"Let go of my elder brother!" Song Wu suddenly stood up, and charged at Chen Fan.

Chen Fan remained expressionless, extending his left hand just as Song Wu was about to reach him. Instantly, Song Wu seemed to be hit with the Body-Stabilizing Technique, unable to move, his inner strength crazily surging out.

"No, don't, don't absorb my power!"

Song Wu cried and sniveled.

A few seconds later, Chen Fan released the two.

Having almost lost their lifelong power, Song Tian and Song Wu had lost their previous spirit, sitting on the ground in despair.

"Why? Why not absorb all my inner strength?"

As Chen Fan walked forward, Song Tian's gritted voice came from behind.

"Because if I did, you would die. And I said I would leave you alive, to watch how your Song Family Ancestor dies by my hand."

Chen Fan replied calmly.

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Song Tian was taken aback by the words, then his eyes filled with deep venom as he coldly said:

"Fine, since you're so confident, I'll be waiting for that day."

Despite losing all his lifelong power and becoming a cripple, he, unlike others, didn't wish for immediate death.

But he was different; his Dantian was still intact, and given his unique status, with enough resources, he still had the potential to rise again, even if the ceiling wasn't as high as before.

The premise for all this was the arrival of the two ancestors from his family to rescue them.

He was reluctant, but had to admit that this Chen kid was terrifyingly powerful. If he fought against him, he would have no chance. But if the two family ancestors fought him, it would be different.

He couldn't think of another outcome for this kid other than death.

Chen Fan nodded and walked over to the remaining people, absorbing their Inner Strength into his Sea of Qi.

He glanced at the panel. His Primordial True Essence had increased by about a thousand points, primarily due to Song Tian, who contributed the majority of it.

All things considered, his Primordial True Essence had exceeded ten thousand points, and his total True Qi had reached seventy million.

Although it seemed like a lot, it was actually less than a tenth of the threshold value for a breakthrough.

Nonetheless, the Song Family had contributed four thousand points to his Primordial True Essence, saving him two to three nights of cultivation, which was still beneficial.

The side effect was the presence of various types of True Qi in his body, which repelled each other. He needed time to fully integrate them, or else it could easily lead to a backlash.

"Kid, just you wait. When our family's ancestors arrive, you'll pay for what you've done!" Fifth Brother of the Song Family finally regained his senses and glared at Chen Fan.

The others also started cursing him one after another.

Chen Fan couldn't be bothered to pay attention to them and instead turned his gaze to Carl.

Carl had reverted to his human form. Not only that, but while Chen Fan was absorbing the Inner Strength from the Song Family, Carl had also healed most of his injuries. His broken arms were almost fully regenerated.

"Damn Yan Country people, you've caused me such injuries. When I return, I will bring people and kill every single one of you!"

He thought bitterly.

And the Song Family, those useless fools, invited him to watch the spectacle, and what happened?

Once he returned, he would definitely extort them heavily!

Suddenly, he realized something and raised his head, locking eyes with Chen Fan. His heart almost leaped out of his chest in fear, and he quickly said with a forced smile, "Brother, I haven't cultivated Yan Country martial arts, I don't have any True Qi for you to absorb."

He felt somewhat relieved.

If he had cultivated True Qi, his fate would certainly be like those of the Song Family members, appearing twenty years older.

Fortunately, he had the bloodline of the Werewolf progenitor, which granted him the ability to transform into a werewolf, a power that others couldn't take away.

Chen Fan nodded and calmly said, "In that case, there's no reason to let you live."

"What!"

Carl was so frightened that he almost fell to the ground.

"Friend, you can't do this. It's really not my fault, I didn't want to come. It was them, they made me come. Please, let me go. I swear, once I leave, I won't pursue anything that happened here today."

Shi Tao glanced at Carl, who was shamelessly begging for mercy, and a look of disgust flashed in his eyes.

He recalled Carl's arrogant demeanor before Chen Fan returned, as well as his high-and-mighty attitude.

Now, knowing he was no match, he immediately changed his tune, and so naturally at that.

If he could, he would crush Carl with a single palm to eliminate future troubles.

But now, Chen Fan had already gravely offended the Song Family. It would be unwise to provoke an even stronger enemy than the Song Family.

He looked at Chen Fan and advised:

"Chen Fan, this guy deserves to die, but it's better if we don't kill him."

"Yes, Brother Chen, the Revival Association behind him is quite formidable and has connections with many noble families in Yan Country. The consequences of killing him might be unbearable," Shen Si added.

"Perhaps we can imprison him, and when the Revival Association comes looking for him, they wouldn't dare act rashly since he's in our hands," Chang Fei suggested with a frown.

When the Revival Association arrives, they can use Carl as a bargaining chip for negotiations.

If the other side agrees to let bygones be bygones, they'll release him; if not, it'll be a battle to the death.

However, two problems arose.

First, there was no guarantee that the Revival Association would keep their promise and not turn against them after Carl is handed over.

Second, Carl's strength was undeniable. Other than Chen Fan, no one could match him, not even the president. Moreover, his regenerative abilities were evident, with his severed arms regrowing.

Imprisoning him wouldn't be easy.

Carl, sensing a glimmer of hope, sighed dramatically and said, "I swear I'm telling the truth, but if you still don't trust me, then imprison me. You can even demand a ransom from my family; no matter the amount, they'll pay up."

Hearing this, Song Tian and the others showed a look of ridicule.

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Having dealt with Feng Country people for so many years, they understood these people's behavior very well.

Trust?

Do these people even have trust?

Often their words say one thing, but their actions do another.

They were too lazy to argue, because whether Carl was released or killed, the Revival Association people would definitely come here.

This was a dead-end.

"No need." Chen Fan shook his head, "It's better to kill you directly, save some trouble."

"!!!!"

Carl's eyes widened.

How could this be?

He had already said it to such an extent!

"Chen Fan..."

Shi Tao's face showed a trace of anxiety.

"Chairman."

Chen Fan spoke first: "Have you forgotten the saying, 'Not of our kind, their hearts must differ'? These Feng Country people are untrustworthy."

Shi Tao and the others fell silent.

He had to admit, Chen Fan was right.

Carl's face was pale, he knew the man in front of him was determined to kill him.

The next moment, he directly fled towards the outside of the hall.

He knew his chances of escaping were slim, but since staying meant certain death, why not take a gamble?

However, just as he was about to escape the hall, a large blood-red hand appeared out of thin air and grabbed him.

"Roar!"

Carl roared angrily, transformed again, his body rapidly expanding.

But before his body could fully expand, it was crushed by the giant hand.

Carl was dead, with no remains left.

Shi Tao and the others watched this scene.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye, so fast they didn't have time to voice any objections.

"Hahaha!"

At this moment, Song Tian suddenly let out a hysterical laugh, "Well killed! Well killed, Chen Fan! Honestly, I truly admire you, you're a man."

The people behind Song Wu also laughed out loud.

They had long hoped Chen Fan would take action.

And Chen Fan did not disappoint them, he acted.

Next, even if their Song Family did not take action, others would deal with Chen Fan and the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association.

"Sigh."

Shi Tao now reacted and sighed.

At this point, saying anything was useless.

In a day or two at most, the Revival Association would come for revenge.

By comparison, the Song Family's revenge didn't seem as terrifying.

"Chairman, what should we do next?" Chang Fei asked, "Should we seek help from others, like the Elder Council? Or the Awakened Association?"

"Yes, Chairman, it wasn't our fault, it was the Song Family and those Feng Country people who were wrong first. Brother Chen killed them in self-defense."

"That's how things are, but will they believe us?"

These words brought silence.

Yes, in recent years, the conflict between the Awakened Association and the Martial Arts Association was growing. Awakeners looked down on Martial Artists, and naturally, Martial Artists were not keen on flattering them.

In this situation, going to them for help was unlikely to work.

Even if relations were good, considering this involved the Revival Association, they would think twice before taking any action.

As for the Elder Council, the chances of them helping were even smaller.

Among the five elders in the council, two had good relations with the Revival Association, they were elected partly thanks to the Revival Association. So upon hearing this, their reaction might be unexpected.

What about the families of the other three elders?

Although they had conflicts with Feng Country people, it hadn't reached an irreparable stage, and they maintained a polite facade. Importantly, the Martial Arts Association and Noble Families were natural enemies.

Without Elder Wang backing the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association, its survival till now would be a question.

With none of Yan Country's two largest factions stepping in, even if others wanted to help, they wouldn't stand a chance.

"If worse comes to worst, disband the association directly."

Shi Tao sighed, saying these words made him look ten years older.

"What, disband the association?"

"Disband the association!"

"Chairman, the association is our heart and soul!"

Chang Fei and others were shocked, their eyes red.

They had endured so much hardship to achieve today's Jiangnan Martial Arts Association.

Now, one word to disband?

Unlike the distressed Chang Fei and others, Song Tian and his fellow men were overjoyed, as if drinking ice water in midsummer.

This was the price for offending the Song Family!

But don't think it ends here.

Song Tian sneered inwardly.

Once the family patriarch arrives, not only Chen Fan, but also Shi Tao, Chang Fei, and those with good relations will meet their demise!

This would show Yan Country the consequences of opposing a Noble Family!

"This matter is unrelated to other members of the association. If not disbanded, what happens when the Revival Association and Song Family come for a massacre?" Shi Tao asked.

Chang Fei and others fell silent.

Yes, the opponents wouldn't care if you were involved in the matter; being part of the association meant you were doomed.

Not just the headquarters in Jiangnan City, but branches in other cities could be implicated.

Widespread public outrage? Unlikely, at most people would curse behind their backs.

"Chairman, you're right. This matter was caused by us and has no relation to others; they shouldn't be dragged into this." Shen Si took a deep breath and said, "So let's disband."

Others nodded.

This was the only option; they couldn't let everyone wait here to die.

"Brother Chen, sorry, we've dragged you into this." Shen Si looked at Chen Fan, apologizing once again.

"Chairman Shen, save your words, and since I've taken action, I'm ready to face them."

Chen Fan said.

"Hehe."

In the Yellow Sand Tower.

Ling Yu sneered.

At this time, the Chen guy was still boasting.

He killed both Song Family and Revival Association people; combined, even ten lives wouldn't be enough.

But then again.

Well killed! Well killed!

The Revival Association's power is such that even Yan Country's major families avoid them. The Chen guy killed their member in broad daylight; he is doomed!

Once Chen Fan dies, my crisis will naturally be resolved, although the downside is that the Martial Arts Association will be implicated, and Jiangnan Martial Arts Association will cease to exist.

This damn Chen Fan, if he wants to die, fine, but dragging me along is infuriating.

Ling Yu cursed inwardly.

However, in the next moment, a sentence that made his hair stand and heart stop was heard.

"We'll discuss the rest later. Before that, there's one more thing to handle. Chairman, don't you think it's time to tell me Ling Yu's whereabouts?"

Chen Fan's gaze turned to Shi Tao.

The tone was calm.

However, the atmosphere on site tensed up once again.

Chang Fei, Shen Si, and others exchanged looks, all revealing bitter smiles.

It seemed there was no escaping for Ling Yu this time.

Shi Tao took a deep breath, shook his head, "Chen Fan, no matter how many times you ask, I won't tell you his whereabouts."

Ling Yu felt a warm sentiment rising within.

He knew, his master was the best to him.

"Chairman, you should know, even if you don't tell me, I'll find out the answer."

Chen Fan spoke and closed his eyes. Moments later, he opened them again, and his eyes fixed on Shi Tao's left pocket.

Suddenly, Shi Tao's face changed.

"Chairman, will you let him out yourself, or should I take action to bring him out?" Chen Fan's gaze shifted to Shi Tao.

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"What!"

Ling Yu's face changed dramatically.

Chen knew he was hiding in the Yellow Sand Tower?

Otherwise, what did his words mean?

But how could it be?

He heard everything happening outside clearly; he had never told him about his hiding place.

Now that things had reached this point, he wouldn't think that those outside were putting on a show for him.

If Chen Fan really found him, his fate would be absolutely tragic. Once Chen found out that he had tipped off the Song Family about the truth behind Song Gang's death...

He didn't dare to think further.

"Chen Fan, I don't understand what you're saying."

Shi Tao shook his head.

In the next moment, his face changed as he guarded his pocket containing the Yellow Sand Tower.

But it was too late.

Chen Fan seized the Yellow Sand Tower in his hand first.

"It's over..."

Shen Si and the others nearby had the same thought.

"Chen Fan!"

Shi Tao feigned anger and said, "How can you steal things from me? Give it back."

"Sorry, President, but I had no choice," Chen Fan sighed and then infused his spiritual power into the tower.

Indeed, the Ling Yu he had been searching for was sitting pale-faced on the grass, staring blankly at the sky.

"Chen Fan, what are you trying to do?"

He uttered in panic.

"Get out!"

With a thought, Chen Fan made Ling Yu appear in the hall.

Song Tian and the others nearby were all astonished.

They looked at the Yellow Sand Tower in Chen Fan's hand with evident excitement.

This item could actually hold a person?

Ling Yu's eyes swept around, startled by the scene before him.

Fortunately, he quickly reacted and tried to run behind Shi Tao.

Considering the strength of Carl from the Revival Association, even he couldn't escape; if he tried to run, he'd die even faster.

Unfortunately, Chen Fan wouldn't give him this chance.

In a flash, he tapped Ling Yu twice, causing him to stand still in his attempt to escape.

"Are you a man or not? At such a moment, you only hide behind elders, afraid to face things head-on?"

Chen Fan stared into his eyes.

Ling Yu broke into a cold sweat, unable to meet Chen Fan's gaze, desperately glancing towards Shi Tao for help.

"Look at me!"

Chen Fan commanded in a low voice.

This shout frightened Ling Yu so much that he wet his pants. A foul smell spread through the hall.

Chang Fei and the others couldn't bear to watch and turned away.

They knew that being scared to wet one's pants wasn't entirely Ling Yu's fault, because Chen Fan's strength was too overpowering. Facing them before, he had restrained his aura; but facing Ling Yu now, he held nothing back.

If anyone else were in Ling Yu's place, they might not fare any better against Chen Fan.

But, how could things have developed to this point? Whose fault was it?

It could only be blamed on Ling Yu himself.

"Chen Fan..."

Shi Tao wanted to say something.

Without looking at him, Chen Fan interrupted, "President, this is between him and me. Here, take this back."

Saying so, he threw the Yellow Sand Tower back.

Shi Tao accepted it bitterly.

"Tell me, did Xiao Hong act under your orders to go to the Anshan City Martial Arts Association to find me?"

Chen Fan asked word by word.

"No, no, it wasn't me,"

Ling Yu stammered, "It was him, he wanted to go himself."

He wasn't foolish; once he admitted it, he'd face the same fate as the Song Family!

Moreover, if Chen Fan really wanted to kill him, no one could stop it.

"Look into my eyes and say it again."

Chen Fan said coldly.

Ling Yu dared not look and desperately glanced at Shi Tao.

"It seems that you won't tell the truth unless I use the Soul-Searching Technique."

"No!"

Shi Tao quickly said, "Chen Fan, don't use the Soul-Searching Technique; it will cause permanent damage to his spirit."

"Then tell me, how can I make him tell the truth?"

Chen Fan turned and asked, "If the past incident wasn't related to him, why didn't you reveal his whereabouts before now? If there wasn't some hidden reason, how would you explain it?"

Shi Tao was speechless.

He feared this moment so he hid Ling Yu in the Yellow Sand Tower, yet the inevitable still happened, confirming Chen Fan's suspicion.

Finally, he sighed deeply, "Chen Fan, you're right. Xiao Hong was indeed sent by Xiaoyu."

"Master!"

Ling Yu wailed in despair.

"Xiaoyu, you can't hide what's been done; the truth will come out."

Tears rolled down Shi Tao's face, "You made a mistake, but as your master, I am partly responsible. As the saying goes, if a child fails, it's the father's fault; if a student goes astray, it's the master's fault. Chen Fan, I am willing to suffer in Xiaoyu's stead, offering my entire power in exchange for his safety."

"President!"

"President!"

Chang Fei and the others exclaimed, wanting to say something.

Shi Tao waved his hand, "Chen Fan, the Star Absorption Technique you practice can absorb others' power and your cultivation speed is far beyond ordinary people. But there are also drawbacks; if you absorb too much power from others, it can easily backfire and harm yourself."

So, I will transfer all my power to you using the power transfer method. I only hope you will spare Ling Yu, is that alright?"

"Master!"

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Ling Yu couldn't stop crying.

Song Tian and the others exchanged looks.

Tan could see that the one named Ling Yu had a grudge with the one surnamed Chen, and it wasn't a small one.

Additionally, they had heard that Ling Yu and Shi Tao shared a master-disciple relationship.

Although they didn't know what had happened, it seemed too foolish for Shi Tao to give up all his lifetime power for a disciple.

Meanwhile, Song Wu was intensely staring at Ling Yu not far away.

For some reason, this person felt somewhat familiar to him, as if they had met somewhere before.

However, he was certain that they hadn't met each other.

"President, after all this time, haven't you noticed something strange?"

Chen Fan maintained his usual calm demeanor.

"What is it?" Shi Tao was taken aback.

"Ling Yu, isn't he your disciple? Hearing that his master was willing to give up all his power to save him, he didn't object at all. What does that imply?"

With those words, everyone's gaze in the hall focused on Ling Yu.

Their eyes filled with suspicion.

Indeed, they hadn't heard Ling Yu say anything to stop his master.

Even Shi Tao was stunned.

"Master, don't listen to his nonsense!"

Ling Yu quickly said, "I was just stunned upon hearing your words and didn't react immediately. Master, I don't want you to do this. I'll bear the consequences of my actions alone, no matter what!"

"Alright."

Chen Fan nodded, "Let's settle it then."

"No, don't!"

Ling Yu panicked again, "Master, save me! Save me! I don't want my martial arts abolished! Master!"

Shi Tao's face showed a hint of reluctance once more.

He knew that the situation wasn't as simple as Ling Yu had described.

If Ling Yu truly had him in his heart, he would have instinctively spoken up to stop him.

But he didn't, implying he prioritized his own safety above all.

Shi Tao took a deep breath. No matter what, Ling Yu becoming this kind of person was his responsibility, so he had to pay the price as well.

"Enough!"

Unexpectedly, Song Wu shouted.

"What kind of man can't handle losing his power? Crying like a woman, what kind of behavior is that?"

Ling Yu's sobbing stopped immediately, and he glared fiercely.

"What are you glaring at?"

Song Wu sneered, "Did I say anything wrong?"

"Second Brother?"

The other members of the Song Family looked on in confusion,

Seeing the internal conflict of their association, they thought it was just a show.

Why get involved?

"Big Brother."

Song Wu looked at Song Tian, "Do you remember the call we received a few days ago?"

"What do you mean?"

Song Tian was puzzled.

"At that time, we were searching for who killed Third Brother. Just when we thought we wouldn't find out, someone suddenly called, informing us that Shen Si had lied."

"What!"

Shen Si's eyes widened.

He didn't understand what mistake he had made.

From what Song Wu said, someone had tipped them off?

"Second Brother, do you mean?" Song Tian wasn't an idiot; his gaze shifted to Ling Yu, "The person who called us is in this hall right now?"

"Indeed," Song Wu smiled, "That person is strange. After sharing the information, they didn't even want a reward. It's quite odd that they only wanted us to target someone. Isn't that right, Chen Fan?"

"Does such a thing exist?"

Chen Fan's expression darkened.

He didn't need to guess to know who it was.

Ling Yu in front of him was trembling more fiercely than before.

"Xiaoyu, is it really you?"

Shi Tao's voice trembled, "Did you call them and tell them everything?"

"No! It wasn't me!"

Ling Yu quickly denied it, "Master, I don't know what they're talking about. I know nothing, absolutely nothing!"

"Enough, it's already come to this point, why keep pretending?"

Song Wu sneered, "You knew I was looking for Shen Si, so it had to be an insider. Among all the people here, it seems you are the only one with a grudge against Chen Fan. You just wanted to use us to eliminate him, but you didn't expect,"

Song Wu's eyes showed a deep resentment, "that Chen's strength far exceeded your expectations. Even we couldn't stand against him."

Indeed, he identified Ling Yu, not for Chen Fan's sake.

His motive was similar to Ling Yu's, wanting to use Chen Fan to get rid of Ling Yu.

Because, in the end, their downfall today was caused by this kid! If not for his tip-off, they wouldn't have come here confidently, leading to complete failure!

This debt was owed by Chen Fan, but Ling Yu also had a share!

"You're lying!"

Ling Yu screamed hysterically, wishing he could stab Song Wu to death.

He had kindly informed them of the truth, yet these people blamed him for their lack of strength?

Is this what humans do?

"Ling Yu, tell me the truth, did you call them or not!" Shen Si was also furious at this point.

If what Song Wu and the others said was true, Ling Yu was indeed the traitor within the association!

Everything that happened now might have been avoided! Then the Song Family and Revival Association wouldn't have attacked them en masse.

"It wasn't me, really wasn't me!"

Ling Yu refused to admit.

He knew better than anyone that if he admitted, his master wouldn't protect him.

"Master, they don't believe me, do you also not believe me? It's those scoundrels trying to sow discord, spreading lies, framing me!!!"

His voice echoed through the hall.

"Why would they frame you and not others?"

Chen Fan retorted.

"How should I know!"

Ling Yu stared at Chen Fan, "Chen, I know you wish for my death, but this matter has nothing to do with me! I'm part of the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association, and I wouldn't betray everyone!"

His reaction shocked Chang Fei and the others.

Could it be that the Song Family was really sowing discord?

Trying to ruin Jiangnan Martial Arts Association by falsely accusing Ling Yu?

Was it necessary?

Chen Fan was much stronger than Ling Yu, and the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association was about to dissolve and cease to exist.

Only Shi Tao remained silent from start to finish.

He knew Ling Yu well.

From every move Ling Yu made, he couldn't escape his observation.

A person can lie assertively, but certain subtle changes, like pupil dilation, eyebrow tremors, speed of speech, and tone, cannot change. Like when Ling Yu claimed he had no connection to Xiao Hong, Shi Tao immediately knew he was lying.

The same applied now.

Shi Tao really wanted to deceive himself, but he couldn't deny his inner feelings.

Because if this matter was true, it was unforgivable.

"Use the Soul-Searching Technique."

The atmosphere became silent.

No one expected those words to come from Shi Tao.

"Master?"

Ling Yu's shock reached its peak.

"Use the Soul-Searching Technique."

Shi Tao turned away, letting tears fall, "If what they say is true, I will personally punish you."

"Alright."

Chen Fan nodded.

"Master! Master! It really wasn't me; it wasn't me!" Ling Yu screamed.

Suddenly, his voice stopped, staring blankly ahead.

"Did you call and inform the Song Family about Song Gang's death?"

Chen Fan asked.

Chapter 666: The Method to Break the Game

Upon hearing Chen Fan's question, Chang Fei and the others' hearts leapt into their throats.

Ling Yu, this child, had actually grown up under their watch. Although his arrogant nature caused them to harbor some resentment, seeing him being crippled by Chen Fan, turning into an ordinary person, was indeed heart-wrenching for them.

However, once Chen Fan made a decision, it wouldn't change. No matter what they said, it wouldn't make a difference.

But, if Ling Yu had betrayed the association, eating inside and outside...

That would be no small matter.

Shi Tao hoped it was just his illusion.

However, reality disappointed him.

"It was me."

Ling Yu directly admitted.

Pain immediately filled Shi Tao's face.

Chang Fei, Shen Si, and the others' faces shifted from disbelief to rage.

Chen Fan glanced at everyone.

He could somewhat understand their current feelings.

His palm wiped past Ling Yu's eyes, and clarity returned to Ling Yu's gaze.

Ling Yu looked around in confusion.

He saw his mentor's painful expression.

He saw Chang Fei and the others who wanted to tear him apart.

He saw the Song family, gloating on the side, and a sense of unease filled his heart.

Could it be that he had just fallen victim to the Soul-Searching Technique and revealed that matter?

"Speak! Why did you do this!"

Shen Si's angry voice roared, "Don't you know what consequences this will bring to everyone?"

"Uncle Shen, I... What are you talking about?"

Ling Yu stammered.

"You're still not being honest at this time?" Shen Si, infuriated, pointed at him, "You just admitted that it was you who made the call to them!"

"What! Me!"

Ling Yu was shocked.

"That's right, kid, the Chen guy used the Soul-Searching Technique on you. You admitted it yourself, we all heard it loud and clear." Song Wu sneered.

"Continuing to deny is useless. Your mentor won't protect you anymore."

"Shi Tao, Shi Tao, you probably never imagined that after teaching him for half your life, you'd end up with a betrayer, right?"

Song Tian laughed heartily, feeling extremely gratified.

"No, Mentor, it's not like that!"

Ling Yu hurriedly said, "This is all the tricks of that Chen guy. He deliberately led me to say that. Mentor, please, you must believe me!"

"Is that so?"

Chen Fan laughed, "Then let's consider I led you. But fact remains, you instigated Xiao Hong, and now you must pay the price."

In the next moment, his palm struck Ling Yu's Dantian, a violent surge of True Essence ripping it apart.

"Pfft!"

Ling Yu spat out a mouthful of blood, his eyes widening.

He could feel his True Essence dissipate wildly after his Dantian was shattered, vanishing completely in seconds, leaving him with no Inner Strength at all.

As long as the Dantian remained, even if all Inner Strength was absorbed, there was still a chance to rise again.

With the Dantian gone, this possibility no longer existed.

"My True Qi! My True Qi!"

Ling Yu cried out in despair, sounding pitiable. Even Shen Si and the others couldn't bear listening anymore,

but remembering that he, out of selfishness, had revealed the information to the Song family, leading to the current situation, they couldn't help but wish to slap him to death.

"President, this guy is yours to deal with."

Chen Fan said to Shi Tao.

Logically, even if he killed Ling Yu outright, none present could fault him.

But too many people were involved, and the most heartbroken one was undoubtedly the president.

Thus, leaving the crippled Ling Yu to him was appropriate.

Whether he decided to clean house himself or secretly let him go, it was no longer related to him.

Of course, if Ling Yu survived and still harbored revenge, he wouldn't hesitate to eliminate him thoroughly.

"Alright."

Shi Tao took a deep breath and approached Ling Yu.

"Mentor, please don't kill me, don't kill me."

Ling Yu recalled Shi Tao's previous words, his face turning pale with fright.

"I'll ask you one last time. Do you admit your wrongdoing?"

Shi Tao asked, expressionless.

"I admit, I admit."

Ling Yu sobbed, "Mentor, I was wrong. When Uncle Shen called you that day and mentioned Chen Fan, I got greedy and eavesdropped. If I hadn't listened, none of this would have happened. Mentor, please, give me one more chance, I won't dare again, I swear, sob..."

"Sigh."

At his words, Shen Si and the others sighed.

What's the use of saying this now?

"Good child."

Shi Tao patted his head, then in the next second, slammed his palm into Ling Yu's chest.

"Mentor."

Ling Yu's eyes widened, disbelief written all over his face, black blood trickling from his mouth as he fell to the ground.

"President?"

"Pre..."

Chang Fei and the others were stunned.

They hadn't expected Shi Tao to follow through, killing Ling Yu right in front of everyone.

Chen Fan sighed lightly.

To ordinary people, Ling Yu's shattered heart meridians meant certain death.

But he saw that Shi Tao had used True Qi to preserve the last shred of his meridians before striking. With timely rescue, he could still be saved.

Chapter 667: The Method to Break the Game_2

Of course, after experiencing this, even if Ling Yu survives, his constitution will be far worse than that of an ordinary person. Let alone practicing martial arts, he wouldn't even be able to walk for long periods.

The president still couldn't harden his heart after all.

However, he didn't intend to expose it and said instead, "I'm sorry, President."

"No, Chen Fan, it should be me who is apologizing."

Shi Tao turned his back to Chen Fan, shaking his head.

"If I had been stricter with him in my usual discipline, if I hadn't indulged him so much, he wouldn't have ended up like this. Let me take care of Ling Yu's burial."

"Of course, after crippling Ling Yu, I already said that he would be at your disposal, President."

"Thank you."

With a thought, Shi Tao put Ling Yu's body into the Yellow Sand Tower.

"President..."

Chang Fei opened his mouth but said nothing.

People are not insensible, who can be indifferent?

Even raising a dog for ten years would foster feelings, not to mention a person.

"Don't worry, I'm fine."

Shi Tao shook his head, "Ling Yu deserved his fate, there's nothing more to say. Let's talk about what we face next."

Chang Fei obediently nodded.

Yes, Ling Yu might be dead, but the mess he left behind is still here.

"Hahaha."

At this moment, Song Tian laughed, as if afraid everyone would forget their current predicament, and said, "Shi Tao, I want to see how you deal with the situation next. And as for you, Chen, you are indeed very strong. But can you alone withstand my Song Family's two ancestors? Not to mention you killed Carl and angered the Revival Association. Hehe, the Revival Association is much stronger than my Song Family."

"No need to worry, you'll see how I handle it when the time comes."

Chen Fan replied indifferently.

Before mastering the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill, he truly would have been very worried.

But with the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill, he essentially had the ability to foresee the future. Knowing in advance what would happen greatly reduced the difficulty.

Even in the worst case, if he truly couldn't win, escaping wouldn't be a problem.

With a thought, an image appeared in his mind.

Two days later, a large group of people arrived at the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association, including elderly white-haired men and blonde, blue-eyed people from Feng Country.

The people they brought surrounded the Martial Arts Association, water-tight.

In contrast, the association's headquarters were desolate, with only Shi Tao, Shen Si, and a few others left.

Yet, despite facing such a large crowd outside, their faces did not show the slightest fear.

Chen Fan understood clearly.

They only had two days left.

The best-case scenario would be breaking through to the Celestial Human Realm within these two days, which would give him great confidence in saving Shi Tao and the others.

In a more typical scenario, even if he didn't break through to the Celestial Human Realm, a significant increase in True Essence might allow him to battle ten Celestial Realm Martial Artists without being at a disadvantage, possibly securing the safety of the group.

The worst-case scenario would be only a small increase in True Essence within those two days. While he could kill two or three Celestial Realm Martial Artists, even those at the mid-stage, he would soon exhaust his True Qi and be in danger of perishing himself.

"So, the problem now is how to fill about 90% of the Sea of Qi within these two days."

Chen Fan determined his goal and looked at Shi Tao in front of him, "President, I'll leave these people from the Song Family to you. I'll be back in a few days."

He didn't persuade anyone to leave.

Firstly, given their statuses, escaping the pursuit of the Song Family and the Revival Association would be difficult.

Secondly, even if persuaded, they probably wouldn't leave.

"Alright."

Shi Tao nodded, understanding what Chen Fan intended to do.

"Be careful."

"I will."

Chen Fan glanced at each of them before turning and walking out.

"Hey!"

The Fifth Brother of the Song Family spoke up, "Leaving just like that? Didn't you say you'd stay and show us how to deal with our two ancestors?"

"Yes, are you going back on your word? Or have you already gotten scared and are finding an excuse to run away, really running away now."

Seeing Chen Fan truly disappear from the hall, the Song Family members were gleeful.

In their view, Chen Fan clearly was scared.

They then turned their attention to Shi Tao and the others.

"Shi Tao, did you just let him go like that? Aren't you worried he won't come back?" Song Tian sneered.

"Better if he doesn't."

Shi Tao glanced at him, then looked outside the hall, "He's currently in the True Essence Realm and can kill Celestial Realm Martial Artists. When he reaches the Celestial Realm, your Song Family's two ancestors will stand no chance against him."

"You!"

Song Tian was speechless.

Indeed, they had seen Carl's death clearly.

It could be said that Carl had no chance to counterattack in front of Chen Fan. Even entering a berserk state only allowed him to hold out a few extra seconds.

If this kid were to grow further, their two ancestors might face the same fate before him.

"Nonsense!" Song Wu angrily rebuked, "He's a True Essence Realm Martial Artist? Who are you trying to fool? That kid is clearly a Celestial Realm Martial Artist! Otherwise, how could he repeatedly use the Giant Spirit Hand?"

"Second Brother is right, how could a True Essence Realm Martial Artist's True Qi allow for the Giant Spirit Hand to be used multiple times? Shi Tao, do the members of the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association always speak so unreliably?"

"Hehe, if you believe Brother Chen is a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, then let him be as you wish. If it comforts you, it's no problem." Shen Si smiled, continuing, "What the President said earlier is also correct. If we die, it's no big deal, but Brother Chen is different. His potential surpasses all of us, and we still depend on him to avenge us in the future."

"Exactly, offending a Celestial Realm Martial Artist means that your Song Family and the entire Revival Association probably won't sleep well." Others joined in the laughter.

Song Tian and the others' faces grew increasingly grim.

Indeed, a lone Celestial Realm Martial Artist with no attachments is the most terrifying.

Even if the Song Family's defense was as tight as an iron barrel, they couldn't prevent such a person, who could come and go at will, from creating fear and havoc over time.

But a Celestial Realm Martial Artist with attachments is different.

"I shouldn't have let him leave so easily." With this thought, Song Tian felt regret, but on second thought, how could he, being a hostage, have stopped him?

After leaving the Martial Artist Association, Chen Fan headed directly for the highest point in Jiangnan City.

By absorbing Primordial Qi, he could increase about 1500 points in one night. Including the daytime, he could gain at most 6000 points in two days, which was just 5% of the breakthrough threshold.

What good is an additional 5% of True Qi? It won't greatly help the upcoming battle in two days. To make a difference, that number must multiply tenfold.

50%!

This means his total True Qi would exceed 600 million, allowing him to use the Giant Spirit Hand over sixty times!

In reality, the number could be even higher, because as his Inner True Qi grows, the passive recovery percentage remains constant, increasing the number of recoverable True Qi.

Facing a dozen Celestial Realm Martial Artists wouldn't scare him then.

So, he needed to search for Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures to supplement his Inner True Essence.

Standing at the highest point, Chen Fan surveyed the large Jiangnan City, where numerous places emitted various glows.

These were the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, the stronger the effect, the stronger the emitted aura.

However, many of these were already owned. He looked further out in all directions where shimmering lights particularly brightened the south.

"I'll check that place."

Chen Fan moved instantly.

Chapter 668: Elder Wang Returns

On the cliff edge.

In the colorless and tasteless air, a ripple suddenly appeared like water waves.

At first, it was only the size of a palm, but in the blink of an eye, it grew to the size of a basin, and then, a figure wearing an ancient robe suddenly emerged from it.

"Rip!"

The sound of fabric tearing erupted.

Immediately following, a faint and indistinct growl came from within the ripples, and along with the ripples, it disappeared together.

"That was close, I almost lost my life in there."

Elder Wang wiped the sweat from his forehead and turned to look at his half-bitten garment, shivering with fear.

If he had moved a little slower, it wouldn't have just been a half-torn garment, but a whole leg.

"Fortunately, I got this thing, it was all worth it."

As he spoke, a long root appeared in his hand.

The size of a palm, its surface white, exuding a faint fragrance that made one want to take a bite.

This item was called the Celestial Net Root, an extremely rare treasure, only found in the secret realm just now. Even for a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, it was greatly beneficial, let alone for a True Essence Realm Martial Artist.

"If Chen Fan can fully absorb the medicinal power in this treasure, his True Qi will surely increase significantly, what a pity."

Elder Wang recalled the earlier experience.

There were several more Celestial Net Roots in that medicinal garden. If he could have harvested them all, perhaps Chen Fan could break through to the Celestial Human Realm.

However, if he had harvested one more, he would have been devoured by the demon beasts that detected his presence.

"I will come back if I get the chance in the future."

He put away the treasure, a smile appeared on his face.

This time, as he was leaving, he calculated that a day had probably passed.

He wondered if anything had happened in Anshan City, but since there were some awakeners in the city, there should not be any major problems.

Suddenly, he thought of something and took out his phone.

Seeing several missed calls on his phone, his expression changed slightly.

The calls from Chen Fan were easy to guess; he probably couldn't find him in the morning, so he called.

But Shi Tao also called, and several times at that.

Evidently, something important had happened.

"Could it be that something happened to Shi Tao?"

Elder Wang's smile froze on his face.

He knew his personality all too well; he wouldn't call multiple times unless it was something extremely important.

"Looks like I'll have to contact Chen Fan later, better find out what happened with Shi Tao first."

He selected one of the missed calls and dialed back.

A few minutes earlier, at the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association Headquarters.

The large conference room on the second floor was crowded, with roughly thousands of people in attendance.

More people continued to pour in through the entrance.

"So many people!"

Someone who had just entered was stunned by the sight.

"What's going on? Why were we suddenly called for a meeting?"

"Yeah, I was in the middle of an experiment."

Many voices of frustration could be heard.

"I don't know, but this meeting was called by the President, so it's definitely to announce something important. An experiment can wait until after the meeting." Someone said.

Compared to doing experiments, they were more eager to attend the meeting because the President was not someone they could meet easily.

"That's true."

Hearing that, many people nodded.

But some more astute individuals sensed that something was off.

Since the establishment of the headquarters, the President had only called a full assembly once several years ago, and at that time, the headquarters did not have as many people, and the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association did not have such fame.

With the development over these years, the headquarters had grown larger, and the President was mostly engrossed in cultivation. Even if something important came up, it was communicated via email.

But now, a full assembly was being called, and it happened to be at the critical point of a beast tide outbreak.

"Could it be that the beast tide is almost here?" someone thought, feeling a jolt inside.

Was the beast tide coming to Jiangnan City soon?

Finally, nearly everyone at the headquarters had gathered.

Low murmurs filled the large conference room.

Suddenly, the sound of footsteps could be heard, and the surrounding noise instantly faded to quiet.

Everyone looked up with faces of respect as Shi Tao slowly walked to the stage.

Even Elder Tang and others, despite any complaints, remained silent at this moment.

"Good afternoon, everyone."

Shi Tao looked at the crowd, "The reason I've gathered you all today is to share an important piece of news. This is not good news, and I hope you all prepare yourselves mentally before hearing it."

In an instant, the thousands of faces in the room lost their smiles.

Bad news?

Could it be that the beast tide was imminent?

Although mentally prepared for that scenario, hearing it still caused their hearts to tighten.

Under the stage, Shen Si and the others had red eyes upon hearing this.

After about a minute, when everyone started to lose their patience, Shi Tao finally spoke, "I announce that, from this moment on, the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association is officially disbanded."

The room fell silent for a moment, followed by a burst of exclamations.

"What? The association is disbanded?"

"The Jiangnan Martial Arts Association is officially disbanded?"

"Did I hear wrong, or is this really what the President said?"

Chapter 669: Elder Wang Returns_2

"How can we dissolve? Why do we have to dissolve? This is too sudden!"

Everyone expressed their disbelief.

"Shi Tao, what on earth are you talking about?" Elder Tang slapped the table and pointed at Shi Tao. "Say that again if you dare!"

"Old Tang! Don't be impulsive."

A few elders beside him quickly pressed him back into his seat.

After all, Shi Tao is the President. It's fine to shout at him in private, but doing so in this kind of setting is not appropriate.

However, they indeed needed an explanation for this matter.

For the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association to develop to this point, Shi Tao, as the President, indeed deserved much credit.

Yet, these people had also contributed. The Jiangnan Martial Arts Association did not belong to Shi Tao alone. It belonged to everyone here.

How could they dissolve it just because of a single sentence from him?

"Shi Tao, Elder Tang has a bit of a temper burst. I apologize on his behalf," Elder Qin stood up and looked at Shi Tao. "But you must give us an explanation. What gives you the right to dissolve the association?"

"That's right, you must give us an explanation."

The other elders echoed.

The rest of the people, intimidated by Shi Tao's authority, did not dare to make a fuss, but all eyes were tightly fixed on him.

Shi Tao was silent for a moment, and finally said, "The association has provoked some enemies. Their strength is formidable. I'm afraid it won't be long before they come. Staying here would be dangerous for you all."

As his words fell, everyone looked at each other in dismay.

Actually, they had caught wind of some things that happened in the main hall of the association this morning.

After all, such a big commotion, how could they not notice it.

But just because of this, they had to dissolve the entire association?

"What enemies? Shi Tao, make it clearer!" Elder Tang said angrily, "No matter how strong they are, so what? Our Jiangnan Martial Arts Association isn't to be trifled with! If one comes, we'll kill one. If two come, we'll kill both!"

"Exactly, who cares who they are? If they're stirring up trouble on our turf, we're not afraid of them! At worst, we'll fight to the death!"

"Fight them to the end!"

Instantly, the crowd was indignant.

In their hearts, the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association was not just a place for work and making money; it was their home.

For many of them, it was their family; everything they did was centered around the association.

Now, just because some enemies came, they had to abandon their home and flee like dogs with their tails between their legs? How could a person with any backbone do such a thing?

Chang Fei and others in the audience were moved to tears by the atmosphere.

Indeed, people like Ling Yu, who turned against their own, were very few. The vast majority were loyal to the association.

Shi Tao's eyes also showed a hint of relief. He raised both hands, signaling everyone to quiet down, and said slowly, "I'm really happy to hear you say these things. I understand how everyone feels right now, but this situation is unprecedented."

"Then tell us, how is it unprecedented?" Elder Tang was furious.

Shi Tao glanced at him and gave a wry smile, "In one or two days, at least ten Celestial Realm Martial Artists will come here."

"What! Ten Celestial Realm Martial Artists!"

Instantly, the entire conference room fell silent.

The President surely couldn't be saying this just to scare them, right?

Ten Celestial Realm Martial Artists? What does that even mean? The entire Jiangnan Martial Arts Association only has one Celestial Realm Martial Artist, which is the President, right?

That's already rare, considering that two or three of the other four martial arts associations don't even have a Celestial Realm Martial Artist.

If ten of them come at once, the President, even if he had three heads and six arms, wouldn't be able to stop them.

"At least ten."

Shi Tao's voice rang out again, "Among these ten Celestial Realm Martial Artists, almost half are mid-stage Celestial Realm. I don't have even a ten percent chance of winning against any of them."

Upon hearing this, everyone's faces turned paler.

Half of them are mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artists?

How could this be?

How did the association manage to provoke such a strong enemy?

"Shi Tao, what exactly did you do?" Elder Tang's voice began to tremble, "How did you incur so many enemies?"

"Elder Tang, it's a long story."

Shi Tao sighed, "And what's done is done. It's no use talking about it now. Frankly, this matter is indeed because of me. If I had been able to... forget it."

He shook his head and looked at everyone. "It's getting late. You should go back and pack your things. It's best to leave tonight. And after you leave, don't tell anyone that you're from the association. Otherwise, you might get involved."

"President!"

Everyone stood there, not knowing what to do.

They really wanted to stay and face the difficulties with the association.

But, from the President's tone, the coming enemies were too formidable—more than ten Celestial Realm Martial Artists!

In front of such opponents, they were like ants; they could be crushed instantly.

But should they just leave like this?

"President, I'm not leaving!"

Someone stood up, eyes firm, "The association is my home. Even if I die, I won't leave!"

"Well said!"

Another person stood up, "So what if I die? What's there to be afraid of? I, Ge Yun, swear to live and die with the association!"

"Live and die with the association!"

A chorus of responses echoed.

Their voices rose higher and higher, forming an endless echo that reverberated in the conference room.

Shi Tao was instantly moved to tears.

After the shouting subsided, he said, "I understand everyone's feelings, but this situation is different from anything we've encountered before. I don't want you to sacrifice yourselves in vain. Many of you have families, people who care about you. Think about how they would feel if something happened to you. Who would they rely on?"

As his words fell, many of the raised hands slowly lowered.

Indeed, many of them were the pillars of their families. If something happened to them, in this world, how would their parents, wives, and children survive?

But many others, with no family, still had a steadfast look.

Shi Tao's gaze swept over them and said, "Actually, the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association will not be dissolved because each of you carries the spirit of the association—tenacious and unyielding. Even if one day the association is gone, you can carry on its spirit, and the association will continue to exist."

Everyone was stunned.

Could it be like that?

But what the President said did make some sense.

"As the President of the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association, I order you to go back, pack your things, and leave."

"President..."

"President..."

No one knew what to say.

Their eyes were filled with confusion and helplessness.

Just a few minutes ago, they were all doing their jobs. A few minutes later, they were told the entire association was gone.

What would they do in the future?

"Go."

Shi Tao sighed, feeling a pang of guilt, "Although this time, the association indeed faces a great crisis, it's not entirely hopeless. If I survive, I promise each and every one of you that I will reestablish the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association and welcome you all back."

"Re- really?"

Upon hearing this, the crowd's eyes sparkled with hope.

"President, is it true? Will you really rebuild the association afterward?"

"Of course, I promise."

Shi Tao nodded.

"Alright, we believe in you, President. We believe you can overcome this crisis."

"Exactly, we will pray in our hearts and wait for that day!"

"President, no matter what, you must get through this crisis!"

Chapter 670: He's That Strong?

The majority of people in the large conference room soon left.

A small number led by Elder Qin stayed behind.

"Shi Tao, what exactly happened this time? Who are the people trying to deal with our Jiangnan Martial Arts Association?"

"Yes, Shi Tao, don't carry everything on your shoulders. Tell us, and we'll figure it out together."

"No one wants to see the association disband just like this."

"It's the Song Family and the Revival Association."

Chang Fei's voice sounded, "The ones who clashed with us in the hall earlier were them."

"The Song Family?"

"The Revival Association?"

Upon hearing this, Elder Qin and the others' expressions changed drastically.

"Elder Qin, it's getting late. It's better if you go back and pack your things." Shi Tao spoke up.

Elder Qin and the others exchanged glances and nodded reluctantly.

Dealing with the Song Family alone was already difficult for them.

Adding the Revival Association...

Even with all their willpower, they were powerless.

Soon, only Shi Tao and his group were left in the conference room.

"You all should leave as well."

Shi Tao looked at Chang Fei and the others, "Leave here, as far away as possible."

"What!"

"President, you want us to leave?"

Chang Fei and the others widened their eyes, as if they had heard something unbelievable.

"I understand your sentiments, but I don't want you to stay and make unnecessary sacrifices." Shi Tao sighed, "Moreover, I have one more thing I need to ask you to do for me."

The group suddenly looked troubled.

Each of them had long harbored the resolve to die with the association.

Even if Shi Tao urged them to leave, they wouldn't go.

But now, Shi Tao mentioned there was something important needing their attention, he couldn't entrust it to others.

"President, what is it?" Shen Si asked.

"I want to ask you to take care of Ling Yu for me."

"What!"

Upon hearing this, Shen Si and the others were stunned.

Wasn't Ling Yu already dead?

He was killed by Shi Tao himself, everyone had seen it.

Shi Tao sighed deeply, "Actually, Xiaoyu is not dead. I used a little trick to preserve his last bit of vitality. With proper care, he can live like an ordinary person, but he won't be able to do strenuous activities or walk the path of a Martial Artist in the future."

"So that's it."

The group nodded in understanding.

They could understand Shi Tao's actions.

After all, Shi Tao raised Ling Yu himself. Such an act of righteousness and kin-slaying is not something an ordinary person could do.

Ling Yu indeed made a grave mistake this time, but losing his martial arts and nearly dying, to live on with a body inferior to ordinary people, is a punishment that could be even more painful than death for him.

"President, does Brother Chen know about this?" Chang Fei looked around cautiously before softly asking, seemingly afraid Chen Fan might hear their conversation.

"I'm not sure about that."

Shi Tao shook his head, "He may know, or he may not. If one day in the future, he finds out and insists on killing Ling Yu, you can let him be."

He sighed.

Because by that time, he would most likely be dead.

Things behind him, he couldn't control even if he wanted to.

"President..."

Upon hearing this, the group felt a deep sense of sorrow.

"Promise me, will you?"

Shi Tao looked at everyone, "Just take it as my last request, take good care of Ling Yu for me."

"President..."

The group's eyes reddened, and tears uncontrollably flowed out.

They suspected that the reason the president entrusted them with this matter was also a way to keep them from staying here.

"It's all my fault. If it weren't for me, none of this would have happened." Shen Si was filled with remorse.

"Old Shen, what are you talking about? Obviously, the ones who bullied us are the Song Family and the Revival Association. We are the victims."

"That's right, we were just acting in self-defense. We can't let them kill us without doing anything, right?"

"If there's any fault, it's that we are too weak. In the entire association, only the president and Brother Chen are Celestial Realm Martial Artists. If our association had a dozen or so martial artists, I don't believe the Song Family or the Revival Association would dare to come at us!"

As the words fell, everyone around him chuckled.

If they indeed had such power, even the Elder Council would treat them with respect.

"Ling Yu is here. Besides, there are many Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures here. Xiaoyu, I leave him to you."

After speaking, Shi Tao placed the Yellow Sand Tower in Chang Fei's hand.

"President..."

Chang Fei wanted to say something.

"Go now."

Shi Tao urged, "Before the news spreads, leave here quickly and find a safe place to hide. Unless I call you back, don't come near this place."

"President, even if we leave, the Song Family and Revival Association people may not let us go."

Chang Fei looked at the Yellow Sand Tower in his hand and smiled bitterly.

"That's right, President. With our identities, the Song Family will surely send people to search for us afterward. With the beast tide erupting, we will be found easily." Shen Si also nodded.

Shi Tao was stunned.

He actually understood this point, but he was holding on to a bit of luck.

Even if they ended up being found, it would be better than dying with him in battle.

"President," Chang Fei said, "After I leave, I will find a reliable brother to take care of Ling Yu. He will not attract the attention of the Song Family. As for us, we will stay and wait for the Song Family and Revival Association people with you."