

Menu 1241

Chapter 1241: One Punch, 7 Buffs?

The fire illuminated the night sky.

A crimson glow.

Jia Youcai instinctively pulled on the reins.

"Sir, Master Mu?"

The arrest officer couldn't help but speak out.

He recognized the location of the fire — it was the Chen Residence.

But, how could it be such a coincidence?

Just after finishing handling matters here, the Chen Residence had an incident?

Thinking about the deeds done by those two from the Chen Residence, Jia Youcai refused to believe it.

If even Jia Youcai didn't believe it, then Jason and Li Deshang certainly wouldn't.

"Increase speed."

"Stay alert."

Li Deshang commanded, his expression turning increasingly grim.

If previously he only suspected someone within the Mountain City was involved in the cult's 'city takeover', at this point, he was certain.

'Bastards! Damn it!'

Li Deshang cursed inwardly.

Not only was this matter implicating him, a small misstep could lead to the ruin of his family, but also because previously, he prided himself on diligently managing the Mountain City.

But now?

It was like a slap in the face.

Not only did it hurt, but he got swollen from the blow.

Jason rested with his eyes closed inside the carriage. When the fire started, he twitched his nose, found no scent of 'food', and quickly lost interest.

Although surprised, such an occurrence was acceptable to Jason.

Chen Tong — he killed him.

Chen Yin — he killed him.

Chen Jin — he killed him.

The whole family was neatly taken care of.

Sparing him a lot of trouble.

The remaining matters?

That's more manageable.

Especially with the Transmigration Cult!

Jason certainly wouldn't let them off.

His 'Fireball Spell Staff' was still in the hands of these cultists. It must be returned.

"Whoa!"

"Sir, Master Mu has arrived."

Jia Youcai pulled the reins and jumped off the carriage, lifting the curtain for Jason and Li Deshang — it was a small carriage that required entry from the front; although it didn't seat many, it was fast.

That's why Jia Youcai chose this carriage.

Jason swiftly jumped off.

Li Deshang was helped down by Jia Youcai.

Only when he felt solid ground beneath him did Li Deshang release Jia Youcai's arm.

"Sir!"

A soldier stationed there ran over and bowed to Li Deshang.

"What's going on?"

Li Deshang asked, looking towards the Chen Residence.

By now, the Chen Residence had fully become an inferno.

The soldiers around were constantly fighting the fire, but were ultimately powerless against the blaze.

"We followed sir's orders to guard outside the Chen Residence, but just a moment ago, it suddenly caught fire. The flames were unstoppable, surging straight up."

"Please punish me, sir."

The soldier knelt to the ground.

"It's not your fault."

Li Deshang waved his hand.

Though angry, he wouldn't vent it onto others.

Clearly, everyone inside the Chen Residence had been silenced, and the impossible-to-stop blaze was due to combustibles like oil.

This sort of thing was definitely not something the soldier could handle.

However...

Did any of these soldiers have ties to this?

If not, good.

If so, that would be trouble.

Thinking this, Li Deshang frowned.

He maintained friendly relations with the major households in the Mountain City partly due to their wealth, and partly because of their long-standing roots in the city, far beyond what a newcomer like him could compare.

Once in conflict, swift action was necessary.

If not...

It's not unheard of for 'chief officials' to die in office.

If it included him Li Deshang, what was the big deal?

Just another useless corpse.

'Must be cautious.'

Li Deshang reminded himself, then he waved his hand again at the kneeling soldier.

"This was sudden; I don't blame you."

"Stand up."

"Continue leading people to fight the fire."

With that, Li Deshang turned and gestured for Jason to walk aside.

"Brother Mu, what do you think?"

Li Deshang quietly asked.

"They didn't kill anyone; they don't have Blood Fiend Aura."

Li Deshang wanted to ask something, but Jason roughly guessed it, so he immediately answered.

This wasn't perfunctory; Jason had really used 'Death Sensing' to check.

"That's good, that's good."

"There's contact, not deep, that's good."

Li Deshang was delighted, murmuring to himself.

Then he started pacing somewhat awkwardly.

Jason waited a few minutes, seeing Li Deshang hadn't returned to normal, he promptly bid farewell to Jia Youcai.

The matter at hand was resolved.

Remaining tasks, Li Deshang could definitely handle.

It was definitely not because of the scent from the four 'Fireball Spell Staff' he carried that made him feel hungry.

"Master Mu, leave it to me."

"Sir reads too much, inevitably causing this demeanor."

"I'll prepare your carriage."

Jia Youcai explained.

"No need."

Jason shook his head and strode towards the Martial Arts Street.

Soon disappearing into the night.

"Is it like the stories, leaving after things are resolved?"

"Unfortunately, I don't have that skill."

Jia Youcai shook his head, glanced at his mystic-like sir, and shook his head again.

Lastly, Jia Youcai looked at the Chen Residence engulfed in flames and shook his head once more.

This time, with a sigh.

Exuding an immense pain.

...

Jason walked at a steady pace towards Martial Arts Street.

Constantly attuned with superhuman perception for any unusualities.

Unfortunately, there wasn't a hint of anomaly.

"Just silence the people of the Chen Residence?"

Chapter 1243: Microwaves

Absolutely!

And I can get even stronger!

After only a brief moment of thought, Jason gave a definite answer.

He was born with extraordinary talent; nothing was impossible for him.

If he couldn't do it, it just meant he hadn't eaten enough.

He just needed to eat more.

One punch, seven buffs!

No!

It's, one punch, seven injuries!

With some luck, he could even achieve one punch, ten injuries, twenty injuries, thirty injuries.

"I just don't know what level of martial arts this quest world has reached?"

"Are there any secret techniques that can overturn the sea or split the mountains?"

"If there are..."

Jason's eyes lit up as he thought about this.

He wanted it.

He deeply wanted it.

But, quickly, Jason calmed down.

Even though eating enough could solve everything, right now, he had no 'food'.

He was lacking satiety!

Very much lacking!

Not to mention how much satiety those secret techniques that could overturn the sea and split the mountains would require, even the 'Iron Fist Vigor' and 'Mountain Shaking Fist Energy' in front of him exceeded his satiety.

Openly, 'Iron Fist Vigor' required 30 satiety, 'Mountain Shaking Fist Energy' needed 40 satiety, which he could cover with his 282 points of satiety,

But with the example of the core secret technique [Dragon.Battle Pattern.Pulus.Griffin.Stealth Body Forging Technique] before him, Jason knew each fusion wasn't simple.

Each needed satiety to display his powerful talent.

The current amount of satiety was entirely insufficient.

Especially when increasing the level, the consumption became more extravagant; back when he upgraded the core secret technique to 'Unmatched' level, it consumed 3000 satiety.

"I need more satiety!"

With this thought, Jason stood up straight away.

He quietly walked out of the room.

When he appeared again inside Mountain City, the ice ball mask was already on his face, and the short-handled broad blade cleaver in his hand glowed with a cold light.

Mu Bai is Mu Bai.

The Masked Man is naturally the Masked Man.

What does it have to do with Jason?

Knowing the importance of keeping his identity hidden, Jason naturally was cautious.

He didn't want the identity of 'Mu Bai' to be exposed for now.

At least, not until he truly understood this world.

Standing atop the highest building on Martial Arts Street, 'Drunk Fragrance House,' Jason looked at the once again quieting Mountain City.

With his transcendent perception, he could clearly see that although many houses were dark, they hid numerous shadows, obviously with lights out, secretly watching from the windows.

The chaos at the dock was distant and not quite clear.

However, at the city gate, the 'Transmigration Cult' made quite a commotion.

Especially with the Chen Residence on fire, enough to catch some people's attention.

Jason stood there, lightly flaring his nostrils.

He hoped that among those drawn here, there would be his target.

But to Jason's disappointment, such a target did not appear.

Not just that kind of target, none of the previously anticipated targets appeared either.

Inside each martial arts gym on Martial Arts Street, there was no scent of 'secret medicine'.

"Is there none?"

"Or is the storage method special?"

"Has the smell been blocked?"

Instinctively, Jason leaned towards the latter.

Admittedly, quite a subjective bias.

However, after circling Mountain City without finding any scent of 'food,' he immediately confirmed his guess.

After all, before, Li Deshang had promised him to find 'secret medicine' in Mountain City.

This meant there was 'secret medicine' in Mountain City.

But the storage method was special, and he couldn't find it for now.

To this, Jason wasn't too disappointed.

With Li Deshang helping, as long as there was 'secret medicine' in Mountain City, it would be his sooner or later.

What truly surprised Jason was the 'Transmigration Cult'.

No more contaminating, lingering 'food' scent.

"Is their level not high enough?"

"So they haven't been granted anything like a 'Fireball Spell Staff' as 'food'?"

"Or is the 'Fireball Spell Staff' a rarity even in the Transmigration Cult?"

Jason frowned.

If it was the latter, it wouldn't be good news for him.

Thinking this, Jason continued wandering around Mountain City.

Even went outside the city for a round.

With Jason's transcendent level of stealth, no one detected his presence.

Even if the soldiers were on high alert, eyes wide open, it would be useless.

The most they could sense was the breeze at night.

More than that?

Just the depth of the night.

Not until just before dawn did Jason return to the martial arts gym.

At this point, he could already see Dou Bao's busy figure in the kitchen.

Without disturbing Dou Bao, Jason returned to his room.

He picked up the 'Mu Style. Tiger Fist' penned by Dou Bao and carefully read it over—it was something Jason had Dou Bao write under the guise of a test.

Since he had to operate as 'Mu Bai', this 'Mu Style. Tiger Fist' was something he had to master.

Even if it was just the basics, it had to be shown.

Then, Jason continued reading while waiting for breakfast.

As well as Li Deshang and... the 'Transmigration Cult.'

The sun rose, and the sun set.

The day went by without incident, though the apprentices gave Jason increasingly respectful looks as they came.

Clearly, being able to afford ten silver coins a month to learn martial arts meant they weren't from ordinary families, and even if they couldn't be certain, they had heard of what happened last night.

Both Jason and Dou Bao had anticipated this.

"I estimate in another day or two, after the martial arts competition, there will be a big crowd coming to learn and become apprentices."

Chapter 1244: Microwave (2)

Sitting at the dining table, Dou Bao smiled and said.

When someone becomes a disciple, they will pay subscription money.

With subscription money, the martial arts school can keep operating.

With subscription money, Dou Bao can buy more ingredients.

Moreover, she can always follow the master.

Dou Bao had such a simple and hopeful thought.

Jason was much more straightforward.

He looked at the quest in front of him [Main Quest: Gain 3000 (30) Prestige].

His prestige began changing from last night.

It was increasing bit by bit, +1+1.

By the end of the day, it had already reached 30.

According to Jason's estimate, it wouldn't be a problem to exceed one hundred in a few days as the event unfolds, and with the Martial Arts Street competition, the prestige would reach a new height again.

It's just—

"One city is too small."

"To complete the main quest, spreading fame to nearby cities is necessary."

"Even to an entire state."

Through chatting, Jason already knew that 'Mountain City' was just a small town under 'Bianzhou', not even a prefectural city, just a regular little town.

In other words, it was a small place.

Upon learning this news, Jason was happy.

Because he knew that if he could find some 'Secret Medicine' in a small place, the bigger locations would naturally offer more and better options.

However, that's a matter for later.

For now?

Jason's gaze turned toward the courtyard gate.

About three or four seconds later—

Bang, bang.

The gate of the martial arts school courtyard was knocked on.

"Master Mu? Is Master Mu here?"

"I and the gentleman have come to see you."

Jia Youcai's voice clearly reached the backyard, and Dou Bao got up to open the door.

Last night, the master took a big risk to help Jia Youcai, Li Deshang, naturally leaving a huge debt of gratitude, and it was time to repay a part of it.

Reciprocity, reciprocity.

Mutual exchanges are the true essence.

Frequent interactions are the best way to deepen friendship.

Dou Bao had seen similar scenes in town.

At this time, she was not unfamiliar at all.

Moreover, she didn't appear timid.

She opened the door boldly and stood in front of Jia Youcai, Li Deshang, and a group of servants carrying gifts.

Dou Bao's gaze swept over everyone, especially taking a look at the two large boxes carried by the servants, and immediately asked.

"What's the matter?"

A crisp voice, higher than usual.

Immediately, many eyes were drawn over.

In fact, when Jia Youcai and Li Deshang stepped onto this street, many eyes had already noticed them, but since they recognized Li Deshang's identity, no one dared to come over and inquire.

And now, with Dou Bao's voice, gazes were 'naturally' drawn over.

People are inherently followers.

When they noticed the gaze of those around them, their eyes followed suit.

Dou Bao was calm and composed.

Reputation!

The martial arts school needs reputation!

Is there anything better for boosting reputation than this moment?

"Sister Dou Bao, sorry to bother."

"It was indeed so busy during the day that we only got free at this time."

"This is my master."

Jia Youcai said with a smile.

"Miss Dou Bao, I've heard Jia Youcai say that you manage the martial arts school, and seeing today, you indeed prove women are not inferior to men."

Li Deshang said with a smile, completely showing a familiar and friendly demeanor.

"The gentleman praises too highly."

Dou Bao shook her head, stepped aside, and after welcoming everyone in, closed the martial arts school's gate again.

While closing the door, she gave a modest but respectful smile to the people who had been watching, then used a martial artist's salute, clasping her hands together, to apologize for disturbing the neighbors.

The people immediately nodded, clasped their hands in return.

After doing all this, Dou Bao slowly closed the door.

Li Deshang, Jia Youcai, along with a group of servants, stood there waiting.

"Please follow me."

Dou Bao turned and saluted, then led the way to the main hall.

Li Deshang couldn't help nodding silently.

If some of his previous words about Dou Bao were meant as compliments, the scene just now made him realize that his brother's maid was indeed remarkable, even some young ladies from merchant families in Zhoufu couldn't be as natural.

Not to mention people from small places.

Receiving guests, dealing with matters, and gaining fame were all handled perfectly.

'Where did Brother Mu find such a maid?'

Thinking this, Li Deshang had already walked into the main hall and immediately saw Jason standing there.

"Brother Mu!"

Li Deshang greeted with a smile, while signaling the servants to bring over the two large boxes.

Although he hadn't interacted much, Li Deshang understood the temperament of martial artists. Rather than being secretive and offending someone, it's better to be straightforward.

The two boxes were opened.

Inside the big box was a set of iron armor and a Horse-Cleaving Saber.

The iron armor and the Horse-Cleaving Saber looked familiar.

The iron armor was what Jason wore last night, and the Horse-Cleaving Saber was used by the flying thief.

"A treasure sword for a hero."

"This iron armor has been in my collection for a long time, always gathering dust as a hidden gem, until I met Brother Mu who was its true owner. Also, this Horse-Cleaving Saber, in the whole Mountain City, aside from Brother Mu, probably no one else can wield it."

Li Deshang said seriously.

Although his words carried flattery, it wasn't annoying.

Without a doubt, to become one of the administrators of 'Mountain City', Li Deshang had some basic qualities.

Then, as one of the main officials of 'Mountain City', he stepped aside to reveal the small box.

The small box was divided into two layers.

The upper layer was a row of ginseng.

The lower layer was neatly stacked, with rolls of silver coins wrapped in red silk.

Chapter 1245: Microwave (3)

"Brother Mu, practicing martial arts is most important for replenishing Qi-Blood. Although these ginseng roots aren't much, they're perfect for daily nourishment."

"Brother Mu, eat these first. When you're done, let me know, and I will bring more."

Li Deshang pointed at a row of ten ginseng roots and then gestured towards the Silver Coins below.

"Here are eight hundred Silver Coins, including the previous bounty, as well as everyone's goodwill. We are grateful for Brother Mu's righteous action last night, and of course, there's compensation."

"Although it's far from enough, Brother Mu, trust me, soon there will be true compensation."

The compensation is because the Chen Residence was unable to complete its task due to a fire.

Li Deshang didn't elaborate.

Jason didn't ask further questions.

The two understood each other without words.

Jason signaled Dou Bao to collect the Silver Coins and ginseng.

Dou Bao needs to buy groceries to cook, and with his huge appetite, especially for meat, only enough Silver Coins would allow him to prepare more and better meals.

As for the ginseng?

Making soup is the first choice.

That relies on Dou Bao.

Carrying the small box, Dou Bao turned and left.

Li Deshang and Jia Youcai couldn't help but be quietly astonished.

Even the servant holding the box just now couldn't walk as easily as Dou Bao.

Moreover, Jason seemed to trust Dou Bao so much.

Just gave away eight hundred Silver Coins?

Instantly, the two raised Dou Bao's position in their minds.

The iron armor and Horse-Cleaving Saber were simply hung in the hall.

The martial arts school's decor was not as complicated as a regular home, with weapons like knives, guns, swords, and halberds allowed indoors, and there were ready-made racks for weapons and armor.

Looking at the iron armor and Horse-Cleaving Saber hung on the wall opposite the main entrance, Li Deshang couldn't help but nod.

"Not bad, it adds a touch of prowess."

Li Deshang said, taking out a small box from his chest.

"A portion of 'Tiger Blood Strong Yuan Powder' and five 'Nourishing Essence Pills.'"

Jason, who had long smelled the 'food' aroma, wasn't surprised at all.

Similarly, he was not surprised at how quickly Li Deshang managed to get a portion of 'Tiger Blood Strong Yuan Powder' and five 'Nourishing Essence Pills.'

Upon first meeting, even if it's a partnership, who would reveal everything they have?

That's not partnership.

That's a fat sheep.

Jason was well aware of this.

Li Deshang offered an apologetic gesture.

"Please forgive me, Brother Mu."

"It's truly because this brother is meeting Brother Mu for the first time that I had to be cautious."

"Now, this brother is truly ashamed."

Saying this, Li Deshang bowed deeply.

However, he was immediately held up by Jason.

He had already acquired what he wanted and still needed Li Deshang to 'expand his sources,' so it wasn't necessary to be so pretentious now.

"I understand."

Jason responded.

"Understanding is good, understanding is good."

"When I came, indeed, this brother was apprehensive, but Brother Mu's understanding reassures me."

"Brother Mu, rest assured, 'Tiger Blood Strong Yuan Powder' of this level is hard to find in Mountain City, but pills like 'Nourishing Essence Pills' are abundant. This brother will absolutely find them for Brother Mu."

Li Deshang, as if a burden lifted, smiled once more.

Then, this chief official of 'Mountain City' continued.

"After a busy day, this brother and others haven't eaten or drinken, and I've heard the 'Drunken Fairy Chicken' at the 'Drunken Fairy Tower' is quite delicious. Brother Mu, would you like to join us?"

As he spoke, Li Deshang looked at Jason expectantly.

This was another opportunity to strengthen their relationship.

If Jason agreed, it represented a further improvement in their relationship, which was what he most hoped for.

If Jason didn't agree, he would find other ways to strengthen his relationship with Jason.

But unexpectedly to Li Deshang, Jason stood up immediately and said —

"Brother Gousheng, let's go."

Chapter 1246: The Well-Informed Li Deshang

Originally probing, Li Deshang's face immediately blossomed into a smile upon hearing Jason's greeting of 'Brother Gousheng,' the wrinkles on his face bunching up like a chrysanthemum.

As someone from an inconspicuous branch of the Northern Li Family, Li Deshang had become one of the officials in charge of 'Mountain City'. He had no problem with his abilities, especially his skill in recognizing people, which far surpassed others.

He could hear the sincerity in Jason's words.

That was complete and utter goodwill.

'My Brother Mu seems to have a taste for food?'

'Then I'll have to invite him over a few more times.'

'Some rare and exotic delicacies sent by others should also be brought over.'

Li Deshang thought to himself.

As one of the officials in charge of 'Mountain City', gifts from people entering through the small gate to the government office were unending.

Apart from money, there were also plenty of rare items.

Naturally, there were also exotic delicacies.

As for Jason's fondness for eating?

Li Deshang was truly overjoyed.

He had once worried that apart from 'Secret Medicine', Jason wouldn't be interested in anything else.

Li Deshang knew how rare 'Secret Medicine' was.

But now, there was another interest, which was just great.

A table of banquet food was just a few Silver Coins at most.

Even the best from Drunken Fairy Tower would only be around 20-30 Silver Coins.

Even if martial artists eat more than ordinary people, how much could they possibly eat, even if it were daily?

'This is so great!'

Li Deshang thought as he lifted his hand to pull Jason along.

Before, Li Deshang wouldn't have dared to.

But after Jason's calling of 'Brother Gousheng', Li Deshang knew that they had gotten closer, so he dared to.

"Brother Mu, take it easy, no rush."

After saying this, Li Deshang called to Jia Youcai, "Go to Drunken Fairy Tower and reserve a private room for me and Brother Mu, and then have their chef prepare well."

"Got it, sir."

Jia Youcai cheerfully turned and ran out.

For other matters, such as apprehending bandits, Jia Youcai lacked the strength, but for such a task, it was as easy as pie.

And in fact, it was like that.

Within five minutes, Jia Youcai had run back.

"Sir, Master Mu, it's all set."

Jia Youcai bowed in salute.

"Hmm, Brother Mu, let's go, we'll try the Drunken Fairy Tower's 'Drunken Fairy Chicken' tonight."

Li Deshang nodded and turned to look at Jason, who was waiting there.

Jason hadn't returned to his seat but stood there waiting.

'Brother Mu really is a genuine food lover!'

Li Deshang sighed.

Then, his heart grew increasingly joyous.

He felt he had found a faster way to forge a closer relationship with Jason.

In the group, Jason and Li Deshang led the way.

Dou Bao followed slightly behind Jason.

Jia Youcai and others had already run ahead to the entrance of Drunken Fairy Tower, waiting there with the owner of the tower.

"Sir Li's visit truly graces us with your presence!"

The owner of Drunken Fairy Tower, a potbellied middle-aged man, had a kindly appearance as he smiled.

"This time it's a family dinner."

"No need for anything else."

"Have your chef show their best skills."

Li Deshang instructed.

The business at Drunken Fairy Tower was booming, not just because of their dishes but also due to some rumors regarding the private rooms. Li Deshang was aware of this. However, since such matters weren't strictly forbidden, he deliberately turned a blind eye.

But today, Dou Bao was accompanying them.

Seeing Dou Bao's importance in his brother's heart earlier, such things must definitely not occur in front of Dou Bao.

Moreover, he was unsure of his brother's preferences.

If something happened, it would be improper.

Thus, it was a family dinner.

"Family dinner?"

"Understood."

The chubby owner's gaze quickly swept over Jason and Dou Bao and immediately comprehended.

Nonetheless, the chubby owner gave Jason another look.

Knowing who Jason was, as the owner of a tavern on Martial Arts Street, he was well-informed.

He had also heard the rumors from the previous night.

'Judging by Li Deshang's demeanor, it's likely that the rumors are true.'

Thinking of this, the chubby owner became even more respectful.

He could already foresee the benefits Li Deshang might gain from this event.

He would likely get promoted.

And Jason?

Would be paid more attention to by Li Deshang.

In any case, building good rapport was beneficial.

Then, this chubby owner led Li Deshang and Jason, bowing and guiding them to the second floor of Drunken Fairy Tower.

Only after arranging everything properly did he turn and close the door behind him.

"Brother Mu, how do you find it?"

Li Deshang pointed at the arrangement of the private room.

Upon entering the private room, past a beaded curtain, it was divided left and right, separated by a screen painted with the 'Fortune, Prosperity, Longevity' theme.

On the left was an Eight Immortal round table, a long lantern hanging from the ceiling, painted with bamboo and plum blossoms. On the four corners sat candles covered in white gauze, lighting the room up thoroughly.

On the other side of the screen was a censer, a zither table, and a lounging bed.

During meals, incense would burn in the censer, and the zither would play on the table.

It was undoubtedly a kind of enjoyment.

However, for Jason, such arrangements didn't matter as much. As long as the food was good, it was fine.

"It's alright."

So, Jason casually replied.

Dou Bao, however, took a close look at the setup.

She had seen similar setups before.

She really liked the censer, thinking if some poisonous smoke were mixed in, it would be imperceptible.

Unfortunately, it was destroyed by bandits, and the censer was shattered.

"Miss Dou Bao, what do you think?"

Li Deshang addressed Dou Bao.

Dou Bao was held in high regard in Jason's heart, so careful hospitality was necessary.

Li Deshang would not make basic mistakes.

"Hmm."

Dou Bao nodded slightly, without making any comments.

Chapter 1247: The Well-Informed Li Deshang (2)

Like is like.

But with the Master here, she doesn't need to speak up.

Moreover, the Master doesn't care about this.

She also can't show that she cares, can't embarrass the Master for no reason, so Dou Bao calmly reminded in her tone: "My Master has a huge appetite, please bear with us, Li Da-ren."

"Hahaha."

"I understand."

"How can a martial artist's appetite be compared to ordinary people?"

"Don't worry, a mere brother like me has seen the world."

Li Deshang spoke with conviction.

Then, only twenty minutes later, this person who had previously claimed to have seen the world was sitting there dumbfounded.

A solidly prepared, meticulously cooked ten-person banquet... How is it... gone?

There was just a big ham in front of me.

I just picked up my chopsticks, and then a gust of wind passed, and the ham was gone.

Not even a bone left!

What happened?

Li Deshang stiffly turned his neck to look at Jason, who was making a crunching sound as he chewed.

Then, he looked at Dou Bao, who was looking at him with a half-smile.

"Ahem."

"Martial artists, you know, normal."

"I've seen brothers like Mu Bai before."

Saying such words, Li Deshang shouted to Jia Youcai outside the door: "Another table."

The banquet resumed.

The wind howled inside the room.

The plates were spotless.

Holding chopsticks ready to pick up a piece of bamboo shoot, Li Deshang hadn't touched the bamboo shoots, and the whole plate was empty, cleaner than being washed.

"This, this?"

"Ahem."

"Martial artists, you know, normal."

Li Deshang said again.

Then, another table of feasts arrived.

And then—

"Ahem."

"Martial artists, you know, normal."

...

Such words kept echoing in the private room.

And later, it was just.

"Normal, normal."

Similar murmurs.

This 'Mountain City' official, one of the officials, was a bit frightened.

But, he couldn't show it.

He could only mutter in his mind.

'I, Li Deshang, from the Northern Li Family, well-experienced.'

Kept muttering.

Kept reminding.

But while muttering and reminding, it turned into.

'How can he eat so much?'

Then, Li Deshang calculated the expenses, and his heart tightened.

It was already the tenth table.

Ten tables already!

According to Drunken Fairy Tower's prices, that's almost 200 silver coins.

Silver coins!

With that number, Li Deshang started taking deep breaths.

It's not that he couldn't afford 200 silver coins.

His status destined him not to care too much about 200 silver coins, but a meal costing 200 silver coins, Li Deshang also couldn't quite accept it, and more importantly: he previously hoped to use this meal to get closer to Jason.

But now, look?

It would have been better to seek out a path for the 'Secret Medicine.'

To know that 'Nourishing Essence Pill' type 'Secret Medicine' is only 100 silver coins each.

It would have been better to bring the 'Secret Medicine' directly to Jason.

Because, that way he wouldn't be embarrassed.

Indeed, embarrassed.

This 'Mountain City' official felt embarrassed.

He was running out of money.

He had just over thirty silver coins in his purse, and previously he thought a meal with Jason would be enough.

After all, a purse is only so big, who would carry hundreds of silver coins in it.

But now?

Clutching his purse, Li Deshang pondered what to do.

He, one of the 'Mountain City' officials, couldn't be left to wash dishes, right?

If word got out, would he keep his face?

As for credit?

He was sure that if he did credit today, he would become the laughingstock of Haizhou Prefecture tomorrow.

While Li Deshang was pondering, the chubby boss knocked and came in.

The chubby boss was sweating profusely.

Once in the door, he bowed deeply.

"Li Da-ren, Master Mu, I'm terribly sorry, we're out of ingredients."

The chubby boss spoke, his face a wry smile.

The restaurant running out of food, and he's been in this business for so many years, it was the first time he encountered this.

Similarly, someone like Jason with such an appetite, it's also the first time he had ever seen.

How can someone eat so much?

He even felt like opening the window to check if it had fallen outside.

But no matter what, it's wrong for his restaurant when a guest is halfway through their meal and the ingredients run out; apologizing is the right thing to do.

Especially with Li Deshang present.

The one in charge is more important than the county official.

Especially when the one in charge is the county official; the fat boss naturally knows what to do.

"Tonight's banquet is like offering my apologies to Lord Li and Master Mu, what do you think?"

Saying this, the fat boss looked towards Li Deshang and Jason.

Deep down, the fat boss was already bleeding internally.

Disregarding the costs, he had at least lost 100 silver coins.

Although the income from Drunken Fairy Tower is decent, it's still half a month's work gone to waste.

Li Deshang let out a sigh of relief upon hearing the fat boss's words.

He wouldn't have to lose face.

Just as Li Deshang was about to nod, Mu Bai wiped his mouth and said to Dou Bao, "Go back and get the money to pay the bill."

Dining has its own rules as well.

Table manners are naturally part of dining etiquette.

Jason was well aware of his own appetite.

Li Deshang might not care about the money, but the boss in front of him certainly did.

Moreover, the food was indeed good.

"Understood, Master."

Upon hearing Jason's words, Dou Bao, who had been watching all along, instantly smiled.

See, this is her Master.

Never bullies the weak with his strength.

Even when occupying a definite advantage.

"Mu brother, wait a minute."

"Miss Dou Bao, wait, please don't."

"It was said that it was my treat."

Li Deshang couldn't sit still now. He had said it was his treat, and then Jason would pay the bill; it wouldn't be a joke, but a matter of being deeply humiliated.

If Jason really paid, he would be ashamed enough to run into a wall.

Moreover, he sincerely wanted to win Jason over.

How could such a thing happen?

"Jia Youcai, go back to the manor and get the money."

Li Deshang said.

"Yes, Sir."

Jia Youcai immediately turned and went down the stairs.

The arrest officer had been waiting outside and had some guesses about his master's predicament, but he was more surprised by Jason's appetite.

This, is this what martial arts training is like?

Indeed, scholars are poor, but martial artists are rich!

Jia Youcai turned and walked away.

The fat boss also left the room.

In the elegant room, only Jason, Dou Bao, and Li Deshang were left.

With no outsiders, Li Deshang bitterly smiled and clasped his hands towards Jason.

"Apologies for letting Mu brother see a joke. I didn't mean to take advantage, it's just that I didn't bring enough money, and when going out I couldn't bring several hundred silver coins, right?"

"The purse can't hold that much, you'd need a box."

"Imagine me walking in front, with a little servant carrying the money box behind. If someone knew it was me, they'd think I was afraid I didn't bring enough money; if not, they'd think I was going to collect protection fees."

Being honest with a martial artist is important.

He had long known this.

The more awkward the situation, the more you need to be honest.

Otherwise, you would only harm yourself.

This was advice given to him by a family elder before he left.

Li Deshang was doing just that now.

He clasped his hands towards Jason again.

"Mu brother, this time doesn't count."

"I'll treat Mu brother again for... no, three meals."

"I'll treat Mu brother for three more meals as an apology."

Li Deshang finished speaking and looked at Jason honestly.

Immediately, Jason decided to forgive him.

He saw Li Deshang's sincerity.

"It's alright, Gousheng brother."

Jason smiled and shook his head.

Just as he wanted to say more, his nostrils involuntarily twitched.

At once, a smile appeared on Jason's face.

Li Deshang being able to treat them again was already unexpected.

After all, those who treated him to a meal rarely did it a second time.

And now, he could treat them three more times.

Such sincerity!

Moreover, there was an unexpected delight offered.

After Jia Youcai returned with the money, Jason and company went downstairs.

"Really sorry."

"Truly apologies."

The fat boss kept apologizing.

Jason's gaze, however, looked towards the front door of Drunken Fairy Tower.

There, parked was a four-wheeled dark canopy carriage; when they descended the stairs and reached the lobby, the driver of the carriage flicked his whip.

Crack!

The carriage immediately started moving.

Then—

Two rows of ten hidden gunmen appeared just like that.

In the darkness, with their black gun barrels, they aimed directly at the door of the restaurant at Jason and Li Deshang.

Chapter 1248: Jason Racking His Brains for Food

A musket squad of over ten people, split into two rows front and back.

The front row crouched, the back row stood upright.

They were clearly well-prepared, as soon as the four-wheeled black-covered carriage drove away and Jason and Li Deshang appeared, they immediately pulled the trigger—

Bang bang bang!

Amidst the flashes of fire, thick smoke rose up.

Bullets shot out like exploding water droplets, enveloping the entrance of the 'Drunken Fairy Tower'.

"Ah!"

"Oh my mother!"

Jia Youcai let out a sharp scream, frozen in place, unable to move.

Li Deshang was slightly better, not screaming out loud, but his face was pale.

Undoubtedly, as one of the person in charge of 'Mountain City', Li Deshang never expected he would be attacked in the city.

Where did the attack come from?

The answer was obvious.

'Transmigration Cult'!

It couldn't possibly have been anyone else but 'Transmigration Cult'.

'If I survive this time, I absolutely, absolutely...'

Li Deshang swore inwardly, but eventually he was discouraged.

With more than ten muskets firing straight at less than twenty meters away, a bookish man like him with no strength to bind a chicken, there was no future, being shot into a sieve was the best possible outcome.

Li Deshang felt despair.

Dou Bao also felt a bit hopeless.

But unlike Li Deshang and Jia Youcai.

Dou Bao had a sliver of comfort in her despair, at least she was with her pavilion master.

Instinctively, Dou Bao looked towards Jason.

She saw her pavilion master was fearless, his expression calm.

It seemed... everything was within expectation.

Dou Bao was stunned.

The next moment, she saw Jason lift his foot, and the solid wood Eight Immortals table spun up and flew.

The huge Eight Immortals table immediately stuck to the door of 'Drunken Fairy Tower', like a door, more like a shield.

PA pa pa!

The solid wood Eight Immortals table was struck repeatedly, bullets deeply embedded into the eight-centimeter thick tabletop, almost piercing through—last night, Jason had already witnessed the power of this world's firearms.

Though it couldn't exactly be described as just starting, it was far from the level of his 'homeland'.

Leather armor, paper armor might not withstand.

Even iron armor would have difficulty resisting.

However, facing eight centimeters thick solid wood, it was far from enough.

Furthermore, more importantly, the loading speed of the muskets was extremely slow.

After one round of shooting, Jason raised his hand and the Eight Immortals table rolled to the side.

The musket squad outside, composed of over ten people, began to clumsily load their bullets, some even spilled most of the gunpowder while tearing the powder charges with their mouths, having to reach for another powder charge.

Clearly, this musket squad for the attack was hastily assembled.

However, the people selected were carefully chosen.

Because, upon realizing that one round of full volley had no effect, five people squatting in the front row directly dropped their muskets, drew short knives from their backs, and charged inside 'Drunken Fairy Tower'.

"Kill!"

"Kill the corrupt official!"

"Holy Mother descends, transcendent bliss through death!"

Li Deshang, just returning from the edge of death, shuddered hearing these words; he instinctively looked at Jason.

Meanwhile, Jason had already rushed out.

Like a truck at full speed, crashing straight into the foremost attacker.

Bang!

Crunch!

The dull thud was accompanied by a series of sounds of bones breaking, as the charging attacker was lifted off the ground, smashing into the arms of his fellow behind him, immediately forming five people rolling around like gourds.

However, at this moment, a figure emerged from the not yet distant four-wheeled black-covered carriage, sprinting straight towards Jason.

"Master, watch out!"

Dou Bao saw the dark figure, immediately shouted loudly.

The dark figure sneered coldly.

"Die!"

With such a shout, the dark figure had already arrived in front of Jason, raising both hands, one grasping at Jason's chest, and one at Jason's abdomen, under the candlelight of the Drunken Fairy Tower, everyone could see the hands of the dark figure glinting coldly, surprisingly wearing a pair of strangely shaped 'gloves'.

This pair of 'gloves' had sharp tips at the fingers, resembling five daggers, but crafted exquisitely, able to change with the movements of the joints.

At this moment, the dark figure's hands were claw-like, the sharp points of the 'gloves' clearly visible, like claws of a dragon emerging from the water.

Sharp, swift.

Everyone's expressions changed drastically.

This attack was truly too sudden.

Everyone's attention had been drawn by the musket squad of over ten people; nobody expected someone inside the black-covered carriage.

Even less expected was that the attacker inside the carriage was the real killing move.

Many guests inside the Drunken Fairy Tower watching the suddenly attacked Jason couldn't help but shake their heads.

Sighing at Jason's inevitable fate.

The situation was very clear now, targeting Jason the Martial Artist.

Even if Jason managed to dodge the opponent's fatal blow, then what?

Don't forget, there are still musketeers around!

As long as this attacker engaged Jason for a while, and these musketeers loaded their ammunition, it would be a standoff of certain death.

What these guests could think of.

Jia Youcai, Li Deshang, and Dou Bao could also think of.

The three of them showed different expressions.

Jia Youcai looked despondent, knowing he was doomed, but the more it was like this, the less afraid he felt.

'Oh mother, your son has not fulfilled his duties.'

Silently reciting in his heart, this arrest officer was about to draw his broadsword and help out.

No matter if it's death, how could he not fight when dying?

Last night on the pier, had he not fought, he would have long perished.

Chapter 1249: Jason Racking His Brains for Food (2)

It's the same now.

Li Deshang wanted to run at first sight.

But in the next moment, he shook his head with a bitter smile.

Others could escape, but he absolutely couldn't.

First, his body was too weak. How could he outrun these assassins, these killers.

Second, the target of the attackers was him in the first place, how could they let him escape.

'When Brother Mu dies, it will be my turn.'

'To drag others down that results in their death should never happen, and I can't even run.'

'Forget it! Forget it!'

'What is there to fear in death!'

Li Deshang turned around, sat down in a chair like that, sat calmly in it, facing outwards, his eyes still showing fear but quickly calming down.

Dou Bao looked at Jia Youcai and Li Deshang in astonishment.

She did not expect these two to have such courage.

In her hand appeared a quail egg-sized cloth pouch.

The stitches were fine but had hidden tricks.

Inside was the poison powder of 'Tianshenzi.'

As soon as you pulled the thread and tossed it, the poison powder of 'Tianshenzi' would scatter in the air, and anyone who got hit would die swiftly.

It was one of the self-defense items she collected while fleeing disaster.

"Headmaster, get out of the way!"

Dou Bao warned Jason, preparing to throw the poison pouch.

However, Jason ignored it, and instead lifted a foot to kick at the incoming shadow.

This kick was very concealed.

And extremely fast.

By the time Jason lifted his foot, and got close, the attacker suddenly noticed, crossed their arms to block the kick.

Bang!

The dust swirled, the attacker didn't take a step back, but Jason stepped back instead.

"Tiger Tail Kick?"

"Not bad training."

"But what a pity that you are just a Martial Artist who has trained to 'muscle'. If you had achieved 'Bone Tempering,' I would be severely injured... Ah! Aaaah! My eyes!"

The attacker smirked coldly, mocking Jason with words, but then wailed halfway through the sentence.

Lime!

Inside Jason's pant leg, Dou Bao had sewn lime.

Of course, not just lime, this kick was with the left leg, and inside there was also aconite powder.

Aconite is highly toxic.

The attacker, whose eyes already felt like they were burning, felt like their face was going to rot away in the next moment.

But even so, when Jason stepped forward to prepare for another kick, the opponent still swiftly dodged.

Not only did they dodge, but they also kept shouting—

"Attack him!"

Instantly, the remaining five gunmen no longer reloaded their bullets, drew their short knives, and surrounded Jason.

More importantly, two more individuals appeared from inside the black horse-drawn carriage.

Both had slender builds, wearing short combat attire, each holding a Nine-section Whip in their hands.

Even before they got close, the two Nine-section Whips were already whistling through the air.

When the whistling reached its climax—

Snap!

Snap!

Almost simultaneously, the two Nine-section Whips shot towards Jason like venomous snakes.

Jason quickly dodged.

He dodged them, but the short knives held by the surrounding five gunmen followed up continuously.

For a moment, Jason was left to defend himself from both sides.

The attacker's eyes couldn't see anymore.

But their ears were not deaf.

The opponent could hear and it seemed as though they could see.

"Mu Bai!"

"You ruined my eyes."

"I will tear you to pieces!"

"However, even if you die, you should be satisfied—being ambushed by a fully 'Bone Tempered' Warrior and two who have trained to 'muscle', along with more than a dozen skilled ones!"

The attacker smirked coldly again.

Those around who prided themselves on being well-informed gasped upon hearing such words.

'Mountain City' is a small place.

There aren't many Martial Artists who have trained to 'muscle'.

As long as one appears, they acquire quite a reputation.

With a bit of luck, passing through Martial Arts Street, they qualify to open a gym and take in disciples.

And a Martial Artist who has fully achieved 'Bone Tempering'?

There isn't one in 'Mountain City'.

At least not on the surface.

Jia Youcai, who had already touched the door frame, trembled upon hearing such words.

However, the arrest officer did not retreat.

At this time, if he retreated, what would he amount to?

He had already made up his mind to eliminate one of the five people surrounding Jason.

At least lessen the pressure on Jason a bit.

After?

He couldn't care that much anymore.

This should be his limit.

The rest was up to Jason.

Thinking of this, Jia Youcai slowly approached, the knife in his hand already aimed at one of them.

Li Deshang saw it, nodded slightly.

Then shook his head again.

At this point, it was useless.

After all, it was 'Bone Tempering' accomplished.

Just...

Li Deshang sat in the chair looking at the attacker with his face covered in lime and aconite powder, frowned.

Being from the Northern Li Family, he had seen some 'Bone Tempering' accomplished Warriors.

Each one had a robust aura, not to mention their battle-hardened experiences.

Being covered in lime like this?

It really was a bit disgraceful!

A 'Bone Tempered.'

Two 'muscle' trained.

Dou Bao pursed her lips, a small bamboo tube appeared in her hand, containing the juice from the fruit of the 'Poison Arrow Tree,' deadly upon blood contact, also a self-defense concoction she prepared while fleeing famine.

What 'Bone Tempering' accomplished, what 'muscle' trained.

She could deal with one tube, and they'd all be dead bodies.

Jason was simultaneously handling the siege and sensing his surroundings.

Yes, handling.

To Jason, the siege at hand, if he wanted, could really be broken in an instant; regardless of 'Bone Tempering' accomplished or the two 'muscle' trained warriors, for Jason, it was truly a matter of a punch and a kick.

Chapter 1250: Jason Racking His Brains for Food (3)

But, he couldn't.

He needed 'sustainable development'!

He wanted the 'Transmigration Cult' to think he was weak!

Then, they would keep sending 'food' to him continuously.

In fact, his performance last night had already succeeded.

On those three attackers who had supposedly perfected 'Bone Tempering' and trained their 'muscles', he once again smelled the scent of the 'Fireball Spell Staff'.

It was precisely because of this familiar smell that Jason had already been on guard.

Back in the private room of the 'Drunken Fairy Tower', he had caught whiff of this scent.

And he devised the corresponding plan.

What surprised Jason was that the 'Transmigration Cult' had sent a supposed attacker who had supposedly perfected 'Bone Tempering'.

This meant his original plan could not be implemented.

'I had initially planned to rely on the so-called 'Innate Divine Strength' to cope with the current situation.'

'But the perfection of 'Bone Tempering' is far superior to the martial artists who have merely trained their 'muscles'. Whether in strength or insight, they might notice something wrong, and then my plan would be exposed. Not only would the 'food' source be cut off, but I might also be targeted by the true powerhouses of this duplicate world, which is not good for someone like me who is new here!'

'I must change tactics...'

Jason handled the situation while pondering.

He exerted effort because he had to forcibly suppress his 'habit' of killing these attackers in front of him.

Jason, having experienced countless battles, was already accustomed to ending fights in the most direct way possible.

Now, in order not to raise suspicion, he had to resort to using the 'Mu-style Tiger Form'.

Just like the previous 'Tiger Tail Kick'.

At this moment, Jia Youcai had already reached the edge of the battle, and with his broadsword in hand, he slashed at one of the attackers encircling Jason.

This attacker never expected that someone would make a move.

Thump!

"Ah!"

With a miserable cry, the attacker collapsed to the ground.

However, this cry also drew the attention of the surrounding attackers to Jia Youcai.

Especially those two martial artists who had mastered their 'muscles'.

One of them launched his Nine-section Whip directly towards Jia Youcai.

Swoosh!

The wicked wind swooshed towards him, but Jia Youcai neither dodged nor retreated. He grabbed his broadsword and struck at the Nine-section Whip.

Jia Youcai thought simply: he had already completed his task.

He had already taken down one.

Now, every additional one he took down was a bonus.

What of martial artists?

Martial artists are still flesh and blood!

When the sword strikes, they bleed and they die!

With this thought, Jia Youcai's swings carried a palpable aura of unyielding determination.

"Kill!"

And indeed, his sword hit the Nine-section Whip.

Smack!

The Nine-section Whip was bounced back.

The broadsword flew out, and Jia Youcai's hands cracked open and bled.

The gap between a martial artist and an ordinary person still existed.

But everyone was astonished by this scene.

No one expected Jia Youcai to have such an ability, especially with that recently uttered 'Kill', which really caught them by surprise.

Was it a burst of potential in a desperate moment?

People exclaimed in admiration.

But then they shook their heads.

A burst of potential in a desperate moment was true, but at this point, what use was such a burst?

In the end, wasn't he still destined to die?

How could that martial artist who missed possibly let Jia Youcai go!

People around turned their heads away, unwilling to witness Jia Youcai's death.

Seeing this scene, Jason's eyes lit up.

He was inspired.

Desperation... Explosive potential!

He knew what to do.

The martial artist who had just missed with the Nine-section Whip snorted coldly, ready to finish off Jia Youcai to save face, but just then, the target they had encircled, who had been struggling to fend off attacks, suddenly froze.

Just stood there in a daze.

This unexpected change left the attackers momentarily stunned.

Then, they heard a shout akin to thunder in summer—

"Heavenly Demon Disintegration Technique!"